

Today's News - Friday, March 6, 2015

- Orange County legislators "took no action" yesterday, so it looks like the ersatz "rebuild" of Rudolph's Government Center will move forward (though plans may face a legal challenge).
- Iovine opines: "Now, a renovation plan more akin to character assassination looks all but inevitable."
- Q&A with Kimmelman re: how he picks his fights to advocate for projects like Rudolph's OCGC (and others): "it's necessary to choose subjects that speak to issues larger than themselves."
- Griffin explains the importance of the new Legacy City Design Network platform "to inspire ideas and creative development for confronting a wide range of physical and socioeconomic challenges - we need you."
- Piano tapped to design three residential towers for Sydney's Barangaroo South (no one can complain about lack of density now!).
- Just when you think you've heard it all: Dubai's newest museum will showcase the future with a gallery for "the greatest global innovations," along with "innovation labs focusing on health, education, smart cities, energy and transport" (a poetic façade included - a whiz of a fly-through video worth checking out!).
- Schumacher has high hopes for the four finalists in Milwaukee's Lakefront Gateway Plaza competition, though "one of unanswered questions is how much it will cost and how it will be paid for."
- Weekend diversions:
 - In honor of International Women's Day on Sunday: Q&A with BWAf's Shapiro re: "BxW NYC / Built by Women" at NYC's Center for Architecture: "There's probably not any aspect of design that women weren't involved in."
 - Bullivant x 2: She, and the five women profiled in "Urbanistas: Women Innovators in Architecture, Urban and Landscape Design" that opens today in London, "share their thoughts on the role of women in shaping today's cities."
 - Q&A with curator Lucy B. re: her five urbanistas: "they are all reinventing models of urban design and notions of the public realm as a place of social value."
 - Tarleton minces no words about why he thinks MoMA's "Uneven Growth" lives up to its name: "flashy wall graphics, video, and sound hide both a lack of content in some proposals and nuance in others," and "speaks volumes about those strategies' inadequacy to confront the issues the exhibition wanted them to treat."
 - Hawthorne hails Heatherwick's "Provocations" at the Hammer: "a delightful if slightly overstuffed tribute" with "a remarkable project everywhere you look - sprinkled with a kind of high-design pixie dust."
 - Heathcote hails "Mackintosh Architecture" at RIBA, London: it is a "small, beautiful show" that focuses on his "strange, magical drawings of buildings."
 - Zacks cheers Parsons' "mischievous" poke at power in "Romancing True Power: D20" that takes "special glee in thumbing its nose at ostentatious symbols. Nothing is as worthy of ridicule as the exercise of dickpower."
 - "Soundscape New York" at the Museum of the City of New York "explores the audiovisual experience of iconic buildings in the city" (it looks amazing!).
 - A trio of exhibits at Harvard "may seem to clash. But GSD exhibits are always expressions of collaboration, experiment, and faculty-student interplay."
 - Lange has a thoughtful Q&A with architectural photographer Binet re: her work and show at the Woodbury University Hollywood (WUHO) Gallery in L.A.
 - Time to go vroom-vroom Down Under as the Shepparton Art Museum presents "Dream Machines: Drawings of the Great American Automobile," and the Shepparton Motor Museum showcases 25 of the actual concept cars (o.k., so it's not architecture, but it is cool!).
- Stephens finds Hirt's "Zoned in the USA" to be "one of the more enjoyable scholarly texts on what can be a dreadfully dull topic - a surprisingly rousing analysis and history," and a "steely rejoinder to" Cox, Breugemann, Kotkin, et al.
- Mende and Smeall cheer Sandhaus's "Earthquakes, Mudslides, Fires & Riots: California & Graphic Design, 1936-1986": it is "a deeply informative and visually rewarding review of a place and time largely overlooked by more standardized histories."

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Orange County Government Center rebuild to move forward:
...legislators took no action...on Thursday to block reconstruction...attorney Michael Sussman said he would consider a legal proceeding if the legislature took the action it did yesterday. -- Paul Rudolph; Clark Patterson Lee; Gene Kaufman- Mid-Hudson News

Not Easy to Love: ...Brutalism has always been controversial. Now, Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center is facing destructive renovations - or even demolition...recent history reveals how much political expedience today is at odds with the confidence and optimism that led to [it] being built in the first place...Now, a renovation plan more akin to character assassination looks all but inevitable... By Julie V. Iovine -- Gene Kaufman- Wall Street Journal

Q&A: Michael Kimmelman on Architecture Criticism and Dangers of Demolition: ...he has not been shy about advocacy...why he's been outspoken in supporting the Paul Rudolph building in Goshen, N.Y., which doesn't have the profile of other fights he has taken up..."it's necessary to choose subjects that speak to issues larger than themselves..." - New York Times

New Platform Connects Designers Working in "Legacy" Cities: Legacy City Design Network...for sharing innovative design practices...to inspire ideas and creative development for confronting a wide range of physical and socioeconomic challenges...already home to a robust online catalogue of design projects and research...we need you. By Toni L. Griffin/J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Renzo Piano to design Sydney's Barangaroo South residential towers: ...expected to become one of the city's most exclusive residential address -- One Sydney Harbour. [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Dubai to 3D print Museum of the Future: As well as a permanent gallery showcasing the greatest global innovations, the museum will host a group of innovation labs focusing on health, education, smart cities, energy and transport. -- Shaun Killa/Killa Partnership [images, video]- Construction Manager (Chartered Institute of Building/CIOB)

