

Today's News - Tuesday, October 18, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us Kiser's Q&A with Fanatik Architecture, "one of the most successful architecture and design businesses in Second Life" (we "built" something there - a long, long time ago).
- Urban Taskforce Australia's Johnson parses the possible perils in a draft "Architecture and Design Policy for NSW": "there are some critical issues to be debated before good design is mandated on us all - it is critical that it becomes an enabler of design quality and not a controller."
- Meanwhile, TT Architecture's Trobe would like to see Canberra "become the world's coolest little capital. Civic is nearly as dead as Walter Burley Griffin. Let's actually give a fig and talk about Civic."
- Hall Kaplan, "in a gesture of hope over experience," attended an LA Times Future Cities Summit: "It was a pretentious affair. Good architects do not necessarily make for good visionaries."
- Hawthorne offers the fascinating, "lost history of L.A.'s own Wrigley Field," and begs to differ with Kamin claiming the National League Championship Series is a "dream ballpark matchup" of 'transit city park v. auto city stadium.' Not so fast, Mr. Kamin. Not so fast, Chicago."
- Zumthor tells CLAD he wants his new LACMA to be "sacred, sublime, and profane," and he will have new images to replace the "commercial-looking" visualizations "which I personally don't like so much."
- Booth cheers Paris-based Lebanese architect Hala Wardé being selected to design the BeMA: Beirut Museum of Art.
- Freelon is tapped to design Detroit's Motown Museum expansion - "the sort of high-profile arts-and-culture project that's crucial to the city's growth."
- Chaban parses KPF's 1,401-foot One Vanderbilt that "will tower over Grand Central, but allow it to shine."
- Maya Lin plans to blend old and new in a dramatic makeover Smith College's Neilson Library.
- California College of the Arts names Allied Works, Michael Maltzan Architecture, and Studio Gang as finalists to design its San Francisco Campus expansion.
- Frearson brings us eye-fuls of Aga Khan Award-winner Zhang Ke' Micro Hutong Renewal project to transform some of Beijing's ageing hutongs into hubs of activity (great pix!).
- Architects parse "just why Israeli homes are so badly designed" (underpaid architect, for one thing).
- Medina has a great Q&A with Colomina and Wigley re: their upcoming Istanbul Design Biennial: "'Are We Human?' is not a matter of criticizing other biennials. It's just introducing a hesitation in the flow to say maybe we need to redesign design."
- Budds gives thumbs-up to Madsen's "Brutalist Washington" map; "For fans of the oft-maligned style, D.C. is paradise."
- Cheers to the Rainforest Solutions Project, winner of the 2016 Buckminster Fuller Challenge (no actual architecture involved, but yay!): saves over 12 million acres, and is "one of the most extraordinary approaches to conservation, social justice, and indigenous rights in recent memory."
- Call for entries: Harvard Graduate GSD Inaugural Richard Rogers Fellowship + Center for Architecture's Stewardson Keefe LeBrun Travel Grant.

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[Fanatik Architecture Interview](#): ...one of the most successful architecture and design businesses in Second Life, an online virtual world...explore the world, build, create, shop and trade virtual property and services. By Kirsten Kiser -- Kendra Zaurak [images]

[Chris Johnson: Can Design Quality Be Regulated?](#) ...Minister for Planning, Rob Stokes...announced a draft "Architecture and Design Policy for NSW" with a particular focus on ensuring that good design is part of Sydney's growth...but there are some critical issues to be debated before good design is mandated on us all...The threshold question is who determines what good design is...it is critical that it becomes an enabler of design quality and not a controller. -- Urban Taskforce Australia- Sourceable (Australia)

[Tony Trobe: Let's become the world's coolest little capital: Civic is nearly as dead as Walter Burley Griffin...I would love to see our new government make fact of the chief minister's clarion call to "Build pride in being a Canberran'...Let's actually give a fig and talk about Civic.](#) TT Architecture- The Age (Australia)

[Beyond Malibu and Into the Future L.A., Not!:](#) ...in a gesture of hope over experience, I attended a Los Angeles Times Future Cities Summit...the gatherings of late usually have turned out to be a parade of self-promotions for the principal speakers...It was a pretentious affair...Good architects do not necessarily make for good visionaries. By Sam Hall Kaplan- City Observed

