

Today's News - Monday, March 23, 2015

- A new report says urban sprawl costs U.S. economy more than \$1 trillion per year, and "details planning and market distortions that foster sprawl, and smart growth policies that can help correct these distortions."
- The World Health Organization's Global Age-Friendly Cities project aims for an urban "revolution" for older people: "our city centers have become age-cleansed youth enclaves, where the only older people to be seen are affluent ones" - Lyon and Manchester are models that "show that they needn't be."
- Lots of news from Down Under today: A fascinating look at Australia's "multicultural built landscape," and "the role of race, and the subconscious motivations influencing our appreciation of architectural interventions of the recent immigrant groups."
- Hansen has no issue with the fine design of Melbourne's Portrait Building as "the evocative portrait is a poetic and welcome intervention in the cityscape," but it's "a cruel juxtaposition" of "high-end CBD real estate and an image of the most famous of 19th-century land rights activists."
- On a brighter note, the National Gallery of Victoria is taking major steps to become an international hub for design with "a raft of new design initiatives."
- Wainwright cheers a new initiative to bring graphic design into the spotlight: "compared with architecture and fashion, it has a whisperingly low profile. Might plans for a new National Centre for Graphic Design kick it up a few font sizes?"
- Kamin cheers the "trend of transit-oriented development" in Chicago that is "confounding skeptics who predicted that the absence of parking spaces would make it a financial flop" (and high hopes for no more "plop architecture"!).
- Saffron sees a great future in UPenn's Pennovation Works co-working space in a former industrial park that's "funkier and cheaper," and "an intriguing contrast to the standard co-working fare - a slew of high-profile architects and consultants" (and views) will help offset its "offbeat location."
- Campbell gives two thumbs-ups to Mecanoo/Sasaki Associates' "gem" of a Bolling Building in Roxbury: "The city-as-developer punched all the right boxes on the score card of architecture and urbanism" - what makes it great is "the wisdom of the process by which it was created."
- Glancey has nothing but glowing words for Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art, declaring it "one of the great buildings of all time - God, the devil and an entire chorus of angels were in the details. Even in its charred state it remains a haunting composition asking us to resurrect it as soon as possible."
- Anderton asks Kennard to make the case for saving Welton Becket's 1955 Parker Center LAPD headquarters from the wrecking ball "from her vantage point as an African-American, and as principal of an architecture firm, whose founder (her father) worked for Victor Gruen."
- A great take on how London's Serpentine Pavilion "has inspired similar experimental structures" everywhere from NYC's City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition on Governors Island to the current Chicago Architecture Biennial Lakefront Kiosk Competition and the OUE Artling Archipavilion design competition in Singapore.
- Speaking of temporary pavilions (and not mentioned in previous story), the Arch League/Socrates Sculpture Park Folly 2015 winner is "Torqueing Spheres" by Cambridge, MA-based IK Studio (looks very cool!).
- Koolhaas x 2: Hustwit's hearty Q&A in which Rem "dishes on cities, what architecture and film have in common, and the idiocy of design competitions." + Rem re: "high praise for Dubai developments: 'Dubai has escaped from its architectural caricatures.'"
- Peter Stutchbury takes home the 2015 Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal; others garner 2015 Australian Achievement in Architecture Awards.
- Frampton reflects on Gold Medalist Stutchbury: "the architect, as agent provocateur, remains a man of the people, combining in one volatile persona both a leader and a collaborator."
- Eyefuls of 2015 AJ Small Projects Award winners.
- The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects names its 2015 CSLA Awards of Excellence.
- One we couldn't resist: 14 World Changing Ideas Of 2015; our fave (but all well worth reading): "To stop humanity from turning into useless, pleasure-seeking blobs, some designers are abandoning the quest to make everything easy, and introducing a little extra difficulty into our lives."

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[Report: Urban sprawl costs US economy more than \\$1 trillion per year: "Analysis of Public Policies that Unintentionally Encourage and Subsidize Sprawl"...](#)by Todd Litman/Victoria Transport Policy Institute, in partnership with LSE Cities - details planning and market distortions that foster sprawl, and smart growth policies that can help correct these distortions. - [New Climate Economy / Global Commission on the Economy and Climate](#)

[Our cities must undergo a revolution for older people: Too many urban spaces are daunting to older people. But Lyon and Manchester show that they needn't be: ...old people are more content and more likely to flourish if they...participate in local life...And yet...our city centres have become age-cleansed youth enclaves..."](#)It's a form of spatial injustice that has crept up on us"...258 cities and communities have signed up to the WHO's Age-Friendly Cities project. - [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Navigating nationality: Australia's multicultural built landscape: How do our cultural values manifest in the built environment? ADR questions the role of race, and the subconscious motivations influencing our appreciation of foreign architecture in a local context...analysing the architectural interventions of the recent immigrant groups.](#) - [Australian Design Review](#)

[Melbourne's new William Barak building is a cruel juxtaposition: Whatever the architectural merits of the Portrait building, if remembrance is their object then they've missed the mark by a long shot...the evocative portrait is a poetic and welcome intervention in the cityscape...The problem I have...To place high-end CBD real estate and an image of the most famous of 19th-century land rights activists in the same frame is...a backhanded tribute... By Christine Hansen -- Ashton Raggat McDougall \(ARM\) - \[The Conversation \\(Australia\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[Transforming National Gallery of Victoria into international hub for design: ...a raft of new design initiatives...A new Department of Contemporary Design and Architecture...will work closely with the local and international design industries...Rigg Design Prize shortlist announcement which will see \\$30,000 awarded to an Australian contemporary designer. -- Ewan McEoin/Studio Propeller; Simone LeAmon/SIMONE leAMON- \[Architecture & Design \\(Australia\\)\]\(#\)](#)

