

Today's News - Thursday, October 22, 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow is a no-newsletter day (post-Heritage Ball and Party@theCenter). We'll be back Monday, October 26.

- Altabe takes Bayley to task for his "rant about Hadid against her ways and wardrobe" and "aggressive behavior" that "not only crosses a line but also suggests a prejudice against female architects" (while giving FLW's "arrogance" a pass).
- Wainwright visits MIPIM to check out Chinese investors' towering luxury plans for London, and finds those who say "It's all about the fun factor," and others who say it's "sickening" and "an insult."
- Piano's towering plan for London "will revamp Paddington" (roof garden included, of course - naysayers abound).
- Huber has a few issues with DS+R's Broad museum that "shines in places, but ultimately suffers by adhering too closely to the strained rhetoric of its architects. A concept as black-and-white as veil/vault proves to be a knot too tight, so inflexible it's self-defeating."
- Freeman cheers NYC's preservation movement, but fears it has "become too conservative, even elitist," making it an easy target for both housing advocates and developers "to portray the preservation community as the enemy of affordable housing. What has brought us to this unhappy impasse?" (a great read for cities everywhere!)
- Cahill says the debate about whether to "rehab or bulldoze" Jahn's Thompson Center "misses the point. Far more important is that we do something great," with "the will and foresight to create Chicago's next great architectural breakthrough" (though he's not very confident that will happen - the city "flubbed" a similar opportunity with Block 37 - "a thoroughly forgettable complex of compromises").
- Kamin, on a brighter note, cheers Chicago's "new burst of place-making" with four recently-dedicated "signature public spaces" (just in time for the Chicago Biennial).
- Jaffe offers a fascinating "annotated, chart-filled look at the scientific evidence" of the health benefits of parks and green space: "Seems the medical community has finally caught up with insights made by the urban landscape community 150 years ago."
- The 2016 Venice Biennale British Pavilion curators will be Bose (yay!), Self, and Williams, who will invite teams to address "Home Economics."
- Davidson reports that Chakrabarti is leaving SHoP to set up his own shop, "instantly making him one of the most formidable rookies in New York" and "a résumé that makes him difficult to pigeonhole" (word is the split was amicable).
- Good news for Australian architects: "The development boom is finally giving architect salaries some joy" with "developers willing to pay more to secure the best design skills."
- Call for entries: Design Corps/Social Economic Environmental Design Network 6th Annual SEED Awards for Excellence in Public Interest Design.
- Weekend diversions:
 - Iovine finds much to like at the Chicago Architecture Biennial that explores "architecture that matters - installations are largely free from the academic navel-gazing," with "just the right proportion of earnest effort to razzle-dazzle."
 - Keskeys cheers Design With Company's Biennial entry that offers "architecture that is dry-witted, sarcastic - snarky, even - the kind that seems to be laughing right back at you" (with pix to prove it!).
 - Wainwright parties with the Eameses at London's Barbican show that offers a look "inside the modernist masters' riotous home" in L.A., "a divine shrine" and "the cradle of their invention, stuffed full of inspirational ephemera, looms large."
 - "Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia" at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis "fully embraces the flower power ethos," and showcase "just how influential this outpouring of counterculture ideas was shaping trends and technology today."
 - Kennicott & Green give thumbs-up to OvS's "The New American Garden" at the National Building Museum in DC.
 - Filler x 2: he can't say enough about "Berlin Metropolis: 1918-1933" at NYC's Neue Galerie: a "thrilling exhibition" that "vividly evokes the creative maelstrom of the Weimar Republic - a cocktail of exactly the right size and intoxicating potency."
 - He gives three thumbs-up's to three new tomes about "America's green giant," Frederick Law Olmsted.
 - Gopnik delves deep into four new tomes about urban America that include the (surprising) history of NYC's grid, and Detroit in the early 1960s, "a kind of hymn to what really was a great city - every page haunts us with the questions What went wrong?"

