

## Today's News - Wednesday, April 15, 2015

- Mackenzie minces no words in criticizing the critics of ARM Architecture's Portrait building in Melbourne: he finds the criticism to be "marred by racism and unsubstantiated opinion," which "illustrates the impoverished state of public discussion about architecture" (and then some).
- Elshahed delves into the controversy and questions swirling around the "unimaginatively christened" The Capital Cairo: "street-level renderings show a modern city that could be anywhere" (and a desert landscape "rendered in green").
- Not done deals, but two potentially positive news items: Foster's 2 World Trade Center "might actually happen" (if things work out with Rupert Murdoch).
- Rudolph's Orange County Government Center gets a reprieve from the wrecking ball - until July, anyway.
- Kaji-O'Grady cheers John Wardle Architects/NADAAA's Melbourne School of Design that "yields a layered new school rich in ideas and meticulous in detail."
- A new pedestrian bridge in Gothenburg by Erik Andersson Architects will have "a narrow profile that seemingly floats over the water."
- A Minneapolis skyway becomes the "ultimate recycling project," first to be transformed into an interactive art installation before becoming a lakeside home.
- Eyefuls of an impressive shortlist of 6 vying to design Oslo's government quarter.
- After "a not-so-ideal turnout in its first run" last year, Liget Budapest Design Competition 2.0 settles on Snøhetta and SANAA in a tie to design the new National Gallery - Ludwig Museum.
- Eyefuls of the 2014 - 2015 A' Architecture, Building and Structure Design Award winners (miles of 'em!).
- A University Of Maryland team wins the 2015 ULI Hines Competition to redevelop a site in downtown New Orleans (great presentation - including all the finalists).
- Public Architecture's John Peterson tapped as new curator of Harvard GSD's Loeb Fellowship.
- Call for entries: 2015 Brick in Architecture Awards (deadline looms!) + World Architecture Festival/WAF Awards (early bird deadline looms!) + The Seasteading Institute Floating City Project.

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A portrait of failed criticism: Andrew Mackenzie reviews recent commentary on ARM Architecture's Portrait building [William Barak apartment building], and finds it marred by racism and unsubstantiated opinion...illustrates both the impoverished state of public discussion about architecture and the degree to which anachronistic Victorian attitudes prevail as to what constitutes a public monument. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

SOM Plan for New UAE-Backed Egyptian Capital Sparks Controversy and Questions: ...unimaginatively christened The Capital Cairo...a sprawling 270-square-mile metropolis...street-level renderings show a modern city that could be anywhere...has the potential to become the world's first privatized capital city. By Mohamed Elshahed -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [images]- Architectural Record

Thanks to Rupert Murdoch, Norman Foster's 2 World Trade Center might actually happen: ...News Corporation and 21st Century Fox - both owned by the billionaire media mogul - are interested in using half the building (1.5 million square feet) as a joint headquarters...widely considered to be the most architecturally adventurous of the glassy WTC bunch...expected to change at least slightly if this deal moves forward... -- Foster + Partners- The Architect's Newspaper

Judge Stalls Demolition of Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center in Goshen, NY: ...request for a temporary restraining order to stop the county's plan to give the building a generic glassy overhaul...denied...but ruled that no demolition should happen before July...- Curbed

Academic rigour: Melbourne School of Design: At the University of Melbourne, a partnership between John Wardle Architects and NADAAA yields a layered new school rich in ideas and meticulous in detail...it challenges us to find the appropriate critical language with which to appreciate its effects. By Sandra Kaji-O'Grady [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Erik Andersson Architects Designs Carbon Fiber Pedestrian Bridge for Gothenburg: ...a narrow profile that seemingly floats over the water. It is envisioned that the landscape the crosses inside the circular form can be used as an amphitheater for riverside performances. [images]- ArchDaily

Forlorn 280,000-pound Twin Cities skyway finds a new home as a home in Brainerd: It's the ultimate recycling project...once connected two downtown buildings...will be transformed by a team of artists from Vancouver into an interactive art installation in Minneapolis, then head north later this summer where it will become a lakeside home... -- CityDesk Studios [images]- Minneapolis Star Tribune

BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group, MVRDV + Snøhetta unveil proposals for Oslo's government quarter: ...six different proposals...were selected from 24 original entries... -- Asplan Viak; LPO; White [images]- designboom

Snøhetta and SANAA tie for New National Gallery and Ludwig Museum for Budapest: After a not-so-ideal turnout in its first run in 2014, The Museum of Fine Arts Budapest and the Városliget Zrt's Liget Budapest Design Competition 2.0 is a stark contrast. [images]- Bustler

2014 - 2015 A' Architecture, Building and Structure Design Award Winners -- Kris Lin; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); PARTISANS; Ingarden & Ewý Architects; etc. [images]- A' Design Award & Competition

University Of Maryland Team Wins The 2015 ULI Hines Competition With Plan To Redevelop A Site In Downtown New Orleans + Finalists [links to presentations]- Urban Land Institute (ULI)

John Peterson, founder of Public Architecture, appointed curator of the Loeb Fellowship: ...will assume his new post in January 2016...will step down from his position as President of Public Architecture to become a member of its board of directors.- Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Call for entries (deadline reminder): 2015 Brick in Architecture Awards (U.S., Canada, and U.S. territories); deadline: April 30- Brick Industry Association

Call for entries: World Architecture Festival/WAF Awards; earlybird deadline (save money): May 1; standard deadline: May 22- World Architecture Festival (WAF)

Call for entries: The Seasteading Institute Floating City Project -- Architectural Design Contest: develop ideas for a floating city stationed in protected ocean waters which contains housing, hotel/resort, and office/commercial spaces; cash prizes; registration deadline: May 28 (submissions due June 1)- The Seasteading Institute / DeltaSync

Interview: Enrique Norton/TEN Arquitectos: ...his recent projects and general approach to architecture..."It's a process and a lot of it is trial and error...It is not, as you say, a magical inspiration. It's not a doodle on a napkin. It's a lot of work...architecture is a group effort." By Morten Wilhelm Scholz [images]

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