[Graphic need: it's time to bring design into the spotlight: From the moment you hit your alarm clock, you inhabit a world of graphic design ... but compared with architecture and fashion, it has a whisperingly low profile. Might plans for a new National Centre for Graphic Design kick it up a few font sizes?](#) By Oliver Wainwright- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Transit-oriented apartment projects a positive development: ...confounding skeptics who predicted that its absence of parking spaces would make it a financial flop...the trend of transit-oriented development appears to be here to stay. That's good news for both architecture and urban design. It certainly beats the bad old days of "plop architecture." By Blair Kamin -- Brininstool + Lynch; Wheeler Kearns Architects - \[Chicago Tribune\]\(#\)](#)

[Co-working space that's funkier, cheaper: University of Pennsylvania's new Pennovation Works offers an intriguing contrast to the standard co-working fare...in a former industrial park...offbeat location is...biggest drawback...To help put \[it\] on the city's co-working map...hired a slew of high-profile architects and consultants to rethink the complex... By Inga Saffron -- HWKN; Land Collective; WRT; KSS Architects; Bruce Mau Design- \[Philadelphia Inquirer\]\(#\)](#)

[Bolling Building an architectural gem in Roxbury: I wish every developer could be as smart as the team that put together the new Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building...Compared with the clueless architecture often produced by](#)

the private real estate market, [it] is a Taj Mahal...The city-as-developer punched all the right boxes on the score card of architecture and urbanism...What's so great about the Bolling? It's the wisdom of the process by which it was created. By Robert Campbell -- Mecanoo; Sasaki Associates - [Boston Globe](#)

Glasgow School of Art: One of the great buildings of all time: Charles Rennie Mackintosh's GSA has survived a tragic recent fire...a revered and listed historic building that is truly a functional work of art...God, the devil and an entire chorus of angels were in the details...Even in its charred state it remains a haunting composition asking us to resurrect it as soon as possible and for future students to live up to its emotionally indestructible artistry. By Jonathan Glancey [images]- [BBC](#)

DnA/Frances Anderton: Gail Kennard Makes the Case for Saving Parker Center: ...supporting efforts to stop the demolition of the 1955 Parker Center LAPD headquarters, designed by Welton Becket...from her vantage point as an African-American who grew up in Los Angeles, and as principal of an architecture firm, whose founder Robert Kennard (her father) worked for Victor Gruen.- [KCRW \(Los Angeles\)](#)

London's Serpentine Pavilion: a platform for experimental design: The annual temporary commission in Kensington Gardens has inspired similar experimental structures overseas: In New York, the 5th City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition...on Governors Island...Chicago Architecture Biennial Lakefront Kiosk Competition...OUE Artling Archipavilion design competition...in Singapore. By Ed Brooks -- SelgasCano; David Koren/Figment; Izaskun Chinchilla Architects; BanG Studio; Lekker Architects - [Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

Ibañez Kim Studio wins Socrates Sculpture Park Folly 2015 with "Torqueing Spheres": IK Studio's distinctive proposal features a series of connected spherical forms that form a social-interactive space. [images]- [Archinect](#)

Rem Koolhaas: "There's Been Very Little Rethinking Of What Cities Can Be": The Pritzker Prize-winning architect dishes on cities, what architecture and film have in common, and the idiocy of design competitions..."there is an incredible amount of wasted effort in the profession"... By Gary Hustwit -- OMA- [Fast Company / Co. Design](#)

Dutch architect's high praise for Dubai developments: "Dubai has escaped from its architectural caricatures," Rem Koolhaas said...He also praised the involvement of the country's rulers and the freedom they have given to designers to transform the landscape of the region. -- OMA- [The National \(UAE\)](#)

2015 Australian Achievement in Architecture Awards: Peter Stutchbury is awarded the 2015 Australian Institute of Architects Gold Medal; National Emerging Architect Prize: Nic Brunson/Post- and Spacemarket; National President's Prize: Ian Close/Sue Harris/Architecture Media; Student Prize for Advancement of Architecture: Barnaby Hartford-Davis, RMIT; BlueScope Glenn Murcutt Student Prize: Matthew Hyland, University of Tasmania; Jin Chen Lee, University of NSW - [ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

Echoes of the outback: Kenneth Frampton reflects on work of 2015 Gold Medallist Peter Stutchbury: ...the architect, as agent provocateur, remains a man of the people, combining in one volatile persona both a leader and a collaborator. [images]- [ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

Carmody Groarke's temporary Merseyside Maggie's Centre wins 2015 AJ Small Projects Award + Sustainability Award: RCKa/Enfield Business Centre; Special Prize: Flanagan Lawrence/Acoustic Shells [images]- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Best in Canadian Landscape Architecture Recognized by the CSLA Awards of Excellence: Projects define the places we live, work and play. -- Ron Williams, Landscape Architect, Architect; Jonathan Cha; PUBLIC WORK office for urban design & landscape architecture; Stantec Consulting; Scatliff + Miller + Murray; O2 Planning + Design; HTFC Planning & Design/York Factory First Nation; Virginia Burt Designs, Canada; etc. [link to images, info]- [Canadian Society of Landscape Architects \(CSLA\)](#)

The World Changing Ideas Of 2015: 14 of the most important trends, theories, and inventions that are going to re-shape business, society, and the planet...Some might, sadly, never come to pass. #5: Don't Relax: Uncomfortability Is The New Convenience: To stop humanity from turning into useless, pleasure-seeking blobs, some designers are abandoning the quest to make everything easy, and introducing a little extra difficulty into our lives.- [Fast Company](#)



-- 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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