

Today's News - Tuesday, April 26, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us Martin's great Q&A with curators Basulto and Taylor-Foster re: their vision for the Nordic Countries pavilion at the Venice Biennale.
- Betsky feels mad and helpless re: MoMA's suspension of its architecture and design galleries: "MoMA claims that this is only temporary and yadda yadda."
- Walker is a bit taken aback by how much Calatrava was paid to design the WTC Transit Hub: "For perspective, \$80 million is the adjusted-for-inflation cost to build Grand Central Terminal."
- Heathcote x 2: He has a few issues with the "curse of 'green fuzz' on buildings," and ponders whether the trend is a "fig leaf for poor design" (using "straggly green comb-overs") - though he's a bit more optimistic about buildings as farms.
- He looks at the growing trend of western architects winning commissions to build modern mosques in Arab nations, bringing "their cocktail of technological and sculptural brand to make a modern skyline."
- Kamin cheers Valerio Dewalt Train's George Lucas-sponsored Gordon Parks Arts Hall at the University of Chicago, where a "risky game of complementary contrast pays off. If only the Lucas Museum design met the same high standard."
- In three Upstate New York cities, an architect and an artist launch "Breathing Lights" that "will illuminate hundreds of vacant buildings to draw attention to urban blight" and encourage investment in distressed neighborhoods.
- MVRDV has big (and colorful!) plans to transform a former U.S. Army barracks in Germany that could redefine suburbia.
- The recently-published "Transit Street Design Guide" is a "toolbox" of strategies for designing the streets of the future (and comments go crazy!).
- Speck has a simple suggestion to avoid bad street design: "Copy the ones that work" (Lowell, Massachusetts, may be sorry if it doesn't).
- GE taps Gensler for its new \$100 million Boston HQ (two historic warehouses included).
- Dunlap cheers Yablon's new Planned Parenthood center in Queens: "In many places around the nation, it is a dark time for Planned Parenthood. In Long Island City, however, it has created a bright new world."
- The Smithsons' Obelisk and Siza's Columns find a new home on the estate of architectural historian and patron Niall Hobhouse.
- Koolhaas pens the profile of Ingels for Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People: as a "highflyer of skylines, he is the first major architect who disconnected the profession completely from angst."
- Eye-fuls of the 2016 AIA COTE 2016 Top Ten Green Projects and Top Ten+ Award (great presentation!).
- Oberlander receives Canada's inaugural Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture.
- Call for entries: 2016 Inspirations Awards to honor projects designed for a good cause (deadline extended - but looms!) + 2016 AL Light & Architecture Design Awards.

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[Venice Biennale Curator Series: The Nordic Countries: Curated by David Basulto and...James Taylor-Foster, "In Therapy: Nordic Countries Face to Face" to explore and investigate architectural projects that have been instrumental in constructing contemporary Nordic society. By Robert Martin \[images\]](#)

[MoMA's 'Temporary' Suspension of Architecture and Design: ...Aaron Betsky mourns the loss of exposure for the profession: The fact that they no longer see fit to give the design fields the respect they have struggled so hard to achieve makes me feel mad...but also helpless...MoMA claims that...this is only temporary and yadda yadda...Let's face it: Architecture is being marginalized \(and design along with it\). It has been a long time coming. - Architect Magazine](#)

[Can You Guess How Much NYC Paid the Architect of the Most Expensive Train Station on Earth? According to The Real Deal, architect Santiago Calatrava was paid \\$80 million to design the WTC Transit Hub...For perspective, \\$80 million is the adjusted-for-inflation cost to build Grand Central Terminal. By Alissa Walker - Gizmodo](#)

[The curse of 'green fuzz' on buildings + Buildings as farms: Is the trend for foliage on buildings a fig leaf for poor design? In cloaking their proposals in fluffy flora...an admission of defeat, a retreat from the responsibility of designing elevations to enhance a city through an architecture of intelligence, elegance and intent rather than a kind of straggly green comb-over. By Edwin Heathcote -- Stefano Boeri; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Sou Fujimoto; Rafael Viñoly; WOHA Architects; Jean Nouvel; SuperLimão; Reinventer Paris; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Vincent Callebaut; MVRDV- Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[Western architects winning commissions to build modern mosques: Arab nations look to European design for places of worship: ...the minaret, the dome and the colonnade...now they may be designed by western architects who can impart their cocktail of technological and sculptural brand to make a modern skyline. By Edwin Heathcote -- Amanda Levete/AL_A; KSP Jürgen Engel; John McAslan + Partners; Michel Mossessian/Michel Mossessian - Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[George Lucas-sponsored building at University of Chicago better than proposed museum: Gordon Parks Arts Hall strikes up a lively counterpoint with buildings in and around the Lab Schools...On nearly all levels, this risky game of complementary contrast pays off...creating an environment that expresses the spirit of our time...a bracing yet sensitive addition...If only the Lucas Museum design met the same high standard. By Blair Kamin -- Valerio Dewalt Train Associates \[images\]- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Upstate New York Cities to Illuminate Blight: Public art installations in Albany, Schenectady and Troy will illuminate hundreds of vacant buildings...to draw attention to urban blight...The brainchild of local artist Adam Frelin and architect Barbara Nelson, "Breathing Lights" intends to renew interest and investment in city neighborhoods with high vacancy rates. - Next City \(formerly Next American City\)](#)

