

Today's News - Wednesday, September 14, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us McMaster's take on Durbach Block Jagggers/BVN's UTS Thomas Street Building in Sydney: "the joyfully crafted building offers respite from its tough surrounds."
- Jenkins cheers Prince Charles being named "Londoner of the Decade," and his acceptance speech - he hopes the city's new mayor was paying attention ("lumpy mastodons" seem to be this decade's "carbuncles").
- Miller parses Moore's parsing of Schumacher's attempt to define parametric design: Moore "takes a high-minded philosophy, strips it of its pretense and finds that there's really not much there."
- Hawthorne gives thumbs-up to D.C.'s new African American museum: it "could hardly be more fraught as a cultural institution or work of architecture," but it is "a piece of architecture supple enough to please the archivist and the activist alike" (despite signs of value-engineering).
- NPR's Shapiro takes us along on a walk-through of the NMAAHC with Adjaye - and he likes what he sees: "This building does not try to hide or blend in. It speaks of pride."
- Jacobs x 5(!); her "Engineered Nature" series explores hybrid projects that "are part manmade and part natural" (plan to spend some time here!).
- Viladas corrects the lack of "discussion of just who made design magic happen" for Apple's retail identity, now that BCJ will be stepping "aside to make room for Apple's new favorite architects, Foster + Partners."
- Pepchinski applauds 1100 Architect bringing some "funk" to Frankfurt's harborfront with the transformation of a historic textile factory into the East Side Lofts.
- Gang x2: the studio tackles scaling up tactical urbanism by "thinking sensitively about how we use and alter the buildings that we already have."
- Mortice cheers the Gang gang's "sparkling new dorm" for the University of Chicago that "looks to build community."
- Hass opens our eyes to the "brilliantly subversive work" of the Haussmann's, the still-working octogenarian architects who should be better known: they dubbed "Critical Mannerism" in the '70s, "jabbing at the pared-down heart of Modernism" (wow - who knew?!?!?).
- Aggarwal-Schifellite offers a fascinating profile of Alice Constance Austin, the early 20th-century feminist architect who "dreamed of collective housekeeping" and kitchen-less homes, to put "an end to domestic drudgery" on a large scale (another who knew?!?!?).
- It looks like the construction industry's newly-found love of drones is about "to rewrite how people do construction."
- EyeFuls of the Finnish Association of Architects' shortlist for the 2016 Finlandia Prize for Architecture (great presentation).
- The lists of winners of the ASLA 2016 Professional Awards and 2016 Student Awards are miles long, so follow the links!
- Barcelona-based Carme Pinós awarded \$100,000 2016 Berkeley-Rupp Prize + Holl hailed with the €100,000 2016 Daylight Award in Architecture.
- Architect magazine's 2016 Architect 50 list includes mainstays and newcomers - and our cheers to Blackwell for landing the Top Firm in Design.
- Call for entries: 2017 Palladio Awards for outstanding achievement in traditional design + Fels Policy Research Initiative Collaborative Working Groups Grants.

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Durbach Block Jagggers/BVN Architecture: University of Technology Sydney/UTS Thomas Street Building, Sydney, Australia: Conceived as a garden sanctuary within a dense inner-city suburb, this joyfully crafted building offers respite from its tough surrounds. By Jennifer McMaster [images]

Simon Jenkins: After Prince Charles's speech, will Sadiq Khan now take on the developers? Receiving an award...he reflected on how often his views...had been dismissed as "bonkers" yet turned out to be right...Boris Johnson's dream of a new London is a zoo for lumpy mastodons...Johnson and Ken Livingstone created a London skyline that is a visual car crash...the new Mayor...was applauding enthusiastically. We wait to see if he meant it. - Evening Standard (UK)

The Most Convincing Argument Against Parametric Design Yet: Have a hard time articulating what the movement parametric design is? So does its founder...Rowan Moore takes a stab: ...[he] has attempted to cut through the jargon...and the picture he paints is not a promising one...takes a high-minded philosophy, strips it of its pretense and finds that, when it comes to actually applying it, there's really not much there. By Meg Miller -- Zaha Hadid; Patrik Schumacher - Fast Company / Co.Design

D.C.'s new National Museum of African American History and Culture is a bold challenge to traditional Washington architecture: ...could hardly be more fraught as a cultural institution or work of architecture...NMAAHC exists as the thing to be confronted and the vehicle for that confrontation at the same time...a piece of architecture supple enough to please the archivist and the activist alike. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup; Ralph Appelbaum Associates; Davis Brody Bond; Philip Freelon/Perkins+Will - Los Angeles Times

How An Architect Used Striking Design To Capture New Smithsonian's Meaning: As the Smithsonian prepares to open its National Museum of African American History and Culture...NPR's Ari Shapiro speaks with the museum's architect, David Adjaye: This building does not try to hide or blend in. It doesn't code switch or cover. It speaks of pride. - NPR / National Public Radio

