

Today's News - Wednesday, February 17, 2016

- Hawthorne sees DS+R's Berkeley Art Museum as "a study in extremes" that "tries to make bedfellows of austerity and daring. There is the strong sense that the architects are keeping one eye on their reputation for unorthodox thinking and the other on the bottom line."
- Kamin explains the bind Chicago finds itself in re: a site for the Lucas Museum: the mayor "should reconsider the dozens of sites that wound up in the reject pile - as well as the criteria that landed them there" (or risk George taking his museum elsewhere).
- Raskin revels in Beyer Blinder Belle's restoration of the Met Breuer: "A challenge for any architect dealing with a masterpiece is knowing what not to do as much as what to do," sayeth Beyer.
- Fisher digs into the weeds re: how to bring wildlife back to urban environments: "we now know that it helps settle the brains of those otherwise enmeshed in asphalt, glass and concrete. There are some encouraging signs that developers "get it.""
- Loth cheers Boston's new artist-in-residence program that "will embed local artists inside city departments to promote creative thinking about municipal government - a low-risk experiment in renewing the banal but crucial business of delivering city services."
- For anyone looking for data to prove that the arts and culture contribute to the economy, there is now some seriously in-depth analysis (thanks to the federal government).
- Sisson offers eye-fuls of some amazing modern Iranian architecture which, hopefully (like Cuba), will soon be easier to explore.
- Gunts reports on the continuing saga of Williams and Tsien's concrete beach pavilion in New Jersey that is "the third endangered building in three years" for TWBTA.
- An interesting look at how marijuana dispensaries "no longer look like your grandmother's head shop" - they "seem to resemble either a dentist's office or a swanky tobacconist."
- Keegan reports that Maddox, the design maven who coined the term "branded environments," is retiring from Perkins+Will: "I don't know what's next, but there is next."
- Cheers to the five winners of the 63rd Annual Progressive Architecture Awards (great presentations!).
- Call for entries: UIA-HYP Cup 2016 International Student Competition (cash prizes, no fee!).
- Three(!) we couldn't resist (time to buy a lottery ticket!): Michelangelo's Tuscan villa could be ours for \$8.4 million (sigh) + For a mere \$3 million, FLW's George Sturges residence in Los Angeles is up for grabs (Lautner touches an added bonus).
- For Corbu-haters everywhere: a new online game lets you deface Villa Savoye (cats and sound effects included).

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[The new Berkeley Art Museum is a study in extremes: How many arranged marriages can one piece of architecture handle? ...it tries to make bedfellows of austerity and daring...There is the strong sense that the architects are keeping one eye on their reputation for unorthodox thinking and the other on the bottom line - content not so much to compromise as to weigh their battles and pick their spots. By Christopher Hawthorne -- BAMPPFA; Mario Ciampi \(1970\); Toyo Ito; Diller Scofidio + Renfro \[images\] - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Chicago in a bind on sites for George Lucas' museum: ...if luring the museum to Chicago was a coup, losing it would be a blow...Emanuel should reconsider the dozens of sites that wound up in the reject pile - as well as the criteria that landed them there. Otherwise, Lucas may have to let Chicago down... By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune](#)

[The Met Breuer Brings Modern and Contemporary Art to Whitney's Old Home: On March 18, when the Metropolitan Museum of Art opens an annex...it will be attempting to shrug off the ghost of a museum past...Beyer Blinder Belle is restoring the museum in keeping with Marcel Breuer's original vision..."A challenge for any architect dealing with a masterpiece is knowing what not to do as much as what to do." By Laura Raskin - Architectural Record](#)

[Concrete jungle? We'll have to do more than plant trees to bring wildlife back to our cities: ...the take-up of greening...is becoming mainstream in city halls around the world. And we now know that it helps settle the brains of those otherwise enmeshed in asphalt, glass and concrete. There are some encouraging signs that developers "get it"... By Peter Fisher/RMIT University - The Conversation \(Australia\)](#)

[Using art as city problem solver: ...Boston's new artist-in-residence program...will embed local artists inside city departments to promote creative thinking about municipal government...new approaches to jolt the city bureaucracy out of its inevitable ruts...a low-risk experiment in renewing the banal but crucial business of delivering city services. By Renée Loth - Boston Globe](#)

