

Today's News - Tuesday, July 1, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us Meyer's take on Brazil's World Cup stadiums (we finally know who designed them!); 7 pools that "will leave you chilled and stunned" (indeed!); and 8 things to see in Toronto & Montreal.
- Heathcote has issues with Hadid's Heydar Aliyev Centre winning the Design Museum's Design of the Year: it may be the first time "it has been won by a woman and for a building. But in not taking into account sufficiently the social, political or moral context, the award threatens to seriously undermine its own international credibility."
- Wainwright weighs in on the "wave of protest" by Human Rights Watch over Hadid's Baku prizewinner (though the jurors' comments are something else: "It is as pure and sexy as Marilyn's blown skirt" - puhleeze).
- Betsky takes issue with the U.S. State Department's Design Excellence program being "once again under attack. The crux of the argument is that we are sacrificing security and cost to make the buildings 'pretty.' That is such a dumb and reductive notion."
- Florida parses where cities are growing faster than their suburbs that "seems like good news for urbanists and city boosters. The era of rapid suburbanization at the expense of city vitality may, at long last, have come to a close."
- O'Sullivan reports on the "pernicious realities of 'artwashing'" in London: "poor residents are being flushed out and artists are being played" by developers who "need to be called out."
- Grescoe delves into how Denver is becoming the city to watch when it comes to the future of transportation on this continent: "even skeptics are starting to see a future for transit."
- Lamster x 2: a campaign to tear down an elevated highway in autocratic Dallas is gaining traction: the city "has woken up to the reality that continually adding capacity in an endless effort to reduce congestion is a fool's errand, and one with human, urban, and financial costs that are simply too high to bear."
- He explains why "Dallas needs to figure out its growth issues": while it's "reimagining itself for the future, with a greater emphasis on walkable, pedestrian friendly spaces - the status-quo remains a powerful force...you need look no further than its system of urban planning" (sounds like a mess!).
- Capps digs deep into problems looming over Gehry's underground expansion of the Philadelphia Museum of Art - the biggest being Gehry: he "might be Apollo Creed-level bad" for the city.
- Saffron x 2: She has a most interesting Q&A with Gehry re: his museum plan: "How does it feel to tinker with such an iconic art museum?" "It's an extraterrestrial experience, transcendent. This is going to change Philadelphia."
- She's only slightly optimistic about a third proposal for a building next to the Ben Franklin Bridge - "a shapely, Miami-white apartment building that teases Philadelphia with the possibility of real architecture," but it "looks good only by comparison" to the previous designs.
- Hess's eloquent lamentation that too many projects are "erasing Pereira" in Southern California: "will enough of his buildings remain to be enjoyed?"
- How Proyecto Helicoide is trying to save Caracas's "gargantuan spiral" (and "infamous") 1960s Tower of Babel.
- King gets the scoop on how Julia Morgan finally won the AIA Gold Medal: "skeptics raised the specter of tokenism. Morgan's supporters saw something else."
- Stephens gets the upset with Trump's gigantic sign on his Chicago tower, but ponders the "curious anonymity of architecture": "What's surprising is that the people who design buildings rarely, if ever, get the slightest recognition in the public realm" - how about at least "a nice plaque" that would "gratify architecture nerds and give due credit to a noble profession."
- How even "very big cheeses of the architecture world" are "turning their attention to smaller things" (of course, "there could be a downside to this").
- It could be that an 11-story building that collapsed in Chennai - with more than 20 fatalities - may not have been designed by a qualified architect.
- Autodesk acquires David Benjamin's The Living to "collaborate on researching new building typologies and materials."

