

Today's News - Wednesday, July 23, 2014

- The RIBA/IAUA saga continues with a long letter from the Palestine Architects Society calling for a resurrection of motion to censure the Israeli association.
- Jones cheers efforts to map Detroit's blighted areas to be considered for demolition that "will set the precedent for how to proceed with other industrial cities in decline," but cautions that "historic preservation must be established as part of the process - many notable structures fall within the heap slated for demolition."
- Meanwhile, attendees of the SHAPE North America "came to Detroit thinking about cars and bankruptcy. They left with a whole new respect and admiration for the city."
- Litt cheers Cleveland's new planning director's goal to focus on social equity and better public health by putting "a greater emphasis on parks, bike trails and healthier food options in economically challenged neighborhoods."
- Miranda uncovers a 2008 SCI-Arc design spoof that "predicted New York's 'poor doors' - it's both terrifying and hilarious. It is also frighteningly prescient" (and well worth a look!).
- King x 2: he cheers new housing on Market Street, "though the architecture of the newcomers" is "trying too hard to be hip and neighborly at once," creating "an awkward tension."
- He parses results of Sasaki's "The State of the City Experience" survey: "one generational insight: Younger people are twice as likely to admire modern buildings and unusual architecture than their baby boomer predecessors - a hint that urban design-related strife could become more intense in years to come."
- Eyefuls of Wilkinson Eyre's Barangaroo casino tower: "petals twist and rise together" with "podium levels inspired by London's gothic St Paul's Cathedral" (we're still trying to see the connection).
- H&deM's 57-story cylindrical skyscraper to be the centerpiece of Canary Wharf's eastward expansion with lots of new towers and 3,000 homes planned.
- A sneak-peek at Piano's "shiny, new" Harvard Art Museums (lots of light, lots of sparkle).
- Horton spends some quality time with Lehrer to dive into why she has devoted almost two decades to transforming "a mammoth drainage canal" (a.k.a. the L.A. River) "into a true urban amenity."
- Cummins taps three hip NYC firms to compete for its new downtown Indianapolis regional HQ (there must be some local rumblings going on).
- Betsky is a bit perplexed by MoMA's pick of Stierli as chief curator of architecture and design; though he looks forward to seeing what the new curator will do, he ponders: "Why not Antonelli? ...yet another white male dedicated to architecture and planning in the traditional sense. I look forward to being proven wrong about this bias."
- Heritage Canada names its 10th annual Top Ten Most Endangered Places and Worst Losses: "the list has become a powerful tool in the fight to make landmarks, not landfill" (great presentation).
- Herman Miller continues its post-Maharam buying spree and snaps up Design Within Reach: "The move may be a canny one."
- Winners all: Eyefuls of Architect Magazine's 2014 R+D Awards that "show how craftsmanship is evolving and thriving in the computer age" (great presentations!) + Eyefuls of Morpholio Project's Pinup2014 Competition winners for 3-D printing and un-built work.
- Call for entries (deadlines loom!): Princeton Architectural Press Pamphlet Architecture 35 + LAMP 2014: "Fibre/Fiber": 2nd annual international lighting design competition.

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Growing pressure on RIBA over 'dismissed' Israel motion: ...facing renewed pressure 'to resurrect' its motion against the Israeli Association of United Architects amid escalating tension in the region...Palestine Architects Society has called on Portland Place to follow through on its contentious motion lobbying the International Union of Architects to censure the IAUA at UIA summit in Durban. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Op-Ed: Mapping Architectural Significance in Areas of Detroit Doomed for Demolition: As the nation's largest felled giant, Detroit will set the precedent for how to proceed with other industrial cities in decline. Historic preservation must be established as part of the process...many notable structures fall within the heap slated for demolition... By Rennie Jones -- Detroit Blight Removal Task Force; Motor City Mapping [images, links]- Architizer

Global Shapers re-shapes visitors' perceptions of Detroit: Many attending SHAPE North America 2014 came to Detroit thinking about cars and bankruptcy. They left with a whole new respect and admiration for the city...dismissing superficial stereotypes after encountering the city's charisma, vibrance, creativity, and resilience. - Model D (Detroit)

Visions of social equity and better public health motivate Freddy Collier, Cleveland's new planning director: City planning has oscillated for decades between social equity...and big, glamorous architectural projects aimed at boosting economic development...equity would mean a greater emphasis on improving public health through parks, bike trails and healthier food options for residents in economically challenged neighborhoods. By Steven Litt- Cleveland Plain Dealer

How a SCI-Arc design spoof predicted New York's 'poor doors': ...created for the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale, L.A. architect Wes Jones and his studio class proposed a series of fictional developments for luxury units that would have worked housing at the core - with separate entrances...Take the time to watch it. It's only seven minutes long and it's both terrifying and hilarious...It is also frighteningly prescient. By Carolina A. Miranda -- Jones, Partners: Architecture [video]- Los Angeles Times

