

Today's News - Thursday, September 22, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, September 27. In the meantime: Happy Autumnal Equinox to our Northern Hemisphere friends, and Happy Vernal Equinox to those to our south!

- We are so saddened to learn we've lost John Bentley Mays (one of our faves). Bozиковic and Azure pay eloquent tribute.
- SCI-Arc's Gannon has some serious issues with Zellner's treatise on how to fix architectural education, particularly his "proposition that architecture cannot be taught" (a great read!).
- O.K - it's an Adjaye kind of day: Kimmelman talks to him about the Museum of African American History and Culture, "its structure, setbacks and symbolism."
- Gendall has his own Q&A with Adjaye: "Now that there are people using [the museum], it feels intuitive, very deliberate."
- King, meanwhile, cheers Adjaye's first project west of Colorado, "and his first planning effort in the Americas": the makeover of San Francisco's Hunters Point Naval Shipyard "has promising elements" - it's "an intriguing work in process" - by some other very fine firms, as well.
- On the other side of the Big Pond, Adjaye takes home a London Design Festival medal, as do Pentagram's Grange and others.
- Eye-fuls of just-released proposals by the stellar shortlist of four vying to design S. Pellegrino HQ in Italy (we should know the winner later this month).
- A \$100 million makeover of Toronto's 1974 Manulife Centre will include "a glassy new frontage" (and Eataly's first Canadian venture).
- Down Under, Big World Homes introduces a (very affordable) "modular flat-packed off-grid tiny home" - the first to be built by "unskilled volunteers" in a few hours, then it heads to the Sydney Architecture Festival next week.
- Hawthorne rounds up "some promising works to read and watch for" this fall.
- Weekend diversions:
 - A good reason to be in NYC next week: the 8th annual Architecture & Design Film Festival offers a lineup of more than 30 films, along with panels and events (we can't wait!).
 - ABC iView offers its architecture documentary collection online and for free until October 15 (Kahn's "My Architect" and "How Much Does Your Building Weigh, Mr Foster?" included!).
 - "Timber City" at the National Building Museum "aims to dispel myths about the use of structural wood in construction."
 - In Ottawa, Dvir and Rauchwerger's "Icons of Knowledge: Architecture and Symbolism in National Libraries" is a "graphic cross section of national library buildings - the most symbolic icons of modern day countries."
 - In Southern California, multi-institution exhibits pay homage to the too often overlooked Irving Gill.
 - Florida's Q&A with Kanigel re: his Jane Jacobs biography "Eyes on the Street," which doesn't descend "into the exulted 'St. Jane' hagiography that would have surely bothered her to no end."
 - Morgan, meanwhile, takes on "Saint Jane, approximately," Kanigel's new look at Jane Jacobs that may be "the definitive biography of this pioneering thinker."
 - Marshall mulls Banham's "Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies": "nobody has yet written a user's manual more engaged in the city on its own terms as his did 45 years ago" (dingbats included - a great read!).

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Obituary: John Bentley Mays was a noted observer of art and architecture: ...in his role as a critic of architecture...[he] brought a remarkable thoroughness about the technical, personal and intellectual aspects of the discipline. By Alex Bozиковic - Globe and Mail (Canada)

In Memoriam: John Bentley Mays, 75: ...he brought a clarity and accessibility to a world of criticism that often feels abstruse to the general reader...He had a fresh, and sometimes unexpected, perspective...Whatever the subject matter, Mays wrote beautifully, thoughtfully and authoritatively. - Azure magazine (Canada)

A Situation Where Architecture Is Made: Of prophets and professionals: a response to Peter Zellner: Some of Peter's criticisms are justified, if a bit overblown...I take issue with his proposals, which...continue to portray architecture almost exclusively in aesthetic terms...and disregard questions of professional competence...More damaging is Peter's proposition...that architecture cannot be taught. By Todd Gannon/SCI-Arc - The Architect's Newspaper

David Adjaye on Designing a Museum That Speaks a Different Language: The designer of the Museum of African American History and Culture discusses the project, its structure, setbacks and symbolism. By Michael Kimmelman - New York Times

David Adjaye On His Design for the National Museum of African American History and Culture: Q&A re: the much-anticipated addition to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.: "Now that there are people using it, it feels intuitive, very deliberate." By John Gendall - Architectural Digest

Promise is building in long-neglected SF shipyard site: Forget those downtown towers clambering toward the heavens. The biggest change to San Francisco's landscape is taking place 5 miles away...former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard...has promising elements, including the most inviting park the city has seen in years...an intriguing work in process. By John King -- David Adjaye; Ian Birchall & Associates; David Baker Architects; IBI; CMG [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

