

Today's News - Thursday, August 7, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just a reminder that we're on our summer schedule now, and not posting on Fridays and Mondays. We'll be back Tuesday, August 12.

- Killick takes an in-depth (and fascinating) look at Christchurch's "path-breaking" public-private collaboration that is "a global model for how to put the guts of a city back together again quickly and efficiently" after a disaster (it's the rebuilding above ground that "is proving challenging").
- Wainwright and Schlichtman delve into the growing dilemmas - and controversies - of "poor doors": "we need to think outside the apartment block to solve this modern-day apartheid" + "Inclusivity is going to make or break the city of the 21st century."
- King continues his considerations of Lucas's design pick for his Chicago museum: "San Francisco's contribution may be that we helped nudge him out of his aesthetic comfort zone" (too bad he "didn't take architecture as seriously in his own backyard").
- Does Helsinki need a Guggenheim Museum? "The team behind the scheme" says yes, but an artist/curator argues that "the museum is part of an effort to homogenize and commodify Finland's national heritage."
- Shaw looks into Azerbaijan's "star-studded building boom."
- Denver's Museum District continues to grow with three new projects: "an unintended consequence may be the slow emergence of a regional modernism, giving form to Denver's independent spirit."
- Tanyeli takes us through Emre Arolat Architects' new mosque in Turkey that "implies a poetic religiosity that tactfully steers mosque architecture away from the proscriptive realms of politics and nationhood and redefines it anew in the context of ethics and aesthetics" (great pix, too!).
- Biber Architects' "barn-inspired" U.S. pavilion for the Milan Expo 2015 will literally grow into its "American Food 2.0" food-centric theme.
- McGuigan has a serious (and humorous) conversation with Gehry re: "how he designs for art and whether an architect can also be called an artist" (and much more).
- Moore spends some quality time with Adjaye, and ponders how well his buildings live up to his vision: "there's a tendency for the story behind the design to outrun the realization - many of his works are sketches of the great projects they could be. I truly hope he achieves a half of what he talks about."
- Haldane accesses the new Lego Architecture Studio: "its vision of architecture's potential seems unusually blinkered. Lego's designers seem to have become unwitting disciples of the Modernist doctrine."
- Wainwright puts Lego to the test with a bunch of former architecture students: "Somehow, everything we produced had a decidedly 1970s feel...Or maybe that was just us. In the end, we cut our losses."
- Weekend diversions:
- Austrian critic Czaja reviews MAK's "Hollein" in Vienna: it "offers new ways of contemplating the influential and multifaceted universe of this Po-Mo hero."
- Self wanders "Global Citizen" at Crystal Bridges with Safdie himself: "While he believes that architecture is a social art rather than a personal expression, the exhibition is a personal story."
- After 40 years, "Thoughts On Design," Paul Rand's "seminal" tome, will soon be available again: "Here's hoping that this edition makes just as big of an impact on the designers of tomorrow as it has on the design greats of today."
- Eyefuls of Jacques-Lagrange's "vertigo-inducing" cityscapes of Hong Kong from "Vertical Horizon 2nd Edition."

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Resilience on the fly: Christchurch's SCIRT offers a model for rebuilding after a disaster: A pathbreaking public-private collaboration in an earthquake-ravaged New Zealand city is delivering hundreds of infrastructure projects quickly and efficiently...a global model for how to put the guts of a city back together again quickly and efficiently...The rebuilding of what goes above ground - the so-called "vertical rebuild" - is proving challenging. By David Killick - [Citisclope](#)

'Poor doors': not the worst thing about social housing: Separate entrances are nothing new, and the truth is that social housing providers demand them...why we need to think outside the apartment block to solve this modern-day apartheid... "We've simply stopped building proper social housing, and until that's addressed then fiddling around with front-door arrangements is like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic." -- By Oliver Wainwright -- Paul Karakusevic/Karakusevic Carson; Michael Edwards - [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

Poor Doors Are About as Egalitarian as the U.S. Gets: The poor door is the new easy enemy...This righteous disgust nationwide is, in one way, refreshing and hopeful to me...inclusivity is going to make or break the city of the 21st century...This segregation has tremendous moral implications and a considerable economic cost. By John Joe Schlichtman - [Next City \(formerly Next American City\)](#)

George Lucas' architect choice for Chicago light years from S.F. vision: ...San Francisco's contribution may be that we helped nudge the "Star Wars" creator out of his aesthetic comfort zone...Maybe something will emerge that is worth a round trip to Chicago - and a round of regrets that Lucas didn't take architecture as seriously in his own backyard. By John King -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; Urban Design Group; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang - [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Debate: Does Helsinki need a Guggenheim Museum? The team behind the scheme...says that it will increase tourism to the city and provide a global platform for Nordic art...with critics, who oppose the public funding of an American gallery brand, arguing that the museum is part of an effort to homogenise and commodify Finland's national heritage. -- Ari Wiseman/Guggenheim Foundation; Merja Puustinen/artist/researcher/curator - [Icon \(UK\)](#)

