

Today's News - Monday, July 27, 2015

- Kamin pays tribute to Schaudt, "a passionate advocate of landscape architecture" gone much too soon.
- Hess remembers Wexler, who "turned the essence of structural systems into elegant, creative buildings," and "seemed to have a knack for being in the right place at the right time."
- Laskow takes a long look at whether "taller buildings have to mean darker streets - it's not the density and the height of the buildings that's the problem - it's the design."
- Wainwright minces no words about the "steroidal towers" of London's planned 22 Bishopsgate: "Picture the Cheese grater strapped to the Walkie-Talkie, with most of the Gherkin thrown in, all bundled up in a great glass shroud" - with "the look of a cigarette lighter - perhaps the building's inevitable moniker (if the Monster doesn't stick)."
- Heathcote x 2: He isn't much kinder to 22 Bishopsgate: the "huge glass block...is a monster."
- On the other hand, he calls the four shortlisted designs for the Nine Elms pedestrian and cycle bridge "elegant and restrained," and make Heatherwick's Garden Bridge "fungal design look lumpy and intrusive."
- Ritchie takes "a forensic look" at why Heatherwick's bridge "is the wrong project for London: For a charity to present to the public a private project masquerading as a public one is disingenuous - a wonderful exercise in celebrity hype and hubris."
- Welton, on a brighter note, cheers the "one-of-kind collaboration between planners, developers, architects, landscape architects, engineers, and even soil scientists" to bring about a (hopefully) fabulous Hudson Yards landscape: "its flora, and its fauna may be the development's greatest gift to New York."
- How Ingles, who "may be the most important architect you have never heard of" is "reshaping the architecture of New York" + A great Kimmelman/Ingels video conversation.
- Eye-fuls of Wilkinson Eyre's drawings for the Barangaroo Crown Hotel - at 69 stories, it will be Sydney's second tallest building ("petals" and all).
- Kats brings us a sneak-peek of SANAA's Grace Farms in Connecticut that "puts architecture out to pasture" - and is "potentially amazing."
- Kamin bemoans the lack of "creative solutions" to bring back Chicago's Pilgrim Baptist Church: the city "certainly has the intellectual and financial resources to address this crucial historic preservation issue," but can it "marshal the forces needed to save a renowned Adler & Sullivan landmark from complete destruction."
- Washington, DC, experiments with new supportive housing model "that aims to de-stigmatize homelessness" (looks good to us!).
- Gaspar and Zimbabwe offer advice about how social impact design firms can - and should - improve recruiting and pay: "our field can do better - so that we don't burn out and ultimately leave the field."
- Liao looks at how some firms are "going the extra mile to ensure their emerging designers stay and thrive."
- McLaughlin takes issue with the "quid pro quo between government, profession and schools" in pushing out "oven-ready architects": "Education is not so much the acquisition of set skills - but developing an inner compass that always points in the direction of further education."
- A new survey delves into "why workplace flexibility is the linchpin to employee happiness" (the right office space is part of the solution).
- Eye-fuls of Architect Magazine's 2015 R+D Awards (great presentation of some real "risk-taking" work!).

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Obituary: Peter Schaudt, distinguished landscape architect, 56: "He was very proud of all he had accomplished in the civic realm and the difference it made in the everyday life of people"...A passionate advocate of landscape architecture...He occupied a unique position because he grasped the essence of both architecture and landscape architecture... By Blair Kamin -- Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects - Chicago Tribune

Donald Wexler, 1926-2015: Alan Hess remembers one of the great pioneers of Palm Springs Modernism...[His] designs were straightforward, clean, never excessive, and turned the essence of their structural systems into elegant, creative buildings...He seemed to have a knack for being in the right place at the right time. - The Architect's Newspaper

Do Taller Buildings Have to Mean Darker Streets? How to design a denser city without sacrificing sunlight: ...it's not the density and the height of the buildings that's the problem - it's the design...For the tallest, luxury skyscrapers, architects are playing with ideas about how to mitigate shadow. By Sarah Laskow - Next City (formerly Next American City)

22 Bishopsgate - and the steroidal towers set to ruin London's skyline: Picture the Cheese grater strapped to the Walkie-Talkie, with most of the Gherkin thrown in, all bundled up in a great glass shroud. If you can't envisage what the resulting mess would look like, help is at hand...someone has already designed it...the look of a cigarette lighter - perhaps the building's inevitable moniker (if the Monster doesn't stick)...the future of the City's silhouette looks set to be a lumpy blancmange. By Oliver Wainwright -- Karen Cook/PLP Architecture [images] - Guardian (UK)

The City of London's new tallest tower, for a short time: 22 Bishopsgate design is huge glass block that will radically alter skyline: With a viewing deck higher than the Shard's, 32 acres of office floors...and costing an estimated £1.5bn, this building, designed by PLP Architects, is a monster...the City's first tower designed by a woman...Karen Cook... "This isn't a building that could be anywhere else"... (although some might wish it were). By Edwin Heathcote [images] - Financial Times (UK)

