Today's News - Wednesday, October 15, 2014

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- Florida cheers SPUR's plan for a more inclusive San Francisco, but ponderes: "Can the city and region muster the political will to put something like it into action?"

- Hawthorne heads to Florida (the state) to see if Calatrava's new building for Florida Polytechnic University will "help repair the architect's troubled reputation": the result is "more about damage control than image overhaul," but it's "at least a step back toward the top."

- Johnstone forgets her aching feet once she gets to Gehry's Fondation Louis Vuitton building in Paris: it "must surely be one of the most soaring, extravagant buildings in the world - there's no art that could possibly compete with it" (and candid comments from a very frank Frank).

- Jacobs cheers the "architectural extravagance" of MVRDV's Rotterdam MarketHall, "the rare work of audacious architecture that doesn't cater to obscene wealth," but "is actually designed for the most down-to-earth uses: daily life."

- Johnston and Marklee have been "quietly transforming L.A.'s architectural landscape," but their Menil Drawing Institute in Houston "will certainly push them into the spotlight they have tried to avoid."

- Profiles of young architects in Adelaide who "left bigger, established firms to kickstart their own design practices," and are "managing to carve out successful solo careers."

- A good reason to head Down Under at the end of the month: the Affirmative Architecture symposium in Brisbane will gather an array of international and Australian architects "committed to a social agenda and who have made significant contribution to the public realm."

- Eyeful of the first Blueprint Awards in architecture and design (great presentation).

- Winners of the Mud House Design 2014 Competition hail from France, Senegal, and the U.S.

- A Canadian wins the Battery Chair Competition with "Fleurit," which looks like a pale blue flower (and apparently very comfortable).

- BD announces a very long shortlist for the Architect of the Year Awards 2014.

- An international roster of six finalists to reimagine the banks of the Moscow River.

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Voices from Venice: Conversations at the 2014 Architecture Biennale with Women who Practice Architecture: ...a series of one-on-one video interviews conducted by Harvard GSD graduate Caroline James, with architects Caroline Bos, Louise Braverman, Odile Decq, Yasmin Shariff, and Benedetta Tagliabue...inspiration for this project was the...the Petition to the Pritzker Architecture Prize for recognition of Denise Scott Brown's work in Robert Venturi's 1991 pize. - Women In Design

The Shape Shifters: Sharon Johnston and Mark Lee are quietly transforming L.A.’s architectural landscape...have unassumingly become the architects of choice for L.A.’s creative class...thoughtful, deliberate, and intent on solving architectural riddles in an elegant and comfortable way...Menil Drawing Institute in Houston...will certainly push Johnston Marklee into the spotlight they have tried to avoid. - W Magazine

Adelaide’s young architects set own house rules: A tough economic climate hasn’t deterred some of Adelaide’s visionary young architects from chasing their career dreams...left bigger, established firms to kickstart their own design practices...managing to carve out successful solo careers. -- Greg Bond/Atelier Bond; Sam Hosking/Luke Willis Hosking Willis Architecture; Julian Rutt; Lumen Studio - The Advertiser (Australia)

Architecture that gives a damn: The Affirmative Architecture symposium comes to Brisbane...drawing together international and Australian architects committed to a social agenda and who have made significant contribution to the public realm. October 31 - November 1- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Blueprint Awards 2014 - the winners: ...recognised the best projects and products in architecture and design across six categories. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Chloe Meineck; Terry Farrell; Haworth Tomkins; Piercy&Company; dRMM Architects; One Plus Partnership; Adam Nathaniel Furman [links to images, info]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Winners of the Mud House Design 2014 Competition (Reinventing the African Mud Hut Together) -- M.A.M.O.T.H (France); Atelier Koe (Senegal); Jason Orbe-Smith (U.S.) [images] - Nka Foundation

After Contest, One Chair is Left Standing: The Battery Conservancy chose the powder-coated steel chair, by Andrew Jones Design...chair competition...narrowed 679 entries from 15 countries down to 50 entries, then to five and, now, one...called Fleurt...looks like a pale blue flower...designer from Toronto, said he developed the idea after visiting the Battery. [images] - New York Times

Architect of the Year Awards 2014: Shortlists announced: AYA winners due to be named on December 2- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Moscow River: six finalists: Taking part in the second stage will be two Russian and four international consortums with the participation of Russian companies. -- Burgos & Garrido Arquitectos Asociados/Citymakers; Turenscape/Archpolis DSK-1; Maxwan Architects + Urbanists/Atrium architectural studio; Meganom; Ostozhenka; SWA Group [images] - Architectural Council of Moscow / Archcouncil of Moscow

ANN Feature: Why the Starchitect Debate isn’t “Stupid”: Starchitecture is just a symptom of a much bigger problem in the profession. By Michael J. Crosbie - ArchNewsNow

-- Richard Meier & Partners: Few architects have retained such an uncompromising style throughout a more than five-decade-long practice. By Jakob Harry Hybel

-- 7 Imaginative Pavilions -- Foster & Partners; Diller + Scofidio + Renfro; Ai Weiwei; SANAA; Atelier Peter Zumthor; Sverre Fehn; Kazuyo Sejima & Associates

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