

Today's News - Monday, January 12, 2015

- It's looking like H&deW/Hassell's grand plans for Melbourne's Flinders Street Station will "be dumped" by the new Victorian Labor Government, saying it was "a 'colouring-in competition' by the former government 'in order to get some pretty cheap headlines.'"
- Arnault's grand plans for SANAA's €460 million makeover of Paris's former department store La Samaritaine are stopped - again.
- Beirut's "shiny new downtown" is filled with "plush apartments, posh cafes," and luxury boutiques, but something is missing: people.
- Kennicott says the exterior of the Harvard Art Museums "is not one of Piano's more elegant structures," but he gives two thumbs-ups to the interior "that doesn't feel cobbled together but organically conceived from the beginning."
- Hawthorne gives (mostly) thumbs-up to wHY's "compelling case for gray" at Pomona College that is "absolutely worth visiting, despite the imperfect results."
- Kats can't find anything good to say about Libeskind's International Congress Xperience building in Mons, Belgium ("puerile and outdated" are the kinder words).
- Wise offers a most thoughtful take on the "architectural importance of the U.S. Embassy in Havana," built in 1953.
- Eye-fuls of the "20 most ingenious works of architecture in 2014: It's been a banner year for architecture your 10-year-old self dreamed of."
- Ingels (the 40-year-old geezer) offers advice to young architects: "comprehend the human needs outside of the architectural bubble."
- Five teams in the running to master-plan the University College London's Olympic campus, a "key part of Olympicopolis."
- Help wanted: Director of Cultural Heritage for the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations.
- Eye-fuls of competition winners from all over: Architecture at Zero + vision42design (from France, Australia, Scotland, and NYC) + Red Square Tolerance Pavilion in Moscow + IIDA/ BMW Group DesignworksUSA Global Excellence Awards.
- Call for entries: Stanley Hotel Hedge Maze Design Contest (remember "The Shining"?) + Axis Civitas: Gowanus by Design 3rd international design competition + Re-Defining Home: A Design Challenge + International Restaurant & Bar Design Awards.

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Doubt falls on Flinders Street Station concept by Hassell and Herzog & de Meuron in Melbourne: ...likely to be dumped by the new Victorian Labor Government, reaffirming fears that the proposal never stood a chance...Premier Daniel Andrews all but ruled out plans...saying they were a "colouring-in competition at taxpayers' expense" by the former government "in order to get some pretty cheap headlines". [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Work on Parisian former department store La Samaritaine stops again: Court withdraws planning permission for redevelopment of landmark on Seine: LVMH, owned by Bernard Arnault, is behind the €460m development of the site into a palatial hotel, duty-free shops, designer stores and offices as well as social housing, a day centre and a creche. -- SANAA; Society for the Protection of the Countryside and the Beauty of France; SOS Paris - Guardian (UK)

Beirut rebuilt its downtown after the civil war. Now it's got everything except people: ...shiny new downtown has struggled for various reasons...violence has continued to batter the country...The reconstruction project demolished historical buildings and filled the area with upscale condos and shops. There are few parks or other public spaces....Solidere...has been accused by architects, heritage-preservation organizations...of driving out the area's original property owners and unnecessarily demolishing historical buildings. By Hugh Naylor - Washington Post

Harvard's three-in-one 'teaching museum' offers other art institutions much to learn: From the outside, [Harvard Art Museums] is not one of Piano's more elegant structures, but from the inside, [he] has managed a deft fusion of the institution's myriad functions, in a structure that doesn't feel cobbled together but organically conceived from the beginning. By Philip Kennicott -- Renzo Piano - Washington Post

Compelling case for gray at Pomona College's Studio Art Hall: ...grayness as an architectural condition can be as compelling as brightness, boldness and big gestures...almost pulls it off. The effort alone, something of a high-wire act on a narrow line connecting the bold and the value-engineered, makes the building absolutely worth visiting, despite the imperfect results. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Kulapat Yantrasast/wHY Architecture [images]- Los Angeles Times

Another Year, Another Libeskind Building: International Congress Xperience building in Mons, Belgium: The building is puerile and outdated, and another disappointment from an architect who once appeared at the lead of an architectural vanguard that has since turned stale. By Anna Kats [image]- Artinfo

