

Today's News - Thursday, February 19, 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow is this week's "floating" no-newsletter day - we'll be back Monday, February 23.

- For ANN's Nuts + Bolts series (#11!), Crispino explains how candor, authenticity, and provocation (CAP) can create a firm culture that drives thoughtful, positive, and creative change.
- Florida digs deep into a new Sprawl Index that "provides additional evidence not just of the extent and costs of sprawl but of the degree to which the U.S. continues to sort itself into two nations" (how depressing).
- Misra x 2: She looks into Seattle's 20-year effort to fight sprawl: "The city's urban villages strategy is working - in some parts more than others."
- She revisits a 1970s fight against gentrification in a Washington, DC, neighborhood, and how it "is still shaping the city today."
- Merrick marvels at O'Donnell + Tuomey's LSE student center: it is "both an ingenious response to an almost impossible site and a bold, brilliant urban sculpture - honest and absolutely anti-iconic. In an architectural age dominated by shock and awe, it's peculiarly satisfying and encouraging" that it won the 2014 RIBA Gold Medal.
- Montreal-based Provencher_Roy takes home the RAIC 2015 Architectural Firm Award: since 1983, "they have maintained an important and continuing involvement in advocacy, education, and community."
- Bentley's Q&A with Betsyky re: his move to head the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture: "his specific plans for the curriculum are still in progress" (never mind the fund-raising challenges).
- Weekend diversions:
 - Lydon posts Part Two of his review of MoMA's "Uneven Growth": it "fails to connect visionary ideas with what's possible now," but "an ever-growing and inspiring collection of built projects" on the show's website is its "best contribution."
 - Wainwright x 2: A thoughtful (and amusing) take on the Design Museum's 76-strong shortlist for Design of the Year, from "texting cows and life-saving toilets" to "the ultimate vanity project" makes for "a fascinating ragbag to rifle through" - picking a winner is "a task about as simple as comparing a hippopotamus to Portugal."
 - He cheers "Building a Dialogue: The Architect and the Client" at the Soane Museum: "Architects have always used alluring (or deceiving) drawings to get their way with 'meddling amateurs.'"
 - At Harvard, "The Way We Live Now: Modernist Ideologies at Work" at Corbu's Carpenter Center is "a cleanly organized, tightly curated presentation" that "simultaneously honors and critiques modern architecture's perceptual, social and political implications."
 - At the Vitra Design Museum, "Architecture of Independence - African Modernism" explores the "experimental and futuristic architecture produced in 1960s" that "conveys the architectural and social freedom and optimism of a region relishing the departure of colonial powers" with "bold, imaginative, and unconventional" design.
 - Q&A with curator Brooke Hodge re: the Heatherwick show at the Hammer in L.A.: "The interesting thing about Heatherwick Studio's work is that it doesn't have a particularly regional or British bent."
 - The Brooklyn Public Library hosts a show of winning designs in the Museum of Science Fiction competition.
 - Hall Kaplan "elucidates the inadequacies of affordable housing policy" (in his inimitable way), and cheers "a new perspective to the conversation" - Katan with Shiffman's "Building Together."
 - Berg's Q&A with Salingaros re: "Design for a Living Planet," and "what this proposed sustainable approach will look like and what architects will have to do to design it."
 - Darley hails Rohan's "The Architecture of Paul Rudolph": "The architectural monograph can be pedestrian, albeit dusted with a light icing of glamour. Not this one" - it is "frank, fair and intuitive, sets the record straight."
 - Stephens finds Koolhaas and Otero-Pailos's "Preservation is Overtaking Us" is "intriguing reading about the vagaries of preservation."
 - Webb gives two thumbs-ups to Ponsi's "love letter" to San Francisco: he has "captured its magic in poetic phrases and delicate images. This is a pocket book to treasure and re-read, and give to friends."

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[Nuts + Bolts #11: CAPitalizing on Culture Change: How candor, authenticity, and provocation \(CAP\) can create a firm culture that drives thoughtful, positive, and creative change.](#) By James Crispino, AIA- ArchNewsNow

[A New Index to Measure Sprawl Gives High Marks to Los Angeles: L.A. is the least sprawling metro area in the country...besting New York and San Francisco: A new study by Thomas Laidley...new Sprawl Index provides additional evidence not just of the extent and costs of sprawl but of the degree to which the United States continues to sort itself into two nations...](#) By Richard Florida [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

[Seattle's Fight Against Sprawl, 20 Years On: The city's urban villages strategy is working - in some parts more than others: "What it didn't accomplish was equitable distribution."](#) By Tanvi Misra -- Peter Steinbrueck- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

[Forgotten Lessons From a 1970s Fight Against Gentrification: How a decades-old tenant battle in Washington, D.C.'s Adams Morgan neighborhood is still shaping the city today.](#) By Tanvi Misra- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

[Saw Swee Hock Student Centre: O'Donnell + Tuomey's student union for the LSE is both an ingenious response to an almost impossible site and a bold, brilliant urban sculpture: ...honest and absolutely anti-iconic...In an architectural age dominated by shock and awe, it's peculiarly satisfying and encouraging that such a small yet clever practice has been awarded the 2014 RIBA Gold Medal.](#) By Jay Merrick-Icon (UK)

[RAIC announces 2015 Architectural Firm Award recipient: Provencher_Roy, a Montreal firm noted for a number of major projects...Established in 1983 by Claude Provencher, FIRAC, and Michel Roy, FIRAC..."chosen for the breadth and consistently high quality of work...they have maintained an important and continuing involvement in advocacy, education, and community."](#) [images]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

