

Today's News - Tuesday, December 15, 2015

- ArcSpace brings us Kiser's report on Emre Arolat's intriguing mosque in Istanbul, which "is the first time in mosque architecture women can pray in the same row as the men" (with lots of pix!).
- Filler says SANAA's Grace Farms "exhibits far better taste and loftier cultural aspirations than the big-box spiritual supermarkets," and "conveys its elevated aims with a quiet perfectionism and elegant restraint that many will see as divinely inspired."
- Capps considers Parry's 1 Undershaft: it's actually "kind of modest" among the towers in London's "Square-Mile Pantry" (a "luminescent stick of butter," perhaps?). "London has other things to worry about" (like 22 Bishopsgate).
- Budds parses OMA's "mutable behemoth" in Rotterdam: the "pixelated mixed-use structure can morph over time, demonstrating a new paradigm for sustainable urban design."
- Error digs deep into Belgrade's top-down gentrification that's bringing a "little slice of Dubai" to the city's waterfront, and "represents the collective will of a people being trampled by politicians elected to serve them."
- Wright wrangles with details of the aforementioned £2.5 billion Belgrade Waterfront project that "has some locals praising the modernization of their long-troubled city, while others cry foul, aghast at the project's hitherto-alien cityscape, unconvinced of its economic or social benefits" (large rubber ducks included).
- A Dane and two Brits make up the shortlist for the new University of Cincinnati College of Business.
- Hawthorne offers a rather depressing review of architecture in 2015: "the phrase 'soft target,' an architectural phrase if there's ever been one, has come, in all sorts of horrific ways, to define the year."
- Wainwright and Moore offer a bit more cheer (or at least humor) in their reviews of the best of 2015: "From sublime Soviet bus stops" to Assemble's Turner Prize win + "From dumb towers to cool interventions," the gap widened "between the big and brainless and the small and thoughtful."
- A reason for city park advocates everywhere to cheer: A new report crunches the numbers to prove "leafy gathering spots aren't just public amenities but GDP-boosting businesses."
- O'Sullivan offers "the urban planner's guide to a post-COP21 world": "Melbourne's experience represents a coming-of-age of the urban sustainability movement. The private sector is listening to cities and responding."
- The 10 cities honored with C40 Cities Awards and the "mayors who are doing the hard work of taking action on climate change - and delivering results."
- Anderson reports on the recent "Extreme Heat/Hot Cities" symposium: "It left me wondering, 'Gee, why didn't I think of that!'"
- One we couldn't resist: Who knew North Korea's monument-making propaganda unit built "a cheesy museum at Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat temples - in hopes of soaking up coveted tourist dollars."
- Call for entries: International Open Design Competition for a new Aarhus School of Architecture in Denmark + Call for abstracts for 9th Making Cities Liveable Conference in Melbourne next June + 2016 Architectural League Prize: (im)permanence (U.S., Canada, Mexico) + Deadline reminder: 2016 AIA COTE Top Ten and Top Ten + Awards.

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Emre Arolat Architects: Sancaklar Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey: The high walls surrounding the park...depicts a clear boundary between the chaotic outer world, and the serene atmosphere of the public park...Women are separated from the men by a perforated metal screen. This is the first time in mosque architecture women can pray in the same row as the men. By Kirsten Kiser [images]

Faith in Good Taste: Grace Farms, a smaller, upscale version of the evangelical Christian megachurch...exhibits far better taste and loftier cultural aspirations than the big-box spiritual supermarkets...Beyond any quibbles of definition, [it] is an exquisitely realized exercise in integrated architectural and landscape design...conveys its elevated aims with a quiet perfectionism and elegant restraint that many will see as divinely inspired. By Martin Filler -- Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA; Olin - [New York Review of Books](#)

London's Tallest Skyscraper Yet Is Actually Not the Worst: The upcoming 1 Undershaft tower won't look like the Gherkin, the Cheese grater, or the Walkie-Talkie buildings. In fact, it's kind of modest: ...may be just what London needs...Imagine the next building...perhaps a Peppergrinder...maybe a Slotted Spoon to complete the Square-Mile Pantry. This project instead looks like a luminescent stick of butter...Maybe [it] will undercut any comparison. London has other things to worry about - namely 22 Bishopsgate. By Kriston Capps -- Eric Parry Architects [images] - [CityLab](#) (formerly [The Atlantic Cities](#))

Rotterdam's Grand Experiment With Architecture That Mutates Over Time: Can architecture be future-proof? OMA reckons so and has created a mutable behemoth that combines offices, housing, retail, and more: ...new city hall - dubbed the Timmerhuis...pixelated mixed-use structure can morph over time, demonstrating a new paradigm for sustainable urban design...relatively easy to retool. By Diana Budds -- Rem Kooolhouse/Reinier de Graaf/Office for Metropolitan Architecture [images] - [Fast Company](#) / [Co.Design](#)

