

Today's News - Tuesday, October 11, 2016

- Wainwright weighs in on Caruso St John's Stirling Prize: "The UK's most prestigious architecture prize has been won by the subtle masters of gallery design. In craftsmanship alone, Newport Street gallery is streets ahead of this year's other contenders."
- A who's who of the profession reacts to Caruso St John's Stirling Prize (not all of it laudatory).
- Kamin revisits "Trump's sycophantic, vitriolic treatment of architecture critics who've gotten under his prosciutto-thin skin."
- de Monchaux sees Trump in Trump Tower: its "darkly mirrored façade is the clearest way to see its namesake."
- Bozikovic x 2: he cheers Toronto "thinking big" about its public realm, of which the Rail Deck Park is a "crucial" piece, but will there be conviction/money to go for the big plan?
- He looks at the "difficult task of reviving" Toronto's Ontario Place, the 1970s "modernist fantasy land" on the waterfront that "had a purpose that was poetic, but not very practical. It requires 'a big idea,'" too.
- The design for the new Statue of Liberty Museum "doesn't intend to detract from Lady Liberty herself" - "we didn't need a much grander building - the grander building is already there."
- We get a (brief) look at the three shortlisted designs for a 60-storey hotel that will be "another shake-up" on the Sydney skyline: "There will also be a community engagement program as part of the design process" (what a concept!).
- Merrick ponders "what on earth is going on in Montana's Wild West" as he explores "something strange and rather Shakespearean": the Tippet Rise Art Center - a "cultural destination is like no other."
- Q&A with Tabassum re: her Aga Khan Award-winning eco-friendly mosque in Dhaka, and what it's like to be a woman architect in Bangladesh.
- Saval says it's a "sign of the times" that Brutalism is back" with "an enthusiasm for Brutalist buildings beyond the narrow precincts of architecture criticism - it is a surprising turn of events."
- Schwartz revels in the return of the Rose Reading Room, "the storied New York Public Library space. It's a pleasure to have it back" - it is "luxurious in the way that only certain shared spaces can be."
- Last month Jolliffe "highlighted the pressures faced by architectural students"; this time around she finds out what architecture schools "are doing about this and whether it is enough."
- One we couldn't resist (especially after Kamin and de Monchaux's takes above): eyefuls of the "Good Walls Make Good Neighbors, Mr. Trump" competition winners (yikes!).
- Call for entries: Knight Cities Challenge grants for the best ideas to make 26 Knight communities more successful + 5th Annual A+Awards (with new categories and lower entry fee for students and young architects).

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Oliver Wainwright: Caruso St John win Stirling prize for Damien Hirst's Newport Street gallery: The UK's most prestigious architecture prize has been won by the subtle masters of gallery design...This subtle magic...a far cry from...oligarch-bling spiral staircase of Tate Britain...In craftsmanship alone, [it] is streets ahead of this year's other contenders. - Guardian (UK)

RIBA Stirling Prize: the profession reacts re: Caruso St John's Newport Street Gallery: Jay Merrick/The Independent: "I feel a twinge of satirical satisfaction...Satire aside...a beautifully made, free-to-enter public object"; Piers Taylor/Invisible Studio: "It's a great building and the obvious choice. But it also begs the question - What is the Stirling for? Do we care any more?"; etc. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Blair Kamin: Donald Trump's sycophantic, vitriolic treatment of architecture critics: ...Candidate Trump isn't all that different from Developer Trump. He remains a master media manipulator who can be charming, mercurial and vengeful. Only now he wants to be the most powerful man on earth...[He] clearly has a thing for critics who challenge his self-promoting narratives. -- Paul Goldberger - Chicago Tribune

Thomas de Monchaux: Seeing Trump in Trump Tower: Rarely has someone so near the summit of American political life been so closely identified with a single structure...[its] darkly mirrored façade is the clearest way to see its namesake. Half a lifetime after Trump built it, the tower still defines the man. -- Der Scutt - New Yorker

