

Today's News - Thursday, December 11, 2014

- Safdie takes home the 2015 AIA Gold Medal for his "comprehensive and humane approach to designing public and cultural spaces," and Ehrlich Architects, "noted for its Multicultural Modernism projects," receives 2015 AIA Architecture Firm Award.
- Pogrebin reports on the American Museum of Natural History expansion plan to be designed by Gang and Appelbaum: it "will probably face close scrutiny" by its neighborhood "known for its fierce development battles."
- Heathcote on Piano's Whitney Museum: it "contains some majestic gallery spaces within an ungainly industrial exterior - although it's big, and although it's ugly, it's still a bit of a pussy."
- Betsky finds "little worthy of celebration" among the Guggenheim Helsinki finalists, but does find "a cause for optimism - it might give a chance for a young firm to put itself in the limelight."
- King x 2: he cheers the choice of James Corner for the Presidio park project: his "proven ability to work with neighborhood groups and bureaucracies could improve the odds of success."
- He's much less cheerful about plans to keep "Bay Lights" shining on the San Francisco Bay Bridge, and would prefer it "become a dim memory."
- Schumacher finds Milwaukee's newest bus shelter to be "a classic postmodern misadventure" with a "tough-as-nails aesthetic" she calls "Deconstructivism Lite" (and it doesn't actually provide much shelter).
- Is Gehl "winning his battle to make our cities liveable?"
- Brussat says "placemaking is under siege," and calls on the likes of Gehl and PPS's Kent to "introduce a more vigorous advocacy of new placemaking architecture."
- Ratti expounds on why the "Smart City isn't enough - the 'Sensing' City is the future of urbanism."
- Brake enters the starchitecture debate: "Frank flips the bird. Zaha sues a critic. Rem excludes the names of all architects in the Venice Biennale" - perhaps "other architects - and the media that covers them - should go about the business of fixing the remaining 98% of what gets built. We would all be better for it."
- Kamin cheers Chicago's Adler & Sullivan-designed Auditorium Theatre on its 125th anniversary: "the Auditorium and the city it calls home are less about the past than about inventing the urban future."
- Eye-fuls of Rockwell's new United Terminal at Newark Airport that will look like "a foodie theme park. Will this be the most extravagant airport terminal in America?"
- Wainwright talks to the "Spanish subversives" about next year's Serpentine Pavilion, and their interiors project for "hotdeskers" at Second Home: "If Barbarella turned her hand to running a garden centre, this is what it would look like."
- Edible landscape pioneer Bhatt wins \$50,000 UBC Margolese National Design for Living Prize.
- Eye-fuls of the 15 finalists in the 2014 Art of Building Photographer of the Year competition.
- Call for entries: 2015 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers: "Authenticity" + Deadline reminder: 2014 Chicago Prize: Barack Obama Presidential Library Design Ideas Competition.

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2015 AIA Gold Medal Awarded to Moshe Safdie: ...the profession's highest honor...comprehensive and humane approach to designing public and cultural spaces across the world has touched millions of people and influenced generations of younger architects. -- Safdie Architects - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Ehrlich Architects Receives 2015 AIA Architecture Firm Award: ...noted for its Multicultural Modernism projects...renowned for fluidly melding classic California Modernist style with multicultural and vernacular design elements by including marginalized design languages and traditions. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

American Museum of Natural History Plans an Addition: ...plans a \$325 million, six-story addition along Columbus Avenue, to accommodate its expanding role as a center for research and education...will probably face close scrutiny...neighborhood is known for its fierce development battles... By Robin Pogrebin -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Ralph Appelbaum Associates - New York Times

Whitney Museum: Renzo Piano's waterfront home for the New York institution contains some majestic gallery spaces within an ungainly industrial exterior...Mr Smooth takes over from Mr Brutal...although Piano has built his version of a brutal building, and although it's big, and although it's ugly, it's still a bit of a pussy...galleries look set to be inspiring. By Edwin Heathcote -- Marcel Breuer (1966) - Icon (UK)

Guggenheim Finalists: Meh: ...little worthy of celebration in the Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition entries...moving from shock and awe to meh and feh...Perhaps the jury...wanted to first do no harm...a cause for optimism: If this competition does nothing else, it might give a chance for a young firm to put itself in the limelight. By Aaron Betsky - Architect Magazine

