

Today's News - Wednesday, March 9, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us the fascinating tale of Lisbon's Teatro Thalia, which, after sitting as a veritable ruin for over 150 years, has been brought back to life by architects using "a toolkit equal parts archaeologist and plastic surgeon."
- Jacobs' take on Calatrava's "magnificent invention" - his WTC transit hub: "I have never seen anything quite like it. The audacity of the thing," but could that \$4 billion have been better spent elsewhere (with an excellent parsing of Penn Station plans).
- Quirk sees the Met Breuer as "less harsh, more handsome," and "finally being embraced - both by the city and its latest inhabitants."
- Kennedy cheers H&deMPBDW bringing back Tiffany's Park Avenue Armory Veterans Room's "beyond-words fantasia - in all its historical swagger" (fab photos).
- Bevan has high hopes for London's Olympicopolis, "an ugly name for a beautiful idea - as long as the architects' vision is not compromised" + Eyefuls of the Olympicopolis.
- Australian architects launch the Architects Outback program to make their services "more accessible and economical" to communities that don't have local firms at hand.
- Gould takes issue with "headlines covering Rural Studio's 20K Project," and "why clickbait is bad for affordable housing."
- Results of the AIA Diversity in the Profession of Architecture survey are not all that surprising: "Inequality still a serious issue."
- Hagberg Fisher gives us a most-needed dose of good humor with a letter to parents of architecture students, along with the "Phases of Architectural Education. Architecture school is a peculiar beast" (your must-read of the day even if you aren't a parent!).
- Porter makes a powerful case that "power plants needn't be ugly - as society quickly transitions to better sources of energy, designers are embracing the opportunity to reflect and celebrate the change."
- Manaugh delves into the future of glues holding buildings together: it "may sound precarious, but they are lighter, stronger, and cheaper. Of course, there are down sides."
- Haas offers a poetic profile of Scarpa: "His architecture was an antidote to the era's brazen showiness - the compact but powerful body of work he left behind remains as striking in its subversive simplicity as when he first made it."
- Nelson outlines Urban Consulate, a new initiative for cities to learn from one another - launching this spring in Detroit, Philadelphia, and New Orleans.
- Grimshaw/Now Architects and team win Korea's "unplugged horse utopia" park competition (a.k.a. Lets Run Park Yeongcheon).
- Williams and Hernandez win the PXSTL Design-Build Competition to create a temporary venue for downtown St. Louis.
- SMJ's Meadows Prize goes to Kroeber's conference and show "New Cities, Future Ruins."
- Balmond takes home the UVA's Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture.
- Call for entries: two competitions to design two University College London campuses as part of the Olympicopolis education and cultural district + 4th Annual CODAAwards to recognize the most successful integration of art into interior, architectural, and public spaces.

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Gonçalo Byrne Arquitectos/Barbes Lopes Arquitectos: Teatro Thalia, Lisbon, Portugal: Known for its wild parties and luxurious interiors...enjoyed a short life before falling victim to fire in 1862. The remains stood for over 150 years...writing the next chapter in [its] history was no easy feat...the architect must develop a toolkit equal parts archaeologist and plastic surgeon. By Henry Stephens [images]

Santiago Calatrava's Transportation Hub Finally Takes Flight: Does the World Trade Center station live up to its \$4 billion price tag? And would some of that money been better spent elsewhere? (Hint: Penn Station.): ...Calatrava's magnificent invention...I have seen...renderings a thousand times, but visiting the Oculus for the first time, it occurs to me that I also have never seen anything quite like it. The audacity of the thing...will surely win over many detractors. It is, in every sense of the word, an icon. By Karrie Jacobs -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images]- Architect Magazine

Less Harsh, More Handsome: Breuer's Whitney Gets a "Modest" Renovation: ...is the Met Breuer...more "finished" today than ever before? ...has reached a point in its history when it is, finally, being embraced - both by the city and its latest inhabitants... By Vanessa Quirk -- Marcel Breuer (1966); Beyer Blinder Belle [images]- Metropolis Magazine

The Gilded Age Glows Again at the Park Avenue Armory's Veterans Room: The opulence of the room was concealed beneath bad repairs, inadequate lighting and a patina of cigar smoke...reopens to the public in all its historical swagger... By Randy Kennedy -- Louis Comfort Tiffany, Stanford White, Candace Wheeler and Samuel Colman (1881); Herzog & de Meuron; Platt Byard Dovell White [images]- New York Times

Olympicopolis architects on their £1.3 billion vision for E20: ...will see outposts of the V&A, Sadler's Wells and Washington DC's Smithsonian line up alongside new university campuses: Olympicopolis is an ugly name for a beautiful idea...at the south end of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park...All very promising - as long as the architects' vision is not compromised. By Robert Bevan -- O'Donnell & Tuomey; Allies & Morrison- Evening Standard (UK)

