

Today's News - Tuesday, November 4, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us Hybel's review of Baumeister's "L'Architecture Sauvage"; and eye-fuls of "7 Stunning Examples of Sports Architecture."
- Goldhagen talks to Zumthor about the evolution of his design for LACMA: "Our recent conversation confirmed that whatever gets built will be different...It might not be black," he said with a wicked smile."
- Bozikovic is more than a bit disappointed in Predock's Canadian Museum for Human Rights, but puts most of the blame on "a lack of institutional vision"; it is "a showpiece for Winnipeg's building industry - but in service of what? Never in this country has so much money and such high ambitions achieved so little architecture" (ouch!).
- Keegan and Hinz mince no words about what they think of MAD's just-released conceptual designs of George Lucas's museum in Chicago: they "suggest that much needs to be worked out to keep this challenging work from being just weird + Even "R2-D2 would pan" the design that "screams and hoots, and yells and carries on, in its own way defacing the city's lakefront."
- Meanwhile, Wilson and Stott sit down with the architects to find out what the Lucas Museum is really wants to be, but "Burnham loyalists would probably be right to interpret it as a tad insulting."
- Wainwright talks to the "eccentric collector" behind the about-to-open Viktor Wynd Museum of Curiosities in a former London call center that "he has transformed into a weird and wonderful nest": "We need to put in a disabled loo, but I stupidly spent my last money on the skull of an executed felon."
- Leigh weighs in with a most thoughtful evaluation of the "heroes and victims in Modernist memorials" that can "turn out to be astonishingly extravagant expressions of a visually impoverished culture - the biggest victim of the dominant trends in contemporary memorial design is the public itself."
- Saitta responds to Rinaldi's recent critique of Denver's Union Station redevelopment that raised "a provocative and rage-inducing question" about whether civic architecture is inherently racist: it "derails a potentially important conversation," but "I admire the courage it took to write something that makes such an inviting target for the trolls and troglodytes among us."
- Alan Dunlop at the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture "shows that neuroscience and architecture share common aims."
- Australian architects weigh in on whether "buildings have a soul: Many architects find anthropomorphizing a building instructive."
- The Andrew Burges/Grimshaw/TCL team nabs the win in Sydney's Green Square Aquatic Centre competition with a design inspired by local beaches.
- Lindeke cheers SCAPE/Rogers Partners proposed Water Works Park in Minneapolis that "is full of exciting architectural ideas" - including a woonerf - "a new planning idea that might be useful in similar spots throughout the city."
- Davis and Oles make the case for the field of landscape architecture to change its name: "The words roll off the tongue as if their union were inevitable. But this is an arranged marriage. Most landscape practitioners know the name doesn't quite fit."
- Stead comes away from the inaugural Festival of Landscape Architecture in Australia with a better understanding of "some of the misconceptions about landscape architects": their work "goes way beyond 'capital D' design."
- One of the largest reconstruction projects of an industrial zone in Moscow "will make it a full-fledged part of the city center," and "will certainly involve new architects and architectural competitions."
- King and Hume report on their close encounters with Jaime Lerner in San Francisco and Toronto.
- Help Wanted: Executive Director & Editor in Chief of Philadelphia-based Next City - our heartiest good wishes to Diana Lind as she heads to Philadelphia Media Network.

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-- Book review: "L'Architecture Sauvage - Asger Jorn's Critique and Concept of Architecture" by Ruth Baumeister. By Jakob Harry Hybel  
-- 7 Stunning Examples of Sports Architecture -- Dominique Perrault; Santiago Calatrava; PTW; Kisho Kurokawa; Zaha Hadid; Berger + Parkkinen; Eduardo Souto de Moura

The Blob that Ate Wilshire Boulevard: Peter Zumthor talks about the evolution of his design for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art: Designs are not buildings...Our recent conversation confirmed that whatever gets built will be different - indeed, might be quite different... "It might not be black," he said with a wicked smile...each time he has to explain the project "is another test of the design concept, for me to see if it is right." So let's just let the man think. By Sarah Williams  
Goldhagen - Architectural Record

Canadian Museum for Human Rights: It is one of the most anticipated works of architecture in Canada's history. It is not one of the best...How did this come to be? A lack of institutional vision...Happily, the CMHR's \$351-million bought a showpiece for Winnipeg's building industry...But in service of what? Never in this country has so much money and such high ambitions achieved so little architecture. By Alex Bozikovic -- Antoine Predock; Architecture 49 [images] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

No weird architecture, please: Let's give George Lucas this much...he was looking to make a statement...initial conceptual designs for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art suggest that China could soon become an exporter of the weird...The best architecture has often been challenging...But the first glance at this important new building suggests that much needs to be worked out to keep this challenging work from being just weird. By Edward Keegan -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects [image] - Crain's Chicago Business

Lucas Museum rolls out a design that R2-D2 would pan: ...doesn't bow to anything in the neighborhood, unless it's trying to be a restaurant for E.T. to dine...it screams and hoots, and yells and carries on, in its own way defacing the city's lakefront...if Chicago is going to turn over a portion of its prized lakefront to one man's vision, it needs to be a good vision. By Greg Hinz -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects [images] - Crain's Chicago Business

The George Lucas Museum Is A Pyramid From The Future: ...it looks like a pyramid from the year 2020: Ma says his "futurist, yet timeless" vision can bring the city's architecture "to the next level" - a statement with enough gravitas that Chicago's Burnham loyalists would probably be right to interpret it as a tad insulting...there is no open parcel of land more academically and emotionally sacred than this in the city. By Mark Wilson -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; Mike Toolis/VOA Associates; Studio Gang [images] - Fast Company / Co. Design

