

Today's News - Thursday, June 23, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry for tardy posting (stuff happens). Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, June 28.

- ANN feature: Knoop reports from "Reporting from the Front" - it has "more heart and soul than ever before. Architecture alone cannot change the world, but the issues that populate this year's Venice Biennale explore how we are all responsible for making an effort."
- Heymann raises "a really good, really radical question" re: "the disagreement between landform building and historical replication. Has the rupture of the Modern forever broken any possibility of continuity with the past?"
- Bozikovic gets a guided (and guarded) tour of Gehry's Facebook Building 20, the "sprawling fortress" that "captures the tech industry's ironies and delusions: A \$300-billion company trying to look scrappy, a suburban site with urban pretensions."
- Anderton dives into the recently-released, Gehry-led LA River Index, "the fruits of two years' worth of data gathering. To what extent it is an actual planning tool or a political tool is unclear. But it is fascinating."
- Many in Memphis are more than a bit miffed about muddled plans for a major thoroughfare, when the city already has a smart, complete-street design by Speck that it paid for - three years ago.
- Baillieu minces no words about what she thinks of The Illuminated River competition to light up 17 London bridges: "the reason why some of the most creative lighting consultants are staying away is because they think the idea is fundamentally misconceived - a permanent statement of someone's ego-fuelled idea sponsored by a bank."
- Wainwright gives thumbs-up - and down - to the 2016 RIBA Awards line-up (that now vie for the Stirling Prize): "For all its talk of inclusion and diversity, RIBA still prefers to fill its awards lists with lobotomized slabs of polite neo-modern filler."
- Campbell-Dollaghan, on the other hand, is totally taken by the Royal Institute of Dutch Architects' Best Building of The Year: the "incognito architecture" of a seaside "subterranean parking garage covered by rolling sand dunes" (brilliant!).
- Abbott and Penney issue "a clarion call" for more instruction in "empathy, trust, and collaboration" for students of architecture, engineering, and contracting at institutions of higher learning.
- Call for entries/RFP: Architecture 2030 Curriculum Project for innovative curricular proposals to integrate/mainstream lessons in energy use, emissions, and resiliency in new ways and in nontraditional areas (Step 1 for clarion call above?).
- Weekend diversions:
  - The Chicago Architecture Foundation's "50 Designers, 50 Ideas, 50 Wards" addresses "public space activation, economic activity stimulation, pop-up/temporary interventions, and quality of housing improvement."
  - It took six years to get permission, but Otero-Pailos's "Ethics of Dust" is about to wrap London's Westminster Hall in "200 years' worth of dirt and dust."
  - Free e-book: "Asymmetric Labors: The Economy of Architecture in Theory and Practice" offers "a slice through the uneven terrain of values and unequal labor practices of historical and theoretical architectural work."
  - Grozdanic cheers Maescher's "The Archipreneur Concept: New Business Models for Architects" that hopes to help architects striking out on their own to avoid following "the outdated model of trading hours for dollars."
  - Q&A with Dupré re: "One World Trade Center: A Biography of the Building" - "one of the most complex collaborations in human history."
  - Hohenadel has a field day thumbing through Roke's "Nanotecture: Tiny Built Things": "a fun little book" with 300 examples that are "ingenious and inventive in their design and construction methods."
  - Zeiger says "almost every Angelino has a dingbat story" of the "rarely celebrated" housing type that (finally) gets its due in Grant and Stein's "Dingbat 2.0: The Iconic Los Angeles Apartment as Projection of a Metropolis."
  - Eyefuls from Havens' "Out of Season: The Vanishing Architecture of the Wildwoods," documenting the now-gone modernist motels of the New Jersey coastal resort town.
  - One we couldn't resist: van Gogh's "Starry Night" conjured up in a bowl of water, "the latest and most dazzling addition to the van Gogh tribute movement" (dazzling!).

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ANN Feature: More Heart and Soul than Ever Before: 15th Venice Architecture Biennale "Reporting from the Front": Architecture alone cannot change the world, but the issues that populate this year's Biennale, as curated by Alejandro Aravena, explore how we are all responsible for making an effort. By Johannes M.P. Knoop, FAAR, Assoc. AIA [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

Trouble with Terminators: Why not make buildings today as they once were made? This is actually a really good, really radical question: At a time when architects perceive a need to protect that power of landscape, the application of historical precedent has turned out to promote not stability but uncertainty, undercutting the very landscapes...the strategy seeks to protect...the disagreement between landform building and historical replication is a dilemma. Has the rupture of the Modern forever broken any possibility of continuity with the past? By David Heymann - Places Journal

Welcome to Building 20, the sprawling fortress that serves as Facebook's California nerve centre: It's a project that captures the tech industry's ironies and delusions: A \$300-billion company trying to look scrappy, a suburban site with urban pretensions. And, despite the architectural language of openness and contingency, it is a fortress. From the outside it looks like nothing more than a parking garage. By Alex Bozikovic -- Frank Gehry; CMG [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

DNA/Frances Anderton: The Index: Gehry's Deep Dive into the LA River: ...enlisted by River LA to master plan the 51-mile Los Angeles River. They've released the fruits of two years' worth of data gathering on a public web site called the LA River Index...To what extent the Index is an actual planning tool or a political tool...is unclear. But it is fascinating... -- Tensho Takemori/Anand Devarajan/Gehry Partners; Geosyntec; OLIN [images]- KCRW (Los Angeles)