New housing pushes Market Street partway toward proud potential: When the dust settles, as many as 1,200 new residential units could line its path...So far, though, the architecture of the newcomers isn't helping Upper Market take its place among San Francisco's compelling places to be...trying too hard to be hip and neighborly at once, an awkward tension... John King -- BAR Architects; Arquitectonica; Forum Design; Levy Design Partners; Van Meter Williams Pollack [slide show]- San Francisco Chronicle

San Francisco architectural tastes? All over the map: This Jekyll/Hyde reaction is one of the twists in a survey conducted for Sasaki Associates...dubbed its poll "The State of the City Experience"...one generational insight: Younger people are twice as likely to admire modern buildings and unusual architecture than their baby boomer predecessors -- a hint that urban design-related strife could become more intense in years to come. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Latest designs for Barangaroo's Crown Resorts: New images of Wilkinson Eyre's iconic tower show podium levels inspired by London's gothic St Paul's Cathedral, while a fly through shows how it slots into the skyline...the tower's form emanates from three petals which twist and rise together. [images, video]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Canary Wharf spreads east with new towers and 3,000 homes planned: Wood Wharf project gets green light in financial hub's first major expansion since 2008 financial crisis...its centerpiece is also the tallest building, a 211-metre 57-storey cylindrical residential skyscraper facing the waters of South Dock, designed by Herzog & de Meuron. [images]- Guardian (UK)

Step Into the Shiny, New Renzo Piano-Masterminded Harvard Art Museums: Characteristic to the work of Piano, the building incorporates a plethora of materials... -- Payette [images]- Architizer

Mia Lehrer & the L.A. River: The landscape architect has spent nearly two decades helping transform a mammoth drainage canal into a true urban amenity: Her version of landscape architecture is more like alchemy, addressing landscape in a

deeper, social sense..."All these projects are about demystifying the river and reconfiguring the edges, allowing...more human engagement. By Guy Horton -- Mia Lehrer + Associates [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Downtown Cummins building will have New York designer: Three NY firms will compete for the design contract...hasn't revealed even a back-of-the-napkin sketch of what its regional headquarters in Downtown Indianapolis might look like, but one thing is certain at this point: It won't be locally designed. -- Deborah Berke Partners; SHoP Architects; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects - Indianapolis Star

Why Not Paola Antonelli? Every decision at MoMA...influences how many of us perceive architecture and design. How should we interpret the recent appointment of Martino Stierli as chief curator of those fields? ...yet another white male dedicated to architecture and planning in the traditional sense...I look forward...to being proven wrong about this bias. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

10th annual Top Ten Most Endangered Places and Worst Losses: From unique 19th-century landmarks to simple vernacular housing, stone railway stations to Modernist airports, heritage districts to single buildings, the list has become a powerful tool in the fight to make landmarks, not landfill. [images]- Heritage Canada The National Trust / Héritage Canada La Fiducie nationale

Herman Miller Goes Shopping: Buys Design Within Reach: Two of the biggest names in American design are joining forces...The move may be a canny one...- The Architect's Newspaper

2014 R+D Awards: The jury picked nine projects, products, and processes as winners...show how craftsmanship is evolving and thriving in the computer age. By Gideon Fink Shapiro -- Patkau Architects; FXFOWLE Architects; DesignLabWorkshop; Do|Su Studio Architecture; Archolab; HouMinn Practice; Office for Visual Interaction/Thomas Phifer and Partners/Werner Sobek; Area; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [link to images, info]- Architect Magazine

Pinup2014 Announces Competition Winners for 3-D Printing and Un-built Work: categories include Emerging Talent, Future Voices, Shapes Future Award -- AE Superlab; Yoonji Nam; Stefan Kaplan; Jasmine Kwak; CarbonLAB; Ricardo Garcia-Baez; Javier Galindo; Brad, Mitchell; etc. [images]- The Morpholio Project

Call for Entries: Pamphlet Architecture 35: an opportunity to publish their projects, manifestos, ideas, theories, ruminations, insights, and hopes for the future of the designed and built world; registration deadline: August 1 (submissions due September 1)- Princeton Architectural Press

Call for entries: Lighting Architecture Movement Project/LAMP 2014: "Fibre/Fiber": 2nd annual international lighting design competition; deadline: August 15- Lighting Architecture Movement Project

ANN Feature: The Great Compilation: 14th International Exhibition of Architecture di la Biennale di Venezia: Rem Koolhaas has irrevocably changed the Venice Biennale's focus away from starchitects to architecture itself. Indeed, I left impressed and invigorated, but curious as to what might follow. By Johannes M.P. Knoop [images]- ArchNewsNow.com



8 Architectural Highlights in Amsterdam: ...the city has heaps more to offer its visitors architecturally than merely charm and atmosphere. -- Gerrit Rietveld; Kisho Kurokawa; Steven Holl Architects; Benthem Crouwel Architekten; MVRDV; René van Zuuk Architekten; UNStudio; 3XN; Grimshaw Architects

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