[Q+A> Aaron Betsyky: The former Cincinnati Art Museum director talks](#)

about his move to head Taliesin [Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture]: Though he assumes the role immediately, Betsky said his specific plans for the curriculum are still in progress. By Chris Bentley- The Architect's Newspaper

Part Two: Should MoMA Tout Tactical Urbanism(s) as a Solution to Uneven Growth? ...it seems few designers knew about Tactical Urbanism's key principles. Thus, no one should expect...submissions to show off the actual application of low-cost, temporary, and scalable projects. That's too bad...website includes an ever-growing and inspiring collection of built projects...this is Uneven Growth's best contribution...exhibit fails to connect visionary ideas with what's possible now. By Mike Lydon- PLANetizen

The future of design: texting cows and life-saving toilets: One is the ultimate vanity project, the other processes excrement – yet both have been hailed as designs of the year...extreme differences of context and budget, client and use, are what make the designs of the year such a fascinating ragbag to rifle through...whittling down the shortlist to an overall winner...a task about as simple as comparing a hippopotamus to Portugal... By Oliver Wainwright – Frank Gehry; Asif Khan [images]- Guardian (UK)

A battle of iron wills: the fractious world of architects v clients: Architects have always used alluring (or deceiving) drawings to get their way with 'meddling amateurs' – as "Building a Dialogue: The Architect and the Client" at the Soane Museum proves...it shows that the slippery deception of the architectural visualisation is nothing new... By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

"The Way We Live Now: Modernist Ideologies at Work": ...simultaneously honors the visions of Le Corbusier and his contemporaries and critiques modern architecture's perceptual, social and political implications, calling attention to the shortcomings...a cleanly organized, tightly curated presentation, though it does so while showcasing what is ultimately the focal point of the exhibition - the Carpenter Center's innovative and provocative architecture. - The Tufts Daily

"Architecture of Independence – African Modernism" at Vitra Design Museum: ...explores the experimental and futuristic architecture produced in 1960s Central and Sub-Saharan Africa...conveys the architectural and social freedom and optimism of a region relishing the departure of colonial powers, constructing an image of Modernist Africa that is bold, imaginative, and unconventional. -- Manuel Herz; Iwan Baan; Jean Francois Lamoureux & Jean-Louis Marin; Karl Henrik Nostvik; James Cubitt [images]- ArchDaily

Heatherwick Studio "Provokes" Challenging Designs: "Provocations: The Architecture and Design of Heatherwick Studio" opens February 20th at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. Q&A with curator Brooke Hodge with an inside look into the exhibition...."The interesting thing about Heatherwick Studio's work is that it doesn't have a particularly regional or British bent." - FORM magazine

"The Museum of Science Fiction: Winning International Architectural Designs": showcases the winners of its Architectural Design Competition for the first time outside of Washington, DC at Brooklyn Public Library. -- Emily Yen/Rhode Island School of Design/RISD [images]- Brooklyn Public Library

Affordable Housing: the Hype and the Hope: Sam Hall Kaplan elucidates the inadequacies of affordable housing policy before introducing a new perspective to the conversation - a new book by Roger Katan with Ronald Shiffman called "Building Together." - PLANetizen

"Design for a Living Planet: Settlement, Science and the Human Future": Michael Mehaffy and Nikos Salingaros offer insight into how complexity and other advanced mathematical concepts relate to architecture. Q&A with Salingaros about what this proposed sustainable approach will look like and what architects will have to do to design it. By Nate Berg- Architect Magazine

"The Architecture of Paul Rudolph" by Timothy M. Rohan: Gillian Darley welcomes a re-evaluation of a hugely influential but flawed architect, whose fall was as spectacular as his rise: The architectural monograph can be pedestrian, albeit dusted with a light icing of glamour. Not this one. Rohan gives a brilliant account of the apocalyptic arc of Rudolph's career...frank, fair and intuitive, sets the record straight. - Icon (UK)

"Preservation is Overtaking Us" by Rem Koolhaas; supplement by Jorge Otero-Pailos: The idea that Koolhaas and his firm, OMA, staunchly advocate preservation might come as a surprise...his ideas of the last decade, along with Otero-Pailos's "supplement," offer intriguing reading about the vagaries of preservation. By Suzanne Stephens- Architectural Record

An Italian Architect Revisits the City He Loves: "San Francisco: A Map of Perceptions": Andrea Ponsi has captured its magic in poetic phrases and delicate images. It's a love letter to the city...This is a pocket book to treasure and re-read, and give to friends - especially those who are making a first visit, or who want to experience it anew.

By Michael Webb- FORM magazine

Delicately Rearranging Intangibles in Public Space: The Art of Rogers Partners Architects+Urban Designers in "Learning Through Practice": A new monograph highlights transformative designs by a firm strikingly dedicated to re-enchanting public space. By Norman Weinstein [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- "Peter Zumthor: Buildings and Projects 1985-2013" by Peter Zumthor, Thomas Durisch: gorgeous five-volume Leviathan of a book set...

-- What's New on the Bookshelves? "HOT TO COLD: An Odyssey of Architectural Adaptation" by BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; "Sigurd Lewerentz, Architect"; "Tokyo Void: Possibilities in Absence"; "Silent Form: E2A Architects"; "The Architecture of the Welfare State: CF Møller Architects"

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