Riverside Drive Becomes An Incomplete Street: ... City of Memphis has had a design that it paid for since March, 2013, that adds bike lanes and parallel parking...It seems that a good place to start would be in the plan Memphis paid for...it's being done in cities all over the U.S., and we're hard-pressed to understand why Memphis can't join them. -- Nelson-Nygaard; Jeff Speck-Smart City Memphis (Tennessee)

Why are you giving £250,000 to another vanity project, Sadiq? Amanda Baillieu takes issue with the proposal to light up 17 of London's bridges...the reason why some of the most creative lighting consultants are staying away from the competition is because they think the idea is fundamentally misconceived...The best attractions are those that are free but impermanent...not a permanent statement of someone's ego-fuelled idea sponsored by a bank. -- The Illuminated River- BD/Building Design (UK)

RIBA awards 2016: academic buildings dominate list of UK's best architecture: ...46 winners, but Grayson Perry/FAT's House for Essex and other deserving buildings are missing...For all its talk of inclusion and diversity, RIBA still prefers to fill its awards lists with lobotomised slabs of polite neo-modern filler... By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

The Netherlands Voted A Garage Its Best Building Of The Year - Here's Why: We don't think of parking lots as bastions of innovation - but maybe we should: Of the 125 projects competing for the title of the Royal Institute of Dutch Architects' Best Building Of The Year...you might not even notice the building that won...a subterranean parking garage...covered by rolling sand dunes...It's incognito architecture... By Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan -- OKRA Landscape Architects; Zwarts & Jansma Architects; Royal HaskoningDHV [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Training in Collaboration Should Start in College: More instruction in cooperation is needed among architects, engineers and contractors: ...the majority of college graduates are not adequately prepared...a clarion call...to focus on the three simple, yet unmistakably important, attributes...empathy, trust and collaboration...It is imperative that we start with the institutions of higher learning... By Ryan Abbott and Thompson E. Penney/National AIA-AGC joint committee- ENR/Engineering News Record

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP: 2030 Curriculum Project: seeking innovative teaching and curricular proposals that integrate/mainstream lessons in energy use, emissions, and resiliency in new ways and in nontraditional areas; deadline: open to faculty and program administrators at US architecture and planning schools; deadline: August 1- Architecture 2030

Explore proposals from the Chicago Architecture Foundation's "50 Designers, 50 Ideas, 50 Wards": 50 different Chicago-based designers, artists, and architects analyzed all aspects of the city...address the themes of public space activation, economic activity stimulation, pop-up/temporary interventions, and quality of housing improvement. -- UrbanLab [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Where there's muck: Artangel artist wraps Houses of Parliament in latex: Permission for artwork...took six years to obtain, and will showcase 200 years' worth of dirt and dust..."Ethics of Dust" by Jorge Otero-Pailos and commissioned by the audacious art organisation Artangel, will dominate Westminster Hall...29 June-1 September- Guardian (UK)

"Asymmetric Labors: The Economy of Architecture in Theory and Practice" edited by Aaron Cayer, Peggy Deamer, Sben Korsh, Eric Peterson, and Manuel Shvartzberg: ...provides a slice through the uneven terrain of values and unequal labor practices of historical and theoretical architectural work...intended to spark a conversation about what the value of such labor is... [free e-book]- Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

How to Win Clients and Make Money: When they choose to strike out on their own, architects tend to follow the outdated model of trading hours for dollars...clients continue to perceive architectural services as a cost rather than a value..."The Archipreneur Concept: New Business Models for Architects" by Tobias Maescher/archipreneur.com explores the crossover between architecture and entrepreneurship through examples of innovative firms of different sizes and profiles. By Lidija Grozdanic - Architizer

Inside the new One World Trade Center: Judith Dupré says the new WTC "represents one of the most complex collaborations in human history"..."One World Trade Center: A Biography of the Building," recaps the 12 years the building was being developed. (Q&A) By Kai Ryssdal - Marketplace.org

Fantastic Small-Scale Architecture Can Include More Than Tiny Houses: "Nanotecture: Tiny Built Things" by Rebecca Roke...is a fun little book that presents 300 examples of small built works...many of which are demountable, portable, inflatable, and otherwise ingenious and inventive in their design and construction methods. By Kristin Hohenadel [images]- Slate

Is Los Angeles a City of Houses? Almost every Angelino has a dingbat story...Dingbats are such a common multifamily building type that we almost forget about them, even though they crop up everywhere...but rarely celebrated...In "Dingbat 2.0: The Iconic Los Angeles Apartment as Projection of a Metropolis," editors Thurman Grant and Joshua G. Stein compiled reflections on the building type... By Mimi Zeiger [images]- KCET.org (California)

Trouble in paradise: the lost motels of New Jersey: Wildwood, a coastal resort in New Jersey, saw a spate of modernist masterpieces built in the 1950s - only for them to be destroyed decades later. Photographer Mark Havens documented the town before it was too late..."Out of Season: The Vanishing Architecture of the Wildwoods" [images]- Guardian (UK)

Conjuring Up van Gogh's "Starry Night" in a Bowl of Water: The latest and most dazzling addition to the van Gogh tribute movement comes from Turkish artist Garip Ay. [video]- Hyperallergic



Clare Design: The Library at the Dock, Melbourne, Australia: ...a warm and welcome addition to Melbourne's Docklands precinct. A cross between a library and a community center, it brings some much needed civic life and vitality to this new part of the city...a building that prioritizes the interior experience, and as such is cozy, comfortable and welcoming. By Jennifer McMaster [images]

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