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-- 7 Spectacular Pools to Cool Off In: ...will leave you chilled and stunned. -- PTW; Moshe Safdie; Kengo Kuma & Associates; Sadar Vuga Arhitekti; Álvaro Siza; PLOT; Michael Graves
-- The 2014 FIFA World Cup Stadiums, Brazil. By Ulf Meyer -- Schulitz Architects; Eduardo and Vicente Castro Mello; Coutinho, Diegues, Cordeiro Arquitetos (DDG)/Werner Sobek; GCP Arquitetos; gmp Architekten; Populous; Daniel Fernandes
-- 8 Things to See in Toronto & Montreal -- Daniel Libeskind; Diamond Schmitt Architects; Gehry Partners; Alsop Architects; Provencher Roy + Associés; Saucier + Perrotte; Tétrault Dubuc Saia et associés

Design award for Zaha Hadid exposes architects' moral dilemma: ...Baku's Heydar Aliyev Centre...winner of this year's Design Museum Designs of the Year is sure to provoke strong reactions...it is a controversial choice...the first time in the award's 7-year history that it has been won by a woman and for a building...But in not taking into account sufficiently the social, political or moral context, the award threatens to seriously undermine its own international credibility. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

Wave of protest over Zaha Hadid's Baku prizewinner: Heydar Aliyev centre described by judges as the 'pinnacle moment' in Hadid's portfolios...has been declared the Design of the Year by London's Design Museum, despite concerns about the site's human rights record...said juror Piers Gough, of CZWG Architects..."It is as pure and sexy as Marilyn's blown skirt"...But Human Rights Watch said...the centre is one of the city's many oil-fuelled grand projects that have seen local people evicted by force. By Oliver Wainwright - Guardian (UK)

Not Just a Pretty Face: State Department Designs: The architecture profession should work on a wider perception to defend good design...once again under attack...The crux of the argument...is that we are sacrificing security and cost to make the buildings "pretty." That is such a dumb and reductive notion of good design...I hope that the coming testimony by the Design Excellence program's brilliant director, Casey Jones, will help to clear the air. By Aaron Betsky - Architect Magazine

Where Cities Are Growing Faster Than Their Suburbs: In 19 of the 51 largest U.S. metros...the city grew faster than the suburbs last year...has emerged as one of the great dividing lines in the debate over urban America's future...seems like good news for urbanists and city boosters...The era of rapid suburbanization at the expense of city vitality may, at long last, have come to a close. By Richard Florida - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

The Pernicious Realities of 'Artwashing': In expensive London, artists are caught in the middle of developers' attempts to push out lower-income residents and rebrand neglected properties: ...poor residents are being flushed out and artists are being played. Developers who try to burnish their product with artwashing need to be called out. They are not promoting artists or their work. They are using them as a human shield. By Feargus O'Sullivan - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

How Denver Is Becoming the Most Advanced Transit City in the West: But the key question remains: Will metro residents give up their cars? It's a vision straight out of a transportation planner's fondest dream...undermined by an uncomfortable truth...mode share for transit...is only about 6%...transit mode share is already improving...Even skeptics are starting to see

[a future for transit...when it comes to the future of transportation on this continent, Denver may be the city to watch.](#) By Taras Grescoe [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

[Mission Impossible? Dallas's architecture critic leads a campaign to tear down a highway in the autocratic city: Downtown Dallas is now enclosed by a ring of highways, a concrete noose...audacious proposal...would leave some 187 acres free for development...I-345 debate suggests Dallas has woken up to the reality that continually adding capacity in an endless effort to reduce congestion is a fool's errand, and one with human, urban, and financial costs that are simply too high to bear.](#) By Mark Lamster - Metropolis Magazine

[Boxed in by development, Dallas needs to figure out its growth issues: Just after the conclusion of the New Cities Summit...the U.S. Council of Mayors arrived in town...the overall temper was positive, a recognition that Dallas is "a city in transition," reimagining itself for the future, with a greater emphasis on walkable, pedestrian friendly spaces...This may be true, but the status-quo remains a powerful force...you need look no further than its system of urban planning.](#) By Mark Lamster -- Pelli Clarke Pelli - Dallas Morning News

[Philadelphia: Let's Talk About Frank Gehry: A Philadelphia Museum of Art expansion tests whether building a Gehry design is always good for a city. Especially when it doesn't look very Frank Gehry...there's a bigger problem looming...That problem is Gehry...\[He\] might be very bad for Philadelphia. In fact, Gehry might be Apollo Creed-level bad for Philadelphia.](#) By Kriston Capps [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