[Arts and Cultural Production Contributed \\$704.2 Billion to the U.S. Economy in 2013: Today's creative economy gets a big boost from the arts, according to new data...The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account \(ACPSA\) is the first federal effort to provide in-depth analysis of the arts and cultural sector's contributions to the economy. - National Endowment for the Arts \(NEA\)](#)

[Iranian Modern Architecture: An Introduction to Incredible Buildings: ...Iran has a lot to offer that, like Cuba, has been nearly impossible to reach for many until recently...includes...stunning Modernist structures \[and\] a new generation of contemporary designs and styles. By Patrick Sisson -- Hossein Amanat; Heydar Ghiaï; Ali Sardar Afkham; Houshang Seyhoun; Kamran Diba; Alireza Taghaboni/Nextoffice; Seyed Hadi Mirmiran; Leila Araghian; Narges Nassiri-Toosi \[images\] - Curbed](#)

[Uncommon Core: A Proposed Skyscraper Rethinks Tower Design: A new proposal for a city in the Pearl River Delta...Nexus Building...offers a slightly askew take on floorplates and function...would form the centerpiece for a larger development...While it's still in the preliminary phases...there's a lot to consider with this proposal, including a different slant on supertalls. -- PLP Architecture \[images\] - Curbed](#)

[Society of Architectural Historians Plots a Future for the Charnley-Persky House: Harboe Architects will develop a conservation management plan for the building, which celebrates the 125th anniversary of its design this year. -- Louis Sullivan/Frank Lloyd Wright/Adler & Sullivan \(1892\); John Vinci \(1970s\); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/SOM \(1986\) \[images\] - Architect Magazine](#)

[Shorehenge: Another public building by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects could be headed for the wrecking ball: ...the third endangered building in three years for TWBTA...a beach pavilion in Highlands, New Jersey, which opened last fall and is dedicated to the survivors of Hurricane Sandy. By Ed Gunts \[image\] - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Different Tokes for Different Folks: Ganja at the Gap? As legalized marijuana sweeps across the nation, dispensaries step up their game: ...most dispensaries no longer look like your grandmother's head shop...seem to resemble either a dentist's office or a swanky tobacconist...Even the packaging is a far cry from the dime bag. -- Tanagram Design \[images\] - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Eva Maddox Retires from Perkins+Will: The Chicago-based designer...coined the term "branded environments"...will continue to work with Perkins+Will on special projects, but will devote most of her time to other pursuits. "I don't know what's next, but there is next." By Edward Keegan - Contract magazine](#)

63rd Annual Progressive Architecture Awards: The 2016 edition of the P/A Awards honors five projects that vary widely in typology and scale. -- SO-IL; Morphosis Architects; 64North; Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism; REX [images]- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: UIA-HYP Cup 2016 International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation - Concept and Notation": design a hotel, museum, library, clinic or cemetery which can foster and encourage new modes of living unknown today; no fee; cash prizes; registration deadline: July 31 (submissions due August 31)- Tianjin University School of Architecture / Urban Environment Design (UED) Magazine (China) / International Union of Architects (UIA)

Michelangelo's Tuscan Villa Could Be Yours for \$8.4 Million: It's curious that no millionaire has jumped on this opportunity yet, as the property seems pretty sexy - and \$8 million doesn't seem terribly outlandish for bragging rights to owning the former home of one of the Renaissance's most famous artists, right? [images]- Hyperallergic

California Dreamin': Frank Lloyd Wright house to be auctioned: The George Sturges residence in Los Angeles is a rare modernist gem...predicted to fetch £2 million [\$3 million] at auction: As an added architectural bonus, John Lautner...was FLW's assistant on the house. [images]- Telegraph (UK)

This online game gives you the chance to deface Corbu's iconic Villa Savoye: Modernism made you mad? One remedy might be smashing your Lego model...If you don't have such a model handy, there's now a virtual solution to defacing Corbu with an online game called Le Petit Architecte. - The Architect's Newspaper



Álvaro Siza: Auditorium Theatre, Barcelona, Spain: ...located northeast of the urban fabric of the town of Llinars del Valles...The complex is part of a larger plan for the adjacent public land... By Kirsten Kiser [images]

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