

Today's News - Tuesday, February 24, 2015

- ArcSpace brings us Meyer's take on a new maritime museum in small Norwegian town that "manages to fit into its surroundings."
- Shuttleworth has his own "carbuncle" moment, attacking "arrogant" and "egotistical" architects: "You [engineers] need to tell the architects, when they try to call the shots, to sod off" (seems a bit like the pot calling the kettle black, perhaps?).
- Baillieu has a few issues with AIA's TV ad campaign: "When one of the oldest professions needs to explain itself, you know it's in trouble."
- Davies isn't sure UTS's expectations for using a "bricks-and-glass marketing" strategy (i.e. its new Gehry) will pan out, but his "biggest disappointment is the lack of a convincing explanation for why the building looks the way it does" (now we can add "wackytexture" "Gaudi light" to our architectural lexicon).
- Darley minces no words about what she thinks of "façadism" (a.k.a. façadectomy): "Preserving the outside of a building while gutting within is making a travesty of the listing process" (and "a get out of jail card" for key players).
- Hurley delves deep into the cautionary tale (with stellar players) of the San Diego Civic Innovation Lab - a "botched opportunity" that "boils down to a question: Is local government really the best place for public interest design?" (a sad, but great read).
- Sydney releases its "ambitious" Energy Efficiency Master Plan that it "will now send the to all Australian capital cities to help them develop their own plans."
- Wainwright weighs in on a handful of "the most eye-catching" of proposals for the Nine Elms pedestrian bridge ("The spaffy tangle" and "The flaming mouth of Hades" among them), and ponders whether "Nine Elms might end up with a fancy pier to nowhere instead."
- SO - IL and FREAKS win the competition to modernize France's Site Verrier that "addresses three elements of the site's glass factory days."
- Chin visits Paris to see how one organization is tackling tactical urbanism in underused spaces under an elevated Métro.
- Australia and New Zealand sign with Canada on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Architect agreement that "will allow for fast-track cross-border registrations of senior architects between the three economies."
- Hay hails the growing interest in "architecture's favorite new material" - mud: "sometimes it's worth reexamining what we've abandoned in the rush towards a hyper-modern future."
- Hess calls out Paul Revere Williams' iconic Las Vegas designs, "some crumbled and some still standing."
- A Brooklyn-based architect launches a petition protesting the Bamiyan Cultural Centre competition results, and demands a "restart."
- The Centre Pompidou plans temporary pop-up's all over France.
- One we couldn't resist: New York museums ban selfie sticks to prevent "accidental damage": "The real threat, however, is to museum-goers who will no longer be able to show the world how cool and artsy they are for hitting up the MoMA on a Friday night."
- Call for entries (deadline reminder!): Be sure to take the Architectural Record / Van Alen Institute Design Competition Survey!

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Ken Shuttleworth attacks 'arrogant' and 'egotistical' architects: Make Architects founder has publicly accused architects of taking credit for engineers' work...said of architects that they had been 'king of the castle for far too long...'You [engineers] need to tell the architects, when they try to call the shots, to sod off.' - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Is selling the industry to the public a good idea? ...a new advertising campaign by the AIA might not be the right thing: When one of the oldest professions needs to explain itself, you know it's in trouble...people aren't stupid. By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

Is UTS's new "Gehry" a smart way to market a university? The fabulous new entry into bricks and glass marketing by University of Technology, Sydney...their calculation (or hope?) is that it will sell more university places...but I'm not sure the university's expectations will be met...my biggest disappointment is the lack of a convincing explanation – a theory or rationale – for why the building looks the way it does i.e. why it's this particular "wackytexture" rather than some other...almost a 'Gaudi light'... By Alan Davies - Crikey (Australia)

Facadism: Preserving the outside of a building while gutting within is making a travesty of the listing process: The agreement to retain a facade is, for the key players, a get out of jail card...rash of one-dimensional listed buildings has been conjured up by willful misinterpretation of the very guidance devised and modified over the decades to protect and enhance the historic fabric. By Gillian Darley- The Architects' Journal (UK)

