

Today's News - Wednesday, June 29, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us Karatzas' great Q&A with Esto's Erica Stoller, and a great sampling of Ezra Stoller's and the agency's current photographers' work.
- Betsky and Cramer offer very thoughtful takes on architecture, architects, public spaces, and ethics in light the mass shooting in Orlando.
- Pedersen watches the Lucas Museum "fiasco from the cheap seats": "Eventually he will find a home for this museum, and who knows, it might actually be good. Lucas certainly knows how to engage and enthrall audiences. What he doesn't seem to do, at all, is listen."
- King ponders whether the Lucas team has "learned from their mistakes," and offers "six friendly tips to seal the deal" for a Lucas Museum in San Francisco (hoping it won't be "a strained wannabe icon").
- Van Valkenburgh and Bivona parse public spaces of the future: "if we continue to place our trust and faith in urban public spaces we must re-examine two fundamental questions: how will we define success within these spaces, and who will we allow to shape them?"
- Silicon Valley's Y Combinator plans a \$100 million research lab with an affordable housing focus, and hopes "to actually produce a prototype city" + Call for applications to join the YC Research project with "bold ideas in architecture, ecology, economics, politics, technology, urban planning."
- Wainwright seems to have mixed feelings about Piano's "exquisitely crafted" Stavros Niarchos Foundation Culture Centre in Athens: "Can this wildly ambitious civic gesture succeed?" + A report with lots of images.
- Sydney's (seemingly powerless) planning commission approves the contentious \$2 billion Crown Sydney Hotel Resort at Barangaroo South: the "private building will remain on land previously promised to the public."
- The Australian Institute of Architects NSW chapter "was scathing of the decision" to approve the Barangaroo tower: "What happened today was the people of Sydney lost a public park on the harbor foreshore. Forever."
- On a brighter note, Mackenzie gives a hearty thumbs-up to PWP/Johnson Pilton Walker's Barangaroo Reserve, which makes a "grand contribution to a contemporary Sydney setting."
- Litt finds out that Corner hopes his Public Square in Cleveland "promotes democracy, civic harmony - the best thing about this city is they did it right."
- A perspective and critique of the Landscape Architecture Foundation's New Landscape Declaration (in two parts).
- The winning design for Malta's new Gozo Museum will incorporate a former school building that is "an iconic piece of modernist architecture."
- Eyefuls of Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter's winning design for The Icefjord Centre in Greenland, which beat out some big names "because of its poetic, simple and visionary design."
- Call for entries: Science Island International Design Contest for the new National Science and Innovation Centre of Lithuania + Amsterdam Children's Playschool international architectural competition for students and young architects.

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[Ezra Stoller | ESTO Photographics: ...a selection from the Ezra Stoller archive, a sample of the agency's current photographers, and a discussion about architectural photography with the Director of Esto Photographics, Erica Stoller. By Pygmalion Karatzas](#)

[What is the Architectural Response to Orlando? Aaron Betsky reflects upon the tragic mass shooting, and suggests a ban on weapons as opposed to more fortified architecture: I do not want to live in America as a fortress. I do not want our country to be walled off...And, most of all, I do not want the places that make me a citizen of this country turned into policed safe havens.- Architect Magazine](#)

[When the Boss Wants You Dead: In the wake of the mass shooting in Orlando, architects can help make the AEC industry more inclusive of their LGBT colleagues: The AIA code of ethics...admirably encourages a culture of diversity...it readily could serve as a model for other industry organizations, too many of which have no equivalent...After all, architecture serves to build communities, not condemn them. It's part of our DNA. By Ned Cramer- Architect Magazine](#)

[Watching the George Lucas Fiasco from the Cheap Seats: ...\[he\] has decided to pull his Lucas Museum of Narrative Art out of Chicago...Eventually he will find a home for this museum, and who knows, it might actually be good...\[He\] certainly knows how to engage and enthrall audiences. What he doesn't seem to do, at all, is listen. By Martin C. Pedersen- Common Edge](#)

