 Today's News - Thursday, June 9, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry we missed posting yesterday - it was due to circumstances beyond our control. Tomorrow and Monday will also be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, June 14 (if the technology gods are on our side).

• ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Kapoor's London studio by Caseyfierro Architects.
• Russell roams Atlantic City to find "no evidence of the kind of imagination and true inventiveness that would have kept people coming back," and wonders whether there's anyone "ready to invest the talent and hard work to make it happen."
• Quirk wonders whether the Tod Williams Billie Tsien renovation of Moore's Hood Museum is "really as bad as critics claim - at what point does a renovation destroy the thing it's trying to preserve?"
• Miranda mulls the SFMOMA effect - in its glossy new incarnation, it is, in some ways, a marker of some of the less appealing aspects of urban renewal" (but it does have its good points).
• Giovannini considers Knight's newly-restored Yale Center for British Art, and why it "tells a morality tale. The dirty little secret about Kahn's serene museum is that it is filled with 'Architecture,' little of it neutral and much of it passively aggressive."
• Keskeys' Q&A with Adjaye re: "the challenges of museum design, the potential for cultural buildings to change cities, and the future of this key architectural typology."
• Wainwright is quite taken by BIG's Serpentine Pavilion: it "has gawp-factor by the bucketload, but with some hiccups," but the interior is "a shape-shifting cathedral that is possibly the Serpentine's most impressive pavilion yet."
• Heathcote nails the pavilion as a "magical structure. Rarely has the description 'boxy' been such a compliment."
• Eyefuls of the six (impressive) shortlisted teams' designs for the Museum of London.
• Call for entries: 2016 LAMP/Lighting Architecture Movement Project International Lighting Design Competition: "Cosmic" + Archiprix International Ahmedabad 2017 competition for the best graduation project.
• Weekend diversions:
  • In NYC, the Van Alen's "Disruption?" fest explores how "this era's optimism and angst about technology take form in built environments, local communities, and municipal policies."
  • Toronto's Luminato Festival will #TurnOnTheHearn in an iconic decommissioned power plant - some "architectural Jenga" included (great pix!).
  • Perkovic picks six events for architecture lovers at Dark Mofo, "an eerie, but not grim, art festival" in Hobart - #4. Explore Tasmania's most mysterious places under the pretense of seeing art."
  • Hadid's Venice retrospective "is a tribute to her art" (fab photos).
  • Canada's contributions to the Biennale offer "thorny, provocative works. While some might see the work as thin on content," they are "boldly political."
  • "Making Post-war Manchester: Visions of an Unmade City" (in Manchester) "brings to life long-forgotten plans for the city's reinvention" - sadly lost to "gangster municipal policies." 
  • Filler isn't totally fulfilled by NYC's Jewish Museum's "Roberto Burle Marx: Brazilian Modernist": "in its eagerness to advance its subject as a multi-media polymath," what is on display "is wholly inadequate in conveying his revolutionary accomplishment in garden design."
  • Welton finds out what it was like working with Cooper Hewitt curators for "Energizing the Everyday: Gifts from the George R. Kravis Collection": when the "team came to visit me - they were like children in a candy store."
  • Glaucyce chooses his 10 favorite Brutalist buildings from Chadwick's "This Brutal World."
  • Q&A with Locklov re: "Dream of Venice Architecture" + "For a guidebook to the city, one cannot do better than" this book, with excerpts (and, of course, glorious images).

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Caseyfierro Architects: Anish Kapoor Studio: ...a series of seven studios that vary dramatically in scale and function...each with a distinct atmosphere responding to a material or process. By Nina Tory Henderson [images]

Can We Fall in Love Again with Atlantic City? There’s no evidence of the kind of imagination and true inventiveness that would have kept people coming back...The boardwalk can be so much more than it is. Architectural remnants of the city’s rich and intriguing history remain. But who is ready to invest the talent and hard work to make it happen? By James S. Russell [images] - JamesSRussell.net

Getting Under the Hood: Is the TWBTA Renovation Really As Bad As Critics Claim? The Tod Williams Billie Tsien renovation of the Hood Museum has spurred considerable controversy...At what point does a renovation, even against its best intentions, destroy the thing it’s trying to preserve? And at what point is Charles Moore’s building, his legacy, effectively erased? ...the project still feels wanting. By Vanessa Quirk [images] - Metropolis Magazine

The SFMOMA effect: How the culture cluster around the renovated museum reflects the transformation of a San Francisco neighborhood: ...in its glossy new incarnation, [it] is, in some ways, a marker of some of the less appealing aspects of urban renewal. A splashy new cultural institution can spell doom for artists and members of the working class who live in its orbit...what a good museum does is gently remind us of what a place once was and what it might have been. By Carolina A. Miranda -- Sfchronetta; Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos - Los Angeles Times

Inside the Newly Restored Yale Center for British Art: Joseph Giovannini considers Louis Kahn's original "ins," and why they might actually serve as a precedent for other architects; ...the restored Kahn building tells a morality tale...The dirty little secret about his serene museum is that it is filled with 'Architecture,' little of it neutral and much of it passively aggressive. -- George Knight/Knight Architecture [images] - Architect Magazine

