

Today's News - Thursday, July 28, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, August 2.

- Kamin et al. report on the pros and cons of Obama's pick of Chicago's Jackson Park for the presidential library: the site "is cloaked in a more powerful collection of assets" than Washington Park.
- How could we resist a report on the "surprises and staggering prices" at the Four Seasons auction, where most items sold "for several times their estimated value" (and one for nearly 20 times its estimate!).
- Hawthorne parses the Democratic Convention's stage set: "Homespun, blunt and direct. Not quite blue-collar, but stripped of airs" (unlike the Republicans').
- Litt minces no words about what he thinks of the site - and design - for an outlet mall in Cleveland: it belongs next to a suburban freeway exit, not on the lakefront near the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
- Eye-fuls of Stanton Williams and Asif Khan's winning design for the new Museum of London at Smithfield market (spiraling escalators and a sunken garden included).
- Menking's Q&A with MoMA curator Stierli re: the future of the museum's architecture and design galleries: "abolishing" them "is not and never has been an issue under consideration" (they'll find a home somewhere in the new building).
- Ban proposed a museum for architectural models, et voilà! Tokyo now hosts a warehouse museum called Archi-Depot.
- A "guide to how architects charge for their services - it's a system that mystifies architects, too."
- New Federal rules re: overtime pay could "rattle" the architectural industry (no more exemptions for so-called "creative professionals").
- Efforts by the Australian Institute of Architects to counter gender inequality are "not going unnoticed."
- Weekend diversions:
 - "Small is Beautiful" is a new "moving feature-length documentary" that explores the tiny house movement.
 - "Occupied," on view in Melbourne, "focuses on better housing with architect-designed projects."
 - In "Wayward Eye" at the Venice Biennale, Denise Scott Brown's photos capture "the beauty and banality of cities" - "My view is urbanistic even if it's a teaspoon."
 - Chan finds "Roberto Burle Marx: Brazilian Modernist" at NYC's Jewish Museum to be "a somewhat unprecedented tribute."
 - Moore isn't much moved by Howard's "Architecture's Odd Couple: Frank Lloyd Wright and Philip Johnson": "the two never had a really fruitful interaction. Both might be called odd, but they weren't a couple."
 - Rybczynski's "How Architecture Works" is a "combination of his experience, knowledge and insight without exaggeration and self-indulgence."
 - In "The Anatomy of the Architectural Book," Tavares's "correlations and observations are stimulating and impactful."
 - Two new tomes explore William Krisel and Midcentury Modernism in Palm Springs and environs.

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Obama chooses historic Jackson Park as library site: ...opted for the less challenging of the two options...site is cloaked in a more powerful collection of assets...The hurdles would have been higher in the neighborhood near Washington Park... By Kathy Bergen, Blair Kamin, and Katherine Skiba -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects - Chicago Tribune

Nostalgia, Surprises, and Staggering Prices at the Four Seasons Restaurant Auction: ...bronze signs with its iconic logo...sold for \$96,000 - nearly 20 times the modest estimate of \$5,000 - \$7,000...all items sold, and most for several times their estimated value. [images]- Architectural Record

Homespun, blunt and direct: The Democrats' architecture of unity: Unlike the set at last week's Republican National Convention, which was sleeker and more imposing, the Democrats' stage is meant to be approachable. Not quite blue-collar, but stripped of airs. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Bruce Rodgers/Tribe Inc. - Los Angeles Times

Lakefront outlet mall proposed near Rock & Roll Hall of Fame needs radical improvement to be acceptable: Outlet malls belong next to suburban freeway exits, not near a world-class cultural institution overlooking one of the Great Lakes...Renderings...depict...a bulky, largely windowless, four-story box with 1,400 parking spaces inside. By Steven Litt [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Stanton Williams and Asif Khan chosen to design new Museum of London at Smithfield market: ...includes a landmark dome, underground exhibition galleries, spiralling escalators...will take over the sites of several disused Victorian buildings that surround the historic market area... -- Julian Harrap;p J&L Gibbons [images]- Dezeen

