Today's News - Friday, January 9, 2015

- Five firms in the running to rebuild Glasgow School of Art's fire-ravaged Mackintosh building amidst the growing debate re: whether the restoration should be faithful to the original, or as modern and clever as the original once was. "
- Greenfield pens a most thoughtful take (and one of the only pieces we've read) that questions whether "smart cities" are the smart way to go: "by turning a city onto autopilot, are we in danger of losing what makes it human?"
- Massengale on the starchitecture debate: "more and more architects are getting tired of this narrow emphasis, and more and more of the public are catching on too."
- Jenkins minces no words about what he thinks of London's mayor riding roughshod over residents' preferences by waving through Royal Mail's plan for 10 "ghastly slabs" of luxury flats: "There is an alternative."
- With Boston's mayor calling for "bold design," developers "will now be looking at how to create a revenue benefit from the extra expense of creating better designs to add to the skyline."
- Hartman has a few issues with de Portzamparc's "massive, much-maligned" Cidade das Artes in Rio: it is "a forbidding performing-arts complex of Piranesian proportions," though its "elevated veranda may be its saving grace."
- Dunlap and Branch each give two thumbs-ups to Helpern's restoration/reimagination of Yale's Sterling Memorial Library nave, now "more stunning than ever."
- A fascinating Q&A with Speer re: the efforts - and promise - to build the Qatar 2022 World Cup stadiums sustainably.
- One couldn't resist (it made us laugh - and sigh - out loud!) Sorkin's 250 things an architect should know: #14: How to lay bricks; #18: How to unclog a rapidograph; #200: What rusts.
- Eyefuls of the AIA 2015 Honors & Awards: Twenty-five Year Award to SOM's 1990 Broadgate Exchange House, London (great presentations of all the winners!).
- Weekend diversions:
  - Kats x 2: a round-up of "the best architecture and design shows opening in the U.S. in 2015."
  - She cheers "Shadow Architecture" book and exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw by Wasiakowska, VP of the Polish Architectural Association, and "at 36, the most promising architect in Poland."
  - Bernstein cheers "New Territories: Laboratories for Design, Craft and Art in Latin America," a "sweeping and rewarding exhibition" at Manhattan's MAD (though he bemoans the current trend of shows being more like elaborate dissertations).
  - King cheers the Presidio's "Gallery + Ideas Forum" show of the finalists in the recent competition that brings "city planning to the people who live with it" by presenting "the rarefied topic of urban design in a downright friendly way."
  - Rawsthorn calls "Ways to Modernism: Josef Hoffmann, Adolf Loos, and Their Impact" at Vienna's MAK that illustrates the "designers' conflicting visions of modernity at a time of renewed interest in their work."
  - Dabrowski is quite taken by "Olafur Eliasson: Contact" at Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, that "complements the architecture of the strikingly sculptural building" by Gehry (fab photos by Baan, too).
  - "Rethinking the Urban Landscape" at The Building Centre, London, "argues the case to commit investment to 'green infrastructure' in the early stages of city and regeneration planning" with 50 case studies.
- Silverstein gives thumbs-ups to Thoren's new tome, "Landscapes of Change: Innovative Designs and Reinvented Sites."
AIA 2015 Honors & Awards: Twenty-five Year Award: Broadgate Exchange House, London, by Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill (SOM) + Institute Honor Awards in Architecture, Interior Architecture, Regional & Urban Design -- BIG - Bjarke Ingles Group; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; KieranTimberlake; Davis Brody Bond; Studios Architecture; Trahan Architects; CBT Architects; EE&K, a Perkins Eastman company; etc. [links to images, info] - AIArchitect


Shadow Architecture: Political Toilets and Makeshift Bazars: ...Aleksandra Wasilkowska, vice-president of the Polish Architectural Association in Warsaw, about her new book "Shadow Architecture" and future projects: At 36, the most promising architect in Poland is making a name for herself by focusing on the small-scale constructions of the so-called informal economy. By Anna Kats - Artinfo

Exhibition Review: "New Territories: Laboratories for Design, Craft and Art in Latin America" at the Museum of Arts and Design, NYC: ...one almost longs for the days when a design museum could display beautiful objects, without having to come up with elaborate themes and theses. Must an exhibition always be a dissertation? ...sweeping and rewarding exhibition. By Fred A. Bernstein [images] - Architectural Record

Bringing city planning to the people who live with it: If you want to see how the rarefied topic of urban design can be presented in a downright friendly way, check out the Presidio’s current exhibition on its recent competition for a unique park above Crissy Field..."Gallery + Ideas Forum"... By John King -- James Corner Field Operations [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Two Architects, Two Visions, One Diptych of Early Modernism: "Ways to Modernism; Josef Hoffmann, Adolf Loos, and Their Impact," an exhibition at MAK in Vienna, looks at the contrasting styles of two early Modernist architects...illustrates their designers’ conflicting visions of modernity at a time of renewed interest in their work. By Alice Rawsthorn [images] - New York Times

"Olafur Eliasson: Contact" at Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris: A monographic exhibition devoted to the Danish-Icelandic artist complements the architecture of the strikingly sculptural building designed by Frank Gehry. By Magdalena Dabrowski [images by Iwan Baan] - Architectural Record

"Rethinking the Urban Landscape": ...argues the case to commit investment to ‘green infrastructure’ in the early stages of city and regeneration planning...Curated by The Building Centre and the Landscape Institute...includes many of the best international projects in its presentation of more than 50 schemes. [links to images, info] - The Building Centre, London

Landscape Architecture for a Changing World: "Landscapes of Change: Innovative Designs and Reinvented Sites" by Roxi Thoren...profiles 25 landscape projects that meet hybrid needs in response to the “changing context of landscape architectural design.” By Yoshi Silverstein - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Travel Guide: Seoul: South Korean capital has...assertively managed to attract vast amounts of culture and commerce. By Ulf Meyer -- Rafael Viñoly/Samoo; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); MASS Studies; Daniel Libeskind; Nikken Sekkei (with Archibian Architects, Jung Lin Architects); Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Kim H Cheuri/Archium; SO-IL Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Platoon and Graft Architects + Baik Jwong, MVRDV; Kim Joong-jeup; Kim Seo-jeun; Kim Seok-jae; Lee Hee-tae; Haeahn Architecture + H Architecture; Yoo Kerl/iArc Architects; GAP Architekten; Dominique Perrault; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Iroje Architects/Seung Hyo-sang; Steven Holl Architects/E. rae Architects; etc. [images]