

Today's News - Wednesday, October 29, 2014

- On the second anniversary of Superstorm Sandy (we remember it all too well), Feuer offers an in-depth update on what NYC is doing to prepare for the next big one: "the city, which has thumbed its nose at the water for 300 years, can no longer keep the sea at bay, but must by necessity invite it in."
- Woodman ponders Gehry's Fondation Louis Vuitton: it's "an architecture of perpetual indulgence...Preposterous - even outrageous - as it may be this is still the work of one of the world's great architects operating at the height of his powers."
- A look at how "London town is falling up. Some Londoners are delighted at their city's 'Manhattanization' but others warn it risks losing its soul."
- A Bolivian architect has big plans (with lotsa color!) for his town - and authorities have "begun warming to his work," though some dismiss it "as kitsch," others (with money) consider him El Alto's Michelangelo.
- A rather snarky take on new plans for the Miami Beach Convention Center: "Ugh, Again. Well, at least it won't drown."
- An important thumbs-up for the Gruen/Grimshaw Union Station Master Plan in L.A. means near-term projects can now move from planning to implementation.
- The Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs picks its design team, headed by DS+R (no pix yet).
- Oslo (finally) gives the Herreros Arquitectos-designed Edvard Munch Museum the go-ahead after "years of political wrangling" (critics still abound).
- A convenience store chain names a (totally!) stellar shortlist to design its Des Moines HQ (yes, Des Moines, as in Iowa).
- Bernstein explains how London's "Walkie-Scorchie" will cool things down: "The fix can only feel like vindication for Viñoly - louvers he originally designed for the building were eliminated as part of the value engineering process."
- A look at how a long-abandoned, windowless 1870s warehouse on Brooklyn's waterfront is being "transformed with all the Brooklyn-type fixings you'd expect" (lots of light included).
- Zipf goes in search of modern buildings in Rhode Island: they're there, but "are easy to overlook. We cannot steward what we cannot see."
- Brussat rebuts (of course): "Modern buildings are, alas, not easy to overlook."
- Goldberger has a most engaging conversation with Koolhaas and Fadel re: "design in the digital age."
- McGuigan remembers Judith Edelman: "she left a profound mark, both on the built environment and as a role model for younger women architects."
- Bowman reports - and reflects - on the "bleak results" of the Equity in Architecture survey by The Missing 32%.
- A USGBC Task Group releases the deliverables resulting from a \$3 million Google grant that include an open API, a materials-health certificate, and ways to streamline data collection among third-party certification programs.

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[Building for the Next Big Storm: After Hurricane Sandy, New York Rebuilds for the Future: If there is one guiding principle at work, it is the notion that the city, which has thumbed its nose at the water for 300 years, can no longer keep the sea at bay, but must by necessity invite it in...Will the city be better able now to withstand a big storm...The consensus among architects, engineers, academics and urban planners is a qualified yes. By Alan Feuer -- Kai-Uwe Bergmann/BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Henk Ovink; Rebuild by Design; AIANY - New York Times](#)

[Carte Blanche: Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France, by Gehry Partners: Tumescently emerging from the Bois de Boulogne...an architecture of perpetual indulgence...Preposterous - even outrageous - as it may be this is still the work of one of the world's great architects operating at the height of his powers. By Ellis Woodman \[images\]- Architectural Review \(UK\)](#)

[London town is falling up: As towers reach for the sky, some people are worrying about the city's ancient roots...Some Londoners are delighted at their city's "Manhattanisation" but others warn it risks losing its soul. \(AFP\) -- Kieran Long; Peter Murray/New London Architecture; Rafael Vinoly; Norman Foster; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners - The Star \(Malaysia\)](#)

[In Bolivia, 'New Andean' architecture applies new money to old traditions: It's not often that a single artist or designer gets a chance to define the aesthetic of an entire city...Freddy Mamani has big dreams for El Alto's plazas, bus stations and boulevards. But only recently have Bolivian authorities begun warming to his work...Critics dismiss his work as kitsch, or something worse - "decorative"...But in El Alto, he is the Aymara version of Michelangelo... \[slide show\]- Washington Post](#)

[Miami Beach Convention Center Plans Revealed... Ugh, Again: It may not be Rem Koolhaas, but the world must go on. This iteration...is more evolution than revolution...Well, at least it won't drown. -- Fentress Architects; Arquitectonica; West 8 \[images\]- Curbed Miami](#)

