

Today's News - Tuesday, March 22, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us Kiser's take on WHY's Speed Art Museum in Louisville: "The primary concept of the re-design is 'Acupuncture Architecture.'"
- Stamp so didn't want to like Calatrava's WTC transit hub for being "a debacle of extraordinary scale - it had earned my derision. But I repented - at least for the moment."
- MAS's Pollara says the transit hub "serves as a reminder of what great architecture delivers to the people it serves - let's not allow the inevitable construction delays to obscure what has been achieved."
- Otero-Pailos ponders "why the Met Breuer matters" (and why institutions are "a bit like hermit crabs").
- Sayer takes a walk down memory lane with "a look at what so nearly could have been" for the Met Breuer, and its "colorful past, fending off near misses" (had Graves, Koolhaas, or Piano had their way).
- Self minces no words about Heatherwick's Garden Bridge across the Thames, "a project at once grand and fluffy" - the "pseudo-public space" is the "flagship for a new corporatist capital."
- Schumacher parses the criticism and compliments (mostly from architects) for the new Milwaukee Bucks arena: "any work of dramatic architecture rarely happens without backlash" (likened to "the sweeping hairstyle of a particular presidential candidate").
- Saffron x 2: her take on "a risky gamble to manage gentrification in North Philadelphia. If this sounds a little like the failed, old-style urban renewal in new clothes, well, it is."
- She parses SHoP's Schuylkill Yards, Philly's newest innovation district: the "renderings are dazzling, inspiring even, but how many of those glittering skyscrapers have the slightest chance of being realized? Not many."
- Zeiger makes the case for L.A. to embrace tiny houses that "could be part of a system that supports rather than criminalizes" the homeless: "L.A. can't afford to dismiss any inventive approach, no matter how small" (they're working elsewhere).
- London's colorful, new pop-up village to house homeless families can be picked up and moved: "Our only constraint is the volume you can get on the back of a truck."
- Sydney may be ripping up bike lanes and trying "to penalize cyclists into non-existence," but Melbourne plans to do just the opposite.
- Bates Smart takes over designing Sydney's Aspire Tower: it "will change dramatically in appearance" from Grimshaw's original design.
- Ingels gets the "60 Minutes" treatment: Safer says his "designs can be inventive, can be provocative and are anything but boring" (even Kimmelman weighs in).
- A look at BIG's "fantastical" redesign of 2 Penn Plaza: "however odd it may appear at first glance, there's no denying that pretty much anything is better" than what's there.
- Budds talks to Ma Yansong, and wonders if American cities will "learn to love China's best homegrown architect."
- One we couldn't resist: Johnson considers alternate futures for Chicago's "one-time parcel palace" (a.k.a. Old Main Post Office): "#5. Year-round haunted house. #6. Officially Designated Hulking Architectural Relic. The beauty of this plan is that it has already been achieved."
- Carnegie Mellon's UDream program for young minority architects and urban planners is drawing a cadre of talent to settle and work in Pittsburgh to "help build bridges to minority neighborhoods, which have suffered through short-sighted urban planning decisions."
- Q&A with Bloodworth Botop re: the AIA's National Resilience Initiative and the "goals for its six regional, university-based design studios."
- Haarhoff considers the role of urban design, and whether it "now exists as an independent discipline" in both education and place-shaping.
- Eye-fuls of the five Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize finalists.

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[WHY Architecture: Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky: The primary concept of the Speed's re-design is "Acupuncture Architecture," a blend of careful and precise interventions... By Kirsten Kiser -- Kulapat Yantrasast; K. Norman Berry Associates Architects \[images\]](#)

[New York's Oculus transit hub soars, but it's a phoenix with a price tag: Gleaming and ambitious, Santiago Calatrava's newly opened World Trade Center transportation hub is a symbol of optimism, but the project is beset by flaws: ...a debacle of extraordinary scale...it had earned my derision. But...I, like Jonah in the whale, repented - at least for the moment. By Jimmy Stamp \[images\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[New transit hub a fiasco? The crowds say otherwise: Santiago Calatrava's Oculus will become known for its magnificence, not its price tag: ...serves as a reminder of what great architecture delivers to the people it serves...let's not allow the inevitable construction delays to obscure what has been achieved...Great public architecture is great public wealth. And it is hard to assign a price to that kind of asset. By Gina Pollara/Municipal Art Society of New York- Crain's New York Business](#)

[Why the Met Breuer Matters: ...how architects leave their mark, and preservation for the future: A bit like hermit crabs, institutions change buildings as they evolve...the Met Breuer is interesting because it invites us to look at the buildings that institutions leave behind and ask questions about their continued relevance within the cultural life of the city. By Jorge Otero-Pailos -- Beyer Blinder Belle- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[How Graves, Koolhaas, and Piano would have altered Marcel Breuer's iconic Madison Avenue museum: ...Met Breuer...has a colourful past, fending off near misses...a look at what so nearly could have been. By Jason Sayer \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[The slick new ad for the Garden Bridge says it's paradise. Well, it could be: There are ways out of the freeze-drying of London for profit. But another pseudo-public space isn't one of them: ...the bridge is a project at once grand and fluffy - and so appeals to our political class, with their delight in style over substance...the flagship for a new corporatist capital. By Will Self -- Thomas Heatherwick- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Waves of criticism, compliments hit design for new Milwaukee Bucks arena: The much-anticipated design...not surprisingly generated a wave of comments, with critics likening it to a giant taco, a beer barrel and the sweeping hairstyle of a particular presidential candidate...any work of dramatic architecture rarely happens without backlash. By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Populous; Eppstein Uhen Architects \[images\]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