[Gehry on his museum plan: 'This is going to change Philadelphia': How does it feel to tinker with such an iconic art museum? "It's an extraterrestrial experience, transcendent. I feel like I'm collaborating through time..."](#) By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer

[Proposed building next to Ben Franklin Bridge an improvement, slightly: First there was the proposal for the bland condo tower on top of a parking garage...Now there is a shapely, Miami-white apartment building that teases Philadelphia with the possibility of real architecture...looks good only by comparison...yet the design fails to heed its most basic recommendation: Help the waterfront evolve into a lively, 24/7 place.](#) By Inga Saffron -- Varenhorst Architects [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

[Erasing Pereira: William Pereira's meticulous master plan for UC Irvine has not just been ignored—but undone. Alan Hess calls for a return to Pereira's futuristic vision and philosophy...LACMA is blindly plotting to bulldoze its original buildings for a large tar-colored concrete blob...will enough of his buildings remain to be enjoyed? -- Jones & Emmons; Blurock Ellerbroek Associates; Kistner, Wright and Wright; Grillias Savage Alves; Charles Moore; Venturi Scott Brown; Robert A.M. Stern; James Stirling; Arthur Erickson; Frank Gehry; Esherick, Homsey, Dodge & Davis \(EHDD\)](#) - Orange Coast Magazine (California)

[Trying to Save a Doomed Architectural Babel: Perhaps modeling what would be the architectural icon of your country's capital off the infamous Tower of Babel isn't the best idea. But it wasn't superstition that brought down the gargantuan spiral of El Helicoide — or the Helix — in Caracas, Venezuela. It was economics, politics, and the continuing shadow of surveillance and secrecy. Proyecto Helicoide...is working to document and present its history as a public archive. -- Peter Neuberger; Dirk Bornhorst; Jorge Romero Gutierrez \(1960s\)](#) [images]- Hyperallergic

[How Julia Morgan finally won U.S. architecture's highest honor: ...when it came time to make the case that a self-sufficient woman who died in 1957 deserved the most prestigious award in American architecture \[AIA Gold Medal\], her boosters left nothing to chance...skeptics raised the specter of tokenism...Morgan's supporters...saw something else - a uniquely well-rounded architect with a degree in engineering who designed more than 700 buildings, 21 of which are either National Historic Landmarks or are on the National Register of Historic Places.](#) By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

[The Curious Anonymity of Architecture: Chicago's complaints about the signage on Donald Trump's new tower are predictable enough. What's surprising is that the people who design buildings rarely, if ever, get the slightest recognition in the public realm...how about a nice plaque in the lobby, or to the side of the front door...they'd gratify architecture nerds, give architects a point of pride \(and, possibly, new business\), and give due credit to a noble profession.](#) By Josh Stephens - PLANetizen

[How Architects are Turning Their Attention to Smaller Things: ...most often driven...by what they see as necessity...begs the question: why would anyone who can get commissioned to design a building bother with anything smaller? The very big cheeses of the architecture world are courted by manufacturers for their halo effect, of course...there could be a downside to this. -- Renzo Piano; Burwell Deakins; Foster + Partners; Workshop; Zaha Hadid; Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands; Groves Natcheva Architects; Doriana and Massimiliano Fuksas; Grimshaw Architects](#) [images]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

[Collapsed highrise not planned by architect? Was the ill-fated 11-storey building that collapsed in Chennai on Saturday designed by a person who is not a qualified architect? The Council of Architecture...clarified that Vijay Bargartha, the person arrested by police as the architect of the building, is not a member of the council...Whether a non-architect can own an architect firm is the pertinent question... -- Dhriticone - Times of India](#)

[Autodesk Acquires David Benjamin's The Living: The software company and New York-based design and research practice will collaborate on researching new building typologies and materials as an Autodesk Studio.](#) - Architect Magazine

[ANN Feature: Notes from the Giardini - La Biennale di Venezia 2014: "Fundamentals" is certainly not the typical way one would think of displaying architecture.](#) By Terri Peters -- Rem Koolhaas - ArchNewsNow

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