Alex Bozikovic: As Toronto rapidly evolves, Rail Deck Park is needed: ...the proposal for a 21-acre park above the rail corridor...would be expensive. It would be complicated. It would be big...But not big enough...won't match the galloping growth of this area...This is why the planning department is thinking big. It has a much broader Parks and Public Realm Plan for the downtown...Rail Deck Park is just one piece. Yet it is a crucial one. -- Public Work - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Alex Bozikovic: The difficult task of reviving Toronto's Ontario Place: ...a powerful lesson about what makes public space work: You have to give people a reason to come...the modernist fantasy land on Toronto's waterfront...designed as a gleaming showpiece...but that vision collapsed...it had a purpose that was poetic, but not very practical...It requires "a big idea"... -- Michael Hough; Eberhard Zeidler (1971); LANDinc; West 8 [images] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Images revealed of new Statue of Liberty Museum on Liberty Island: design doesn't intend to detract from Lady Liberty herself. "This complements the statue without competing with it...we didn't need a much grander building - the grander building is already there." -- FXFowle; ESI Design [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

The Star unveils designs for \$500 million, 60-storey hotel: The Sydney skyline is preparing for another shake-up with the launch of three potential designs...The Pyrmont peninsula is the new battleground for casino and hotel operators...The three designs are striking in their differences...There will also be a community engagement program as part of the design process. -- Grimshaw Architects; BVN; FJMT - Sydney Morning Herald

Jay Merrick: Portals to another dimension: What on earth is going on in Montana's Wild West? From a schoolhouse strangled by willows to 'cosmic tuning-forks', a strange new venture in America's Big Sky Country is turning heads: ...close to the small hamlet of Fishtail, something strange and rather Shakespearean has taken shape across 10,260 acres...Tippet Rise Art Centre...cultural destination is like no other. -- Ensamble Studio [images] - Independent (UK)

Bangladeshi architect builds eco-friendly mosque: Q&A: Marina Tabassum has won an international award [Aga Khan Award for Architecture] for building an eco-friendly mosque in Dhaka...she explains what makes the Bait ur Rouf Mosque so unique, and how is it to be a woman architect in Bangladesh. - Deutsche Welle (Germany)

Nikil Saval: Sign of the Times: Brutalism Is Back: The complicated revival of the simply honest brand of architecture: Despite two generations of abuse...an enthusiasm for Brutalist buildings beyond the febrile, narrow precincts of architecture criticism has begun to take hold...it is a surprising turn of events. -- Alison and Peter Smithson; Bertrand Goldberg; Lina Bo Bardi; Marcel Breuer; Mies van der Rohe; Le Corbusier; Louis Kahn; Paul

Rudolph [images]- New York Times T Magazine

Alexandra Schwartz: The Rose Reading Room and the Real Meaning of "Luxury" in New York City: The storied New York Public Library space has reopened after two and a half years of restorations. It's a pleasure to have it back...The [room] is luxurious in the way that only certain shared spaces can be. Its grandeur attracts its visitors, and is in turn amplified by their presence: the true urban symbiosis. -- Carre're & Hastings (1911); WJE Engineers & Architects; EverGreene Architectural Arts - New Yorker

Are the architecture schools doing enough to tackle mental health problems? Last month Eleanor Jolliffe highlighted the pressures faced by architectural students. She talked to the universities to see what they are doing about this and whether it is enough. - BD/Building Design (UK)

"Good Walls Make Good Neighbors, Mr. Trump" competition winners announced: ...challenging entrants to invert one of Trump's signature policy initiatives—building a wall separating Mexico from the United States—by designing a wall separating Trump from the rest of us. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: \$5 million Knight Cities Challenge: ...grant funding for your best ideas to make the 26 Knight communities more successful....Start thinking about your big ideas and get ready to submit...deadline: November 3-Knight Foundation

Call for entries: 5th Annual A+Awards (international): new categories with a lower entry fee, designed especially for students and young architects; deadline: November 4- Architizer

ANN feature: INSIGHT: Communication Issues in A/E/C Firms: 10 predominant communications failures that hinder both individual career growth and business success. By Donna L. Maltzan- ArchNewsNow.com

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