[Christopher Hawthorne: The battle of the ballparks: Cubs vs. Dodgers and the lost history of L.A.'s own Wrigley Field: Baseball's National League Championship Series...would seem to be a classic matchup of architectural and even civic opposites...Blair Kamin, endorsed that line of thinking...calling the NLCS a "dream ballpark matchup" of "transit city park v. auto city stadium."](#) Not so fast, Mr. Kamin. Not so fast, Chicago. -- Zachary Taylor Davis [images]- Los Angeles Times

[Peter Zumthor explains design for 'sacred, sublime and profane' LA County Museum of Art : ...\[he\] told CLAD..."but I would also like to accommodate the profane, the dirty, the normal, the everyday...he is working on new images of LACMA...the "commercial-looking" visualisations released in August were created for an environmental review only. "They were conventional renderings, which I personally don't like so much"...- CLAD \(Community of Leisure Architects & Designers\)](#)

[Robert Booth: Beirut to build new modern art museum: BeMA: Beirut Museum of Art will feature 124-metre tower, with 1,000 works...a design inspired by Italian campaniles and Arabic minarets...Paris-based Lebanese architect Hala Wardé to oversee the complex... -- HW Architecture \[images\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Motown Museum announces \\$50 million expansion: ...50,000-square-foot project will rise around the existing museum, housed in the humble Hitsville, U.S.A...the sort of high-profile arts-and-culture project that's crucial to the city's growth...a welcome step for a city that hasn't leveraged its Motown legacy to the extent it could... -- Phil Freelon/Perkins+Will; Hamilton Anderson Associates; Gallagher & Associates \[images\]- Detroit Free Press](#)

[Future Neighbor Will Tower Over Grand Central, but Allow It to Shine: A 1,401-foot building called One Vanderbilt will rise beside the rail terminal. Its design will try to preserve as many views of the station as possible.](#) By Matt A.V. Chaban -- Kohn Pedersen Fox/KPF- New York Times

[Maya Lin blends old, new in library makeover: ...a dramatically overhauled Smith College Neilson Library...to renew](#)

the campus' connection to the landscape and create a warm, 21st century "library for the future." -- Shepley Bulfinch; Edwina von Gal [images]- Daily Hampshire Gazette (Massachusetts)

CCA Announces Finalists for Design of Expanded San Francisco Campus: California College of the Arts has selected Allied Works, Michael Maitzan Architecture, and Studio Gang as finalists to design a new, ground-breaking art school that will redefine 21st Century arts education. -- Gensler; MKThink; Jensen Architects. - California College of the Arts (CCA)

Amy Frearson: Zhang Ke slots work and play spaces into Beijing's ancient hutong courtyards: Through a series of renovations and new insertions, [he] has transformed some of Beijing's ageing hutongs into hubs of activity...The courtyard neighbourhoods are largely unique to the Chinese capital, but are gradually being demolished...Micro Hutong Renewal project is one of the six winners of this year's Aga Khan Award for Architecture... -- ZAO/standardarchitecture [images]- Dezeen

Just Why Are Israeli Homes So Badly Designed? Indifferent contractors, underpaid architects and indiscriminating buyers are all part of the problem, experts say. Ultimately, we'll see higher quality only when buyers start demanding it: Architect blames over-regulation for lowering design standards. By Naama Riba -- Uri Ronen; Rony Kurz-Avitour/Studio XS- Ha'aretz (Israel)

Samuel Medina: Tangled Up in Design: With this year's Istanbul Design Biennial, Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley aim to reboot the history of civilization and "redesign" the human subject altogether: "Are We Human?" is "not a matter of criticizing other biennials. It's just introducing a hesitation in the flow to say maybe we need to redesign design"; October 22 to December 4. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

The Little-Known History Of Why Washington, D.C., Is A Brutalist Playground: For fans of the oft-maligned style, D.C. is paradise. How did it get that way? ...Deane Madsen celebrates in a new annotated map of 40 Brutalist buildings called "Brutalist Washington"...the latest in what seems like a flurry of books, trend stories, and installations that speak to a rediscovery of Brutalism. By Diana Budds [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Rainforest Solutions Project saves over 12 million acres of forest, wins 2016 Buckminster Fuller Challenge: ...team helped develop is "historically unprecedented" and is "one of the most extraordinary approaches to conservation, social justice, and indigenous rights in recent memory." [images]- Inhabitat

Call for entries: Applications for Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) Inaugural Richard Rogers Fellowship (international): Selected participants will be invited to stay in Rogers' 1960's Wimbledon House during a three-month residency in London; deadline: November 28- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: Center for Architecture's Stewardson Keefe LeBrun Travel Grant; open to an early or mid-career architect; must be U.S. citizen; deadline: November 1- Center for Architecture (NYC)

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