

Today's News - Friday, December 5, 2014

- In the 10th installment of ANN's Nuts + Bolts series, Stark charts a course from career bewilderment to career betterment: "Be curious, be adventurous, and, when necessary, be assertive."
- It only took 10 years, but the U.S., Canada, and Mexico now have an agreement allowing architects to practice across North American borders.
- RIBA does a u-turn re: its call for the UIA to boycott Israel: "We got it wrong" (legalities and £100,000 in lost income might have had something to do with it).
- A "peace deal" is reached over Holl's controversial Maggie's Centre: it will now include "shared facilities which will improve the grade I-listed Great Hall's desirability for weddings and other commercial bookings."
- Farrelly is more than cynical about the recent international Bays Precinct Summit in Sydney, a city which "has a way of making cynics from even the most hardened idealists" (especially when there's a "veritable pack of pachyderms" in the room).
- Turnbull and Atkinson take issue with Farrelly's take on the summit: it was "ground-breaking and unlike anything we have ever seen here in Australia. Of course a little cynicism can be healthy," but "it was clear that this wasn't just another conference."
- Raptopoulos continues her series on storm-proofing the city with a great Q&A with the Rockefeller Foundation's Kete, who "explains how their ability to move money fast can leverage better federal spending."
- Heathcote pens a heartfelt ode to the fragile mortality of buildings, ancient and modern: "Whether due to war, religion, taste or nature, architecture is mortal. It is always endangered."
- King parses the five designs proposed for San Francisco's Presidio: "If the competition has taught us one thing, it's that oversized gimmicks are not what anyone wants. The Bay Area deserves a park that doesn't just look good in photographs, but flourishes in real life."
- Litt reports on the "muted praise" given Foster's now-approved plans for Cleveland Clinic/CWRU Health Education Campus: "It wasn't a 'wow,' but it was a 'yes,'" even though it is "a less than exciting example of his prowess as one of the most famous architects alive."
- The proposed Berke/RATIO-designed Cummins HQ in Indianapolis gets quite a different response: it's "elegant, bold and distinctive" - a "cantilevered, twinkling steel and glass behemoth snuggles firmly into a soft bed of foliage" that "invites the sun inside and welcomes nature lovers outside."
- Shubow, who's fighting tooth-and-nail against Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial design, says "Gehry is right" (gasp!) about 98% of today's architecture being sh!t.
- Wilkinson Eyre is none too happy that the "Tree of Life" proposed for Expo 2015 in Milan "bears a suspiciously close resemblance to their award-winning steel 'super trees'" at Singapore's Gardens by the Bay (but say there will be no suit).
- Weekend diversions:
 - Kats says "Uneven Growth" at MoMA "shows architects who are full of good intentions - if only their ideas for improving ailing cities were just as good."
 - "Despite enlightened intentions," Hadid's show at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery "has unfortunately only added fuel to a remarkably intense fire" of controversy that follows her.
 - "Running on Reserve: Architectures of the Reservoir" delves into the Bauhaus Lab 2014, tracing "the relationship between functional architecture such as grain silos on the aesthetics of modernism."
 - Kats cheers both Palm Springs' new Architecture and Design Center and its inaugural exhibition: the "Center is an homage to Stewart Williams, both inside and out."
 - "After Hurricane Sandy: Rebuild by Design" exhibition and symposium lands in Berlin.
 - Peirce parses Rodin's "The Resilience Dividend," which makes the argument that "the resilience of cities lies in the strength of their neighborhoods."
 - In Tokyo, "Toyo Ito: The Making of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House 2005-2014" invites visitors to "share his vision and observe the creative process."
 - Heathcote's pick of the best architecture and design books of the year.
 - Urban explorer and "Abandoned Planet" author Govia explains why he's "addicted to decay" and "what it's like to be a ruin-porn photographer."

