

Today's News - Wednesday, July 22, 2015

- Kamin makes the most eloquent of arguments for why the "trope about the death of criticism must be subject to rigorous scrutiny...architecture criticism matters because it pulls back the curtain on the doings and dealings of the often-secretive world of architects, developers, and politicians" (from a fab talk he gave at the Society of Architectural Historians conference).
- Wainwright digs deep into what seems to be some dubious dealings that "cut out the poor" in Rogers's Neo Bankside, raising questions about whether the project should be on the Stirling Prize shortlist.
- Heathcote (in GQ, no less) explains "why a city of dreams is the stuff of nightmares - better to improve the ones we have."
- Forman reports on a CUF report that lays out several recommendations to combat the pressures of affordability challenges facing the creative sector for creative hubs like NYC and elsewhere.
- Q&A with Enterprise Community Partners' Swenson re: different strategies to begin tackling housing for 19 million low-income families who are "housing insecure": "The quality of the design is a part of the solution."
- Architect and urban studies expert Simpson discusses aging in place and rethinking senior citizen communities: "this relationship between aging in place and the retirement community is not an either/or condition."
- H&deM's controversial Tour Triangle (finally) gets the green light, but "lots of people aren't happy about it": it's "simultaneously megalomaniacal, anti-social and anti-ecological."
- Adjaye designs a Rwandan children's cancer hospital, seeing it as "an incredible opportunity for architecture to contribute to a social change agenda."
- Brisbane picks the winning bid to develop "a six-star integrated resort" (including a giant casino), but it may involve demolishing the 1999 RAlA Award-winning Neville Bonner building.
- Meanwhile, the City of Sydney is none too pleased with plans to shrink CBD sidewalks to make way for wider roads (huh?!?!?).
- A startup coming out of Harvard Innovation Lab, with the help of GSD students, hopes "to help take tiny houses mainstream."
- Jencks transforms a former coal mine into a "post-industrial Stonehenge" in Scotland: "its striking whimsy offers a practical strategy for industrial redevelopment at the landscape scale."
- At Rudolph's embattled Orange County Government Center, the interiors are already being gutted: "It is unclear at this time what exactly it will look like when the construction dust clears, but judging from an early conceptual rendering by the architect, there is little cause for optimism."
- On brighter notes: "After years of neglect and threats of demolition," Düttmann's 1967 Brutalist St. Agnes Church in Berlin has made a comeback as an art gallery.
- And Sydney's ANZAC Memorial "will see the original 1930s master plan by Bruce Dellit finally completed" - a cascading water feature included.

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Architecture Criticism: Dead or Alive? This trope about the death of criticism has been proclaimed so often and with such self-righteous certainty that it must, like all conventional wisdom, be subject to rigorous scrutiny...activist criticism has the power to set the agenda, but it does not have the power to enact that agenda...Whatever form it takes, architecture criticism matters because it pulls back the curtain on the doings and dealings of the often-secretive world of architects, developers, and politicians. By Blair Kamin - Nieman Reports

Neo Bankside: how Richard Rogers's new 'non-dom accom' cut out the poor: Questions are raised about the project's inclusion on the Stirling prize shortlist after details emerge that developers failed to live up to its original affordable housing claims - setting a dangerous precedent for developments everywhere. By Oliver Wainwright -- Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners [images]- Guardian (UK)

Why a city of dreams is the stuff of nightmares: Almost every vision of a new metropolis has come to nothing - better to improve the ones we have: The real challenge is in the connective tissue which ties existing cities together - or which reconnects the pieces of fragmented cities and their suburbs. By Edwin Heathcote- GQ UK

Op-Ed: The Virtuous Cycle of Keeping Your City Affordable for Artists: Too often...the creative sector is a victim of its own success...With affordability challenges mounting, continued success...is far from assured...To combat these pressures, the Center for an Urban Future's report lays out several recommendations. By Adam Forman/Center for an Urban Future- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Creating Communities: In America, 19 million low-income families are "housing insecure." Housing specialist Katie Swenson/Enterprise Community Partners discusses different strategies to begin tackling this urgent issue...the housing crisis, healthy communities, and the value of integrated design..."The quality of the design is a part of the solution." -- Michael Maltzan; David Baker Architects - Metropolis Magazine