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Correcting the record about arrogant architects: ...in The Spectator, Stephen Bayley...seemed beside himself with rage not only for Zaha Hadid's architecture...but also for her "aggressive behavior"...his rant...not only crosses a line but also suggests a prejudice against female architects...Everything Bayley objects to about Hadid's arrogance could be said about Frank Lloyd Wright's hubris. Yet...Bayley gave him a pass...Given Wright's sense of self-importance, Bayley ought to cut Hadid some slack. By Joan Altabe - Examiner

"It's an insult": Chinese property developers race to the top of London's skyline: Giant luxury towers (with their own karaoke rooms) to spring up around the city as eastern investors look to Britain. But residents fear deals will force them out..."It's all about the fun factor"... "It's sickening...responsible for the breakup of London's existing communities, and they're not giving nearly enough back"... By Oliver Wainwright -- MIPIM; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Radical Housing Network; HOK [images]- Guardian (UK)

New Renzo Piano tower will revamp Paddington, says developer: At 65 storeys, building will be same height as the Cheesegrater...31 London Street would kickstart its rejuvenation in much the same way the Shard has done at London Bridge...will include apartments, offices, restaurants and a roof garden... [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Double or Nothing: The new Broad museum shines in places, but ultimately suffers by adhering too closely to the strained rhetoric of its architects: No part...is flawed because it fails to conform to the tidy "veil and vault" scheme, to language. But most of what is unsatisfying and clumsy about the museum seems a result of the client and architect's intrigue with that simile...A concept as black-and-white as veil/vault proves to be a knot too tight, so inflexible it's self-defeating. By David Huber -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Unfinished New York: Preservation has evolved from a rarified special interest to an institution...But has it become too conservative, even elitist? ...makes it all too easy for both housing advocates and the Real Estate Board of New York to portray the preservation community as the enemy of affordable housing and, by extension, the common people. What has brought us to this unhappy impasse? By Belmont Freeman [images]- Places Journal

Here's how to redevelop the Thompson Center site: ...a debate has raged over whether to rehab or bulldoze it. This argument misses the point. Far more important is that we do something great...A strong redevelopment would help Chicago reassert its stature as the wellspring of architectural innovation...the circumstances of the proposed sale don't augur well for a thoughtful redevelopment...What's needed isn't an either-or choice...but the will and foresight to create Chicago's next great architectural breakthrough. By Joe Cahill -- Helmut Jahn - Crain's Chicago Business

Making Places: Reclaiming defunct infrastructure, a series of new public paths and parks invite locals and visitors to gather, play, or simply enjoy navigating the city's neighborhoods...a new burst of place-making...[Chicago] recently dedicated four signature public spaces: the Riverwalk...the 606...Maggie Daley Park...and the southern part of Northerly Island. By Blair Kamin -- Sasaki Associates, Ross Barney Architects, and Alfred Benesch; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; SmithGroupJJR; Studio Gang Architects [images]- Architectural Record

The (Pretty Much Totally) Complete Health Case for Urban Nature: An annotated, chart-filled look at the scientific evidence: I'm

not a doctor, but I do sit near one...MD-in-residence James Hamblin is on to something when he writes...about the rising appreciation among physicians for the health benefits of parks and green space...Seems the medical community has finally caught up with insights made by the urban landscape community 150 years ago. By Eric Jaffe [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Team picked for British Pavilion at 2016 Venice Biennale: The British Council has chosen writers Shumi Bose and Jack Self, and architect Finn Williams...Responding to the title "Reporting From The Front" announced by director Alejandro Aravena..."Home Economics" will address the "front line of British architecture: the family home...We will invite a multidisciplinary team of architects, artists, designers and developers to produce immersive 1:1 environments..." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Vishaan Chakrabarti Is Leaving SHoP Architects, Setting Up His Own Shop: ...instantly making him one of the most formidable rookies in New York. This won't be just another scruffy design start-up...A star without a style...a résumé that makes him difficult to pigeonhole. By Justin Davidson -- Partnership for Architecture and Urbanism - New York Magazine

Architects reap pay benefits from high-rise apartment boom: The development boom is finally giving architect salaries some joy...developers willing to pay more to secure the best design skills...salaries of senior architects working on medium- and high-density projects are up 5% on average...almost double the standard 3% pay rise enjoyed by most property professionals. - Australian Financial Review

Call for entries: Design Corps/Social Economic Environmental Design Network 6th Annual SEED Awards for Excellence in Public Interest Design; deadline: November 19- Design Corps / Social, Economic, Environmental Design Network (SEED)

The inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial looks at ways smart design can solve the world's problems: ...inviting a wider array of names simply to explore architecture that matters...a pulse-taking of contemporary architecture as it could be...installations are largely free from the academic navel-gazing and Freudian rematches with postmodernism...just the right proportion of earnest effort to razzle-dazzle. By Julie V. Lovine -- Jeanne Gang; Ultramoderne; Sarah Herda; Joseph Grima; Vo Trong Nghia Architects; Otherothers; Gramazio Kohler Research/MIT Self-Assembly Lab [images]- Wall Street Journal

