

Today's News - Tuesday, March 31, 2015

- This just in: PagePark wins the competition to restore Mackintosh's masterpiece, the Glasgow School of Art.
- Beam sees a problem with the profession "reduced to hyping its legitimacy in paid promotions on CNN and Fox News," and "adrift on the ever-changing sea of taste and whimsy. Look up. If you like what you see, then go hug the nearest architect. They sound as if they need it."
- Lubell says it's time for architects to stop arguing about style: the real problem is developers, who too often "leave architects out of the equation altogether. There is a thirst for better work - from edgy to traditional. America is tired of banality."
- Correa and other Indian masters tell students to "take risks and experiment," though that may be difficult with the current crop of risk-averse clients: "I'm not against big developers; I'm against what they do. They ruin a generation of architects who are not allowed to question."
- Singerman takes a look at what is "shaping changes in design forms": globalization and internal collaborations are "more important than ever" as influencers.
- The newly launched Bengal Architecture and Design Institute will "focus on the pursuit of innovation in the lived environment" and human interactions - with a stellar faculty!
- Bevan delves into how the London School of Architecture hopes to transform training: "London's great architects are emerging in spite of rather than because of its patchy architecture schools. (Conversely, the US has great architecture schools but dreary contemporary architecture.)"
- Bright, young Australian minds across disciplines come together for Smart Seeds, a 10-week competition to "solve some of the issues arising in the urban design and infrastructure sectors."
- Ulam digs deep into the Trust for Public Land's Playgrounds Program that lets kids design their own inner-city asphalt schoolyards, transforming them into community parks that benefit public health, the environment, education, and the community (totally great!).
- Prakash minces no words about Corbu's Chandigarh being threatened by the proposed 27-tower TATA Camelot(!?) gated community: "While the design of the towers themselves is itself of limited aesthetic quality, it is the siting of the project that is the key contention."
- Q&A with Toshiko Mori re: efforts to save Tokyo's 1962 Hotel Okura by Taniguchi and Kosaka as time is running out on its "Mad Men-esque interiors" with a "plan to demolish the historic main wing in advance of the 2020 Olympic Games."
- Menking reports on efforts to save Rudolph's "elegant canopy" at his 1960 Sarasota High School, now facing demolition to accommodate the Ringling College of Art & Design's new exhibition space.
- Update: a "truce" is called on canopies' fate as area architects and Ringling officials research the history of the structures (some contend they were a later addition).
- Lamster looks at the "reinvention" of Holl's "brazen" and "unapologetically avant-garde" 1989 Stretto House in Dallas; Levy, the original local architect who is designing the addition says: "'I took it on because I couldn't bear the thought of someone else messing it up."
- Manhattan's newest super-slim tower by P+W "will have built-in parks: And you thought bike storage was a decent amenity."
- Kolson Hurley takes a long and totally fascinating look at why shopping malls "aren't actually dying. Most of America's malls are doing just fine: If 3.4% of malls are dying, then 96.6% of them aren't."
- Eye-fuls of the winners of the eVolo 2015 Skyscraper Competition (some look pretty scary to us).
- Five make the shortlist to design Australia's 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale exhibition: "proposals range from a pool-side sensory feast to an inverted biblical tower."
- Orff is taking over from Plunz at the helm of Columbia University's Urban Design Program (yay, Kate!).
- Olcayto takes the helm as AJ's new editor as Murray moves over to The Architectural Review (cheers to both!).
- Call for entries: 2015 Houzz/AIA Future of Architecture Contest & Showcase for students and emerging professionals.

