

Today's News - Wednesday, September 9, 2015

- A very juicy news day: Paulick pens a most thoughtful look at how architects are tackling the refugee crisis through "architecture of welcome" that will integrate new arrivals, avoid ghettos on city limits, and foster urban regeneration.
- Students at Leibniz University design "a range of creative alternatives" for housing refugees that include floating barges, apartment rooftops, flat-pack housing, and abandoned buildings (tents and shipping containers not included).
- Betsky hopes the U.S. and Europe will "learn from each other" as the refugee crisis "continues to unfold": "It not only would be disappointing if both would fail to learn from the American Dream and the space it provides, it would be a crime against humanity made real in the space of the closed trucks where immigrants die."
- Hogan makes a plea for architects to stop trying to turn shipping containers into buildings, and being "drawn to the idea of using them as housing for poor people. There's just one problem: Shipping containers turn out to be a uniquely poor building block for human shelter."
- Q&A with Sinclair re: his new Small Works venture, why he'll "'die happy' knowing that he will never win the Pritzker Prize," and his dismay that "there aren't enough educational platforms" for humanitarian architecture.
- Social and cultural geographer Garrett eviscerates proposed Public Space Protection Orders around the U.K. that "could severely restrict people's freedoms in urban spaces - often aimed at the poor and the vulnerable."
- Wils of the Hudson River Park Trust criticizes the critics who claim Heatherwick's Pier55 is a vanity project for Diller and von Furstenberg: "Far from a billionaire's do-what-I-please, public-be-damned fantasy island," it is "a thoughtful plan with one overarching goal: to provide a fantastic amenity for the public. Let's not belittle that."
- Sweeting delves deep (very deep!) into who's behind the LowLine: "What appeared to be a scrappy but ambitious urban design project" to create "green space in an underserved community seems to actually be quite a large and well-supported organization with close relationships to developers crashing projects into the immediate neighborhood" (Kickstarter success notwithstanding).
- Stott uses BIG's Kickstarter campaign "to seed fund one of the firm's quirkier designs" to ponder the question: "Has visionary architecture really been reduced to a near charity-case?"
- Abello cheers "a growing group of small-scale developers" who are "revitalizing communities, one small lot at a time," and, through CNU, sharing common resources and organizing small-scale developer boot camps.
- A Perth councillor wants to put a dollar value on urban trees "that must be taken into account in planning decisions. If a tree still needs to be knocked down, it should be treated as an asset and paid for by the developer."
- Jaffe has a few issues with a new study's methodology, but has no argument with the concept that "urban trees enhance children's brains" (and we posit everyone else's).
- Impressive (and eclectic) shortlists in the running to remodel FC Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium and Palau Blaugrana arena.
- We cheer the winners of Arch Record's 2nd Annual Women in Architecture Awards (a very cool group!).
- The 2015 Architect 50 list is out: an updated methodology that includes new metrics means "many respected firms missed the cut; some small boutique firms rose through the ranks."
- Call for entries: Letter of Interest and RFQ to re-envision Downtown L.A.'s Pershing Square + RFP: create a new campus gateway for Gallaudet University in Washington, DC + Deadline reminders: RFQ for the Obama library in Chicago + 2016 City of Dreams Pavilion on NYC's Governors Island.

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[Why the refugee crisis calls for imaginative urban planning: Not only politicians are looking for solutions...Architects are also devising ways to integrate new arrivals that avoid ghettos arising on city limits while also fostering urban regeneration..."What we need is a new housing typology"...The roots of the "architecture of welcome" reach back... By Jane Paulick -- Jörg Friedrich/Leibniz University, Hanover - Deutsche Welle \(Germany\)](#)

[German students design residences for refugees: Tents, containers and gyms - they are all commonly utilized for refugee accommodation, but are unsatisfactory according to a group of student architects. In response they have designed a range of creative alternatives...to include designs for floating barges, apartment rooftops, flat-pack housing, and abandoned buildings across Germany. -- Jörg Friedrich/Leibniz University, Hanover \[images\] - Deutsche Welle \(Germany\)](#)

[The Framing of Space in the European Refugee Crisis: what the U.S. and Europe could learn from each other as chaos continues to unfold: It not only would be disappointing if...both would fail to learn from the American Dream and the space it provides, it would be a crime against humanity made real in the space of the closed trucks where immigrants die. By Aaron Betsky - Architect Magazine](#)

[Dear architects: Stop trying to make shipping container buildings happen: the planet has acquired a lot of them...with one unintended effect: They're irresistible to architectural design competitions. It's not hard to see the appeal...drawn to the idea of using...as housing for poor people...There's just one problem: Shipping containers turn out to be a uniquely poor building block for human shelter. By Mark Hogan/OpenScope Studio \[images\] - Grist Magazine](#)

["When I said architects should get involved in humanitarian issues, people laughed at me": Architecture for Humanity co-founder Cameron Sinclair describes the work he is conducting in Syria with his latest venture \[Small Works\], and \[says\] he'll "die happy" knowing that he will never win the Pritzker Prize...also trying to demonstrate to young architects that humanitarian architecture is a viable career path - although he admits that there aren't enough educational platforms for this branch of the discipline. -- Kate Stohr - Dezeen](#)