Cultural Crown: David Adjaye on the Future of the Museum: With construction [of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture] approaching completion on the National Mall [he discusses] the challenges of museum design, the potential for cultural buildings to change cities and the future of this key architectural typology. By Paul Keskeys - Architizer

Serpentine Pavilion 2016: Bjørke Ingels' Pyramid for the Minecraft Generation: ...this year's pavilion started life as a shelf...And for those who like follies, there are four satellite summer houses to explore too: ...providing gawp-factor by the bucketload, but with some hiccups on closer inspection...Still, the interior remains a stunning space, a shape-shifting cathedral that is possibly the Serpentine's most impressive pavilion yet. By Oliver Wainwright -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Asif Khan; Yona Friedman; Barkow Leibinger; Kuntle Adeyemi [images] - Guardian (UK)

Serpentine Pavilion 2016 - Simple and complex: A magical structure emerges from a simple idea: This year's pavilion looks
more like a pixelated rendering than a model; yet the experience is visceral, an icy interior of real beauty. Rarely has the description "boxy" been such a compliment. - By Edwin Heathcote – BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Asif Khan; Barlow Leibinger; Kunal Adeyemi; Yona Friedman- Financial Times (UK)


Call for entries: 2016 LAMP/Lighting Architecture Movement Project International Lighting Design Competition: "Cosmic"; cash prizes; early bird registration deadline (save money!): June 15 (submissions due August 15) - LAMP/Lighting Architecture Movement Project

Call for entries: Archiprix International Ahmedabad 2017: biennial competition invites all universities and colleges teaching architecture, urban design and landscape architecture to select their best graduation project; no fee; registration deadline: July 1 (submissions due August 1) - Archiprix

"Disruption?" How does this era’s optimism and angst about technology take form in built environments, local communities, and municipal policies? June 11-16, New York City – Jan Gehl - Van Alen Institute

Luminato Festival to transform iconic power plant in Toronto: ...global multi-arts festival will #TurnOnTheHearn...iconic decommissioned power plant, the Hearn Generating Station...Charcoalblue proposed a radical framework for the building...Playing a game of architectural Jenga...PARTISANS developed the concept... [images] - Canadian Architect

6 Dark Mofo Events for Architecture Lovers: A celebration of the winter solstice, [it] is an eerie, but not grim, art festival...there is a lot to pique the interest of an architecture lover...#4. Explore Tasmania’s most mysterious places under the pretense of seeing art. - By Jana Perkovic - Artinfo

Zaha Hadid’s Working Methods Revealed in Venice Retrospective: ...at the Palazzo Franchetti...offers new insight into the working methods she used, from sketchbook to finished product...this show, which she had been passionately working on, is a tribute to her career... [images] - Artinfo

Canada offers up thorny, provocative works at increasingly political Venice Architecture Biennale: "Extraction" and "The Evidence Room" tackle difficult societal issues from past and present: Symbolism of buried truths and histories abounds...While some might see the work as thin on content, [it] is boldly political... – Pierre Bélanger; Catherine Crowston; Donald McKay; Anne Bordeleau; Sascha Hastings [images] - CBC (Canada)

Manchester’s lost horizons: the futuristic city that never was: Amid the postwar rubble, designers dreamed of a gleaming powerhouse of moving platforms, monorails and highways in the sky. But austerity took their vision away - handling the future to ‘gangster development’: "Making Post-war Manchester: Visions of an Unmade City" brings to life long-forgotten plans for the city’s reinvention; at Manchester Technology Centre. By John Harris [images] - Guardian (UK)

The Builder of Jungles: ...it is fitting that the foremost Latin American garden designer has come up for re-evaluation. The current Jewish Museum show “Roberto Burle Marx: Brazilian Modernist”...in its eagerness to advance its subject as a multimedia polymath...too much of which is on display here is wholly inadequate in conveying his revolutionary accomplishment in garden design. By Martin Filler [images] - New York Review of Books

100 Objects of Modern Design: ...now on display at the Cooper Hewitt, in a show called "Energizing the Everyday: Gifts from the George R. Kravis Collection"..."...The curatorial team came to visit me - they were like children in a candy store..." By J. Michael Welton [images] - Huffington Post

Ten beautiful Brutalist buildings: Impressive concrete structures from around the world are collected in "This Brutal World" [by Peter Chadwick]. – Baur, Baur, Bräuning, Dürig; Takamitsu Azuma; Paul Rudolph; Ernö Goldfinger; João Filgueiras Lima; George Chakhava; Alberto Linner Díaz; Aleksandr Rochegov; Ensamble Studio; Kallmann, McKinnell, & Knowles [images] - BBC

"Dream of Venice Architecture": JoAnn Locktov, principal of Bella Figura Communications and editor of "Dream of Venice," answers our questions on the second book of the series..."If we forget the history of Venice we will forget about our capacity for survival." – Riccardo De Cal [images] - New York Spaces

5 Master Architects "Dream of Venice Architecture". ...Venice Biennale is finally upon us...For a guidebook to the city, one cannot do better than [this] collection of stunning photos of Venice landmarks paired with reflections on the city written by famous architects...a brief sample of the book’s highlights. – Riccardo De Cal; Richard J. Goy; Tadao Ando; Massimiliano Fuksas; Thomas Woltz; Mario Botta [images] - Architizer

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