The Architectural Importance of the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba: The former and future U.S. Embassy building is a relic of Washington's post-WWII bid to use modern architecture to project its image as a triumphant, dynamic superpower. By Michael Z. Wise -- Harrison & Abramovitz (1953); Caballero Architects (1997); Paul Franz Jacquet/Leland King/Frederick Larkin (1941); Karn Charuhas Chapman & Twohey/KCCT (1999) [images]- Architect Magazine

20 Of The Most Ingenious Works Of Architecture In 2014: It's been a banner year for architecture your 10-year-old self dreamed of - from 3D printed homes to buildings grown from trash. -- a21studio; Farshad Mehdizadeh Architects; Gustavo Penna Arquitecto & Associates; Neri&Hu Design and Research Office; Fearon Hay Architects; EAA-Emre Arolat Architects; 3XN; Aires Mateus; Urko Sanchez Architects; Centerbrook Architects and Planners; Studio Cachoua Torres Camilletti; David Benjamin The Living; SURE Architecture; Craig Steely Architecture; Agence Chartier Corbasson; etc. [images]- Huffington Post

Bjarke Ingels: Advice to the Young: ...acquire the tools and language to comprehend the human needs outside of the architectural bubble, and understand that they are here to accommodate - and not to be accommodated. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group [video]- Huffington Post

Five teams in running to masterplan key part of Olympicopolis: ...University College London/UCL's Olympic campus... -- Aecom/Stanton Williams; Lifshutz Davidson Sandilands/etc.; Make/Gehl Architects/LDA Design/AECOM/etc.; LDA Design/Nicholas Hare Associates/etc.; Allies & Morrison/O'Donnell + Tuomey/etc. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Help wanted: Director of Cultural Heritage for the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO): ...to conserve and maintain diplomatic and consular posts abroad...OBO seeks to preserve historically and culturally-significant buildings, properties and artifacts in its care; deadline: February 17 - U.S. Department of State

Architecture at Zero Design Competition Winners Announced: ...challenged entrants to create a zero net energy (ZNE) design... -- SERA & Glumac; 3r studio; Symbiosis; etc. [images]- ArchDaily

vision42design competition: Winning teams imagine a people-friendly 42nd Street...one of the most iconic streets in

the world...vote on your favorite... -- ateliergeorges studio; Paul Boyle/University of Western Australia; Tiago Torres Campos/CNTXT Studio Landscape Architect; Alfred Peter/Charles Bové/Karen Listowsky [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Red Square Tolerance Pavilion Competition Winners Unveiled: ...selected from over 120 submissions...3 winners hailing from Italy, Norway and France... -- Kiana Jalali/Alessandro Vitale/Matteo Pagani/Marco Merigo; Mesi Koponen/Ida Sandvik; Nicolas Souchko [link to images, info]- HMMMD / Homemade Dessert

IIDA/International Interior Design Association/BMW Group DesignworksUSA Names Winners of the 5th Annual Global Excellence Awards -- Landini Associates; Mamiya Shinichi Design Studio; Dreamdesign; Matsuya Art Works; One Plus Partnership; Perkins+Wil; Regional Associates; Puredesign; Ezequiel Farca Architecture & Design; NB-Studio; Yamazaki Kentaro Design Workshop; Burdifilek [images]- Contract magazine

Call for entries: The Stanley Maze Comes To Life: Stanley Hotel public Hedge Maze Design Contest: ...competition to design a 10,100 sq. ft. hedge maze inspired by Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining"; deadline: January 31- Stanley Hotel (Estes Park, Colorado)

Call for entries: Axis Civitas: Gowanus by Design 3rd international design competition; cash prizes; registration deadline: March 6 (submission deadline: May 15)- Gowanus by Design

Call for entries: RE-DEFINING HOME: A Design Challenge: creative design solutions incorporating practical ideas that address affordability and other key social issues; cash prizes; deadline: May 1- Home Matters / AIA San Francisco

Call for entries: Restaurant & Bar Design Awards (international); deadline: April 19- Core

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