[PSPOs: the new control orders threatening our public spaces: This year has seen a growing number of councils proposing Public Space Protection Orders -- a geographically defined version of asbos \[anti-social behaviour orders\] that could severely restrict people's freedoms in urban spaces...often aimed at the poor and the vulnerable...introduction of spatial protection orders -- like the construction of privately owned public spaces \[POPS\] -- is a threat to the public sphere... By Bradley L. Garrett - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Op-Ed: Waterfront park is no fantasy island: A vanity project for Barry Diller and Diane von Furstenberg? Think again: ...some have recently dubbed the Pier55 project "Diller Island"...But such terms trivialize the gift and misrepresent the project. Far from a billionaire's do-what-I-please, public-be-damned fantasy island, Pier55 is the culmination of a deliberate, collaborative planning process...It's a thoughtful plan with one overarching goal: to provide a fantastic amenity for the public. Let's not belittle that. By Madelyn Wils/Hudson River Park Trust -- Thomas Heatherwick - Crain's New York](#)

[Digging the LowLine: The powerful commercial interests who are trying to build New York City's next great urban attraction - under the Lower East Side: The question at hand isn't so much whether the LowLine will happen, but what it will look like when it does...What appeared to be a scrappy but ambitious urban design project working towards creating green space in an underserved community seems to actually be quite a large and well-supported organization with close relationships to developers crashing projects into the immediate neighborhood. By Kevin Sweeting -- Dan Barasch; James Ramsey/Raad Studio \[images\] - The Awl](#)

[Do Visionary Architecture and Public Crowdfunding Mix? BIG's Kickstarter campaign to seed fund one of the firm's quirkier designs has led to questions of the role of invention, public engagement, and money in architecture...Has visionary architecture really been reduced to a near charity-case? By Rory Stott - Metropolis Magazine](#)

Developers Build Walkable Neighborhoods With Focus on Community Wealth: ...a growing group of small-scale developers...revitalizing communities, one small lot at a time...beneficiaries are usually local entrepreneurs and neighborhood residents...Through the Congress for the New Urbanism, several of them...began gathering common resources and organizing a small-scale developer program, including small-scale developer boot camps. By Oscar Perry Abello- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Putting a dollar value on trees: An inner-city Perth councillor wants to assign trees with a dollar value that must be taken into account in planning decisions, weighted according to the trees economic, environmental and health benefits...could be valued from \$10,000 up to around \$50,000 to deter attitudes among councils and developers causing the loss of established trees. If a tree still needs to be knocked down...it should be treated as an asset and paid for by the developer. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Urban Trees Enhance Children's Brains, Too: Even wee ones need a break from the city bustle: "The lack of exposure of children to natural environments may have many consequences for their health and well-being, especially if they suffer from developmental disorders..." By Eric Jaffe- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Jury chooses finalists for Espai Barça architectural contest: ...eight teams...will present their proposals for the New Camp Nou, and six others for the New Palau Blaugrana. -- AECOM/b720 Fermin Vázquez Arquitectos; Arup Sport/Ricardo Bofill Taller De Arquitectura; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group/Idom/BAAS Arquitectura; Gensler Sport/OAB; HKS/Cox + Battle i Roig Arquitectes; KSS Architects/Mateo Arquitectura; Nikken Sekkei/Pascual i Ausió Arquitectes; Populous/MIAS Architects/RCR Arquitectes; Dominique Perrault Architecture/Massip-Bosch Arquitectes; gmp architekten/GCA Arquitectes; HOK/TAC Arquitectes; Make/BCQ Arquitectes; Mandago Arquitectos/Bach Arquitectes/R. Sanabria Arquitectes/l. Paricio Wilkinson Eyre Architects + A. Balaguer Riera Arquitectes- FC Barcelona

Architectural Record Announces Winners of 2nd Annual Women in Architecture Awards: On October 6, the five winners will be honored at a forum and luncheon in New York City...celebrating their contributions [and] highlighting the increasingly visible role women play in the profession. -- Billie Tsien/Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Meejin Yoon/Howeler + Yoon Architecture/MIT; Anna Dyson/Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute School of Architecture/Center for Architecture, Science and Ecology (CASE); Pat Sapinsley/NYU Urban Future Lab Cleantech Initiatives; Marilyn Jordan Taylor/University of Pennsylvania School of Design/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)/PennDesign- Architectural Record

The 2015 Architect 50: Who landed the top spot, and which firms rose through the ranks? ...updated methodology to include new metrics: percentage of women and minority designers; range and value of employee benefits; rate of employee turnover. Many respected firms missed the cut; some small boutique firms rose through the ranks. - Architect Magazine

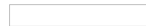
Call for entries: Letter of Interest/LOI + Request for Qualifications/RFQ: Pershing Square Renew Challenge: international design competition to re-envision the five-acre urban park in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles; LOI deadline: September 23; RFQ deadline: October 06- Pershing Square Renew

Call for entries: Request for Proposal/RFP: Gallaudet University (Washington, DC) International 2-Stage Design Competition: \$60M public realm-focus to create a new campus gateway and redefine the University's urban edge; Stage 1 deadline: October 1- Malcolm Reading Consultants / Gallaudet University

Call for entries (deadline reminder): Request for Qualifications/RFQ for the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago; deadline: September 16- Barack Obama Foundation

Call for entries (deadline reminder): 2016 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition: an architectural pavilion on Governors Island, NYC; registration deadline: September 20 (submissions due September 30)- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

ANN Feature: New Name and New Directions: Boddewyn Gaynor Architects, DPC: Q&A with the firm's principals about the changes they've made, and how they affect the firm's operations and future plans. [images]- ArchNewsNow.com



Colorful Condensations: Mikkel Frost's CEBRA Toons: Can a single drawing sum up the complexity of a sizable built project? ...hand-drawn Toons...amalgamates various drawing techniques into playful architectural sonnets...communicate the insistence on a room for optimism, playfulness, and vigor in contemporary architecture. [images]

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