

Today's News - Tuesday, October 7, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of the Helsinki University Main Library on "a truly urban campus" + 7 Visionary Zoo Designs.
- ACSA measures the "progress on gender in architecture," and why "the farther up you look in the world of architecture, the fewer women you see," and what the metrics mean.
- Hosey minces no words in a call to "redesign innovation": "Architecture itself urgently needs reinvention. Unfortunately, the culture of design tends to stifle innovation, not stimulate it."
- Heathcote says London is getting too hip for its own good: "it needs to make life less comfortable for the speculators and plutocrats" and ease the pace of gentrification - the city "is a success story. But this kind of success is exactly what can kill a city."
- Kimmelman gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Adjaye's Sugar Hill affordable housing project in Harlem: it "posits a goal for what subsidized housing might look like, how it could lift a neighborhood and mold a generation" - but that also "makes its drawbacks all the more disappointing."
- Russell, likewise, says Sugar Hill "shows what is possible for such housing to achieve," but "with a broken funding process endemic to 'affordable' housing, its benefits will be difficult to replicate" on a large scale (never mind the value engineering).
- King cheers P+W's "reinvention" of San Francisco's Presidio Officers' Club that is "a case study in how turning back the clock is never as simple as it seems."
- Wainwright (mostly) cheers Heatherwick's Bombay Sapphire distillery and its bell jar glasshouses that "ooze his usual steampunk aesthetic - standing inside them feels like being taking into the clutches of a sci-fi spider."
- Godsell's MPavilion in Melbourne is "conceived as a blooming piece of architecture," with panels that open up in the morning and close at night, "like a jewel box nestled in the landscape."
- Speck speaks of the serious need to reconsider 12-foot-wide traffic lanes: States and counties that think wider lanes are safer "are dead wrong. Or, to be more accurate, they are wrong, and thousands of Americans are dead."
- Q&A with CicLAvia's Gard re: how it was inspired by Bogota in reclaiming streets for bikes and pedestrians in Los Angeles County, and research showing it's good for business, too.
- Birnbaum offers a fascinating look at how Dan Kiley's Modernist landscapes had their origins in Andre Le Nôtre's 17th-century France.
- Eyefuls of winners: Holcim Awards 2014 for Latin America + WAF's 2014 World Building of the Year is a stunning chapel in Vietnam (and miles of other winners) + Architectural Designers New Zealand 2014 Supreme National ADNZ | Resene Architectural Design Awards + Blueprint Awards 2014 shortlist (it's a long one).
- Call for entries: 2014 Generation Kingspan Student Architectural Contest (deadline reminder) + Architecture for Humanity Toronto/LifeCorps Food Share Hub Ideas Competition + Knight Foundation's Knight Cities Challenge.

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-- Anttinen Oiva Architects: Helsinki University Main Library: ...the largest academic library in Finland wedged in between dense city blocks...a truly urban campus...
-- 7 Visionary Zoo Designs -- Berthold Lubetkin (1934); Foster + Partners; LAM-architects; HUT Wood Studio/Ville Hara/SAFA; Schlaich Bergemann & Partner; Hassel; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; JDS Architects

Where Are the Women? Measuring Progress on Gender in Architecture: The farther up you look in the world of architecture, the fewer women you see. In this chart, we've rounded up some...metrics behind this claim...we'll start at the bottom and work our way up — while also pausing on the way to consider what these measures mean.- Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)

Redesigning Innovation: Nothing is innovative if it doesn't provide practical value...While the design industry considers something innovative if it merely looks different, business insists that innovation must produce better results...Architecture itself urgently needs reinvention...But we can't do it without rethinking our habits...Unfortunately, the culture of design tends to stifle innovation, not stimulate it. By Lance Hosey/RTKL- Huffington Post

In its pomp, London is losing its swing: Counterintuitively, the city needs to pursue policies to restrain its success: ...it needs to make life less comfortable for the speculators and plutocrats...bringing the property market under control, easing the pace of gentrification...London is a success story. But this kind of success is exactly what can kill a city. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Building Hope and Nurturing Into Housing: The new Sugar Hill subsidized housing complex...has outsize ambitions...anything but a run-of-the-mill building...aspires to must-see status. That's for starters...posits a goal for what subsidized housing might look like, how it could lift a neighborhood and mold a generation...makes its drawbacks all the more disappointing...turns out to be like an A student who crams for the big test and then forgets to bring a pencil. By Michael Kimmelman -- David Adjaye [images]- New York Times

Sugar Hill Renaissance: A low-income development by David Adjaye mixes housing with education and culture: The project shows both what is possible for such housing to achieve and how difficult is Mayor de Blasio's task...With a broken funding process endemic to "affordable" housing, its benefits will be difficult to replicate at the scale de Blasio hopes to achieve. By James S. Russell -- SLCE [slide show]- Architectural Record

The Future of Urban Living Through Sustainable Art: ...is there a way to combine art and space in a more practical and interesting way of solving the problem of living space...The answer lies in micro-housing...The experiment, called Artful Living, began in Atlanta...SCADpad...works on the principles of: reuse, adapt, experiment, transform. The team used an abandoned parking lot...expanded the project to Europe and Asia. By Neena Haridas [images]- Artinfo