[Metro Board approves Union Station Master Plan, allowing near-term projects to go forward: ...an ambitious long-range roadmap for L.A.'s single largest public transit hub, from planning to implementation. -- Gruen Associates; Grimshaw Architects \[images\]- The Source \(Metro - Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority\)](#)

[Olympic Museum and Hall of Fame's creators chosen: ...a \\$10 million gift from El Pomar Foundation and a donation of 21/2 acres...by Norwood Development Group. -- Anderson Mason Dale; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Gallagher & Associates - Colorado Springs Independent](#)

[Edvard Munch Museum Gets Go-ahead: Oslo's city council has finally okayed a plan...estimated to cost 2.8 billion Norwegian kroner \(\\$430 million\). It will replace an aging structure in the city's Tøyen neighborhood. The announcement follows years of political wrangling over the funding and location... -- Herreros Arquitectos \[image\]- artnet News](#)

[Kum & Go building attracts star architects: We don't know what its new \\$92 million headquarters will look like, but...wants to create a downtown Des Moines landmark. The convenience store chain recently disclosed the six architecture firms competing to design the building. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Morphosis; Renzo Piano Building Workshop; Safdie Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP \(SOM\)- Des Moines Register \(Iowa\)](#)

[The Walkie-Scorchie Cools Off: With help from a California-based architect and engineer, Rafael Viñoly's Walkie-Talkie building \[20 Fenchurch Street\] in London is getting a system of aluminum fins to diminish its destructive reflectivity...The fix can only feel like vindication for Viñoly...louvers he originally designed for the building were eliminated...as part of the value engineering process. By Fred A. Bernstein -- George Lois/Lois + Ubbelohde - Architectural Record](#)

[A tour inside the under-construction Empire Stores in Dumbo, Brooklyn: The old coffee bean warehouse was built in the 1870s, but has been sitting empty along the East River for decades. By next fall...will have been transformed with all the Brooklyn-type fixings you'd expect...main challenge was to bring light and air into a structure that was built to block out both... -- Jay Valgora/Studio V Architecture \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

Yes, Rhode Island, we have modern buildings: ...not devoid of modern buildings...But, they are easy to overlook...to participate in conversations that organizations like Docomomo are having, we need to know more. We cannot steward what we cannot see, nor can we make good decisions about our built environment - all of it - unless we know our history in all its good, bad, ugly, and controversial forms. By Catherine W. Zipf -- Ira Rakatansky; Norman Herreshoff; Philemon Sturgis - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Yes, alas, we have modernism in R.I.: Zipf uses the word modern throughout her article...She means modernist...The onus lies with those who kidnapped the word to lend authority to an architectural movement at war with the very idea of architecture..."Modern buildings...are easy to overlook." I would respectfully and with considerable regret disagree. They are, alas, not easy to overlook. By David Brussat -- Ira Rakatansky; Philip Johnson; Paul Rudolph; Edward Larrabee Barnes [images]- Architecture Here and There

Tony Fadell and Rem Koolhaas on Design in the Digital Age: The pair sit down with Paul Goldberger at Vanity Fair's New Establishment Summit. -- Nest; OMA [video]- Vanity Fair

Remembering Architect Judith Edelman, 1923-2014: ...she left a profound mark, both on the built environment and as a role model for younger women architects. By Cathleen McGuigan -- Edelman Sultan Knox Wood-Architectural Record

Bleak Results From Equity in Architecture Survey Fuel Desire for Change: A project of The Missing 32%, the results of the largest known grassroots architectural survey to date were released...at the sold-out Equity by Design symposium in San Francisco. By Yuki Bowman/tracesf.com -- Rosa Sheng/Annelise Pitts/Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Lilian Asperin-Clyman/WRNS; Saskia Dennis-van Dijk/Cameron MacAllister Group; Helen Wong of AIASF - Architectural Record

USGBC Task Group Announces Deliverables from Google's \$3M Grant: They include an open API and a materials-health certificate...evaluated five third-party certification programs and recommended ways to streamline their data collection to avoid redundancy and to improve transparency. -- Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CPII)- Architect Magazine



-- Kengo Kuma & Associates: Contemporary Art Center (FRAC), Marseille, France: ..the 3D version of the 'museum without walls' invented by...André Malraux. By Kirsten Kiser
-- What's New on the Bookshelves? October 2014 edition: first and foremost Rem Koolhaas' monumental 15-volume book set "Elements"...Taschen's Renzo Piano monograph...a revised edition.

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