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ANN Feature: Nuts + Bolts #10: Charting a Course from Career Bewilderment to Career Betterment: Be curious, be adventurous, and, when necessary, be assertive. By Stanley Stark, FAIA, LEED AP - ArchNewsNow

U.S., Canada, and Mexico Announce Reciprocity of Architect Credentials: Following a decade of negotiations, architectural regulatory authorities...implemented Tri-National Mutual Recognition Agreement allowing architects to practice across North American borders. -- National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB); Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities (CALA); Federacion de Colegios de Arquitectos de la Republica Mexicana (FCARM) - Architect Magazine

RIBA u-turn over Israel boycott: 'We got it wrong': British architects have reversed their call for Israeli counterparts to be suspended from the International Union of Architects (UIA)...changed its stance after lawyers warned that such a policy was outside its charitable remit and could lead to Charity Committee censure...The boycott is understood to have cost the institute more than £100,000... - The Jewish Chronicle (UK)

Peace deal brokered over Steven Holl's Maggie's Centre: ...design will undergo internal revisions...introduce shared facilities which will improve the grade I-listed Great Hall's desirability for weddings and other commercial bookings, thus securing its future. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Summits won't solve city's Jumbo problem: Bays Precinct Summit: It's hard to get light into a space you're sharing with four full-grown elephants...Sydney has a way of making cynics from even the most hardened idealists...specialises in failed government projects...Public space and values can be prioritised. Trust happens, good city precincts are created. Just not here. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Bays Summit: Lucy Turnbull and Maria Atkinson reply to Farrelly: The Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit...ground-breaking and unlike anything we have ever seen here in Australia...So we were deeply disappointed to read Elizabeth Farrelly's column...Of course a little cynicism can be healthy...it was clear that this wasn't just another conference...This site is too valuable...not do the thinking first and learn from global best practice. - The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Stormproofing the City: Ahead of natural disasters, the Rockefeller Foundation spends millions to spark better ideas for the government's billions: Managing Director Nancy Kete explains how their ability to move money fast can leverage better federal spending. By Lilah Raptopoulos -- Rebuild by Design - Guardian (UK)

Bricks and mortality: Buildings under threat: Whether due to war, religion, taste or nature, architecture is mortal. It is always endangered. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

5 designs for park inside Presidio are all over map: If the competition to design a park for 13 uniquely visible acres...has taught us one thing, it's that oversized gimmicks are not what anyone wants...The Bay Area deserves a park that doesn't just look good in photographs, but flourishes in real life. By John King -- James Corner Field Operations; West 8; CMG Landscape Architecture; Snøhetta/Walter Hood; Olin [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

With muted praise, Design Review Committee approves Norman Foster plans for Cleveland Clinic/CWRU Health Education Campus: It wasn't a "wow," but it was a "yes"...felt was a less than exciting example of Foster's prowess as one of the most famous architects alive..."It's turning out to be very institutional. It could be an office building, it could be a theater building." By Steven Litt -- Foster + Partners; Peter Walker/PWP [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

First look at design for Cummins' Indianapolis office building: The cantilevered, twinkling steel and glass behemoth snuggles firmly into a soft bed of foliage above and below...It invites the sun inside...and welcomes nature lovers outside..."This is the new vocabulary in architecture, tying together buildings and green space." -- Deborah Berke Partners; RATIO Architects [images]- Indianapolis Star

Frank Gehry Is Right: 98% Of Architecture Today 'Has No Respect For Humanity': Modernist architects can sneer at ...supposedly hidebound rules of classicism, but what do they offer in their place? ...the would-be architectural rule-makers have nothing to say to mere builders, whose common sense makes them immune to the bullsh*t that 98% of architects subscribe to today. By Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society- Forbes

British architects accuse Italians of plagiarism over tree design: ...say they are victims of "architectural plagiarism" over the design of steel "super trees": ...claim that the "Tree of Life", which will be the symbol of Italy's Expo 2015 in Milan, bears a suspiciously close resemblance to their award-winning steel towers...that form the centre-piece of Singapore's Gardens by the Bay development. -- Wilkinson Eyre Architects; Marco Balich- Telegraph (UK)