One Mayor's Downfall Killed the Design Project That Could've Changed Everything: Public Interest Design's Wild Ride into City Hall: Why the San Diego Civic Innovation Lab failed is a story of grand plans cast into turmoil...Is local government really the best place for public interest design? "We were the silo busters, stuck in a silo"...the Lab was a botched opportunity. By Amanda Kolson Hurley -- Ilisa Goldman; Howard Blackson; David Saborio; Xavier Leonard; Teddy Cruz; Fonna Forman; William "Bill" Fulton- Next City (formerly Next American City)

City of Sydney releases ambitious building upgrade plan: Close to \$400 million could be spent on programs to improve energy efficiency...plan to double energy productivity and save more than \$600 million in energy bills by 2030...Sydney will now send the Energy Efficiency Master Plan to all Australian capital cities to help them develop their own plans. - The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Wild designs – and fierce opposition – for another new bridge across the Thames: From bridges shaped like mandolins to funicular railways and twinkling pink loop-the-loops...ambitious schemes for a new crossing between Pimlico and Nine Elms in London. Here are the most eye-catching...One word...careful not to use for this thrilling new space-time portal is "iconic". But that's what they're after...Nine Elms might end up with a fancy pier to nowhere instead. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

[SO – IL and FREAKS Architects Win Competition to Modernize France's Site Verrier: ...plan addresses three elements of the site's industrial past while providing a dynamic space for cultural interaction and historic exploration of Site Verrier's glass factory days. \[images\]- ArchDaily](#)

[Under the Elevated in French Style: This past fall I traveled to Paris to learn how the French treat underused spaces below the Métro: Bringing people together in shared quality spaces is essential to develop a common understanding, create economic opportunities and thriving and safe cities. Action Barbès began transforming the neighborhood by converting a parking lot into a planted boulevard... By Susan Chin - Design Trust for Public Space](#)

[The Name of Sustainable Architecture's Favorite New Material is M-U-D: Mali and many other neighboring nations have recently discovered how to solve a slew of development problems using plain old, dirt-and-water mud...Countries like Australia have long hosted "muddy" communities...This new life for mud architecture is proof that sometimes it's worth reexamining what we've abandoned in the rush towards a hyper-modern future... By Mark Hay -- Hassan Fathy; Association la Voûte Nubienne \[images, links\]- GOOD Magazine](#)

[Australia and New Zealand sign with Canada on APEC Architect agreement: ...mutual recognition arrangement will allow for fast-track cross-border registrations of senior architects between the three economies... -- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\)- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Remembering Architect Paul Revere Williams and His Iconic Las Vegas Designs: In celebration of Black History Month, we look back on the trailblazer's work - some crumbled and some still standing. -- Alan Hess - Vegas Seven](#)

[Protest over Unesco Buddha contest decision: A petition has been launched against Unesco's 'unfair and unprofessional' choice of winner in the competition for Bamiyan Cultural Centre, Afghanistan...demands...restart the 'unethical' competition and select a new jury and winner...claims key requirements in the brief were 'neglected and ignored'... -- Nick Roseboro/Architectensions - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Centre Pompidou to pop up all over France: Paris museum plans to open temporary branches across the country. - The Art Newspaper \(UK\)](#)

[New York Museums Are Officially Banning Selfie Sticks: The reason for the restriction is the threat of accidental damage to museum exhibits and art work...The real threat, however, is to museum-goers who will no longer be able to show the world how cool and artsy they are for hitting up the MoMA on a Friday night. - New York Observer](#)

[Call for entries \(deadline reminder!\): Architectural Record / Van Alen Institute Design Competition Survey: help develop new models and innovative approaches to the design competition and be entered to win prizes; deadline: March 2- Architectural Record / Van Alen Institute](#)

[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](#)

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