Today's News - Wednesday, December 16, 2015

- A tortured heap of towers: the London skyline of tomorrow: The ley lines, the hallowed dome of St Paul's, packs of hungry dogs - and a tipsy surveyor in the 1930s ... these are the invisible forces shaping the City's skyline. Besides blocking the sky, there will be consequences on the ground. By Oliver Wainwright and Monica Ulmanu 

- Zaha Hadid makes the case for "crunchy architecture": "It is the opposite of the kind of slick, bland, and anonymous forms in which most of us are imprisoned every day." (sounds very Assemble-ish to us.)

- In Downtown Revitalization, Equity Can Equal Authenticity: Elected officials...are the target audience of "ReBuilding Downtown: A Guidebook for Revitalization," released by Smart Growth America...equitable development still isn't guaranteed in denser, more walkable downtowns, but it's got a better chance if elected officials make it an explicit part of their vision and goals...it ends the same way it begins - with community engagement. By Oscar Perry Abello - Next City (formerly Next American City)

- Turner Prize: A poisoned chalice for Assemble?: Architecture's frenzied courtship with art has finally reached fruition, but...this relationship may already have done more harm than good..."achievements should not be hijacked or overhyped, either as radical innovation we can bring to the designed environment." By John Jervis

- The Promise of Radical Innovation in Sustainable Design: The recent climate summit in Paris talked a big game for energy reduction in the built environment, but critics say it's time for action. Here's where the AEC sector stands: ...two audacious targets for sustainable design, which set absolute goals for energy and materials in holistic terms, are just the beginning of the radical innovation we can bring to the designed environment. By Blaine Brownell- Architect Magazine

- Fear and Public Space; Can LA Be Water Self-Sufficient? Recent shootings in Paris, Colorado and San Bernardino have added to growing jitters about public gathering. Will this impact the design of civic space? Do architecture, planning and technology have a role to play in accommodating these fears? + El Nino is coming but will we save the rain? By Frances Anderton and Avishash Artsy -- Susan Silberberg/Civic Moxie/MIT; Wade Graham/Pepperdine University; Doug Suisman [audio] - KCIRW (Los Angeles)

- Orange Coast College expansion threatens designs by Neutra, Alexander, and Eckbo: The future's looking grim for a dozen buildings...designed by Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander...trustees approved a plan for the demolition of several structures...including Neutra's planetarium...scheme would also destroy a historic landscape design by Garrett Eckbo... By Mimi Zeiger - The Architect's Newspaper
Plans to Erase Pershing Park Encounter Roadblocks: Designs for a new World War I memorial received tepid (at best) receptions from the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission...None of the members expressed support for any of the designs; to the contrary, comments from CFA members ranged from disappointment to outright rebuke..."Sometimes juries shouldn't pick anybody"... -- M. Paul Friedberg; Oehme, van Sweden & Associates - The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

Richard Johnson's Martin Place memorial design chosen: ...inspired by the mounds of flowers that were left by the public in the days following the siege, and also accommodates Martin Place's function as a busy pedestrian thoroughfare. "Hundreds of floral cubes will be inlaid into the granite pavings...in a scattered starburst pattern. At night they will shine with specialized lighting." -- Pitton Johnson Walker [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Design for Atlantic Yards Tower School Unveiled: As work begins on a sixth residential tower at the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park complex, locals are getting a first glimpse of the 26-story building and the public school...[at] 664 Pacific Street...known as tower "B15"...Five other buildings under construction or set to be built... -- Marvel Architects; COOKFOX; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); SHoP Architects [image]- DNAinfo New York

New Georgia State University College of Law Building Encourages Interaction: ...the university's first facility to achieve LEED certification. -- Stevens & Wilkinson; SmithGroupJJR [images]- Facility Executive

Dirk Lohan's firm closing; he and staff to join Wight & Co.: Lohan and his partner, Floyd Anderson, will head a list of 10 people from their eponymous firm...[He] will lead a new section of the firm called the Lohan Studio. By Blair Kamin -- Lohan Anderson-Chicago Tribune

The 10 Best Buildings of 2015: From Heatherwick Studio's campus hub shaped like a stack of dim sum baskets to Herzog & deMeuron's all-white soccer stadium in Bordeaux, it's been a good year for every building typology. -- OMA; Jakob + Macfarlane; MASS Design Group; UNStudio; Rafael Viñoly Architects; Snøhetta/Zeidler Partnership Architects; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Renzo Piano Building Workshop [images]- Azure magazine (Canada)

The 10 Best Cultural Buildings of 2015: Museums and galleries bring out the best in ambitious architects. -- Renzo Piano; Pattersons; David Adjaye; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Toshiko Mori; Studio Odile Decq/Hassell; OMA; Baukuh; Zaha Hadid; Périphériques Architectes [images]- Azure magazine (Canada)

Call for entries: Charlie Hebdo Portable Pavilion: will enable exhibitions on the importance of free speech to travel the world; cash prizes; early bird registration deadline: January 13; final registration: March 9 (submissions due: March 23) - Bee Breeders (formerly HMMD/Homemade Dessert)


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]