

Today's News - Tuesday, April 28, 2015

- Misra parses "how haphazard urbanization and rampant building code violations in Nepal pushed up the earthquake death toll," and other "rapidly urbanizing South Asian cities show similarly dangerous urban growth patterns."
- Kats looks deep into the "new Whitney's old soul": Piano's "nostalgia for his beginnings, and for Modernism's, is evident" - the museum's "definitive functionalism and aggressively awkward form imitate and emulate the industrial buildings that inspired radical architecture - a century ago."
- Kiser brings us eye-fuls of the new Whitney: "Piano's strong, asymmetrical design responds to the industrial character" of the neighborhood "while asserting a contemporary, sculptural presence."
- Could bad-boy Bjarke be about to bump Lord Norman from 2 World Trade Center?
- Renn ruminates on what's the perfect size for a city: "Planners love efficiency, but even on a piece of paper it can be hard to know what size box to draw - nobody really knows where to draw the lines."
- A new report analyzing before/after Complete Streets scenarios "shows the extraordinary effect low-cost, thoughtful street design can have on local communities."
- Hume would probably agree when it comes to Toronto: "Cleary, what's needed is a new sort of micro-urbanism focused on small-scale interventions designed to transform the city without threatening nervous residents" (a.k.a. the all too prevalent NIMBYs).
- Kamin cheers the new, oh-so-green (LEED Platinum!) Method soap factory in historic Pullman: it may be "a plain concrete box," but "it does the basics of form and function right - a factory doesn't have to be a hulking, fenced-off building with a smokestack belching pollution" it can, instead, "enhance both the economy and the environment" (and "it's going to grow stuff you eat, on the roof").
- The Rocky Mountain Institute issues a new guide to "calculate the true increase in returns achievable through deep energy retrofits" that "moves past the standard capital cost versus energy savings equation" (useful for convincing clients).
- Davies delves into designing memorials, "one of the hardest and most fraught commissions a designer can take on. The role of the designer is to facilitate a response, not create it or choreograph it (some 'starchitects' might take note!)."
- Sokol reports on the results of the Architectural Record/Van Alen Institute Design Competition Survey results from 1,414 respondents: "Regardless of country, aspects of competitions can leave architects either frustrated or energized - or both." + VAI proposes 10 reforms to the way design competitions are run.
- Good news for fans of DC's historic Corcoran Gallery of Art: "Much of the graceful interiors will remain intact, despite the wishes of new owner George Washington University."
- Emblin checks out the Mazzanti "effect": "His architecture changes not just a landscape, it changes people."
- Singapore-based American architect L'Heureux wins the 2015 Wheelwright Prize \$100,000 travel grant.
- Eye-fuls of the 11 DOCOMOMO US 2015 Modernism in America Awards winners.
- The 2015 Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition winners are "7 outstanding projects."
- One we couldn't resist: a video produced by Philly's Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities "jokingly recommends building bubble-wrap safety suits" to keep pedestrians safe (it's a hoot!).
- Call for entries: Triple Bridge Waterfront: propose development along the Liepaja Canal in Latvia + Sukkahville 2015 International Design Competition for a free-standing Sukkah on Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square.

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**How Urban Planning Failed Kathmandu:** Haphazard urbanization and rampant building code violations in Nepal pushed up the earthquake death toll...several rapidly urbanizing South Asian cities show similarly dangerous urban growth patterns...Hopefully the present tragedy, and the prospect of future ones, will force cities to reassess their urban planning efforts before the next natural disaster hits. By Tanvi Misra- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

**The New Whitney's Old Soul:** Renzo Piano...revisits Modernism's seminal source, the factory building...nostalgia for his beginnings, and for Modernism's, is evident...its definitive functionalism and aggressively awkward form imitate and emulate the industrial buildings that inspired radical architecture - a century ago...In his effort to obscure the distinctions between museum and factory, he occasionally fails to notice the difference between looking forward and looking back. By Anna Kats [images]- Artinfo

**The new Whitney:** A new visible landmark in the skyline of downtown Manhattan: Renzo Piano's strong, asymmetrical design responds to the industrial character of the neighboring loft buildings and overhead railway while asserting a contemporary, sculptural presence. By Kirsten Kiser [images]- ArcSpace

**Norman Foster or Bjarke Ingels, who will be designing the final tower at the World Trade Center?** 2 World Trade Center might finally rise after all these years...Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation and 21st Century Fox...in talks to lease half the building...might bring in a new architect...Now it's looking like that is exactly what's going to happen - and it's going to happen in an, ahem, BIG way. -- Foster + Partners; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group- The Architect's Newspaper

**What's the perfect size for a city?** The world's cities are sprawling over their boundaries, fragmenting into smaller parts run by competing regional governments. But amalgamating them brings other problems...Planners love efficiency, but even on a piece of paper it can be hard to know what size box to draw...nobody really knows where to draw the lines. By Aaron M. Renn- Guardian (UK)