[How George Lucas can make his museum work in S.F.: ...we now get to see whether he and his staff have learned from their mistakes...I offer six friendly tips to seal the deal...\[He\] apparently will stick with Ma Yansong/MAD Architects. Honestly, the result could be provocative fun...If the curtains part to reveal a strained wannabe icon, an indulgence tailored to the expectations of the architectural in-crowd, we're back to square one. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[The Public Spaces of the Future: Up for Negotiation: ...over the past century, we have debated the role of public space to ease the challenges faced within our urban environment...if we continue to place our trust and faith in urban public spaces we must re-examine two fundamental questions: how will we define success within these spaces, and who will we allow to shape them? By Michael Van Valkenburgh and Joseph Bivona- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Silicon Valley's Latest Startup Offering Is a Whole City: Y Combinator's \\$100 million research lab will make affordable housing a focus: YC Research...nonprofit arm, plans to solicit proposals for research into new construction methods, power sources...even notions of zoning and property rights...aims to develop ways to reduce housing expenses by 90%...the plan is to actually produce a prototype city.- Bloomberg News](#)

[Call for entries/applications: Cities Researcher, YC Research project: We need people with strong interests and bold ideas in architecture, ecology, economics, politics, technology, urban planning, and much more; deadline: July 30- Y Combinator](#)

[Empty gesture? Renzo Piano's €600m cultural Acropolis for austerity Athens: \[Stavros Niarchos Foundation Culture Centre\] was launched to great fanfare. But now the 20-hectare temple to culture stands vacant, its shelves built for 2 million books empty, its gates locked. Can this wildly ambitious civic gesture succeed? By Oliver Wainwright \[images\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Renzo Piano completes Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center on a huge artificial hill: ...a major new park, library and theatre complex in Athens, following one of the largest donations for a cultural building project in history...will officially open later this year, once its interiors have been fully fitted out...the first public building in Greece to achieve a Platinum LEED certification... \[images\]- Dezeen](#)

[\\$2 billion Crown Sydney Hotel Resort \[at Barangaroo South\] approved by Planning Commission with limited power: ...NSW](#)

Planning Assessment Commission made it clear that it didn't have the power to make all the changes to the development that the public wanted...private building will remain on land previously promised to the public. -- Wilkinson Eyre Architects- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Approval of Crown Resorts' Barangaroo tower 'disappointing': The Australian Institute of Architects NSW chapter was scathing of the decision..."Reading the PAC assessment they clearly had significant misgivings about the proposal...What happened today was the people of Sydney lost a public park on the harbour foreshore. Forever." -- Wilkinson Eyre [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

A naturalized landscape: Barangaroo Reserve: Casting "endless disparagement" aside, Bruce Mackenzie examines the design thinking, vegetation, soil science and collaboration that together have created a reserve that makes a "grand contribution to a contemporary Sydney setting." -- Peter Walker and Partners Landscape Architecture (PWP); Johnson Pilton Walker Architects and Landscape Architects [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Landscape architect James Corner hopes his Public Square design promotes democracy, civic harmony: "It's attention to detail and craft and quality, and the best thing about this city is they did it right." By Steven Litt -- James Corner Field Operations; LAND Studio [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

The New Landscape Declaration: Perspective and Critique (Part 1 & 2): ...Landscape Architecture Foundation's New Landscape Declaration: Summit on Landscape Architecture and the Future...day two critiqued the declarations...and offered visions for what needs to be achieved over the next 50 years. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Winning design for new Gozo Museum unveiled: ...will take the place of the Ninu Cremona Boys Lyceum...The school building, an iconic piece of modernist architecture designed in the 1950s by Joseph Huntingford, will be retained and expanded in the new design... -- Forward Architects; Joanna Spiteri Staines/Openworkstudio [image]- Times of Malta

Dorte Mandrup Arkitekter comes first against top architects: ...has won the global competition to design 'The Icefjord Centre' in Ilulissat, Greenland...proposal won because of its poetic, simple and visionary design, which strongly respects the nature of the UNESCO-protected area. [images]- DesignCurial (UK)

Call for entries: Science Island International Design Contest for the new National Science and Innovation Centre of Lithuania (in Kaunas); cash prizes; deadline: September 14- Malcolm Reading Consultants

Call for entries: Amsterdam Children's Playschool international architectural competition for students and young architects; cash prizes; earlybird registration deadline (save money!): August 15; registration deadline: October 16 (submissions due October 30)- ArchMedium

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. Knoops, FAAR, Assoc. AIA [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

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