

Today's News - Wednesday, July 6, 2016

- Lange says farewell to the Four Seasons: "The changes are discarding history and replacing it with something newer, crasser, and more disposable."
- Stephens is no less eloquent in her "goodbye" to the Four Seasons: "Nothing is forever. So here we are at the final curtain" (with fab archival photos).
- Heatherwick's Pier55 park on the Hudson River looked good to go - until now: a court order allows opponents more time to prepare their case against "this secretive and misguided project" that they hope "will not get off the ground."
- Litt laments Cleveland's decision to replace Rosales's graceful pedestrian bridge design with a dull, underwhelming replacement, "a case study in how hard it can be to build great public infrastructure."
- Potdar ponders whether shipping containers really are the answer for affordable housing, and concludes that it's "time for a reality check" with a look at the challenges that "lie behind the rosy picture of turning them into homes."
- Biggs offers the "3 most common community engagement mistakes"; #1: "expecting too much from residents."
- Medina's great Q&A with Waldheim re: how "landscape, more than buildings, has fundamentally changed the way cities urbanize in the 21st century."
- Washington, DC, considers a bill that would require all landscape architects doing business in the city to be licensed - "and they're totally cool with it."
- King cheers a stretch of a former freeway site in San Francisco that is now "a test lab" and showcase "of imaginative urban architecture and ground-level innovation."
- McGuigan meanders through the Venice Biennale and offers a few takeaways re: "saving the world, one brick at a time": "Mud. There was a lot of mud."
- Q&A with Michael Graves College Dean Mohny re: how Kean University plans to use the late architect's Princeton, N.J., live-in workspace ("ask the lawyers" how the \$20 purchase price came about).
- Alison Brooks Architects tapped to design the next Maggie's Centre (no images yet).
- Eye-fuls of six passive house projects from around the world.
- Call for entries: Critical essays on architecture for Columbia GSAPP's The Avery Review.

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Farewell to the Four Seasons: The changes to the Four Seasons are discarding history and replacing it with something newer, crasser, and more disposable: ...this orchestral design project will be broken up forever...The best we can hope for now is for a single museum to buy or receive a suite of furniture and tableware, enough to recreate a corner of the restaurant for some future exhibition on this glorious period. By Alexandra Lange [images]- Curbed New York

Goodbye to All That: The Four Seasons Restaurant, designed by Philip Johnson in 1959, leaves the Seagram Building with only memories intact: An unexpected downside of landmarking an interior is that movable components are not part of the deal...Nothing is forever...So here we are at the final curtain. By Suzanne Stephens -- Mies van der Rohe; Charles Eames; Hans Wegner; Eero Saarinen; Florence Knoll; Garth and Ada Louise Huxtable; Isay Weinfeld; Phyllis Lambert [images]- Architectural Record

Construction on Hudson River's Pier55 park stopped by court order: In April...all looked good for the \$130 million, 2.7 acre island of public space...Now...the court has allowed opponents...more time for their case to be prepared...City Club of New York said the move was a "valuable step in ensuring that this secretive and misguided project will not get off the ground." -- Heatherwick Studio - The Architect's Newspaper

Underwhelming Plan B design for North Coast Harbor drawbridge needs work: Say goodbye to the iconic drawbridge for pedestrians and bicyclists designed...by Miguel Rosales...the city has nixed [it] in favor of a cheaper and duller Plan B version offered by...CDM Smith...The failure of the Rosales design and its underwhelming replacement is a case study in how hard it can be to build great public infrastructure. By Steven Litt [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Are shipping containers really the answer for affordable housing? Time for a reality check: ...some real challenges lie behind the rosy picture of turning shipping containers into homes...What are the main challenges to consider? Container quality and engineering sign-off; Health and safety; Usable space; Insulation and comfort... By Vidyasagar Potdar/Curtin University [images]- The Conversation (Australia)

The 3 Most Common Community Engagement Mistakes: Those charged with dealing with the public run the risk of expecting too much from residents as they design community engagement activities. Here are some of the most common mistakes. By Dave Biggs - PLANetizen

Charles Waldheim: Landscape Urbanism All Grown Up: The urban theorist argues that landscape, more than buildings, has fundamentally changed the way cities urbanize in the 21st century: Q&A re: stepping back from the style wars, revisiting Modernist planning, and making cities better places to live. By Samuel Medina - Metropolis Magazine

Some D.C. architects face new regulation - and they're totally cool with it: ...introduced a bill that would require the licensing of all landscape architects doing business in the city...While the proposal focuses on landscape architects, all architects will be affected if it passes. It requires that all professional design firms - architecture, landscape architecture, and interior design - have a license issued by the mayor - Washington Business Journal

In Hayes Valley, old freeway site is now architectural showcase: ...a test lab of imaginative urban architecture and ground-level innovation...the styles vary widely - the common thread is a generosity along the street and an embrace of the district's eclectic tone. By John King -- Stanley Saitowitz; David Baker Architects; TEF Design; Anne Fougerson; Handel Architects [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Saving the World, One Brick at a Time: This year's Venice Biennale takes a broad view of the role of the architect: ...if you can navigate the distance between the setting and the subject...there are riches of another sort in many of the exhibits...here are a few takeaways. Mud. There was a lot of mud...Temporary settlements...Forensics...Repurpose. Thrift... By Cathleen McGuigan -- Alejandro Aravena - Architectural Record

Q+A: David Mohny on the Future of Michael Graves' Warehouse: The dean of the Michael Graves College discusses the pending purchase of the late architect's Princeton, N.J., live-in workspace, and how Kean University plans to utilize it for students. - Architect Magazine

Alison Brooks Architects to design next Maggie's Centre Taunton: ...will be built in the grounds of Musgrove Park Hospital in Somerset. -- JLG Landscape Architecture- BD/Building Design (UK)

A New Wave of Passive Home Design: 6 unique interpretations of the passive house trend around the globe. -- Pierluigi Bonomo; Kontur architects; Openstudio Architects; Baxt Ingui Architects; Rafe Maclean Architects; Simone Kreutzer/Tommy Wesslund [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Call for entries: Call for submissions: Critical Essays on Architecture for The Avery Review, published by Columbia University

GSAPP; modest honorarium; deadline: August 1 - The Avery Review / Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP)

ANN feature: A Filtered View #6: The Sustainable Building Artistically Considered: In our culture of fashion-driven design, a sustainable building will have to succeed aesthetically to be truly sustainable. By Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA- ArchNewsNow.com

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