

Today's News - Wednesday, January 28, 2015

- Kimmelman makes the case for legislators to reconsider plans for Rudolph's Orange County Government Center that would leave the town of Goshen "with a Frankenstein's monster."
- Wainwright, meanwhile, cheers English Heritage finally giving postwar architecture "some love" by listing 14 office buildings: "they're an innovative bunch" from "a period that might not immediately jump to mind as fertile ground for producing cherished landmarks."
- Marks rounds up the reasons why English Heritage thinks those 14 deserved listing.
- Jacobs explains (quite convincingly) why "a second wave of PoMo might be on the way."
- A look at why Helsinki isn't (yet) sold on a Guggenheim Helsinki, raising questions that "make going forward without the commitment of the city a challenging, and murky, proposition."
- Saffron, on a brighter note, cheers Snøhetta/Stantec plans for Temple University's new library: more than "just adding another isolated architectural trophy," it launches "a long-overdue, place-making effort" that "blends innovation and tradition."
- Hopes are high that the second time will be a charm in the St. Petersburg Pier competition saga, with seven proposals in the running.
- King parses the three proposals in the running for a new Silicon Valley pedestrian/bike bridge, "the idea being to turn a functional need into a lasting statement."
- Lange practically gnashes her teeth about the AIA 2015 Gold Medal going to "another mature white. When I read that Moshe Safdie had been awarded - I groaned" (comments are caustic, too).
- The 2015 AJ Women in Architecture survey results are in: workplace sex discrimination - check; bullying - check. "But the survey did show signs of hope elsewhere."
- A great presentation of Metropolis's Game Changers 2015, the "fifth annual survey of the foremost forward-looking talents in the world of architecture and design" (indeed!).
- Dickinson delves deep into how data is "next frontier in sustainable design," and "why architects who embrace building performance may help their bottom lines" (it requires a "rethinking the architect/client relationship" - ice machines included).
- A look at what's influencing architecture today (mostly good news).
- On the other hand, a new report finds "tighter competition, off-shoring, and technological change are amongst a number of challenges confronting architecture firms in Australia" (dare we say everywhere?).
- Some interesting findings in PLANetizen's City Planning Department Technology Benchmarking Survey 2015 re: the "current state of Internet technology as employed by the planning department of over 500 U.S. cities."
- RAIC inducts Samuel Oboh as 76th President.
- Call for entries: World Habitat Awards 2015/16 + Re-thinking The Future Awards 2015 + 2015 IES Illumination Awards for lighting design.

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A Chance to Salvage a Master's Creation: Unless legislators...act quickly, a paragon of midcentury American idealism will be lost...Orange County Government Center...proposal would tear down huge chunks of it...Goshen would end up with a Frankenstein's monster...legislators should take a look at his Art and Architecture Building at Yale...Almost miraculous, the restoration vindicates Rudolph. By Michael Kimmelman -- Paul Rudolph; Gene Kaufman/Gwathmey Siegel Kaufman Architects - *New York Times*

Power to the postwar: architecture's most scorned era finally gets some love: It may not have given rise to many beloved landmarks, but...14 office blocks from the postwar era got listed status. And they're an innovative bunch...English Heritage's latest project to assess postwar offices from 1964-84, a period and building type that might not immediately jump to mind as fertile ground for producing cherished landmarks. By Oliver Wainwright -- Peter Foggo/Arup; Foster Associates; BDP; John Madin; Ryder and Yates; Richard Seifert; Gollins Melvin Ward; Whinney, Son & Austen Hall [images] - *Guardian (UK)*

English Heritage: why these 14 post-war offices deserved listing. By Laura Mark -- Fitzroy Robinson & Partners; Whinney, Son & Austen Hall; Arup Associates; Peter Foggo; George Marsh/Richard Seifert & Partners; Foster Associates; Ryder and Yates; Building Design Partnership/BDP; Bradshaw, Rowse & Harker; John Madin [images] - *The Architects' Journal (UK)*

PoMo Redux: Inside the decision to save Michael Graves' Portland Building, and why there's still life in Postmodernism: "PoMo," John King wrote, "is the embarrassing uncle who won't shut up about the first time he saw Depeche Mode"...threats to landmarks from the 1970s and 1980s...have reawakened interest in the period for a younger generation...a second wave of PoMo might be on the way. By Karrie Jacobs -- MVRDV; Elizabeth Timme/Más; Robert Timme/Taft Architects; Jon Jerde; Deborah Sussman - *Architect Magazine*