Shortlist announced for architects of London cycle bridge: ...four elegant designs that would link the burgeoning district of Nine Elms to Pimlico...comparison will inevitably be made with the controversial...Garden Bridge...But these proposals make Thomas Heatherwick's fungal design look lumpy and intrusive... By Edwin Heathcote -- Buro Happold/Marks Barfield Architects; Bystrup/Robin Snell and Partners; Ove Arup/AL_A Architects/Gross Max; Ove Arup/Hopkins Architects/Grant Associates [images] - Financial Times (UK)

Ian Ritchie: What problem does the Garden Bridge solve? ...a forensic look at why Thomas Heatherwick's controversial bridge proposal is the wrong project for London: For a charity, and the high profile personalities involved with it, to present to the public a private project masquerading as a public one is disingenuous...a wonderful exercise in celebrity hype and hubris. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Hudson Yards: A Landscape for All the People: ...has challenged conventional thinking and brought about a one-of-kind collaboration between planners, developers, architects, landscape architects, engineers, and even soil scientists...its flora, and its fauna may be the development's greatest gift to New York. By J. Michael Welton -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group; Kevin Roche; Thornton Thomasetti; Nelson Byrd Woltz [images] - Huffington Post

Bjarke Ingels Is Reshaping the Architecture of New York City: ...has received some of the city's most prominent commissions...When it comes to New York's urban future, [he] may be the most important architect you have never heard of...has been hailed as the next Rem Koolhaas + Video: Michael Kimmelman speaks Ingels at the Cities for Tomorrow conference -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group - New York Times

Wilkinson Eyre drawings reveal the inspiration behind Barangaroo Crown Hotel: ...will be Sydney's second tallest building...69 storeys...to accommodate 350 hotel rooms/villas, 66 apartments plus a variety of retail tenancies, restaurants and gaming spaces. [images] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Potentially Amazing: Grace Farms Puts Architecture Out to Pasture: ...will be many different things to many different

people...The River...a subtle building with a fittingly fluid form, where interiors will transition almost seamlessly - with glass, that is - into exteriors [in New Canaan, Connecticut]. By Anna Kats -- Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA; Olin- Artinfo

Creative solutions needed for Chicago's Pilgrim Baptist Church: The problem...isn't simply a lack of funding - it's a lack of transparency...Chicago certainly has the intellectual and financial resources to address this crucial historic preservation issue...the question is whether the city can marshal the forces needed to save a renowned Adler & Sullivan landmark from complete destruction. By Blair Kamin -- Chris Lee/Johnson & Lee- Chicago Tribune

Upward Mobility: District of Columbia experiments with new housing model for the homeless...La Casa Supportive Housing...featuring single-occupancy units and facilities on par with the surrounding market-rate condominiums...a potential prototype for a housing model that aims to de-stigmatize homelessness. -- Studio Twenty Seven Architecture; Leo A Daly [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Walking the Walk: Putting Equity Into Practice: Why social impact design firms should improve recruiting and pay: ...our field can do better, including the way we hire and recruit staff, the types of workplaces we foster, and how our financial practices sustain the work we do...we need to make time for self-care so that we don't burn out and ultimately leave the field. By Christine Gaspar/Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) & Jess Zimbabwe/Daniel Rose Center for Public Leadership, National League of Cities - Next City (formerly Next American City)

How to Retain Emerging Professionals: The development of budding talent is vital to securing the future of architecture. Take some tips from firms going the extra mile to ensure their emerging designers stay and thrive. By Alice Liao -- Eskew+Dumez+Ripple; Eppstein Uhen Architects; Payette; Sasaki Associates; LS3P - Architect Magazine

A Lifetime of renewal: The quid pro quo between government, profession and schools is historically conditioned...I would like to address the frequent question about what are sometimes referred to as "oven-ready architects"...Education is not so much the acquisition of set skills but learning how to learn...education is not merely the acquisition of facts and prescribed skills, but developing an inner compass that always points in the direction of further education. By Niall McLaughlin- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Why Workplace Flexibility Is The Linchpin To Employee Happiness: ...Staples Advantage Workplace Index, a new research study...half of employees report feeling overworked and burnt out yet 86% are still happy at work...some ways [to] create a more flexible work environment for employees so they don't get as burned out...Choose the right office space.- Forbes

The 2015 R+D Awards: The jury recognized nine risk-taking projects, products, and technologies in this year's competition. -- Ball-Nogues Studio; Partisans; Synthesis Design + Architecture; Eric Owen Moss Architects; Both Landscape and Architecture; Rust Belt Robotics Group/University at Buffalo, SUNY; Teeple Architects; Sweeny&Co Architects; McLain Clutter, director of the design and research practice Master of None [images]- Architect Magazine

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