Presidio park project lands architect behind High Line in N.Y.: James Corner Field Operations' proven ability to work with neighborhood groups and bureaucracies could improve the odds of success for a project sure to be as closely scrutinized as any in the city. By John King -- EHDD [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Let's allow 'Bay Lights' to become a dim memory: ...if Illuminate the Arts raises \$4 million to upgrade and reinstall the lights, then Caltrans will take ownership and maintenance...at an annual cost of roughly \$250,000...treating the region's most robust work of architectural engineering as nothing more than a canvas for the visual equivalent of background music. By John King -- Illuminate the Arts; Leo Villareal [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Bay View's 'Art Stop' a classic postmodern misadventure: A new bus shelter... "Urban Counter-Pose" ...an instant landmark, for better and worse. The tough-as-nails aesthetic...I might call it Deconstructivism Lite...shelter's actual sheltering spaces are quite limited...Mostly, though, the structure just stresses me out. Instead of giving us a delightful pause, it adds to the visual racket of the place. By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Román Montoto [images] - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Is Jan Gehl winning his battle to make our cities liveable? ...urban 'rethinker' says cities should be six or seven storeys high, Helsinki is on the verge of revolution, and that he's sceptical of London's cycle superhighway plans. By Ellie Violet Bramley -- Helle Søholt/Gehl Architects - Guardian (UK)

Placemaking under siege: ...placemakers such as Jan Gehl and Project for Public Spaces/PPS president Fred Kent...cannot snap their fingers and eliminate buildings that glower at people from the edges of place. But they can and must introduce a more vigorous advocacy of new placemaking architecture... By David Brussat -- Audun Engh/INTBAU; John Massengale; Victor Dover - Architecture Here and There

The "Sensing" City is the Future of Urbanism: The Smart City isn't enough. How might real-time data awaken the humanity in our buildings and public spaces? By Carlo Ratti/MIT SENSEable City Laboratory - Metropolis Magazine

Editorial> Beyond the Starchitecture Debate: Alan G. Brake on starchitects in a defensive crouch: Frank flips the bird. Zaha sues a critic. Rem excludes the names of all architects in the Venice Biennale...Other architects - and the media that covers them - should go about the business of fixing the remaining 98% of what gets built. We would all be better for it. -- Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Rem Koolhaas; Bjarke Ingels - The Architect's Newspaper

Auditorium Theatre at 125, still an architectural gem: This singular structure showed the world that Chicago was a big city that could get big things done...But the Auditorium and the city it calls home are less about the past than about inventing the urban future. By Blair Kamin -- Dankmar Adler; Louis Sullivan; Harry Weese (1967); Laurence Booth 2003) [images]- Chicago Tribune

Newark Airport's New United Terminal Looks Like A Foodie Theme Park: David Rockwell Group's design includes a beer garden, clam shacks, and more. Will this be the most extravagant airport terminal in America? [images]- Fast Company

Serpentine pavilion 2015 to be built by Spanish subversives Selgas Cano: The Spanish architects, who specialise in semi-submerged builds in harmony with their natural surroundings, promise an 'absolutely experimental' pavilion that will 'really embrace the garden'... By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Edible Landscape Pioneer Vikram Bhatt wins \$50,000 UBC Award: University of British Columbia Margolese National Design for Living Prize goes to maker of low-cost food and housing solutions.- The Tyee (Vancouver)

15 Finalists Nominated for the 2014 Art of Building Photographer of the Year competition: "There is a cornucopia of styles and stories...black and white photography still inspires a host of photographers. Voters are in for a visual treat..." -- Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) [images]- ArchDaily

Call for entries (deadline reminder): 2014 Chicago Prize: Barack Obama Presidential Library Design Ideas Competition (international); deadline: January 10, 2015- Chicago Architectural Club / Chicago Architecture Foundation

Call for entries: 2015 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers: Authenticity; open to current, full-time residents, who need not be citizens, of the United States, Canada, and Mexico; deadline: February 17, 2015- Architectural League of New York

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



7 Examples of Seductive Retail Architecture: ...a local landmark that helps to make a brand seem substantial...a few recent examples of enchanting retail architecture. -- MVRDV; OMA; Toyo Ito & Associates; Jun Aoki; Zaha Hadid Architects; Reiser + Umemoto [images]

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