Today’s News - Monday, April 27, 2015

- ArcSpace brings Martin's take on (and eyefuls of) Henning Larsen's Moesgaard Museum on the outskirts of Aarhus, Denmark, that "offers a new perspective on the role of the museum as a public space."
- Hu cheers the new Whitney as "a cultural attraction appended to one of Manhattan's premier green spaces" [the High Line] - "the pride of place being symbiotic;" and the exhibition space is "a Machine for Exhibiting."
- Reyneri is more than fed up with the "transparency in architecture competitions," beginning with the posting of 1,700+ proposals for the Guggenheim Helsinki: this "sudden bout of Finnish transparency gave birth to a brand new 'Helsinki effect': too much, too bad. Please, competition organizers of the world: if you still have discarded boards, burn them!"
- St. Petersburg, Florida, picks a winner in its pier competition: the 1973 inverted pyramid (a "chicken roost" to some, ironic to others) will be replaced by "an iconic building plucked from its history, made new again."
- Menking, meanwhile, bemoans that the success of AIA's Center for Architecture storefront is "apparently being lost on many of the architecture and design non-profits willing to give up their public spaces and move into traditional back offices."
- Crosbie croons over Helpern Architects' "stunning renovation" of Yale's Sterling Memorial Library: the design team "achieved a remarkable result with a deft touch, without leaving fingerprints."
- A "struggling, half-dead mall" in Philadelphia could "be reborn as a gleaming glass-and-steel emporium after decades of failed plans and promise," but "not everyone will benefit from the mall's makeover. Parts of the plan seem sure to provoke contentious."
- He sees one solution to Seattle's (and other cities') housing shortage and a way to attract Millennials and Boomers: "Bring back the townhouse;" but it "will require a major rethinking of policies, codes, design standards and review procedures. Neighborhoods will likely squawk. But we will need to move ahead anyway."
- McGee and Benn investigate how co-housing could be "a solution to urban sprawl and housing affordability problems" - but if it "is such a good idea, why isn't it widespread already? Problems. Fixes."
- Birch bristles at the prospect of U.K.'s heritage becoming an inadvertent "victim of our economic recovery" with the reintroduction of enterprise zones: the "approach to planning policy has undoubtedly increased construction activity - but have we not learnt the lessons of post-war redevelopment?"
- Woods Bagot's HQ Music House for Warner Music in London is "as cool as you think it is" (with pix to prove it).
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- Wainwright reports from the Counter Terror Expo - "an enormous supermarket of paranoia" and "a playground for extreme urban neuroses," complete with "grenade-proof BMVs and terrorist-resistant flowerbeds" (a.k.a. "hostile vehicle mitigation" technology).
- Six cities to split $1 million Heart of the Community grants to "redesign underloved or underutilized public spaces."
PREIT reveals the Gallery's new look: ...decrepit Gallery at Market East may be about to change...one of Center City's most notorious dead spots would be reborn as a gleaming glass-and-steel emporium...Fashion Outlets of Philadelphia...After decades of failed plans and promises...not everyone will benefit from the mall's makeover...Parts of the plan seem sure to prove contentious. -- JPRA Architects [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

The new Seattle, where everything looks the same: Occasionally, we get a flash of design brilliance...But developers must be willing to hire those skilled designers. Many are simply not interested...reveals a hidden flaw in the City's design review process: No amount of process can "make" a designer talented or a developer committed to creating superb buildings. Hence, the wildly uneven - and often uninspiring - architecture in Seattle today. By Mark Hinshaw - Crosscut (Seattle)

Bring back the townhouse: Can Millennials and Boomers change the region's housing mix? Opening up more areas for townhouses and row houses will require a major rethinking of policies, codes, design standards and review procedures. Neighborhoods will likely squawk. But we will need to move ahead anyway... By Mark Hinshaw - Crosscut (Seattle)

How co-housing could make homes cheaper and greener: Could co-housing be a solution to urban sprawl and housing affordability problems...underused housing model could lead to financial, social and environmental benefits for its residents...So if co-housing is such a good idea, why isn't it widespread already? Problems. Fixes. By Caitlin McGee and Suzanne Benn -- Benn and Penna Architects - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Don't let heritage become a victim of our economic recovery: Reintroducing enterprise zones has inadvertently put heritage buildings within them at risk of demolition: The government's approach to planning policy has undoubtedly increased construction activity...but have we not learnt the lessons of post-war redevelopment? By Justin Birch/CBRE - BDBuilding Design (UK)

Far from conventional: Warner Music UK HQ by Woods Bagot as cool as you think it is: ...recently consolidated its London operations from across six buildings...HQ Music House...express the brand and identity of each label, whilst still making a clear statement that the Wrights Lane building is the company’s London headquarters... [images] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Designs for fifth Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup 40,000-seat Al Rayyan stadium revealed: ...materials reclaimed from the previous stadium’s demolition will be used in the construction...designed to reduce to a capacity of 21,000 in legacy mode when the upper tier of seats will be removed and sent to developing nations in need of sports infrastructure. -- Pattern Design; Aecom; Ramboll [images] - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Ambitious plans outlined for a Palestinian cultural museum in the war-torn Gaza Strip, honouring Palestinian culture and history: ...an offshoot of the £40m Palestinian Museum Hub – currently under construction...in Birzeit, the West Bank. -- Heneghan Peng Architects - CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Enter the Counter Terror Expo - an enormous supermarket of paranoia: With its grenade-proof BMWs, chemical armageddon combat suits and terrorist-resistant flowerbeds, this trade show is a playground for extreme urban neuroses...when you admired a flower display in a public square, you were actually eyeing up several tonnes of "hostile vehicle mitigation" technology...cloaked in granite and foliage. By Oliver Wainwright - Guardian (UK)

6 Cities to Split $1M for Placemaking Projects: Heart of the Community grants to redesign underloved or underutilized public spaces, thanks to funding from Southwest Airlines, which teamed up with the Project for Public Spaces (PPS)- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Bangkok: I am Fashion Hub competition winners: top 3 entries come from Russia, Malaysia and France...incredibly different in their use of space, their concept and their desired impact. -- Ilya Pugachenko/Andrey Sayko/Alla Aniskova; Jun Hao Ong/Raphael Cheng; Quyet Tien Ngo/Mingbo Wang/Junwei Xie/Arnaud Rossocelo [images] - HMMD / Homemade Dessert

What cities would look like without their famous tourist attractions: a playful contest to re-imagine some of the world's most visited travel spots. [images] - DesignCrowd (Australia)