Helsinki City Council Not Sold on Guggenheim Helsinki: ...raising questions about the financial future of the museum's latest global outpost...make going forward without the commitment of the city a challenging, and murky, proposition. - *Artinfo*

Temple University's plan comes together with new focus on library: Instead of just adding another isolated architectural trophy...using the \$190 million project to launch a long-overdue, place-making effort...a classic college ensemble...design blends innovation and tradition. By Inga Saffron -- Snøhetta; Stantec [images] - *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Seven ideas advance to next stage in choosing new St. Petersburg Pier: ...selection committee eliminated a small St. Petersburg firm whose proposal had been labeled "difficult to understand"... -- AhHa! Architecture; FR-EE/Civitas/Mesh Architecture; W Architecture and Landscape Architecture; ASD/Rogers Partners Architects+Urban Designers/Ken Smith Landscape Architect; Ross Barney Architects; St. Pete Design Group; Alfonso Architects; VOA [images] - *Tampa Bay Times (Florida)*

Palo Alto seeking best bridge brainpower with design contest: ...a proposed span for bicyclists and pedestrians ...three invited entries...the idea being to turn a functional need into a lasting statement. By John King -- HNTB/64North/Bionic Landscape Architecture/Ned Kahn; OLIN/SBP/Biohabitats; Moffatt and Nichol/Steven Grover and Associates/Lutsko Associates/JIRI Strasky/Mark Thomas and Co. [images, link to details] - *San Francisco Chronicle*

Was it too much to hope for first a woman and then a partnership? Despite significant improvements last year, architecture's archaic equality problems haven't gone away. The American Institute of Architects' decision to award its 2015 Gold Medal to another mature white man isn't helping. When I read that Moshe Safdie had been awarded...I groaned... By Alexandra Lange - *Dezeen*

2015 AJ Women in Architecture survey: ...reveals rise in workplace sex discrimination: Bullying is also on the rise...But the survey did show signs of hope elsewhere. Salaries are improving across the board for both men and women...there remains a pay imbalance between men and women... By Laura Mark - *The Architects' Journal (UK)*

Game Changers 2015: Metropolis's fifth annual survey of the foremost forward-looking talents in the world of architecture and design...Water Pore Partnership could save Las Vegas from drought; Aggregate is literally rewriting architectural history... -- Makiko Minagawa; Liam Casey; Nasir and Nargis Kassamali/Luminaire; Ila Béka and Louise Lemoine- Metropolis Magazine

The Performing Arts: Gathering data to change occupant behavior is the next frontier in sustainable design (see LEED's new Dynamic Plaque). Here's why architects who embrace building performance may help their bottom lines...rethinking the architect/client relationship... By Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson -- FME Architecture + Design; Lance Davis/GSA; Westlake Reed Leskowsky; ZGF Architects; CookFox Architects; EHDD; Miller Hull Partnership- Architect Magazine

What's Influencing Architecture Today? As architecture experiences solid growth...with hiring and billings increasing, architects enjoy not only better job prospects, but expanding ability to positively influence the built environment.- Sourceable

Many Challenges Impacting Architectural Practices: Tighter competition, offshoring and technological change are amongst a number of challenges confronting architecture firms in Australia today, a new report says. By Andrew Heaton -- Architecture Forensic Report; Creative Industries Innovation Centre- Sourceable

City Planning Department Technology Benchmarking Survey 2015 : ...current state of Internet technology as employed by the planning department of over 500 cities in the United States.- PLANetizen

Samuel Oboh inducted as the 76th President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada/RAIC: ...born March 27, 1971 in Lagos, Nigeria...a licensed architect in both Alberta and Texas. He has worked in the field of architecture for more than 20 years.- Canadian Architect

Call for entries: World Habitat Awards 2015/16: projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems; two £10,000 prizes; deadline: April 30- Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF)

Call for entries: Re-thinking The Future Awards 2015 (international); 50 categories; early-bird registration deadline (save money!): January 31 (submissions due April 15)- Re-thinking The Future (RTF)

Call for entries: 2015 IES Illumination Awards for professionalism, ingenuity, and originality in lighting design; deadline: February 14- Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)



-- Monthly News Round-Up, January 2015 Edition -- Snøhetta; Herzog & de Meuron; Jean Nouvel; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Allied Works Architecture
-- Shannon McGrath: Melbourne-based photographer...has had her own practice for the last 12 years, concentrating on architecture and interior design... By Pygmalion Karatzas
-- What's New on the Bookshelves? January 2015 edition

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