

Today's News - Thursday, August 11, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, August 16 (though we may surprise you with a Monday posting of a number of great articles we've had to bump day-to-day - whoever said August is a slow news month?!?!?).

- Sorkin leads today's "we couldn't resist" category with his disturbing/amusing (or amusing/disturbing) take on Trump: "the coincidence of his rise and architecture's own fascination with branding is telling," but "it isn't the architecture that makes the man dangerous."
- Our second "we couldn't resist": a brief (and amusing) take on the Barragán saga of "architect-turned-into-diamond-family-dispute": the "artist got permission from distant relatives and the now the actual heirs are pissed."
- Paletta talks to a bevy of experts about why, with a few exceptions, Brooklyn's growing skyline "is just soooo boring."
- Eyefuls of the \$202 million plan for the Sydney Opera House's "biggest upgrade" ever, which includes the first time it will have a space dedicated to children.
- Budds brings us eyefuls (and an animation) of DS+R/Rockwell's "wild shape-shifting" Shed rising at Hudson Yards that "takes 'multipurpose room' to the next level" (indeed!).
- The Art Institute of Chicago has big - and permanent - plans for its "rarely seen Architecture and Design Collection" (take that, MoMA!).
- Dupré has a lively conversation with "those who were intimately involved" in the planning, designing, and funding One World Trade Center.
- Rich offers a rich history of how Olmsted changed the way Americans think about public space: "his success helped create not only a profession, but an aesthetic."
- Eyefuls of the New York State Pavilion Ideas Competition winners, which, along with other submissions, are now on view at the Queens Museum.
- Manaugh brings us miles of almost "hallucinatory" photochroms of houses, castles, mountains, rivers, and ruins from the Library of Congress collection - "purely in the interests of weekend eye-candy" (an absolute must-see!).
- Call for entries: 2017 City of Dreams Pavilion Competition for Governors Island + LafargeHolcim Awards 2016/2017 International Awards for Sustainable Construction + 2016 Residential Architect Design Awards + one of our faves: Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest 2016.
- Weekend diversions:
  - The Architecture & Design Film Festival starts today in New Orleans.
  - In "Follies, Function & Form: Imagining Olana's Summer House," 21 architects offer their own visions for a folly at Frederic Edwin Church historic estate in Hudson, NY.
  - In Tokyo, "House Vision" presents 12 Japanese architects' "full-scale prototypes of buildings or public spaces" that "explore living (and aging)" in "a forward-thinking urban landscape."
  - In Philadelphia, "Three Photographers/Six Cities" captures "the chaos of a rapidly urbanizing" Africa.
  - Cipriani has a field day reading Serraino's "engrossing" book "The Creative Architect" (with only a few quibbles).
  - Brillembourg cheers Frampton's "extraordinary" book, "A Genealogy of Modern Architecture" as "an important pedagogical tool" with "ethical content that is rare today."

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The Donald Trump Blueprint: Trump inhabits interiors in lieu of an interior life and shows them off with hyperbolic self-celebration. Gilt by association! ...the coincidence of his rise and architecture's own...fascination with branding is telling...Playboy's role here has been much marked...it isn't the architecture that makes the man dangerous. By Michael Sorkin -- Der Scutt; Adrian Smith; Philip Johnson; Alan Ritchie; Costas Kondyliis; Paul Willen- The Nation

Luis Barragán's ashes were turned into a diamond and his family is not happy: A classic case of architect-turned-into-diamond-family-dispute...American conceptual artist...got permission only from distant relatives and the now the architect's actual heirs are pissed...Jill Magid intends to trade the ring for Barragán's archive (currently locked away in Switzerland) which she would return to Mexico. By Jeremiah Budin- Curbed

For Some, Brooklyn's Skyline Is Just Soooo Boring: New towers have been rising, but with a few exceptions, they don't do justice to the borough's reputation as a creative center, design experts say: "...as a community we developers underinvest in design"... By Anthony Paletta -- Deborah Berke; SLCE Architects; TEN Arquitectos; Jed Walentas/Two Trees Management; Joseph Brancato/Gensler; Françoise Bollack- Wall Street Journal

Designs revealed: Sydney Opera House's 'biggest upgrade': ...\$202 million...towards the stage one renewal projects...include a major refurbishment of the Concert Hall...a new creative learning centre...(the first time the Opera House will have a space dedicated to children)... -- Jørn Utzon; Peter Hall; Richard Johnson of Johnson Pilton Walker; ARM Architecture/Schuler Shook; Tonkin Zulaikha Greer; Scott Carver Architects [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

N.Y.C.'s Next Great Cultural Destination: A Wild Shape-Shifting Building: The Shed takes "multipurpose room" to the next level: ...nonprofit cultural venue...in Hudson Yards...took a page from Cedric Price's playbook and conceived of a structure that achieves the Fun Palace's aim - a destination that can house whatever its users desire... By Diana Budds -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group [images, video]- Fast Company / Co.Design