**Complete Streets Are a Bargain:** As a recent analysis by Smart Growth America's National Complete Streets Coalition demonstrates, using a Complete Streets approach is one of the best transportation investments a community can make...before and after data shows the extraordinary effect low-cost, thoughtful street design can have on local communities. [link to report]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

**Building a better Toronto for less:** There's more to building the city than megaprojects that cost billions: ...a blanket of NIMBY resistance has settled over the city...Cleary, what's needed is a new sort of micro-urbanism focused on small-scale interventions designed to transform the city without threatening nervous residents...compact projects powerful enough to alter perceptions. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

**Innovative Method soap factory shows historic Pullman has a future:** ...a plain concrete box that comes with green-tinged bells and whistles...Yes, it's going to grow stuff you eat, on the roof...by no means a great or even good work of architecture. But it does the basics of form and function right...a factory doesn't have to be a hulking, fenced-off building with a smokestack belching pollution...Instead, a factory can enhance both the economy and the environment...more than an architectural curiosity. By Blair Kamin -- William McDonough + Partners; Heitman Architects- Chicago Tribune

**Report: how to develop the business case for deep retrofits:** A new guide to...calculate the true increase in returns achievable through deep energy retrofits...by the Rocky Mountain Institute..."How to Calculate and Present Deep Retrofit Value" model moves past the standard capital cost versus energy savings equation...also sets out a methodology for assessing which buildings should be prioritised... [link to report]- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

**Designing memorials: is simple and subtle the best way?** ...memorials are one of the hardest and most fraught commissions a designer can take on...There are many questions about the purpose of memorials that designer must understand...The role

of the designer is to facilitate that response, not create it or choreograph it (some 'starchitects' might take note!). By Alan Davies -- Maya Lin; Frank Gehry; Paul Goldberger- Crikey (Australia)

A Love-Hate Relationship: Results of the Architectural Record/Van Alen Institute Design Competition Survey are in: Regardless of country, however, aspects of competitions can leave architects either frustrated or energized - or both...VAI proposes 10 reforms to the way design competitions are run. By David Sokol- Architectural Record

Board extends historic status to most of Corcoran's interior: Much of the graceful interiors of the historic Corcoran Gallery of Art will remain intact, despite the wishes of new owner George Washington University...designation includes a majority of the building's galleries, it does not include the basement, auditorium and four galleries on the first floor. - Washington Post

The Mazzanti "effect": ...the mastermind behind some of Colombia's most imposing structures. His architecture is transformative: it changes not just a landscape, it changes people...with clear political rules and transparent governance, a mega project in the hands of a skilled architect can be an agent of change...debate in Bogotá over this Parque shows how the capital remains adverse to innovation. By Richard Emblin -- Giancarlo Mazzanti- The City Paper Bogota (Colombia)

Harvard University Graduate School of Design Announces Winner of the 2015 Wheelwright Prize: Erik L'Heureux, Singapore-based American architect, wins \$100,000 travel grant for his proposal Hot and Wet: The Equatorial City and the Architectures of Atmosphere. -- Pencil Office- Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

2015 Modernism in America Awards Winners: 11 exceptional projects are emblematic of the work going on all over the country... -- Eero Saarinen and Associates; Beyer Blinder Belle; Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson; Lloyd, Morgan & Jones; Richard Neutra; Kelly Sutherlin McLeod; Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates; E. Stewart Williams; Marmol Radziner; The New Haven Preservation Trust; Shulman + Associates/RLC Architects; Quinn Evans Architects/Beckett & Raeder; etc. [images]- DOCOMOMO US

2015 Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition Winners: ...7 outstanding projects...honoring commendable use of Italian tile in North American architecture and design. -- DKOR Interiors; Natalie Kraiem Interiors; Tectonic Design; RSP Architects; Alexander Gorlin Architects; Shinberg,Levinas Architects; Gertler & Wentz Architects [images]- Ceramic Tiles of Italy

Silly Video Instructs Philly Residents to Wear Bubble Wrap on Streets: Mayor's Office of Transportation and Utilities in Philadelphia wants to prevent accidents resulting from distracted drivers and pedestrians absorbed in their mobile devices...jokingly recommends building bubble-wrap safety suits...- ABC News (US)

Call for entries: Triple Bridge Waterfront (international): a proposed development along the Liepaja Canal in Liepaja, Latvia; cash prizes; earlybird registration deadline (save money!): May 21 (submissions due August 14)- HMMD / Homemade Dessert

Call for entries: Sukkahville 2015 International Design Competition: design and build a contemporary interpretation of the temporary, free-standing Sukkah on Nathan Phillips Square in front of Toronto's City Hall; registration deadline: May 15 (submissions due June 19)- Kehilla Residential Programme



Henning Larsen Architects: Moesgaard Museum: Surrounded by woods on the outskirts of Aarhus, Denmark, the new MOMU offers a new perspective on the role of the museum as a public space. By Robert Martin [images]

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