Today’s News - Wednesday, July 13, 2016

- ArcSpace rounds up top architectural podcasts for your summer listening pleasure.
- Hosey has some issues with the "arrogance" of some architects involved in public interest design who seem "tainted by an over-inflated sense" of their own worth.
- Wright takes a long look at the billion-euro transformation of Paris's longest building, and questions raised by some of the 15 architects involved: "it has variety, but human-scaled it is not" (great pix).
- An interesting take on the $50 million redesign of Cleveland's Public Square "done with people - and democracy - in mind," and "will be one of the most visible public protest zones" during the Republican Convention.
- A stretch of Montreal's elevated Bonaventure Expressway is being brought down to earth as grand boulevards and lots of green spaces (for people - what concept!).
- Pedersen has a fab Q&A with Kamin re: the architects for the Obama Library, and the Lucas Museum fiasco: "As it turns out, the projects were related."
- Berke wins The Women's Building design competition to transform a former women's prison on Manhattan's West Side into a hub for "organizations dedicated to serving women and girls."
- The Canadian National Institute for the Blind taps the blind American architect Downey to help design a 35-story building in Edmonton "uniquely designed for those who are blind and visually impaired."
- Fodder for your over-the-top file: a dual-tower development in Dubai (where else?) will include a rainforest that also sports a "Jurassic-inspired marsh for the kids to enjoy" (dinosaurs not included - we hope).
- A great look at what's going into the restoration of Mackintosh's fire-ravaged Glasgow School of Arts that will let "art makers see the building as not just a museum-like space, but as one that they can truly use."
- The Singapore Institute of Architects picks a winner for its Archifest 2016 Pavilion to be installed in Raffles Place Park this fall.
- Eyefuls of "11 of the best new buildings from Iran's architectural awakening" (some stunners!).
- Kotob takes a deep - and fascinating - dive into "why we need a new Islamic architecture" instead of "outdated tropes" that "ignore the challenges Muslim Americans today are facing."
- Meanwhile, Miami Beach is about to get "yet another stararchitectural-quality garage," but this one won't "call a lot of attention to itself."
- "11 of the best new buildings from Iran's architectural awakening" (some stunners!).
- Miami Beach to get another star-architect parking garage: Yes, it’s yet another stararchitectural-quality garage...this one a "sedately curvilinear structure topped by four ultra-luxe condos...But unlike some other parking structures...by star architects...the proposed Torino Garage doesn't call a lot of attention to itself."
- "A Darker Shade Of Green: Even the most egalitarian impulses of designers, it seems, are tainted by an over-inflated sense of our worth...the arrogance of architects no longer surprises me...What does continue to surprise and sadden me is when I encounter such arrogance among the leaders of the design industry's more altruistic movements...The clash of personal ego and public interest holds us all back. By Lance Hosey - Huffington Post"
- "Big Mac: Entrepôt Macdonald, Paris: The longest building in Paris has just had a billion-euro makeover...a collaboration involving 15 architects...a visionary grand projet...but some involved question the megastructure that has resulted...it has variety, but human-scaled it is not. By Herbert Wright - Marcel Forest (1970): Christian de Portzamparc; Kengo Kuma; Studio Otlie Decq; OMA/Rien Koolhaas; Floris Alkemade/FAA; Honduras Laporte Architectes; Brenac & Gonzalez; Xaveer De Geyter Architects/XDQA; Stéphane Maupin; Francois Leclercq; Marc Mimram; J-AUC architects; Julien de Smedt [images]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)"
- "The Hot New Park at the Center of the Republican Convention: Cleveland's Public Square was once a traffic mess, but a $50 million redesign was done with people - and democracy - in mind: "...will be one of the most visible public protest zones during the convention. By Colin Woodard - James Corner Field Operations; LAND Studio; Daniel Burnham [images] - Politico"
- "Say goodbye to elevated stretch of Bonaventure Expressway...promising to replace it with two boulevards with a series of green spaces...freed up by the demolition...Trees, benches, flowers and paths will greet users in the new public spaces...[images]- Montreal Gazette"
- "Q&A: Blair Kamin on the Architects for the Obama Library, and the Lawsuit that Thwarted George Lucas. As it turns out, the projects were related. By Martin C. Pedersen - Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; Jeanne Gang; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects - Common Edge"
- "West Palm Beach lures big-league architects - but is the city ready? Not since the 1920s have so many world-class architects tried their hand at designing new developments...the city once more is seeing world-class architects at work...But is [the city] ready for this surge of bold, artistic design? Perhaps not. -- Foster + Partners; Allan Greenberg Architect; Helmut Jahn; David Childs/SOM; Bernardo Fort-Brescia/Arquitectonica; REG Architects; Gilded Spina + Partners [images] - Palm Beach Post (Florida)"
- "Miami Beach to get another star-architect parking garage: Yes, it's yet another stararchitectural-quality garage...this one a sedately curvilinear structure topped by four ultra-luxe condos...But unlike some other parking structures...by star architects...the proposed Torino Garage doesn't call a lot of attention to itself. "-- Brandon Haw Architecture [images]- Miami Herald"
- "11 of the best new buildings from Iran's architectural awakening: Iran's contemporary architecture scene is on the brink of a boom after the lifting of economic sanctions. -- Farshad Mehdizadeh/Ahmad Bathaei; New Wave Architecture; CAAT Studio; Leila Aragian/Diba Tensile Architecture; Ayeneh Office; Next Office; AbCT; TDC Office; LP2 Architecture Studio; LP2 Architecture Studio [images]- Dezeen"
- "Why Now, More Than Ever, We Need A New Islamic Architecture: Too many new mosques are being built in "traditional" styles that rely on outdated tropes and ignore the challenges Muslim Americans today are facing. By Jenine Kotob/Quinn Evans Architects [images]- Metropolis Magazine"
Deborah Berke Partners to Transform Retired New York Women’s Prison Into a Hub for Women’s Rights: ...won the Women’s Building International Design Competition to reimagine the Bayview Correctional Facility...to house organizations dedicated to serving women and girls... -- Goren Group; NoVo Foundation - Architect Magazine