The Joke's on You: The Brilliant Wit and Bitter Truth Behind Architectural Satire: Is it possible to create architecture that is dry-witted, sarcastic - snarky, even - the kind that seems to be laughing right back at you? The brains behind experimental studio Design With Company are masters of this particular niche...at the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial..."Late Entry to the Chicago Public Library Competition"...If it is possible to create a physical manifestation of satirical comedy, this is surely it. By Paul Keskeys [images]- Architizer

Party with the Eameses! Inside the modernist masters' riotous home: Charlie Chaplin and Billy Wilder used to party with Charles and Ray Eames at their house in Los Angeles - and play guinea pigs to their latest chair designs. Step inside the Eames House, a divine shrine unchanged since their deaths...the cradle of their invention, stuffed full of inspirational ephemera, looms large in "The World of Charles and Ray Eames" [at the Barbican] -- not least in the clever exhibition design by 6a architects... By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

"Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia" - a Look at '60s Radical Design That Impacted Today's World: ...fully embraces the flower power ethos...also makes sure to showcase just how influential this outpouring of counterculture ideas was...shaping trends and technology today...many young architects, unhappy with the status quo and impatient to begin working, started experimenting with new materials and techniques; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis -- Archizoom Associati; Ken Isaacs; Sim Van der Ryn; Haus-Rucker-Co [images]- Curbed

Wild gardens that grew out from Washington: National Building Museum examines the influential work of local landscape architects Oehme and van Sweden...popularized the New American Garden, a loose but luxurious style of landscape design..."The New American Garden"...the largest monographic exhibition the NBM has devoted to landscape architecture, and it bodes well for yet more attention to this often-neglected discipline. By Philip Kennicott -- Oehme, van Sweden OvS- Washinton Post

The Enduring Appeal of Oehme van Sweden's New American Garden: ...exhibition at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. honors this still-evolving approach...Given OvS designed more than 1,000 landscapes since 1975, it's clear how much work went into curation...Sadly...many of OvS's landscapes are under threat..."We need a real strategy for keeping these places around. This exhibition will build awareness..." By Jared Green -- Eric Groft; Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The Rush of Berlin: The thrilling exhibition "Berlin Metropolis: 1918–1933," a heady mix of painting, collage, architecture, photography, film, graphic design, and fashion, vividly evokes the creative maelstrom of the Weimar Republic...at New York's Neue Galerie...also draws on economic history, urban planning, and gender studies...a cocktail of exactly the right size and intoxicating potency. By Martin Filler [images]- New York Review of Books

America's Green Giant: ...Frederick Law Olmsted...the greatest advocate and impresario of the public realm this country has ever produced...was even more important as the veritable inventor of landscape architecture as a modern profession...long-awaited and thoroughly inspiring "Frederick Law Olmsted: Writings on Landscape, Culture, and Society," authoritatively edited by...Charles Beveridge + "Frederick Law Olmsted: Plans and Views of Public Parks" + "The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, Volume IX: The Last Great Projects, 1890–1895" By Martin Filler -- Calvert Vaux- New York Review of Books

Naked Cities: The death and life of urban America: Gerard Koepfel's "City on a Grid" tells the too little-known tale of how and why Manhattan came to be the waffle-board city we know...it twists and turns in our imaginations as much as any winding road + Evan Friss's "The Cycling City: Bicycles & Urban America in the 1890s" + David Maraniss's "Once in a Great City"...account of Detroit in the early sixties, a kind of hymn to what really was a great city...every page haunts us with the questions What went wrong? + D.W. Gibson's "The Edge Becomes the Center: An Oral History of Gentrification in the Twenty-first Century"... By Adam Gopnik- New Yorker

A Filtered View: Buckminster Fuller (Not Al Gore) Invented the Internet: the first in a new series of musings by Charles F. Blozies, FAIA- ArchNewsNow.com



-- SANAA: River building, Grace Farms: Nestled into the rolling landscape...the building begins on a knoll and then flows down the long, gentle slope in a series of bends, forming pond-like spaces on its journey. By Kirsten Kiser
-- Call for student writers for arcSPACE.
-- Santiago Calatrava: ...designs suggest stylized natural objects... By Kirsten Kiser

Some pages may expire after a few days.

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