[A risky gamble to manage gentrification in North Philadelphia: One by one, the totems of poverty...have been disappearing...if this sounds a little like the failed, old-style urban renewal in new clothes, well, it is...Some redevelopment specialists worry about the housing authority's ability to take on a job that isn't just about housing...\[it\] knows nothing about commercial redevelopment, urban design, placemaking, or preservation - all skills essential to the revival of any shattered neighborhood. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

Making sense of Philadelphia's many innovation districts: The futuristic landscapes portrayed in...renderings are dazzling, inspiring even, but how many of those glittering skyscrapers have the slightest chance of being realized in glass and steel? Not many...Pennovation and uCitySquare probably have a head start on wooing tenants for their districts, but Schuylkill Yards may have the edge when it comes to location. By Inga Saffron -- William Sharples/SHoP Architects; Adriaan Geuze/West 8 [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Op-Ed: A tiny roof over one's head is better than none: In the face of an unabating housing crisis, tiny houses could be part of a system that supports rather than criminalizes those who fall into homelessness...could be just one component of an arsenal of housing solutions...In a city so squeezed by rising rents and the dearth of affordable units, L.A. can't afford to dismiss any inventive approach, no matter how small. By Mimi Zeiger- Los Angeles Times

Pop-up village in south-east London to house homeless families: Place/Ladywell temporary homes project is Lewisham council's solution to housing people in B&Bs: ...to provide 24 homes and 880 sq m of business space that can be picked up and moved at a later date..."Our only constraint is the volume you can get on the back of a truck..." -- Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners [images]- Guardian (UK)

On yer bike: Melbourne's plan to boost cycling numbers: While Sydney rips up bike lanes and attempts to penalise cyclists into non-existence, Melbourne is embracing the benefits of the travel mode, and plans to boost numbers in the city to 25% of morning peak traffic by 2020. - The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Aspire Tower Sources New Architect After Grimshaw's Ousting: ...will change dramatically in appearance following the selection of a replacement architect for western Sydney's proposed landmark skyscraper. -- Bates Smart- Sourceable

"Starchitect" Bjarke Ingels' billion-dollar designs: He's young, Danish and the current star of the world's architectural scene, handling over 60 major projects including the Googleplex and Two World Trade Center: ...young Mister Ingels' designs can be inventive, can be provocative and are anything but boring...From the beginning, he set out to disrupt modern architecture's tyranny of what he calls the formulaic, boring box. By Morley Safer -- Michael Kimmelman- CBS News 60 Minutes

Bjarke Ingels Unveils Concept For Fantastical Redesign of 2 Penn Plaza: True to Ingels's penchant for quirky designs, a set of panels would fan out from the tower itself in an undulating pattern...however odd it may appear at first glance, there's no denying that pretty much anything is better than the current Penn Plaza configuration. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels [images]- Curbed New York

One Chinese Architect's Quest To Easternize American Cities: Will American cities learn to love China's best homegrown architect? Ready or not, here he comes: Is the West ready for an influx of Eastern philosophy? Ma Yansong offers compelling reasons why..."I respect the modern and then I transform it." By Diana Budds -- MAD Architects [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Lucas Museum or world's largest Costco? New plans for the Old Main Post Office: Six better redevelopment ideas...than a high-velocity car wash: 5. Year-round haunted house...6. Officially Designated Hulking Architectural Relic. The beauty of this plan is that it has already been achieved and is likely to remain in place for many years to come. By Steve Johnson- Chicago Tribune

Dream On: Carnegie Mellon University's UDream program is a magnet that draws young minority architects and urban planners from around the country to settle and work in Pittsburgh: Increasing the diversity of architects and builders is not just a good business idea...but a moral one. Training such a cadre can help to build bridges to minority neighborhoods, which have suffered through short-sighted urban planning decisions...- Pittsburgh Magazine

Q+A: Building a National Network of Resilient-Design Studios: Sherry-Lea Bloodworth Botop...of the AIA's Architects Foundation, discusses the nonprofit's goals for its six regional, university-based design studios and how they're targeting local needs related to social, disaster, and chronic issues. -- National Resilience Initiative (NRI)- Architect Magazine

Shaping places: a role of urban design? We need more cooperation between local stakeholders, community and business involvement when making place shaping decisions: ...as in countless modernist urban places, urban design involved the placement of building in space, rather than being concerned with the relationships between buildings, streets and public life...past mistakes continue to present a significant challenge to fix. By Errol Haarhoff/University of Auckland- ArchitectureNow (New Zealand)

Finalists Announced for 2014/2015 MCHAP.emerge Awards: The Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize has announced five finalists...celebrating the best architecture in the Americas by emerging practices...from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Chile and Paraguay. -- Emilio Marin/Juan Carlos Lopez Arquitectos; PARA Project; 5468796 Architecture; Productora; Jose Cubilla & Asociados [images]- ArchDaily

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