

Today's News - Wednesday, March 18, 2015

- Lewyn takes issue with Saffron's "What Champions of Urban Density Get Wrong": "As far as I can tell, there are three myths underlying the article."
- Beasley on putting some love back into urban planning: "the great irony of modern culture is the more that we have chosen city life, the less that city life has satisfied us."
- Hume is as ecstatic as we've ever seen him re: the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal competition shortlist: what they all "share is a clear understanding that this project goes beyond boarding a boat or a chance to make a statement; it's an occasion to change how a city sees itself."
- Eye-fuls of the "brilliant" shortlisted ferry terminal proposals: "One thing's for sure: the ferry dock will be reborn as an architectural showstopper."
- Chicago's lakefront may never be the same now that the Chicago Architecture Biennial has teamed three area schools with notable firms to devise kiosks - and don't forget the international Lakefront Kiosk Competition deadline is March 23!
- The Christchurch Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre, "the only capital project to stay alive" after the 2010/11 earthquakes, has risen from the rubble as "a fairy-tale palace within a troubled land: this city needs more knights in shining armor."
- Semuels looks at the progress in retrofitting dying malls for other purposes: "But if those preferences change again in 40 years, there could be a whole new set of retail buildings - and skyscrapers - to retrofit."
- King cheers the San Francisco Giants' "urban-chic" Yard at Mission Rock, a corporate "pop-up village" of shipping container pods for retail, dining, and events (sure beats a parking lot!).
- Artful news everywhere: Russell hails "a dramatic new direction" for the Met by choosing Chipperfield to redesign its Modern Art wing: the museum "has found an architect of personal reticence and sober intellect whose work can be bold and simultaneously deferential."
- Apparently Asymptote has been tapped to design a satellite branch of the Hermitage in a former car factory in Moscow (no pix yet - we can't wait to see!).
- Lange lingers in Phifer's new wing at the Corning Museum of Glass that combined "high-tech and hands-on making" to invite in the light.
- Miranda marvels at Radic's makeover of the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art in Santiago: "it does not disappoint. The architect has taken a somewhat dour neoclassical building and turned it into a remarkable space."
- Meanwhile, Houston decides to "hit the pause button" on the already-started Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage (so much for being ready for the 2017 Super Bowl).
- Four British industry experts share their views on what museums should look like come 2020: "Their future depends on remaining a dynamic part of the public realm."
- Heathcote continues his poetic series of urban musings with an ode to street lights: "Romantic scene-setter or tool of social control?"
- Saffron minces no words about what she thinks of a proposed bill that would expand Philly's digital billboard district; she doesn't buy the description that they'll be a "marriage of art and architecture" (or possible political shenanigans that makes it a bad deal for the city).
- Shubow minces no words in a (rather lengthy) rant about why the AIA's "outreach campaign is doomed to failure" - beginning with its #lookup ad: "It suggests that architects build for no one but themselves."
- On a brighter note: a good reason to be in NYC on March 25: IIDA NY's (always fabulous!) Annual Sustainable Quilt Auction will benefit Be Original Americas.
- Call for entries: Architect magazine's (always intriguing) 2015 R+D Awards.

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[What Density-Phobia Gets Wrong: In "What Champions of Urban Density Get Wrong"...Inga Saffron critiques attempts to increase urban population...Most of her article seems devoted to the evils of tall buildings. As far as I can tell, there are three myths underlying the article. By Michael Lewyn- PLANetizen](#)

[Green Cities: Larry Beasley on designing cities with love: ...the need to rekindle our urban love affair for better functioning, sustainable cities...."the great irony of modern culture is the more that we have chosen city life...the less that city life has satisfied us...we have to imagine a different kind of city that really does...address human needs, and that puts the soul back into the city."- The Fifth Estate \(Australia\)](#)

[Jack Layton Ferry Terminal competition could be the berth of a new Toronto: No matter who redesigns the terminal and park, the new docks will have a higher civic profile than ever before: What all the short-listed submissions share is a clear understanding that this project goes beyond boarding a boat...or a chance to make a statement; it's an occasion to change how a city sees itself. By Christopher Hume -- aLL Design/Will Alsop/Quadrangle Architects/Janet Rosenberg; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/architectsAlliance/Hood Design; Stoss Landscape Urbanism/nARCHITECTS/ZAS Architects; West 8/KPMB Architects/Greenberg Consultants - Toronto Star](#)

[5 Brilliant Proposals for Toronto's New Jack Layton Ferry Terminal: One thing's for sure: the ferry dock will be reborn as an architectural showstopper. -- Clement Blanchet Architecture/Battle i Roig/RVTR/Scott Torrance Landscape Architect; Stoss Landscape Urbanism/nARCHITECTS/ZAS Architects; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/architectsAlliance/Hood Design; KPMB Architects/West 8/Greenberg Consultants; Quadrangle Architects/Will Alsop-aLLDesign/Janet Rosenberg & Studio \[images\]- Azure magazine \(Canada\)](#)