MAD Architects Unveils Mountainous Design for Lucas Museum in Chicago: ...Ma Yansong explained how he wanted the design "to be futuristic but at the same time to be natural," connecting with the landscape of the waterfront site. By Rory Stott -- Studio Gang; VOA [images] - ArchDaily

A two-headed lamb and ancient dildos: the UK's strangest new museum: Viktor Wynd's Museum of Curiosities...eccentric collector says he's 'trying to get the whole world in here'...a former call centre on Mare Street that he has transformed into a weird and wonderful nest...set to open in November -- and meet public accessibility standards. "We need to put in a disabled

loo," he says, "but I stupidly spent my last money on the skull of an executed felon." By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Heroes and Victims in Modernist Memorials: Our minimalist antimonuments also can turn out to be astonishingly extravagant expressions of a visually impoverished culture...the biggest victim of the dominant trends in contemporary memorial design is the public itself. By Catesby Leigh -- Louis I. Kahn; Paul Philippe Cret; Harriet Pattison; Maya Lin; Michael Arad; Peter Walker; Snohetta [images]- Intercollegiate Review

Is America's Civic Architecture Inherently Racist? It's a provocative and rage-inducing question, but a potentially useful one for promoting discussion about the cross-cultural meaning of public space...Ray Mark Rinaldi's...particular critique of Union Station redevelopment...derails a potentially important conversation about...the degree to which cultural diversity should matter in urban placemaking...Still, I admire the courage it took to write something that makes such an inviting target for the trolls and troglodytes among us. By Dean Saitta- PLANetizen

Biological Design: Brain Boxes: Alan Dunlop has expanded upon insights gleaned from pioneering work at Hazelwood School, Glasgow, to explore the growing impact of neuroscience research on architecture. Discussing how human responses are shaped by the built environment...he shows that neuroscience and architecture share common aims. -- Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture (ANFA)- Urban Realm (Scotland)

Do buildings have a soul? Architects give their verdicts on the best examples in Victoria: Many architects find anthropomorphising a building instructive. -- Greg Burgess; Billard Leece-Bates Smart; Yuncken Freeman (1959); Roy Grounds (1968); Allan Powell; Arthur Purnell (1937); ARM; Lab Architecture Studio; Shelley Penn; Geoffrey London; Peter Corrigan [images]- The Age (Australia)

Andrew Burges Architects wins Green Square Aquatic Centre competition with design inspired by Sydney beaches: ...in conjunction with Grimshaw and TCL...to design Sydney's largest aquatic centre since the 2000 Olympics, beating 143 other entries to be named the winner of the Green Square Gunyama Park and Aquatic Centre design competition. [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Captivating mill-ruins park proposal seeks to balance private money and public space:...new vision for the area that would unearth some of the history buried beneath today's parking lots...Water Works Park...is full of exciting architectural ideas...new street is being termed a woonerf (a Dutch word meaning "shared street")...a new planning idea that might be useful in similar spots throughout the city. By Bill Lindeke -- SCAPE; Rogers Partners- MinnPost (Minneapolis, Minnesota)

From Architecture to Landscape: Landscape architects have begun to venture from the confines of garden, park, and plaza into more adventurous practice. Now the field needs a new name: landscape science...landscape architecture. The words roll off the tongue as if their union were inevitable. But this is an arranged marriage. Most landscape practitioners know the name doesn't quite fit... By Brian Davis & Thomas Oles [images]- Places Journal

Future forecasting: landscape architects might save the world: ...Inaugural Festival of Landscape Architecture uncovers some of the misconceptions about landscape architects...diversity of work...goes way beyond "capital D" design...agitating to...bring design expertise to bear at a city-wide or region-wide scale...science-based research is revealing a connection between the work of landscape architects and larger public health imperatives. By Naomi Stead/University of Queensland -- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) [images]- The Conversation (Australia)

ZIL reconstruction project at the forum "Culture. Look into the Future": One of the largest reconstruction projects of an industrial zone in the capital - the former ZIL car factory...Filling the peninsula with cultural and social functions in the near future will make it a full-fledged part of the city center...will certainly involve new architects and architectural competitions... -- Sergey Kuznetsov; Project Meganom [images]- Architectural Council of Moscow / Archcouncil of Moscow

Brazilian architect Jaime Lerner sees new frontiers in S.F.: ...a cult figure among urbanists for his renewal efforts in Curitiba that emphasized "simplicity and imperfection" -- or as he now calls it, "Urban Acupuncture"..."Cities are not as complex as the complexity sellers want us to believe. We should beat them with slippers." His Urban Center presentation had the same droll, aphoristic tone. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Jaime Lerner fights congestion - mental and physical: As the wildly innovative former mayor of Curitiba, Brazil, likes to say, the car has taken us as far as it can...Though his ideas are simple, even obvious, their implications are radical... By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Help Wanted: Executive Director & Editor in Chief of Next City, based in Philadelphia; Diana Lind heads to Philadelphia Media Network, which owns the Philadelphia Inquirer - Next City (formerly Next American City)

ANN Feature: New York Falls in Love with Gaudi's Complexity: A school of architecture displays the Sagrada Familia as a collective masterwork. By Vicente Jiménez, El País; translated by Prof. Lisa Paravisini-Gebert- ArchNewsNow

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