Curator Martino Stierli on the future of MoMA's architecture and design galleries: "...galleries for the architecture and design collection...will be located in the new building...abolishing of architecture and design designated galleries is not and never has been an issue under consideration." By William Menking - The Architect's Newspaper

Museum of architectural miniatures opens: A warehouse museum called Archi-Depot [in Tokyo]...Shigeru Ban proposed the museum concept...[models] usually end up being stored in warehouses...Architects can lease shelf space to store their miniature models. Visitors can walk around between the shelves...- Yomiuri Shimbun / The Japan News

Guide to how architects charge for their services: ...it's a system that mystifies architects, too..."nobody talks about it," says Peggy Deamer of the Architecture Lobby...- Curbed

New Federal Rules Will Redefine Overtime Pay for Architects: ...could have a lasting impact on the architectural industry, particularly among firms that expect junior employees to work long hours for low salaries...could rattle industries that have long used a federal exemption for so-called "creative professionals"...- Architectural Record

Institute's top-down approach to gender equity not going unnoticed: Recent efforts by the Australian Institute of Architects to counter gender inequality in the profession have been picked up by mainstream Australian media...Parlour's efforts for woman are perhaps the most progressive...- Architecture & Design (Australia)

"Small is Beautiful: A tiny house documentary": Melbourne filmmaker Jeremy Beasley has produced a moving feature-length documentary...explores the complexities of human shelters and shows us that the story of a house, no matter how small, is universal.- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

"Occupied" exhibition focuses on better housing with architect-designed project exhibits: ...at the RMIT Design Hub in Melbourne aims to highlight the need for space-efficient design solutions to house the growing urban population in cities across Australia.- Architecture & Design (Australia)

View-Master: The World, As Seen by Denise Scott Brown: ...exhibition now on view at the Venice Architecture Biennale chronicles the architect's fascination with capturing the beauty and banality of cities...throughout the "Wayward Eye" [she] refuses to privilege one image over another..."My view is urbanistic even if it's a teaspoon"... By Anna Fixsen [images]-

Architectural Record

Green Thumb: Roberto Burle Marx was more than the peerless landscape architect who revolutionized the garden aesthetic. He was also a consummate artist..."Roberto Burle Marx: Brazilian Modernist" at the Jewish Museum in New York...a somewhat unprecedented tribute. By Kelly Chan [images]- Metropolis Magazine

"Architecture's Odd Couple: Frank Lloyd Wright and Philip Johnson" by Hugh Howard: They were rivals who shaped American architecture, but to call them an 'odd couple' overstates their relationship...the two never had a really fruitful interaction...Both might be called odd, but they weren't a couple...there are other accounts of each that tell them better. By Rowan Moore-Observer (UK)

Award-winning buildings are not 'necessarily good architecture': "How Architecture Works: A Humanist's Toolkit" by Witold Rybczynski...The writing...is simple and succinct...combination of his experience, knowledge and insight without exaggeration and self-indulgence...- Dong-A Ilbo (South Korea)

André Tavares delves into the anatomy of the architectural book: Superficially, "The Anatomy of the Architectural Book" is a book about books. Its uniqueness lies in its exploration of how architects utilize their design skills in bookmaking...[his] correlations and observations...are stimulating and impactful from such perspectives.- The Architect's Newspaper

"William Krisel's Palm Springs": a stunning book focusing on the designer's Midcentury Modern desert architecture; Q&A with authors Heidi Creighton and Chris Menrad: What drew you to putting together a book about him in particular? "I wanted it published while he was still alive...we had the opportunity to consult with him and get the details correct." - New York Spaces

Q&A: Photographer Dan Chavkin's "Unseen Midcentury Desert Modern" captures some incredible architectural gems: What made you want to document modernist design hidden away in Palm Springs and through Coachella Valley? "I wanted to give a voice to the myriad examples of midcentury modern architecture in the desert not seen in other books on the subject." - New York Spaces

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