[Chicago Architecture Biennial announces three Lakefront Kiosk teams between local architecture schools and international firms + Lakefront Kiosk Competition accepting entries until March 23 -- Illinois Institute of Technology \(IIT\)/Pezo von Ellrichshausen; School of the Art Institute of Chicago \(SAIC\)/Kunlé Adeyemi/NLÉ; University of Illinois at Chicago \(UIC\)/Paul Andersen/Indie Architecture/Paul Preissner Architects - Archinect](#)

[A quake-proof glasshouse rises from the rubble of Christchurch: ...2009 competition-winning design for Christchurch Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre...was ready to go before the 2010/11 earthquakes and it was the only capital project to stay alive afterwards...a fairy-tale palace within a troubled land: this city needs more knights in shining armour. -- Patterson Associates \[images\]- ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

[A New Life for Dead Malls: Developers have had to get creative...turning them into hospitals, churches, and even parks: Ellen Dunham-Jones keeps a database of projects that retrofit dying malls for other purposes...But if those preferences change again in 40 years, there could be a whole new set of retail buildings - and skyscrapers - to retrofit. By Alana Semuels -- Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek Architects \[images\]- The Atlantic](#)

[Urban-chic shipping pods catch on in Giants development: ...Yard at Mission Rock...a pop-up village erected by the San Francisco Giants...a purposefully rough-edged installation, right down to the dings and creases in the shipping containers...Proxy shows it can be done. The Giants will show if the experiment can be replicated at corporate scale. By John King -- Douglas Burnham/Envelope A+D; Blaine Merker/Gehl Architects; OpenScope Studio \[images\]- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Wing commander Chipperfield: The Metropolitan Museum of Art has selected...David Chipperfield, to redesign its massive Modern art wing...decision marks a dramatic new direction for the museum...the Met has found an architect of personal reticence and sober intellect whose work can be bold and simultaneously deferential. By James S. Russell -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates - The Economist \(UK\)](#)

Hermitage to open satellite branch in former Moscow factory: Russia's largest museum signs agreement with the redeveloper of the Soviet-era ZIL automobile plant...part of the ZIL campus as a new residential, commercial and recreational district of Moscow. -- Hani Rashid/Asymptote Architecture- [The Art Newspaper \(UK\)](#)

New Wing at Corning Museum of Glass Invites the Light: ...combination of high-tech and hands-on making would be repeated over and over in the process of designing, curating and fitting out the 100,000-square-foot Contemporary Art + Design Wing. By Alexandra Lange -- Thomas Phifer and Partners [\[images\]](#)- [New York Times](#)

Smiljan Radic's striking redo of Chile's pre-Columbian museum: ...housed in what was once a royal customs house [in Santiago]...it does not disappoint. The architect has taken a somewhat dour neoclassical building...and turned it into a remarkable space...Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art brings drama to the works...which are just divine. By Carolina A. Miranda [\[images\]](#)- [Los Angeles Times](#)

'Time to hit the pause button' on downtown Houston museum, mayor says: Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage has halted construction on the downtown facility just four months after its groundbreaking...was expected to be complete by fall 2016 - just before the 2017 Super Bowl in Houston. -- Bailey Architects; Gallagher & Associates [\[image\]](#)- [Houston Business Journal](#)

What should our museums look like in 2020? Four industry experts share their views on the past, present and future of museums: "...should be radical and participative institutions at the heart of their communities"... "Their future depends on remaining a dynamic part of the public realm." -- David Anderson/National Museums Wales; Christoph Vogtherr/Wallace Collection; Maria Balshaw/Whitworth Art Gallery; Robert Hewison- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

How street lights have illuminated city life: Romantic scene-setter or tool of social control? Lamp posts have transformed our urban spaces in varying ways...a device that turns darkness into light but also an intimation of the unnatural state of the city, a place that comes alive and becomes, perhaps, most completely public, when it is darkest. By Edwin Heathcote- [Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

Digital billboards more harm than good: Bill would transform city streets into blaring, blazing digital billboard: ...screens would be housed in fanciful forms...describing them as a "marriage of art and architecture," rather than what they really are: billboards...just when we thought we had corralled the major screens into a single downtown zone... By Inga Saffron- [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

The American Institute of Architects' Outreach Campaign Is Doomed to Failure: The centerpiece is the AIA's first ever TV spot..."I Look Up"...What the commercial does not show is a single client or a person using a building. It suggests that architects build for no one but themselves. The video is all too accurate. By Justin Shubow -- I.M. Pei; Frank Gehry; Thom Mayne/Morphosis - [Forbes](#)

IIDA NY 7th Annual Sustainable Quilt Auction March 25: proceeds will go to Be Original Americas to support the organization's efforts to educate and inform professionals on the moral, environmental, and economic value of genuine design.- [Be Original Americas](#)

Call for entries: 2015 R+D Awards (international): from design strategies and building systems to products and digital tools; deadline: April 17- [Architect Magazine](#)



-- The Camera: Yiorgis Yerolymbos: ...a leading figure in architectural photography in Greece.  
-- Bookshelf: "Double Dutch: Dutch Architecture since 1985" by Bernard Hulsman; "The Future of Architecture in 100 Buildings" by Marc Kushner; "Copy Paste: Bad Ass Copy Guide" by Winy Maas; "The Inevitable Specificity of Cities" by ETH Studio Basel; "Women, Modernity, and Landscape Architecture" by Sonja Dümpelmann, John Beardsley

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