Today's News - Wednesday, August 13, 2014

- Jaffe tackles "disciplinary architecture" and the "hidden ways urban design segregates the poor" ("ostensibly well-intentioned").
- Edelson parses the "lack of architects' voices" in the "poor door" debate that boils down to "the social importance of architecture itself" (great links, too).
- Herbst finds out how some creatives and urbanists in L.A. experience "qualitative changes among the infrastructures that support their activities," and how "businesses, developers, museums, and city governance are changing the reception and application of community grown initiatives."
- A warning to be "be wary of the covenant that creative placemaking offers," especially when it comes to music and audiences - the music of our time truly does change our thinking about places and the people in them.
- A fascinating look at how Donald Judd's "quirky" Marfa, TX, is suffering from its own success: "like other wonderful places suffering from gentrification, the poor people always get shoved aside" (not just the poor).
- Saffron raises some serious questions about plans for an apartment building behind Philly's iconic Rodin Museum: the developer "will be asking the city for a long list of favors. It is time for the city to demand something meaningful in return: a work of architecture that can stand proudly next to Cret's masterpiece."
- A warning not only to musicians, but to everyone else: "be wary of the covenant that creative placemaking offers, both to artists and audiences, while not losing sight of how the music of our time truly does change our thinking about places and the people in them." By Zachary Edelson -- Goldstein Hill & West Architects - Architectural Record

Can Creative Practice Gentrify Creative Practice? In these past five years...Los Angeles' communities of artists and urbanists have experienced qualitative changes among the infrastructures that support their activities...people who've taken part in the artistic, cycling, and sharing communities...how they feel the success of their projects...businesses, developers, museums, and city governance are changing the reception and application of community grown initiatives... By Robby Herbst - KCET.org (California)

Who is Creative Placemaking? New Music, Integrity, and Community: ...new music should be wary of the covenant that creative placemaking offers, both to artists and audiences, while not losing sight of how the music of our time truly does change our thinking about places and the people in them. - NewMusicBox.org

Quirky Marfa feels growing pains:...while few doubt that the arts and tourism have rescued Marfa from decline, some see a price to be paid for being the darling getaway spot for well-heeled visitors from Houston, New York and California...just like other wonderful places suffering from gentrification, the poor people always get shoved aside..."This will become another Santa Fe, New Mexico." [slide show] - San Antonio Express-News (Texas)

Building plan may hem in the Rodin Museum:...could make the diminutive Rodin look hemmed in by a giant...The impact on the jungly landscape of the rail bed, which has been dubbed the "low line" by the group that wants to turn it into a trail park, could be equally profound...[developer] will be asking the city for a long list of favors...It is time for the city to demand something meaningful in return: a work of architecture that can stand proudly next to Paul Philippe Cret's masterpiece. By Inga Saffron -- Barton Partners - Philadelphia Inquirer

ONE City Plaza, Greenville, South Carolina:...simple elements – including urban sofas, trees, water and shade structure – combine for maximum impact in creating an outdoor experience that attracts pedestrians for shopping, dining or just strolling in the city's central downtown district...references Greenville's textile industry history... -- Civitas; 4240 Architects [images] - World Landscape Architecture

St. Petersburg plans to include public in selecting pier architect: City officials hope their second invitation for architects to design a new pier ends better than the first one. - Tampa Tribune (Florida)

Clay robotics: the future of architecture is happening now in a Chilterns farm: With robots made from sausage-stuffers in the barn and follies in the fields, Grymsdyke Farm is the ideal place for students to experiment with new technologies and local materials. Its creators explain why every village needs a robot. By Oliver Wainwright -- Guan Lee - Architectural Record

"Poor Door" No fibre: The lack of architects' voices in the fallout over 40 Riverside Boulevard: ...the debate...one about the social importance of architecture itself. If 40 Riverside Boulevard is just a building...then the "poor door" is just good fences making good neighbors. However, if we think that architecture says anything about our social ideals and values, then architects should make their voices heard in this discussion. By Zachary Edelson -- Goldstein Hill & West Architects - Architectural Record

Architectural Record Announces Winners of First Annual Women in Architecture Awards: ...principal of New York–based WORKac...succeeding Mark Wigley. - The Architect's Newspaper

7th International Urban Design Conference: "Designing Productive Cities." Adelaide, Australia, September 1-3; examine affordable housing and diversity for "Gen Y" who are interested in more compact design models. For the rapidly growing ageing population sector, we will discuss isolation, location, ease of transport, mobility and affordability. - Urban Design Australia Conference

Call for entries: Request For Qualifications:RFQ: St. Petersburg Pier (Florida) redesign and replacement, or renovation; two-stage selection process; shortlisted teams will each receive a $30,000 stipend; deadline: September 5 - City of St. Petersburg, Florida
Call for entries: Request for Qualifications/RFQ: Future Ground international competition to develop innovative strategies for vacant land reuse in New Orleans; 3 teams will be awarded $15,000 to participate in a six-month research and design process; deadline: September 29- Van Alen Institute / New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA)

Call for entries: Next Big One: International Open Ideas Competition: propose an innovative design solution that can mitigate natural disasters while simultaneously providing permanence for the community; cash prizes; registration deadline: August 31 (submissions due September 30)- Architecture for Humanity Vancouver

Call for entries: Blueprint Awards 2014 for the very best in world architecture and design; deadline: August 29- Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Call for entries - deadlines extended: 2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition: ...design and construct an architectural pavilion on Governors Island, NYC; registration deadline: September 20 (submissions due September 30)- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIA/ANY/SEAoNY

10 Libraries Worth Visiting: The library is fighting for its survival...Luckily, a number of contemporary projects seem determined in wanting to ensure the continued relevance of the library as an institution and societal focal point. — OMA; Sou Fujimoto Architects; Snøhetta; Toyo Ito & Associates; Renzo Piano; schmidt hammer lassen architects; COBE + Transform; Dominique Perrault; Gehry Partners