

Today's News - Thursday, July 21, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, July 26.

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of images from the Danish Architecture Centre's new exhibition "Abandoned" that looks at "what happens when the humans leave and nature takes over" - and a call for your pictures of abandoned places.
- Hawthorne offers a thoughtful take on the "surprisingly sleek architecture of the GOP convention - a shotgun marriage of Star Trek and Macbook modern" (with only a slight touch of snark).
- King is invited to Denver by some who are concerned that the city's "development boom is bringing pleasure to real estate investors but pain to everyone else" (cheer up, SF - you're "in better shape than our self-absorbed bickering would suggest").
- Bevan parses plans for Parry's super-tall London tower to rival The Shard that, if approved, will be "an elegant 73-story statement of solidity rather than faux-transparency."
- Osborne has high hopes for Ban's first Canadian project in Vancouver, set to be the world's tallest timber tower (its height as yet unknown) - "part of a growing movement in building superstructures made of wood."
- Dunlap gets a sneak peek at Holl's waterfront Queens Library: "It will not suit everyone's taste. But no one will overlook it" (and oh, those views!).
- Pedersen posts a great two-part Q&A with Kimmelman re: "Aravena, the Pritzker, and the opportunities for architects to reshape the world" + "The challenges - and opportunities - facing New York."
- Kamin bemoans that 10 FLW-designed buildings didn't make the cut for UNESCO's World Heritage List; Corbu's 17 sites making the list "would have wounded the master's ego" (but there's still hope!).
- Farago bids a fond farewell to the Four Seasons: "We should have known, when the Picasso got axed, that the end was coming" (but he does get to wade into the pool!).
- And, just because...the Four Seasons online auction catalogue: Philip Johnson's fabled Table 32 estimate: \$3,000 - 5,000.
- The Canada Council for the Arts names this year's architecture prize winners: Dubbeldam Architecture + Design and Studio Junction Inc.
- Call for entries (deadline looms!): 2016 FX International Interior Design Awards.
- Weekend diversions:
- Denise Scott Brown writes about her "colorful and analytic use of photography," with eyefuls of images from her "Wayward Eye" show at the Venice Biennale (and upcoming book).
- Sam Crawford picks his faves at the Venice Biennale: "The best exhibits spaced their ideas with clarity - leaving visitors wanting more; the worst were unintelligible, leaving visitors wanting a comfortable spot for a nap."
- Raskin cheers "EXTRA-ORDINARY: New Practices in Chilean Architecture" at NYC's Center for Architecture that highlights 17 "passionate, strong designers in the comparatively small country."
- "Theaster Gates: How to Build a House Museum" at the Art Gallery of Ontario is a series of large-scale installations that "upends the conservative customs associated with house museums."
- "It Takes a Community" at the AIA's HQ in Washington, DC, and online "showcases community-centric design concepts by emerging professionals."
- Homs-based architect Marwa al-Sabouni talks to NPR's McEvers re: her oh-so-eloquent new book, "The Battle For Home: The Memoir Of A Syrian Architect" (we're reading it now - and so should everyone!).

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7 Abandoned places: Haunting. Chilling. Yet fascinating. Abandoned places remind us of the life that once was. But what happens when the humans leave and nature takes over? ...visit the Danish Architecture Centre for the newly opened exhibition "Abandoned"... -- Jan Elhøj; Morten Kirckhoff [images]

Teflon minimalism: The surprisingly sleek architecture of the GOP convention: ...the set is a shotgun marriage of Star Trek and Macbook modern, with perhaps a touch - in the rounded stairs, lighted from below - of Art Deco...The onstage vitriol and chants from the audience have bounced oddly off the streamlined, ornament-free backdrop. By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Wake up, San Francisco: Other cities have problems, too: I make this observation having just returned from Denver...at the behest of an advocacy group concerned that Denver's development boom...bringing pleasure to real estate investors but pain to everyone else...For generations, the challenge in our cities was to stave off decay. Now the peril is prosperity. By John King [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

How The Shaft will rival the The Shard for coolest skyscraper in London: Eric Parry is the architect...and he won't let Brexit stand in his way: Architectural celebrities...are asked to tackle the fancy sugar-work...Which is why Parry being commissioned to design the tallest skyscraper in...London makes you sit up and take notice...1 Undershaft...an elegant 73-storey...statement of solidity rather than faux- transparency. By Robert Bevan [image]- Evening Standard (UK)

World's Tallest Timber Tower Set to Rise in Vancouver: Shigeru Ban's first Canadian project will be the tallest timber skyscraper in the world...part of a growing movement in building superstructures made of wood. The height of...Terrace House...has not yet been revealed. By Catherine Osborne -- Michael Green; Acton Ostry Architects [images]- Azure magazine (Canada)