The Art Institute of Chicago plans a permanent gallery for its rarely seen Architecture and Design Collection: [It] "will be a testing ground for rethinking how we display architecture and design," Zoë Ryan said...forthcoming book focuses on 11 historical architecture and design exhibitions and the impact they had on their fields..."As Seen: Exhibitions That Made Architecture and Design History"...- The Architect's Newspaper

One World Trade Center: A behind-the-scenes look at how 1WTC was planned, designed, built, and funded by those who were intimately involved in this controversial, unprecedented building project... -- Judith Dupré; Kenneth A. Lewis/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Yoram Eilon/WSP/Parsons Brinckerhoff; Carla Swickerath/Studio Libeskind; Patrick J. Foye/PANYNJ- Clocktower.org Radio

When Parks Were Radical: More than 150 years ago, Frederick Law Olmsted changed how Americans think about public space: ...it was a trip by foot through England in 1850 that awoke him to the value of public pleasure grounds...he visited Birkenhead Park...and was flabbergasted...In Central Park, he applied the lessons he had learned there...It takes a lot of artifice to create convincing "natural" scenery...his success helped create not only a profession, but an aesthetic. By Nathaniel Rich -- Calvert Vaux- The Atlantic

New York State Pavilion Ideas Competition Winners: How do you reinvent an architectural icon for the 21st century? A Philip Johnson-designed masterpiece...is poised for a dramatic comeback&hellip;but as what? ...a special exhibition spotlighting the competition and the many creative submissions at the Queens Museum... -- People for the Pavilion; Aidan Doyle/Sarah Wan (Seattle); Javier Salinas (NYC); Rishi Kejrewal/Shaurya Sharma (India); etc. [images]- National Trust for Historic Preservation/NTHP

Please Don't Take My Photochrome: It's easy to lose time clicking through the Library of Congress photochrom collection...Utterly mundane subjects seem hallucinatory, like stills from an old animated film - or even hand-colored illustrations from a fairy tale...Purely in the interests of weekend eye-candy, I just thought I'd post a bunch. By Geoff Manaugh [images]- BLDGBLOG

Call for entries: 2017 City of Dreams Pavilion Competition: an architectural pavilion on Governors Island, NYC; registration deadline: September 15 (submissions due September 30)- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

Call for entries: LafargeHolcim Awards 2016/2017: 5th International Awards for Sustainable Construction; total prize money: \$2 million; deadline: March 21, 2017 - LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction

Call for entries: 2016 Residential Architect Design Awards (international); deadline: September 9- Residential Architect magazine

Call for entries: Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest 2016 (U.S.): demonstrate that the art of the sketch is still alive; deadline: September 9- Architectural Record

Architecture & Design Film Fest brings a survey of world design to New Orleans: ...will feature about 20 films as well as guest speakers focused on a range of topics, from preservation issues to women in architecture to working with youth; Aug. 11-13 -- Louisiana Architectural Foundation- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Dreaming Up a Summer Idyll for Frederic Edwin Church: 21 architects come up with their own visions for a show at Olana, Church's historic property overlooking the Hudson: "Follies, Function & Form: Imagining Olana's Summer House," opening Aug. 14...organizers haven't closed the door on building one of the structures someday. By Ted Loos -- Calvert Vaux; Jane Smith/Spacesmith; Steven Holl; Diana Balmori/Balmori Associates; Laurie Olin/Olin Partnership; Peter Pennoyer [images]- New York Times

12 Japanese Architects Explore Living (And Aging) Collectively: Sou Fujimoto, Shigeru Ban, and others experiment with communal housing in Tokyo: "House Vision" pairs renowned Japanese architects with companies..."CO-DIVIDUAL - Split and Connect/Separate and Come Together" consists of 12 full-scale prototypes of buildings or public spaces that together make up a forward-thinking urban landscape. By Meg Miller -- Jun Igarashi; Fumie Shibata; Go Hasegawa [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Seeing African Cities in Transition: An exhibition showcases the works of three photographers who capture the chaos of a rapidly urbanizing continent: "Three Photographers/Six Cities" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art... By Tanvi Misra [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Design for Living: Eero Saarinen opened up to researchers about his father. They concluded Philip Johnson was "like a controlled psychotic": Who becomes an architect, and why? In 1958 and '59, a group of psychologists...embarked on a pathbreaking quest to find out...resulted in priceless psychological profiles, 10 of which are reproduced in Pierluigi Serraino's engrossing book "The Creative Architect"...[he] has done a great service in excavating this episode. By Christine Cipriani- Wall Street Journal

Kenneth Frampton tracks the evolution of modern architecture in "A Genealogy of Modern Architecture: Comparative Critical Analysis of Built Form": ...an important pedagogical tool...[it] is lucid not only in the literary content but as a graphic document...It is the ethical content...that is rare today...[He] makes clear in this extraordinary book of curated comparative analysis what architecture can achieve. By Carlos Brillembourg- The Architect's Newspaper



Venice Biennale Catalog Picks: ...catalogs offer you an opportunity to learn all about the research presented without ever having to leave the comfort of your own couch. [images]

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