Finalists named in Milwaukee lakefront redesign project: Lakefront Gateway Plaza...Four design teams...to come up with a plan to redefine the public spaces...One of unanswered questions...is how much it will cost and how it will be paid for. By Mary Louise

Schumacher -- James Corner Field Operations; Office of James Burnett; AECOM; Graef - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Q&A: "Built by Women" Director Carol Shapiro: "BxW NYC" at the Center for Architecture celebrates the substantial role women have played in shaping our built environment...spearheaded by the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BAAF)... "There's probably not any aspect of design - commercial, education, residential - that women weren't involved in." - Metropolis Magazine

How are women changing our cities? "Urbanistas: Women Innovators in Architecture, Urban and Landscape Design" explores the work of women innovators...Curator Lucy Bullivant explains why the exhibition is so timely -- and the five exhibitors share their thoughts on the role of women in shaping today's cities. -- Alison Brooks Architects; Liza Fior/Katherine Clarke/Muf Architecture/Art; Irena Bauman/Bauman Lyons Architects; Alessandra Cianchetta/AWP; Johanna Gibbons/J&L Gibbons - Guardian (UK)

"Urbanistas": In the lead up to International Women's Day, work by five female architects who are transforming cities...goes on display at the Roca London gallery. Q&A with curator Lucy Bullivant: "I see them as being street smart...they are all reinventing models of urban design and notions of the public realm as a place of social value." - Icon (UK)

MoMA's "Uneven Growth" Lives Up to Its Name: ...flashy wall graphics, video, and sound that hide both a lack of content in some proposals and nuance in others...Many teams' outright abandonment of tactical urbanism...speaks volumes about those strategies' inadequacy to confront the issues the exhibition wanted them to treat. By Jonathan Tarleton -- Pedro Gadanho; RUA Arquitectos/MAS Urban Design ETH; NLÉ/Zoohaus/Inteligencia Colectivas; MAP Office/Network Architecture Lab; Superpool/Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée; URBZ/Ensemble Studio/POPlab; SITU Studio; Cohabitation Strategies - Urban Omnibus

"Provocations" pays tribute to designer Thomas Heatherwick: ...a delightful if slightly overstuffed tribute to the seemingly bottomless ingenuity...a remarkable project everywhere you look...There is a sense that all the Heatherwick Studio's products are sprinkled with a kind of high-design pixie dust. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Brooke Hodge - Los Angeles Times

"Mackintosh Architecture," Riba, London: This stripped-down exhibition focuses on Charles Rennie Mackintosh's strange, magical drawings of buildings: ...a no-frills architectural display...This neglected genius was resurrected as a kitsch folk-hero but somehow serious study has been denied him. Perhaps that is the price of becoming an "icon"...small, beautiful show... By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

Poking at Power: New Parsons Exhibition Ridicules Dictators: "Romancing True Power: D20," the mischievous exhibition and book...cheekily invites public debate...taking special glee in thumbing its nose at ostentatious symbols of power...repudiates abuse of power by making it the subject of debate, play, and mockery. Nothing is as worthy of ridicule as the exercise of dickpower. By Stephen Zacks [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

"Soundscape New York" at the Museum of the City of New York: ...explores the audiovisual experience of iconic buildings in the city: "The process of visualizing the sounds through drawings and animations has given us an intimate 'knowing' of these places"... -- Karen Van Lengen; Jim Welty [images] - Architect Magazine

Stages of design: Movements in research and learning captured in trio of exhibits: ...may seem to clash. But GSD exhibits are always expressions of collaboration, experiment, and faculty-student interplay..."Extreme Environments"; "Icons of Knowledge"; "Dualisms: Abalos + Sentkiewicz" -- Dan Borelli; Spela Videcnik; Rok Oman; Noam Dvir; Daniel Rauchwerger - Harvard Gazette

Reducing Spectacular to Simple: Q&A: H  l  ne Binet: "I am not capturing huge, glorious photographs, but instead the essential moments of the space that can evoke the rest." ...2015 Excellence in Photography award from the Julius Shulman Institute, and a related exhibition, "H  l  ne Binet: Fragments of Light." By Alexandra Lange [images] - New York Times

Shepparton Art Museum, Australia, to Showcase Drawings of Great American Cars: "Dream Machines: Drawings of the Great American Automobile"...original American car designs from the 1950's, 60's, and early 70's...Shepparton Motor Museum will showcase up to 25 of the actual concept cars depicted in the drawings..."Dream Machines: The Cars" - Artinfo

"Zoned in the USA: The Origins and Implications of American Land-Use Regulation" by Sonja A. Hirt: ...describes the exceptional characteristics...that make U.S. zoning laws so conducive to sprawl...a surprisingly rousing analysis and history...carries the heft of research but is compelling, and convincing...a steely rejoinder to Wendell Cox, Robert Breugemann, Joel Kotkin...who claim that suburban sprawl merely reflects market demand. By Josh Stephens - PLANetizen

After the Aftershock: "Earthquakes, Mudslides, Fires & Riots: California & Graphic Design, 1936-1986" by Louise Sandhaus: ...the rich tour of

work and the diligently researched backstories far outweigh questions of structure and critical clarity...a deeply informative and visually rewarding review of a place and time largely overlooked by more standardized histories. By Jeremy Mende and Isabelle Smeall [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

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