London Design Festival: Medals for David Adjaye and Kenneth Grange/Pentagram: ...Adjaye won the 2016 Panerei London Design Medal...Grange received the Johnson Tiles Lifetime Achievement Medal. - Artinfo

BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group, MVRDV, Snohetta, and Architetto Michele De Lucchi unveil competing designs for San Pellegrino headquarters: The brief was to redesign the factory bottling plant, which has been located in San Pellegrino Terme since 1899. [images] - Dezeen

Eataly to Anchor \$100 Million Manulife Centre Redevelopment: ...renovations will see existing commercial space reconfigured as an additional two-storey retail area is added...re-imagined complex's exterior will be reworked to introduce a glassy new frontage... -- Clifford and Lawrie Architects (1974); Moed de Armas & Shannon (MdeAS); B+H Architects [images] - Urban Toronto

Modular flat-packed off-grid tiny home for \$65K: ...will be used to create off-grid homeowner communities on unused land through not-for-profit organization Big World Communities...a group of unskilled volunteers will build one of the tiny homes over a couple of hours before it is transported to the Sydney Architecture Festival...on display from 30 September to 3 October. Alexander Symes/Big World Homes; Unique Caravan Conversion [images] - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

From UC Davis to the National Mall: Key architecture projects this fall: Some promising works to read and watch for: "Eyes on the Street: The Life of Jane Jacobs" by Robert Kanigel; "Irving J. Gill: New Architecture for a Great

Country," San Diego History Center; National Museum of African American History and Culture/David Adjaye; "Louis Kahn: The Power of Architecture" at San Diego Museum of Art; Shrem Museum of Art/SO-L. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Architecture & Design Film Festival Returns September 28-October 2: The annual showcase, now in its eighth edition, will feature a lineup of more than 30 feature-length and short films, all focused on architecture and design...will kick off with the world premiere of "Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future"...stunning cinematography (by Saarinen's son, Eric)... [images] - Architectural Record

ABC View release architecture documentary collection for one month only: From architectural photographer Julius Shulman to the greats of Frank Gehry and Norman Foster, 'Art of the Build: Architecture Documentaries' explores the world and stories of buildings and building minds. The collection can be viewed here until 2am, 15 October. - Architecture & Design (Australia)

"Timber City" to Show Mass Timber's Potential for Construction, Job Creation: ...exhibition at the National Building Museum aims to dispel myths about the use of structural wood in construction; through May 21, 2017. -- Yugon Kim/Tomomi Itakura/KD; Lever Architecture; SHoP Architects; Waugh Thistleton Architects; Leers Weinzapfel [images] - Architect Magazine

"Icons of Knowledge: Architecture and Symbolism in National Libraries": Library and Archives Canada [in Ottawa]...exhibition presents a graphic cross section of national library buildings - amongst the most symbolic icons of modern day countries. -- Daniel V. Rauchwerger; Noam Dvir - Yahoo News

Gill's Village: Multi institution exhibit pays homage: When it comes to La Jolla's history and architecture, there are few more significant players than architect Irving Gill (1870-1936). When it came to giving La Jolla's early civic, educational and scientific institutions a home, it was Gill who built them...several Southern California organizations are presenting different Gill-inspired exhibits... - La Jolla Light (California)

The Life That Shaped Jane Jacobs: A conversation with Robert Kanigel, author of the new Jacobs biography, "Eyes on the Street": ...[he] takes on the daunting task of chronicling the life of the urbanist giant...without descending into the exulted "St. Jane" hagiography that would have surely bothered [her] to no end. By Richard Florida - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Saint Jane, Approximately: A new look at Jane Jacobs may provide the definitive biography of this pioneering thinker: "Eyes on the Street: The Life of Jane Jacobs" by science writer Robert Kanigel [about] the woman who believed that downtowns are for people provides ballast to offset the adulation. is the sort of full-on study, complete with footnotes and bibliography, that Jacobs required. By William Morgan - Architect Magazine

A 'radical alternative': how one man changed the perception of Los Angeles: In the 1960s, British architectural critic Reyner Banham declared his love for the city that his fellow intellectuals hated. What [he] wrote about...redefined how the world perceived it - but what would he think of LA today? "Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies"...nobody has yet written a user's manual more engaged in the city on its own terms as Banham did 45 years ago. By Colin Marshall - Guardian (UK)

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