Presidio Officers' Club preservation also an act of reinvention: ...another welcome step toward making the former Army post part of the Bay Area's daily life...a case study in how turning back the clock is never as simple as it seems...There's nothing wrong with this juggling act, the shifts between deference and imagination. But it highlights the complexity of preservation in a setting pulled in so many directions. By John King -- Perkins+Will [slide show]- San Francisco Chronicle

Thomas Heatherwick unleashes his fireworks onto 'nouveau riche' distillery: The star designer behind the Olympic cauldron and Routemaster bus has turned his attention to the Bombay Sapphire premium gin brand, creating bell jar glasshouses for its distillery — and inventing a heritage that it's never had: They ooze his usual

[steampunk aesthetic...while standing inside them feels like being taking into the clutches of a sci-fi spider.](#) By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

[Sean Godsell's MPavilion unfurled: ...venue for a four-month festival of architecture, design and creative arts...sits in Melbourne's Queen Victoria Gardens, a simple steel structure...Conceived as a blooming piece of architecture, panels...open up to the breaking daylight in the morning, before closing down at night to form a simple box..."sits softly like a jewel box nestled in the landscape"...](#) By Linda Cheng [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

[Why 12-Foot Traffic Lanes Are Disastrous for Safety and Must Be Replaced Now: Let's make "10 not 12!" a new mantra for saving our cities and towns. States and counties believe that wider lanes are safer. And in this belief, they are dead wrong. Or, to be more accurate, they are wrong, and thousands of Americans are dead.](#) By Jeff Speck- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

[CicLAvia: Reclaiming Streets in the Car Capital of America: ...grassroots activism to increase biking among the diverse populations of Los Angeles County...Q&A with Robert Gard: "Ciclovía in Bogotá, South America, is about community building...we are working on researching the park space impact, public health impact, and business impact during CicLAvia along these routes."](#) - PLANetizen

[Landscapes of Clarity - Dan Kiley's Modernist Origins in 17th Century France: The influence of Andre Le Nôtre's designs at Versailles, Vaux-le-Vicomte, Chantilly, and Villandry on Kiley's iconic work at the Miller House and Garden and elsewhere.](#) By Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation [images]- Huffington Post

[Holcim Awards 2014 winners for Latin America: Top sustainable construction Awards to Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico. -- Colectivo 720; PLUG architecture; AT103; Daniel Bermúdez Arquitecto/Estudio Herrerós; Red Comunidades Rurales/Manos de Hermanos; Maciej Siuda architect; Oscar Hagerman; Al Borde Arquitectos; etc.](#) [images]- Holcim Foundation

[World Architecture Festival 2014 World Building of the Year: Chapel, Vietnam by a21studio; Future Project of the Year 2014: Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Canada by 5468796 Architecture + number TEN architectural group... -- Taylor Cullity Lethlean/Tonkin Zulaikha Greer; Olivier Ottevaere/John Lin/University of Hong Kong; Joyce Wang Studio; DSDHA; Cook Robotham Architectural Bureau; Neri&Hu Design and Research Office; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Vo Trong Nghia Architects; Fearon Hay Architects; CHROFI; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners/Arup; Sanjay Puri Architects; HDR Rice Daubney; McDowell+Benedetti; A-Lab; Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp/fjmt; ADEPT; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris/AHMM; EAA-Emre Arolat Architects; AGI architects; Gustavo Penna Arquitecto & Asociados; etc.- World Architecture Festival \(WAF\)](#)

[Black 'barn' wins 2014 Supreme National ADNZ | Resene Architectural Design Award: "Modern BarnForm" at Whatawhata in the Waikato. -- Tane Cox/Red Architecture; Architectura; Design House Architecture; Hierarchy Life Style Architecture; Gary Todd Architecture; The Design Studio; F3 Design; Darryl Church Architecture; Ltd Architectural](#) [images]- National Business Review (New Zealand)

[Blueprint Awards 2014 - the shortlist -- John McAslan + Partners; Haworth Tompkins; Mecanoo; Zechner & Zechner ZT GmbH;Knight Architects; Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios; Andrew Bromberg/Aedas; McDowell+Benedetti; Zaha Hadid Architects; Carlo Ratti Associati; Eva Jiricna Architects; Sheppard Robson; Hugh Broughton Architects; francis-jones morehen thorp/fjmt; Kikuma Watanabe; Studio Octopi; dRMM Architects; etc.](#) [images]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

[Call for entries \(deadline reminder\): 2014 Generation Kingspan Student Architectural Contest/GenK \(international\); cash prizes; deadline: November 4-](#) Kingspan

[Call for entries: Architecture for Humanity Toronto/LifeCorps Food Share Hub Ideas Competition \(international\); open to professionals and students; no fee; deadline: November 30-](#) Architecture for Humanity Toronto

[Call for entries: Knight Cities Challenge: idea must focus on one or all of three key drivers of city success: attracting and retaining talent, expanding economic opportunity, and creating a culture of robust civic engagement; \\$5 million available; deadline: November 14-](#) Knight Foundation

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