[Saving Suburbia: MVRDV's Plan to Redefine Our Urban Outskirts: ...partnering with housing developers Traumhaus to transform a former US Army barracks in Mannheim, Germany...There will undoubtedly be question marks over both the commercial viability and scalability of the proposal...Winy Maas has found a willing client... \[images\]- Architizer](#)

[A One-Stop Guide to Designing the Streets of the Future: A recently published report by the National Association of City Transportation Officials includes insights from dozens of officials and practitioners across North America: "Transit Street Design Guide"...serves as more of a toolbox than a prescriptive rule book, here are some of the main takeaways... By Aria Bendix - CityLab \(formerly The Atlantic Cities\)](#)

[The Simplest Way to Avoid Bad Street Design: Copy the Ones That Work: Models matter. Let's design more streets like the streets we already love: When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail. And when you're a traffic engineer, it seems, everything looks like a highway...all of our cities...have two models to choose from, one led by engineering, and another led by](#)

[precedent: the study of places we love. By Jeff Speck \[images\]- CityLab \(formerly The Atlantic Cities\)](#)

[GE selects architect for its new Boston HQ: ...selected Gensler after a 10-week process that considered more than 35 architecture firms across the globe...The three-building headquarters will include two renovated historic warehouses...and a third facility built from the ground up...would cost about \\$100 million. - Boston Business Journal](#)

[New Planned Parenthood Center in Queens Says 'Welcome' in Many Ways: In many places around the nation, it is a dark time for Planned Parenthood. In Long Island City, however, \[it\] has created a bright new world...Stephen Yablon Architecture was given a seemingly self-contradictory mission. "It was important to make it feel welcoming but protected"... By David W. Dunlap \[images\]- New York Times](#)

[Smithsons' Obelisk to be re-erected at Shatwell Farm: Columns by Alvaro Siza also finds new home on estate of...architectural historian and patron Niall Hobhouse...home to several contemporary buildings loosely based on a masterplan by Cedric Price from 2004. \[images\]- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Time 100 Most Influential People: Bjarke Ingels: Highflyer of skylines...the first major architect who disconnected the profession completely from angst. By Rem Koolhaas - Time Magazine](#)

[2016 AIA COTE 2016 Top Ten Green Projects and Top Ten+ Award: Projects push the boundaries of both sustainable and beautiful design. -- SERA Architects; Cutler Anderson Architects; Reddy Architecture and Urbanism; The Design Alliance Architects; EHDD; Lake|Flato Architects; H-E-B Design + Construction; Selser Schaefer Architects; ZGF Architects; Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects; Saida + Sullivan Design Partners; Hacker; Malone Belton Able; Harley Ellis Devereaux \[images\]- AIA Committee on the Environment \(COTE\)](#)

["The Art of the Possible": Cornelia Hahn Oberlander is Honored with the Inaugural Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture: ...lifetime achievements and contributions to the profession have had a unique and lasting impact on Canadian society. \[images\]- Canadian Society of Landscape Architects \(CSLA\)](#)

[Call for entries: 2016 Inspirations Awards \(international\); to honor projects designed for a good cause \(entries do not need to be pro bono work\); deadline \(extended\): April 29- Contract magazine / Tandus Centiva](#)

[Call for entries: 2016 AL Light & Architecture Design Awards \(international\); earlybird deadline \(save money!\): May 6 \(submissions due June 3\)- Architectural Lighting magazine](#)

[Melbourne's worst CBD design crimes: ...often come about through short-sighted cost-cutting, prioritising private interest over the public good, or a failure in those commissioning building work to see the bigger picture. Crime scenes: Ground-level car parks...Buildings that give nothing back... By Michael Smith/Atelier Red+Black \[images\]- Domain \(Australia\)](#)

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