Architects release pictures of Olympicopolis: ...site next to Zaha Hadid's Aquatics Centre will be home to two residential towers of 30 or 40 storeys as well as a raft of cultural and educational institutions. -- Allies & Morrison; O'Donnell & Tuomey; Architecturia; Gustafson Porter; Buro Happold; Gardiner & Theobald [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Architects on tour: Architects Outback program advocates for the profession in NSW country towns: ...aims to make the services of an architect more accessible and economical...in outback and regional towns and communities that currently don't have access to the services of permanent architects. -- Cameron Anderson Architects - Architecture & Design (Australia)

No Such Thing as Bad Publicity? Why Clickbait's Bad for Affordable Housing: The headlines covering Rural Studio's 20K Project suggest the project is revolutionizing affordable housing for the masses, but ignore the vital differences between student work and building in the real world...I reached out to two prominent designers in the design-build world to get their opinions. By Kira Gould -- Jordan Pollard/DRIFT Design Build; Rusty Smith/Rural Studio- Metropolis Magazine

Inequality still a serious issue in US architecture, say female architects: Women are being driven out or held back from careers in architecture by long hours, childcare, unequal pay and the likelihood of being passed over for promotion...according to the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Diversity in the Profession of Architecture survey.- Dezeen

A Letter to Prospective Architecture School Parents: Is your child suddenly wearing angular clothes and pretending to need

glasses...started rejecting your Frank Lloyd Wright photo books...Rest assured, these are phases that will pass. I would like to offer you the Phases of Architectural Education, so that you may feel calmer...Architecture school is a peculiar beast. By Eva Hagberg Fisher- [Common Edge](#)

Power plants needn't be ugly - let's make them green and beautiful: The quest to find an appropriate aesthetic when designing novel infrastructure is not new...Recent examples of well considered and multifunctional energy landscapes do exist...as society quickly transitions to better sources of energy, designers are embracing the opportunity to reflect and celebrate the change. By Nicole Porter -- Basil Spence; Sylvia Crowe; LDA Design; Juice Architects [images]- [The Conversation US](#)

Skyscrapers of the future will be held together with glue: Buildings stuck together with adhesives - rather than bolts and screws - may sound precarious, but they are lighter, stronger and cheaper: But composites are not well understood in the building industry...Despite being niche for the time being, there are already successful building projects that use these techniques...Of course, there are down sides. By Geoff Manaugh- [New Scientist](#)

Italy's Lost Modernist Master: With subtle touches and elegant lines, Carlo Scarpa built his own legacy of modern design: While other Modernists jettisoned the past, his work...venerated and transformed it. His architecture was an antidote to the era's brazen showiness...Nearly 40 years after his death, the compact but powerful body of work he left behind...remains as striking in its subversive simplicity as when he first made it. By Nncy Haas [images]- [New York Times T Magazine](#)

We, the people, of the United Cities of America: We urban folk are more alike than we are different, and might benefit from listening and learning more from one another. That's the conversation we look forward to hosting at the Urban Consulate, a new experiment launching this spring in Detroit, Philadelphia, and New Orleans. By Claire Nelson- [Model D \(Detroit\)](#)

Winners of Korea's "unplugged horse utopia" park competition announced: ...Lets Run Park Yeongcheon...to promote the image of horse racing and serve as an "exemplary model for theme park development"... -- Grimshaw Architects/Now Architects/Groupfan Associates; Dongsimwon Landscape Design/Wilmotte & Associés SAS d'Architecture/PRAUD/Supermass Studio; Designcamp MoonPark dmp/Studio m.o.b Architect [images]- [ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

Amanda Williams and Andres L. Hernandez Win PXSTL Design-Build Competition: The Pulitzer Arts Foundation and Washington University's Sam Fox School are commissioning the designers to create a temporary venue for downtown St. Louis...graduate students will help to implement the winning design and encourage community engagement. - [Architect Magazine](#)

SMU's Meadows Prize Cut To A Single, \$35,000 Award: And this year, it goes to a conference and show about America's 'future ruins': ..."New Cities, Future Ruins" created by the independent curator Gavin Kroeber. -- [Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts - Art&Seek / KERA, North Texas Public Broadcasting](#)

Cecil Balmond, Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture: ...widely considered to be one of the most significant creators of his generation. An internationally renowned artist, architect, writer and engineer, Balmond transcends the conventional boundaries of discipline. -- [Arup; Balmond Studio- UVA Today \(University of Virginia\)](#)

Call for entries: Major contests launched by UCL [University College London] for Olympic park campus: The two schemes are the first phase of UCL's masterplan – drawn up by LDA Design with Nicholas Hare Architects and Studio Weave – for a new campus on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park...Dubbed UCL East...part of the mayor's proposed 'Olympicopolis' education and cultural district in Stratford; deadline: March 30- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Call for entries: 4th Annual CODAAwards (international): recognize the most successful integration of art into interior, architectural, and public spaces; earlybird deadline (save money!): March 31 (submissions due May 31)- CODA: Collaboration of Design + Art

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