From Brutalism to Baku's New Airport: Behind Azerbaijan's Ascent to Architectural Powerhouse: ...in the midst of a star-studded building boom. By Matt Shaw -- Autoban; Zaha Hadid Architects; BIG/Bjarke Ingles Group; Tekfen; gmp Architekten; Nariman Architecture; Heerim Architects & Planners [images] - [Architizer](#)

The Arts Elevated: Three new projects fill out Denver's Museum District: ...an unintended consequence may be the slow emergence of a regional modernism, giving form to Denver's independent spirit. -- Studio Daniel Libeskind (2006); Allied Works Architecture (2011); Tryba Architects (2012); Fentress (2013); Roth Sheppard Architects; Davis Partnership Architects; Olson Kundig Architects - [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

Profession of Faith: Mosque in Sancaklar, Turkey by Emre Arolat Architects: Eschewing historicism, this new mosque in Turkey conveys a sense of spirituality through an austere choreography of light and space: Sancaklar Mosque...implies a poetic religiosity that tactfully steers mosque architecture away from the proscriptive realms of politics and nationhood and redefines it anew in the context of ethics and aesthetics. By Ug(ur) Tanyeli [images] - [Architectural Review \(UK\)](#)

Milan Expo 2015: Barn-Inspired Design Unveiled for US Pavilion: ..."American Food 2.0: United to Feed the Planet"...An airy, barn-inspired structure, the design represents the pavilion's food-centric theme, focusing on a farm-to-table food model and sustainable production. -- Biber Architects [images] - [ArchDaily](#)

Crossover Artist? Frank Gehry weighs in on his friendships with artists, how he designs for art—and why he resists certain labels...and whether an architect can also be called an artist. By Cathleen McGuigan - [Architectural Record](#)

David Adjaye interview: ...he brings a unique breadth of vision that has won him major commissions worldwide. But how well do his buildings live up to it? ...there's a tendency for the story behind the design to outrun the realisation...many of his works

are sketches of the great projects they could be...As always, he describes brilliantly what he might do. I truly hope he achieves a half of what he talks about. By Rowan Moore- [Observer](#) (UK)

Lego Architecture Studio Fails to Think Outside the Blocks: ...launching a new £149.99 set of bricks for building architectural models but its vision of architecture's potential seems unusually blinkered: Lego's designers seem to have become unwitting disciples of the Modernist doctrine...All this is made more puzzling by the fact that the set was apparently developed in collaboration with, and is endorsed by, 'leading architects' such as Safdie Architects and MAD Architects. By James Haldane- [Architectural Review](#) (UK)

Could Lego Architecture Studio actually be useful for architects? ...is it worth £150? A bunch of former architecture students threw a block party to put it to the test: Somehow, everything we produced had a decidedly 1970s feel...the table is full of things that recall the megastructures of the Japanese metabolist movement crossed with the autocratic monuments of Pyongyang. Or maybe that was just us. In the end, we cut our losses... By Oliver Wainwright [images]- [Guardian](#) (UK)

A Fresh Look at the Hollein Universe: "HOLLEIN" in Vienna's Museum for Applied Arts (MAK): Austrian architecture critic Wojciech Czaja reviews the exhibition, which offers new ways of contemplating the influential and multifaceted universe of this Po-Mo hero...A complex and at times entirely new Hans Hollein can be discovered at the exhibition. [images]- [Uncube](#) magazine (Germany)

Citizen Safdie: Ronnie Self heads to Crystal Bridges to see "Global Citizen" with Moshe Safdie himself: While he believes that architecture is a social art rather than a personal expression, Global Citizen is a personal story...- [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

Paul Rand's Classic "Thoughts On Design" Back In Print: The seminal graphic design text has been hard to find for decades, but will soon be available again in both paperback and e-book formats...Here's hoping that this edition makes just as big of an impact on the designers of tomorrow as it has on the design greats of today.- [Fast Company](#)

Vertical Horizon 2nd Edition: Romain Jacquet-Lagrez's cityscapes of Hong Kong: ...vertigo-inducing images... [slide show]- [Telegraph](#) (UK)

ANN Feature: Sociologists Rather than Signature Architects: Q&A with Behnisch Architekten Partners: They pull no punches in discussing the challenges of urban planning, the differences working in Europe and the U.S., architects' social and ethical responsibilities, and what their dream projects would be. By Alexander Gutzmer- [ArchNewsNow.com](#)



10 Architectural Highlights in New York: The city sports some of modern civilization's crowning structural achievements... -- Gehry Partners; Snøhetta; Morphosis; SANAA; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Foster + Partners; Arquitectonica; OMA; Renzo Piano

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