A New Queens Building That Can't Be Overlooked: A Library: ...Queens Library at Hunters Point...Neighborhood libraries are not typically foreground buildings...has staked its place on the waterfront...It will not suit everyone's taste. But no one will overlook it. By David W. Dunlap -- Steven Holl Architects [images]- New York Times

Part 1: Michael Kimmelman on Alejandro Aravena, the Pritzker, and the Opportunities for Architects to Reshape the World: "It is the absolute right moment to be thinking beyond single, glorious buildings. To think beyond a narrow clientele and a narrow set of issues." By Martin C. Pedersen- Common Edge

Part 2: Michael Kimmelman on the Challenges - and Opportunities - Facing New York: ...regulating tall buildings; the lost soul of the neighborhood he grew up in, Greenwich Village; and his continuing crusade for a 21st century transportation hub..."millions of New Yorkers can't even afford affordable housing...Diversity isn't just a social good. It's a practical necessity." By Martin C. Pedersen- Common Edge

Frank Lloyd Wright Sites Don't Make Cut for World Heritage List: It sounded like a slam dunk...when the federal government

nominated 10 FLW-designed buildings...to a United Nations list of the world's most significant cultural and natural sites...But [they] didn't make the cut...And in a twist that would have wounded the master's ego, a collection of 17 works by one of his rivals...Le Corbusier, were inscribed on the list. By Blair Kamin - [Chicago Tribune](#)

A man for Four Seasons: my goodbye to New York's modernist cathedral: Mies van der Rohe designed the chairs,...power brokers did their deals...but now the exquisite restaurant's era has passed: ...for architectural preservationists, students of modern design, and lovers of New York, this is a winter of discontent...We should have known, when the Picasso got axed, that the end was coming. By Jason Farago -- Philip Johnson; Eero Saarinen; Ada Louise Huxtable [images] - [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

The Four Seasons auction; July 26: bronze sign in Entrance Lobby by Emil Antonucci, estimate: \$5,000–7,000 (illuminated canopy sign: \$3,000–5,000); Philip Johnson's three-sided banquettes and Table 32; estimate: \$3,000–5,000 [images] - [Wright \(auction house\)](#)

Canada Council for the Arts announces architecture prize winners: Dubbeldam Architecture + Design has won the [\$50,000] 2016 Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture...The Ronald J. Thom Award for Early Design Achievement was awarded to Studio Junction Inc., an emerging Toronto practice... [images] - [Canadian Architect](#)

Call for entries: 2016 FX International Interior Design Awards; deadline: July 29 - [FXMagazine](#)

From Venice to Venice Beach: Denise Scott Brown's "Wayward" Eye: The influential architect-planner reflects on her colorful and analytic use of photography over the decades: "I'm not a photographer. I shoot for architecture - if there's art here it's a by-product." [images] - [Metropolis Magazine](#)

Venice Biennale 2016: Sam Crawford's top five from the Giardini: The best exhibits spaced their ideas with clarity like written words, leaving visitors wanting more; the worst were unintelligible, leaving visitors wanting a comfortable spot for a nap. [images] - [ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

New strategies: AIANY shows contemporary Chilean architecture: ...Alejandro Aravena isn't a lone star: he's part of a large collective of passionate, strong designers in the comparatively small country...succinctly expressed...at the Center for Architecture... "EXTRA-ORDINARY: New Practices in Chilean Architecture" highlights 17 projects built in the last five years. By Laura Raskin -- Elemental; Mathias Klotz; Smiljan Radic; Mauricio Pezo/Sofia von Ellrichshausen; Jeannette Plaut; Marcelo Sarovic; Guillermo Acuña Arquitecto; 57Studio; Cristian Izquierdo; Sebastián Irarrázaval Arquitectos [images] - [Wallpaper\\*](#)

"Theaster Gates: How to Build a House Museum" at the AGO (Art Gallery of Ontario): ...a series of large-scale installations creates symbolic spaces in the tradition of the house museum, each dedicated to the potential of Black creativity and freedom...upends the conservative customs associated with house museums... - [Canadian Architect](#)

The AIA Showcases Community-Centric Design Concepts by Emerging Professionals: A new exhibit at the Institute's headquarters and online displays work by the next generation of architects: "It Takes a Community"...an array of structures, systems, and products... [images] - [Architect Magazine](#)

"The Battle For Home: The Memoir Of A Syrian Architect": NPR's Kelly McEvers speaks with Homs-based architect Marwa al-Sabouni, about her new book,...which traces Syria's past, present and possible future through the lens of architecture: "...we have a chance. The place has a chance. I just hope it will be done right." - [NPR / National Public Radio](#)

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