**Today's News - Wednesday, July 30, 2014**

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of bridges we ought to cross before we die.
- Pedersen offers an interesting take on Lucas’s “aesthetic change of heart” in his choice of design team for his Chicago museum: “He just wants to get the damn thing approved. Who knew it would be this hard to give away a museum?”
- Christiansen questions whether new cultural districts used to regenerate cities can really make a difference: even though they “can become victims of their own success” and become “merely glossy entertainment theme-parks - they are profoundly significant social phenomena” (a great read).
- Seward reports from the New Cities Summit in Dallas, which has high hopes its developing arts district will create more “vibrancy” downtown: “not everyone thinks the strategy is foolproof, or even desirable,” with warnings of the hazards of building “cultural ghettos.”
- Atlanta’s new National Center for Civil and Human Rights has high hopes “uplift and inspire” - and maybe even “transform its touristy environs.”
- On a much smaller scale - but with global impact (there’s even a map app), Aldrich cheers Little Free Libraries boxes showing up in neighborhoods around the world: “algorithms will never have the charm and mystique of a simple wooden box filled with a neighbor’s literary treasures. It won’t be able to lend you a cup of sugar either.”
- NYC’s $20 billion Hudson Yards is being “designed with millennials in mind - all bodes well for a completely new, young, and vibrant community. But there’s also a certain planned sterility about it all that reflects a city that’s becoming a harder place to live.”
- Badger tackles why large cities that restrict new housing actually harm the economy nationally: “affordable housing advocates who want to block new high-end developments are simply making the city more expensive.”
- From Down Under, Davies x 2: He debunks claims that city center apartment towers will be the “slums of the future.”
- He takes the Victorian Government Architect to task for proposing mandatory design guidelines for apartments: “Seriously, does even storage in new apartments need to be regulated?” (and it will hurt development of much-needed housing supply).
- Ransford, the Vancouverite, visits Down Under, and raises the same dilemmas and issues, also facing his own home town: “developers argue they are responding to market demand with micro-apartments. Planners argue the housing that is being built isn’t being designed” for those who need it.
- Capps reports that “Houstonians are clearly having a hard time letting go” of the Astrosome: there’s a new plan afoot that would keep the “rites” (”a sort of skeletal Stonehenge”), demolish the rest, and build a teeny tiny replica in the middle.
- Speaking of sporting sites, a long look at the changing tides in baseball stadium design: now, it’s “all about how the new building would fit into the fans’ imaginations, and how the city around it would grow.”
- Places goes on hiatus, but leaves us with lots of great reading material about buildings, cities, and landscapes (including a bunch that the New Yorker has brought out from behind its paywall!).
- More luminaries from the global culture scene (including architects) sign on to the call to ban giant cruise ships from Venice.
- Cranbrook taps Scoates to be Kroloff’s successor.
- An impressive list of winners of the 2014 Australian Institute of Architects International Architecture Awards.
Are city centre apartment towers the "slums of the future"? ...does the claim hold up on closer examination? So what is it about all those apartment towers going up in the centre of Melbourne that evidently predetermines they'll become vertical slums? Some say it's because the apartments are too small and too dark...it doesn't appear to have led buyers and renters to abandon city centre apartment towers. In fact the demand has never been higher... By Alan Davies - Crikey (Australia)

Seriously, does even storage in new apartments need to be regulated? The Victorian Government Architect is proposing a mandatory design standard for apartments. But it's not all milk and honey; it'll lower housing supply, raise costs and reduce housing choice...The draft standard puts me in mind of the old adage that if all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. To the Government Architect, everything looks like an “amenity” problem that can be solved by “design.” By Alan Davies - Crikey (Australia)

Even Down Under, housing issues feel the same: Condos get smaller and smaller while government cautious of foreign investment in market: ...warnings that these draft design guidelines...will bring a screaming halt to the residential construction industry...developers argue they are responding to market demand with micro-apartments...Planners argue the housing that is being built isn’t being designed for the people who are needing housing... By Bob Ransford - Vancouver Sun

Now Houston Is Considering Replacing the Astrodome With a Smaller Astrodome: A new plan to replace the Astrodome with an Astrodome Hall of Fame calls into question whether anyone actually wants to demolish the Astrodome: The Eighth Wonder of the World could get a little more wondrous...Houstonians are clearly having a hard time letting go of the stadium. By Kristen Capps -- Gensler [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

If you build it: Baseball stadium architecture has come a long way since SkyDome opened in the late 1980s: Since 1993, there have been only seven times when the stadium that played host to the MLB All-Star Game was not a brand-new barn. And designs have changed a lot in that time...what goes into designing a new stadium? ...all about how the new building would fit into the fans’ imaginations, and how the city around it would grow... -- Populous - National Post (Canada)

The Best New Yorker Articles on Buildings, Cities, and Landscapes (and a Few from Places Journal): ...we've rounded up some New Yorker articles you can read while their paywall is down. That should tide you over until September, when Places will return... - Places Journal

Leading museum directors and celebrities call on Italian government to ban giant cruise ships from Venice: More than 50 leading figures from the worlds of art, film, fashion and architecture have signed a petition...launched by the Association of the International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice, a network of conservation organisations backed by Unesco. - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Cranbrook Academy of Art picks Christopher Scoates to replace Reed Kroloff: ...has more than 25 years of experience in universities and art schools. As a curator he has organized exhibitions bringing together music, lighting, and various media... - The Architect's Newspaper

Winners of 2014 Australian Institute of Architects/AIA International Architecture Awards announced -- Denton Corker Marshall; WOHA; Kerry Hill Architects; BVN Donovan Hill; Marra and Yeh Architects [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Call for entries: Workplace of the Future 2.0 Design Competition: imagine what our work lives will be in the next 10 to 15 years; cash prizes; deadline: October 6 - Metropolis Magazine / Business Interiors by Staples

Call for entries: 13th Tile of Spain Awards of Architecture and Interior Design (international); deadline: October 28 - ASCER/Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturers Association

Call for entries: 2014 Generation Kingspan/GenK Student Design Competition: design a multi-use complex for a site is in Calgary, Alberta, Canada; cash prizes; deadline: November 4 - Kingspan