Architecture Won't Save the World: "Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities" at MoMA...shows architects who are full of good intentions - if only their ideas for improving ailing cities were just as good...most would require serious bureaucratic intervention...At that point, they would be implicated in the faulty operations of the massive, broken urban planning systems that are criticized in the cities under consideration. By Anna Kats -- Pedro Gadanho; MIT-Poplab; Ensemble Studio; MAP Office; Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée; Superpool; Network Architecture Lab; RUA Arquitectos/MAS Urban Design/ETH Zurich; NLÉ/Zoohaus/Inteligencias Colectivas; URBZ [images]- Artinfo

Hadid remains at the center of controversy: Exhibitions can have consequences, often unintended: "Zaha Hadid" at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery...Despite enlightened intentions, the show has unfortunately only added fuel to a remarkably intense fire..."Hiroshi Hara: Wallpapers" + "Arata Isozaki: 12x5=60"- Japan Times

"Running on Reserve: Architectures of the Reservoir": Inside the Bauhaus Lab 2014 at Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau...traces the relationship between functional architecture such as grain silos on the aesthetics of modernism. Alison Hugill describes the immersive research process and how all that research was funnelled into the reservoir of the current exhibition. [images]- Uncube magazine (Germany)

Palm Springs's New Architecture and Design Center Spotlights Desert Modernism; ...[a] function that is readily apparent in the inaugural exhibition, "An Eloquent Modernist: E. Stewart Williams, Architect": to advocate for local designers whose work is often overshadowed by that of the mid-century juggernauts who built here...Center is an homage to Stewart Williams, both inside and out... By Anna Kats -- Marmol Radziner [images]- Artinfo

Toyo Ito literally connects architecture to the people: "Toyo Ito: The Making of the Taichung Metropolitan Opera House 2005-2014" at Toto Gallery Ma...invites visitors to share Ito's vision and observe the creative process of his team's latest project, which is no exception when it comes to unique design. - Japan Times

"After Hurricane Sandy: Rebuild by Design: Resilient Planning Through Collaborative Design": An exhibition and symposium commissioned by Aedes Network Campus Berlin -- U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)- Aedes Architecture Forum/Aedes Architekturforum (Berlin)

All of us first responders: Ask about natural and man-made disasters that hit communities, and most people think about the official government response. In "The Resilience Dividend: Being Strong in a World Where Things Go Wrong" Judith Rodin argues that the resilience of cities lies in the strength of their neighborhoods. By Neal Peirce -- Rockefeller Foundation- Citiscope.org

Best books of 2014: Architecture & Design: "Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth" edited by Forensic Architecture; "Radical Cities: Across Latin America in Search of a New Architecture" by Justin McGuirk; "Sottsass" by Philippe Thome: dense, provocative...stories are as seductive as the visuals...a huge book, a bit over-designed but still seductive. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

"I'm Addicted To Decay": What It's Like To Be A Ruin-Porn Photographer: Urban explorer Andre Govia talks to Co.Design about the risks and rewards behind the scenes of his latest book, "Abandoned Planet." [images]- Fast Company / Co. Design

-- Oikios Architekten: InterContinental Hotel, Davos, Switzerland: ...a striking landmark. Like a giant, shimmering pinecone amidst snow-clad pine trees of the Swiss Alps. By Ulf Meyer
-- What's New on the Bookshelves? ...beautiful monographs on Aalto and the Eames couple to an insightful issue of CLOG dedicated to Rem Koolhaas...
-- Marina Morón: Their work explores tangible connections between the image and architectonic space...
-- 7 Modern Religious Buildings -- O Studio Architects; Atelier Peter Zumthor; Roseta Vaz Monteiro Arquitectos; Jensen & Skodvin Arkitektkontor; Álvaro Siza; JKMM Architects; Richard Meier & Partners

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