Karrie Jacobs: Engineered Nature: series explores hybrid objects, those that are part manmade and part natural, a hallmark of 21st century design: Freshkills Park: How the world's largest landfill became New York's biggest park; The River Master: creating never-ending waterways; The Farm Upstairs: agriculture and mother nature meet on urban rooftops; Paradise under the expressway; On Governors Island, the World's Smartest Hill -- James Corner Field Operations; Jeff Henry; SWA Group; Ken Greenberg; Public Work; Adriaan Geuze/West 8 - Curbed

How Bohlin Cywinski Jackson created the Apple retail experience: ...translated Apple's obsessively minimalist product designs into a trademark architectural language...as Apple rolled out store after store around the world, there was never much discussion of just who made this design magic happen..."We were able to avoid "death by replication"...BCJ...will step aside to make room for Apple's new favorite architects, Foster + Partners... By Pilar Viladas [images]- Curbed

Soul Sister: A new structure completes an unfinished century-old building by replicating its scale and adding some funk: Housing is in demand in Frankfurt-am-Main, yet loft living, or adapting obsolete manufacturing structures for open-plan residential use, remains a novelty...Lencoryt Building - formerly offices and a textile factory and now a historic monument...a rare surviving example of the city's industrial architecture prior to World War II. By Mary Pepchinski -- 1100 Architect [images]- Architectural Record

Studio Gang's Plan To Revitalize Rust Belt Cities? Use What's Already There: ...cities need thoughtful investment in existing buildings, not new ones: ...tactical urbanism has attracted the attention of architects and designers with the skills and resources to scale it up - including Jeanne Gang...thinking sensitively about how we use and alter the buildings that we already

have. By Meg Miller - Fast Company / Co.Design

Sparkling New Dorm by Jeanne Gang Opens at the University of Chicago: Studio Gang's Campus North Residential Commons looks to build community. By Zach Mortice [images]- Architectural Record

These Architects, Working Into Their 80s, Should Be Famous: How is it that the brilliantly subversive work of Trix and Robert Haussmann is virtually unknown in the U.S.? In the 1970s, they dubbed their evolving aesthetic Critical Mannerism...[they] celebrated artificiality and illusion...jabbing at the pared-down heart of Modernism. By Nancy Hass [images]- New York Times Style Magazine

The Feminist Architect Who Tried to Liberate Kitchens From Houses: In the early 20th century, Alice Constance Austin dreamed of collective housekeeping: ...primarily known for her kitchen-less home designs for the Llano Del Rio socialist commune in the mid-1910s...the first architect to envision an end to domestic drudgery on such a large scale, and the first to expand the idea outside the confines of an individual dwelling and into an entire community. By Manisha Aggarwal-Schiffellite-Atlas Obscura

The Construction Industry Is in Love with Drones; The thinking: Spend billions of dollars, save even more: ...allows construction companies to more efficiently deploy resources around a job site, minimize potential issues, trim costs, and limit delays..but the products often leave much to be desired..."We are still in the learning phase"...it's going to rewrite how people do construction." -- Autodesk- Fortune magazine

The shortlist for the 2016 Finlandia Prize for Architecture: Lappeenranta City Theatre, Löyly, Railo and Suvela Chapel -- ALA Architects; OPEAA Office for Peripheral Architecture; APRT/Arkkitehtiyöhuone Arto Palo Rossi Tikka Architects; Avanto Architects [images]- Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA)

ASLA Announces 2016 Professional Awards: 30 recipients selected from 456 entries [link to details & images] + link to 2016 Student Awards - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Spanish architect Carme Pinós awarded 2016 Berkeley-Rupp Prize and Architecture Professorship: [She] leads the architectural firm Estudio Carme Pinós in Barcelona...The biannual prize awards \$100,000 to a distinguished design practitioner or academic who has made a significant contribution to advancing gender equity in architecture, and whose work emphasizes a commitment to sustainability and community. - Berkeley-Rupp Prize / University of California, Berkeley College of Environmental Design

Steven Holl wins 2016 Daylight Award in Architecture; Marilyn Andersen wins 2016 Daylight Award for Research: The award is given as two personal prizes, and each to the sum of €100,000... - Villum Fonden/Velux Fonden/Velux Stiftung/Villum Kann Rasmussen

The 2016 Architect 50: The Top Firm in Design: ...list yielded a little bit of everything, from new firms debuting in the upper ranks, to mainstays once again asserting their dominance, to small firms proving that you don't need to be big to be successful. New firms topped each of the three categories. By Amanda Kolson Hurley -- William Rawn Associates; ZGF Architects; Marlon Blackwell Architects [images]- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: 2017 Palladio Awards (international) to honor outstanding achievement in traditional design; deadline: November 18- Traditional Building Magazine / Period Homes

Call for entries: Collaborative Working Groups Grants (up to \$15,000 each): to support faculty who are eager to collaborate with colleagues across disciplines on new or emerging areas of research; deadline: October 28- Fels Policy Research Initiative, University of Pennsylvania Arts & Sciences

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