Blind architect involved in 35-storey Canadian National Institute for the Blind building: Edmonton city council has unanimously approved a new development uniquely designed for those who are blind and visually impaired...CNIB is working with American architect Chris Downey who...unexpectedly lost his sight eight years ago... [image] - Global News (Canada)

New photos of Dubai hotel rainforest plans: The Greens, Rosemont Hotel and Residences will be a dual-tower development...guests can expect to be surrounded by an immaculately landscaped tropical oasis...and even a Jurassic-inspired marsh for the kids to enjoy. -- ZAS Architects [images] - ArabianBusiness.com

Restoring a Charles Rennie Mackintosh Architectural Gem From the Ashes: Two years after a fire gutted much of a design masterwork at the Glasgow School of Arts, restoration work is finally set to begin: ...more art makers will begin to see the building as not just a museumlike space but as one that they can truly use. By Christopher D. Shea -- Page/Park Architects - New York Times

Archifest 2016 Pavilion Winner Announced by Singapore Institute of Architects: ...RGB Pavilion by DP Architects...’pop-up’ event space, designed to inspire visitors to rethink architecture and...our urban environment, will be built on the grounds of Raffles Place Park... -- AGA Architects; Freight Architects [images] - e-architect (UK)

Cannabis Bank architecture competition winners: A team of students from the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, called U-CAN...first place winners...The second and third places entries, from Spain and the USA... [images] - Bee Breeders (formerly HMMDD/Homemade Dessert)

Call for entries: Van Alen Institute/West Palm Beach Shore to Core: A design and research competition to reimagine waterfront cities and understand how cities impact wellbeing; prizes: a $40,000 and a $10,000 stipend; deadline: August 21 - Van Alen Institute

Call for entries: Trans Siberian Pit Stops architecture competition (international); winning designs will be considered for construction; cash prizes; deadline: September 29 - Bee Breeders / CDS NORD

Call for entries: Lumion Competition for students in the USA: : Reimagine an iconic building with Lumion; cash prizes, free Lumion software, trip to Europe; deadline: September 5 - Lumion


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