Retirement Reboot: Architect and urban studies expert Deane Simpson discusses aging in place and rethinking senior citizen communities: Based on his book, "Young-Old: Urban Utopias of an Aging Society" he shares his critical perspectives..."this relationship between aging in place and the retirement community is not an either/or condition." - Metropolis Magazine

Paris approves controversial Tour Triangle/Triangle Tower skyscraper for construction: ...will be the first skyscraper to be built in low-lying Paris in nearly 40 years and lots of people aren't happy about it...42-story tower block will house a 120-room, four star hotel, a restaurant, a Shard-esque Sky Bar, and 70,000 square metres of office space..."simultaneously megalomaniacal, anti-social and anti-ecological." -- Herzog & de Meuron [images]- Independent (UK)

David Adjaye designs Rwandan children's cancer hospital: Diplomat's son inspired project designed by diplomat's son: Gahanga International Children's Cancer Hospital...will serve the wider Great Lakes region of Africa..."an incredible opportunity for architecture to contribute to a social change agenda..." -- Adjaye Associates [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Giant 'arc' casino resort by Cottee Parker Architects wins Queens Wharf Brisbane design battle: ...five new hotels and an infinity pool overlooking the Brisbane River are just a teaser of what's to come...could also see the demolition of the Davenport Campbell and Donovan Hill-designed Neville Bonner building...a 1999 Royal Australian Institute of Architects Commercial Award winner. [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Sydney footpaths to shrink for wider roads: ...to make it easier for cars and other vehicles to travel through the city...is linked to the construction of a light rail system...City of Sydney was strongly opposed to aspects of the plan..."walking accounts for 92% of all trips within the Sydney CBD and many footpaths are already overcrowded."- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

From Harvard Innovation Lab, A Startup To Help Take Tiny Houses Mainstream: Don't want to ditch everything for a tiny house? With Getaway, rustic small-space living can be yours for a night: If the tiny house movement went mainstream, sprawl could be curtailed...residential neighborhoods could become denser...more people could potentially afford their own abodes. By Diana Budds -- Millennial Housing Lab [images]- Fast Company / Co. Design

A Post-industrial Stonehenge Rises in Scotland: ...the question of what to do with the country's abandoned mining infrastructure offers a unique challenge for communities. In Sanquhar, the answer is to transform a former coal mine

into...land art...potentially the beginning of an exciting series of reclamation projects..."Crawick Multiverse," in its striking whimsy, offers a practical strategy for industrial redevelopment at the landscape scale. -- Charles Jencks [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Demolition underway at Orange County Government Center as legal battle continues: In late June a construction crew began gutting the interior of Paul Rudolph's embattled [building] in Goshen, NY...It is unclear at this time what exactly [it] will look like when the construction dust clears, but judging from an early conceptual rendering by the architect, there is little cause for optimism. -- Clark Patterson Lee- DOCOMOMO NY/Tri-State

Brutalist St. Agnes Church in Berlin Becomes Art Gallery: After years of neglect and threats of demolition, the church has made a comeback, reopening this May as König Galerie... -- Werner Düttmann (1967); Brandhuber+ Emde; Schneider / Riegler Riewe; Landesdenkmalamt Berlin [images]- Architectural Record

New Sydney Anzac Memorial design unveiled by JPW and NSW Government Architect's Office: ...\$40 million dollar upgrade that will see the original 1930s masterplan by Bruce Dellit, finally completed...includes a cascading water feature...was part of Dellit's original plans drawn in 1929 for a design competition... -- Johnson Pilton Walker architects [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

NCARB to Work with Licensing Boards to Document Previous Work Experience: A new proposal to benefit professionals who had to put their licensure goals on hold..."Most of these people have...loads of experience that is older than five years, and now want to move up from being a project manager to a licensed architect." - retrofit magazine

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