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[PagePark triumphs in Mac rebuild competition: Scottish architect will lead restoration of Mackintosh's masterpiece Glasgow School of Art...beat 14 initial entries and a shortlist featuring Avanti, John McAslan and Edinburgh's LDN Architects.](#) - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Look up, there is a problem with architecture: How did the profession of Michelangelo and Frank Lloyd Wright get reduced to hyping its legitimacy in paid promotions on CNN and Fox News? There is no doubt that architecture feels that it is under siege...Architecture is adrift on the ever-changing sea of taste and whimsy...Look up...If you like what you see, then go hug the nearest architect. They sound as if they need it.](#) By Alex Beam - Boston Globe

[It's the Client, Stupid: Sam Lubell asks architects to widen their focus, not fight over style: ...there is plenty of room for both radical and client-centered architecture. But...has been largely ceded to corporate developers, who...sometimes leave architects out of the equation altogether...All have drastically different priorities. This wasn't always the case...There is a thirst for better work, in any type of language, from edgy to traditional. America is tired of banality...](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[Take risks, experiment with architecture: Correa: Charles Correa, Mahendra Raj and Raj Rewal - three of the most celebrated masters in modern Indian architecture were engaged in a profound discussion..."People say Goa needs better architects. I think it needs better clients...I'm not against big developers; I'm against what they do. They ruin a generation of architects who are not allowed to question."](#) - Times of India

[Finding links amid diversity for the architecture and design industry: What is shaping changes in design forms? While designers themselves are contributing to the transition, Paul Peng believes "the invisible…more decisive hand of globalisation" is at least as important an influence...Internal collaborations are also more important than ever... By Deborah Singerman -- IAPA/International Architecture Platform Australia; NORD; CoActiv8; Third Spaces Group- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes, and Settlements Launches in Bangladesh: ...newly launched Bengal Architecture and Design Institute...Faculty members include Kenneth Frampton, Rahul Mehrotra, Juhani Pallasmaa, Michael Sorkin, Bille Tsien and Tod Williams, Bashirul Haq and Kashef Mahboob Chowdhury.](#) - ArchDaily

[Architects, assemble! How the London School of Architecture hopes to transform training: London leads the world in training for most creative industries, so why does it lag behind when it comes to architecture? London's great architects are emerging in spite of rather than because of its patchy architecture schools. \(Conversely, the US has great architecture schools but dreary contemporary architecture.\)](#) By Robert Bevan -- Will Hunter; Ellis Woodman; Alan Powers; Leon van Schaik; Deborah Saunt; Clive Sall; Elsie Owusu - London Evening Standard (UK)

[Young Australian minds compete to solve large city infrastructure challenges: Bright young minds across the architecture, engineering and infrastructure sectors will come together...'Smart Seeds' is a 10-week competition...and solve some of the issues arising in the urban design and infrastructure sectors.](#) - Architecture & Design (Australia)

[DIY, Kiddo: A program by the Trust for Public Land lets kids design their own schoolyards: Playgrounds Program transforms asphalt inner-city schoolyards into community parks...being expanded to Philadelphia and Bridgeport,](#)

Connecticut...considering the benefits...to public health, the environment, education, and the community...there may not be a contemporary open-space project in New York City today that so thoroughly addresses such a wide array of critical public policy goals. By Alex Ulam -- SiteWorks Landscape Architecture [images]- Landscape Architecture Magazine

Chandigarh Under Siege: Le Corbusier's Capitol Complex Threatened by Housing Development: TATA Camelot is a gated residential community consisting of 27 towers...While the design of the towers themselves is itself of limited aesthetic quality, it is of course the siting of the project that is the key contention...also sets a destructive ecological precedent for the future. By Dr. Vikramaditya Prakash- ArchDaily

See Why the Fashion and Architecture Worlds Are Leaping to the Defense of a Tokyo Hotel: Since 1962, Hotel Okura has been a favorite haunt...its untouched, Mad Men-esque interiors luring top tastemakers...But time is running out...owners plan to demolish the historic main wing...in advance of the 2020 Olympic Games...Q&A with Toshiko Mori...to learn more about the fate of this modern marvel. -- Yoshiro Taniguchi; Hideo Kosaka [images]- Architectural Digest