Belgrade's 'top-down' gentrification is far worse than any cereal cafe: The little slice of Dubai that is the elitist Belgrade Waterfront development has united a strong protest movement - against a foe that really deserves it: ...the battle being fought for Savamala isn't simply a class struggle, it's a conflict of values...represents the collective will of a people being trampled by politicians elected to serve them. By Aleks Error - [Guardian](#) (UK)

Belgrade Waterfront: an unlikely place for Gulf petrodollars to settle: A plan to pour £2.5bn into an exclusive waterside development has some locals praising the modernisation of their long-troubled city, while others cry foul...aghast at the project's hitherto-alien cityscape, unconvinced of its economic or social benefits...the city has actually been wanting to do something like this for a long time. By Herbert Wright -- Daniel Libeskind/Jan Gehl (2009); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images] - [Guardian](#) (UK)

University of Cincinnati names design architect finalists for \$135M College of Business: ...expected to be between 250,000 and 275,000 square feet... -- Henning Larsen Architects; Foster + Partners Architects; Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios International - [Cincinnati Business Courier](#)

For architecture in 2015, the world's 'soft targets' prompt a reevaluation: ...the phrase "soft target," an architectural phrase if there's ever been one, has come, in all sorts of horrific ways, to define the year...pictures showed a different, more tragically mundane kind of architecture...the kind of place that...that this time last year we might have walked by, or into, without a second thought. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Renzo Piano; Snohetta; David Adjaye/Philip G. Freelon; Assemble; Sarah Herda; Joseph Grima - [Los Angeles Times](#)

Oliver Wainwright's top 10 architecture of 2015: From sublime Soviet bus stops to the Liverpool terrace that won the Turner Prize...design and architecture highlights -- Assemble; OMA; FAT & Grayson Perry; Architecture 00; Skene Catling de la Peña; Christopher Herwig; Tim Ronalds; SANAA;etc. [w/links to original reviews]- Guardian (UK)

Rowan Moore: the best architecture of 2015: From dumb towers to cool interventions, 2015 saw the gap widen between the big and brainless and the small and thoughtful + Top 5 in Britain -- Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partner; OMA; MUMA; Caruso St John; FAT/ Grayson Perry; Ash Sakula; Sergison Bates- Observer (UK)

\$140 Billion Reasons Your City Park Is Just Like Disneyland: ...unlike amusement parks and their "attractions industry" ilk, city and regional parks aren't usually measured by the jobs they create or goods they consume. With "The Economic Impact of Local Parks," the NRPA [National Recreation and Parks Association] hopes to change that, reminding readers that the leafy gathering spots aren't just public amenities but GDP-boosting businesses.- Next City (formerly Next American City)

The Urban Planner's Guide to a Post-COP21 World: Why buses, mayors, city budgets and density matter now more than ever: In many ways, Melbourne's experience represents a coming-of-age of the urban sustainability movement. The private sector is listening to cities and responding. By Feargus O'Sullivan -- Compact of Mayors - Next City (formerly Next American City)

10 Cities Win Sustainable Development Award: ...honored at the C40 Cities Awards ceremony in Paris, amid the COP21 climate talks..."recognizes mayors who are doing the hard work of taking action on climate change - and delivering results." -- Boston; Cape Town; Johannesburg; Nanjing; New York City; Rotterdam; Stockholm; Vancouver; Wuhan- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Beat The Extreme Heat: The urban heat island effect (UHIE) at the city-scale is something we are already all too familiar with...there is actually a great deal that can be done...[at] "Extreme Heat/Hot Cities: Adapting to a Hotter World"...range of ideas to raise "the capacity of design professionals to mitigate, adapt, and recover rapidly from disasters"...It's exciting to think of neighborhood UHIE projects as living labs that can be scaled-up...to an entire city and then emulated by other cities. By Nancy Anderson -- Ilya Azaroff; AIANY Design for Risk & Reconstruction Committee- The Sallan Foundation

North Korea now runs a cheesy museum at Cambodia's famed Angkor Wat temples: Angkor Panorama Museum...will use artwork to showcase an idyllic version of life in the ancient Khmer kingdom - all in hopes of soaking up coveted tourist dollars...might be the most ambitious foreign project yet from Mansudae Art Studio, North Korea's monument-making propaganda unit, but it's hardly the first.- GlobalPost

Call for entries: NEW AARCH International Open Design Competition for the New Aarhus School of Architecture, Denmark; deadline: February 1, 2016- Aarhus School of Architecture (Denmark)

Call for entries: Call for abstracts: 9th Making Cities Liveable Conference: "Generating a mood for change"; Melbourne, Australia, June 27-28, 2016  
deadline: February 29, 2016- Healthy Cities

Call for Entries: 2016 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers: (im)permanence; open to full-time residents, who need not be citizens, of the U.S., Canada, or Mexico 10 years or less out of undergraduate or graduate school; deadline: February 17, 2016- Architectural League of New York

Call for entries (deadline reminder): 2016 AIA COTE Top Ten and Top Ten + Awards: celebrates the most sustainable buildings designed by architects licensed in the U.S.; deadline: January 19, 2016- AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE)

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