The public asked to help save this Paul Rudolph shelter in Sarasota, Florida: ...an elegant canopy...designed and built in 1960 for Sarasota High School may also end up in a local landfill...main building is being taken over by the Ringling College of Art & Design to become a midtown exhibition space...Sarasota Architectural Foundation and Docomomo are asking the Ringling to hold off on the demolition...and incorporate them into the permanent collection of the new museum. By William Menking- The Architect's Newspaper

Truce on Canopies Until Further Deliberation: A set of canopies connecting the Sarasota Museum of Art with the Paul Rudolph-designed Sarasota High School will stand for now, as area architects and officials from Ringling College of Art + Design research the history of the structures. -- Carl Abbott/Sarasota Architectural Foundation- SRQ Magazine

Rreinventing a modernist landmark in Preston Hollow: The Stretto House gets a new addition from architect Max Levy that complements the idiosyncratic charm of Steven Holl's 1989 original: It was the most unapologetically avant-garde work of domestic architecture ever to rise in Dallas..."I took it on because I couldn't bear the thought of someone else messing it up."... By Mark Lamster [images]- Dallas Morning News

A New York Skinny Skyscraper Will Have Built-In Parks: And you thought bike storage was a decent amenity: A new superslim residential tower...will have built-in parks and even an outdoor cinema...will make it like a vertical West Village street...12 East 37th Street,...will reach 700 feet... -- Perkins+Will [images]- Bloomberg News

Shopping Malls Aren't Actually Dying: Photos of creepy, abandoned malls are eerie, but misleading. Most of America's malls are doing just fine: If 20% of malls are in trouble, then 80% are still healthy. If 3.4% of malls are dying, then 96.6% of them aren't..."the experience factor" is likely to be the main driver for malls in the years to come...until more suburbs redevelop to become denser and walkable, the mall is the best communal - though not really public, alas - space that we've got. By Amanda Kolson Hurley- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Winners of eVolo 2015 Skyscraper Competition: 3 winners and 15 honorable mentions...selected for their creativity, ingenuity, and understanding of dynamic and adaptive vertical communities. -- BOMP (Poland); Suraksha Bhatla/Sharan Sundar (India); Egor Orlov (Russia); etc. [images]- eVolo Magazine

Shortlisted designs revealed: Australian Institute of Architects has released the five shortlisted concepts vying [for] the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale...proposals range from a pool-side sensory feast to an inverted biblical tower. -- Denton Corker Marshall; John de Manincor/Sandra Kaji-O'Grady/Misho Baranovic; Aileen Sage/Michelle Tabet; Justine Clark/Naomi Stead/Maryam Gushesh/Catherine Griffiths/Fiona Young; Ed Lippmann/Anne Watson/Susan Freeman/Michael Hill; Andrew Burns/Mark Gowing [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Landscape Architect Kate Orff Takes The Helm Of Columbia's Urban Design Program: The SCAPE founder will direct the program at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation...replacing Richard Plunz, an expert in urban housing issues who has been director since 1992...her "goal is to magnify the social and humanitarian ethos that the program is well known for..." - Fast Company / Co. Design

Rory Olcayto is AJ's new editor: ...taking over from Christine Murray...[she] has now joined the AJ's sister title The Architectural Review as editor.- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Call for entries: 2015 Houzz/AIA Future of Architecture Contest & Showcase for students and emerging professionals in residential architecture (U.S. residents); cash prizes; deadline: April 7, - Houzz / American Institute of Architects (AIA)



-- Atelier Peter Zumthor: His buildings stand out against their surrounding contexts, whether urban environments or natural landscapes, as statements of formal clarity. By Martin Søberg

-- Interview: Jacques Herzog: Herzog & de Meuron is one of the largest and currently, perhaps the most successful Swiss architectural practice...Q&A about his current trials and tribulations, as well as his influences and goals. By Ulf Meyer

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