EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for not posting for such a long time with no explanation: the dog ate our database, then we were kidnapped by aliens, after which we just needed a break. Now we’re back and there’s lots of catching up to do...

- ArcSpace brings us Jaja Architects’ Park’n’Play parking garage in Copenhagen - with a very cool play space and great views on the roof.
- Kimmelman came away from “a chaotic” Habitat III “heartened” by a “crowd skewed young and idealistic” and “embracing urban ideals, including the common ground of public spaces, mass transit, streets and sidewalks.”
- King parses MAD’s two designs for a Lucas Museum on Treasure Island in San Francisco, and in L.A.’s Exposition Park: one is “a cross between a silvery cloud and a souped-up sports car”; the other “has a turbo-charged air - an elongated spacecraft.”
- Hawthorne’s take on the two Lucas Museum designs: “Lucas is hoping that either the third or fourth time will be the charm. Call it hedging your bets - the dual-track proposal is an unusual gambit by any measure.”
- Meanwhile, Adjaye is tapped to be the “master plan architect and creative director” for the second phase of the gigantic San Francisco Shipyard development.
- Pogrebni reports that the Frick Collection picked Selldorf Architects for its long-planned (and beleaguered) renovation: eradicating Page’s garden is “off the table.”
- Wainwright heralds the new, “perfect home” for Britain’s own Rube Goldberg, “a museum fit for the cobbled-together contraption king.”
- Saffron is more than a bit saddened by a new Whole Foods building on Philby’s Rodin Square: it “has everything except good design.”
- Moore, meanwhile, finds Leeds’ new Victoria Gate shopping arcade “one of the strangest and most enjoyable contributions that retail has made to a British city for many years (with "robo-gothic," "exuberant," and "promiscuous" thrown in).
- Dimindenberg almost runs out of adjectives for DS+R’s Vagelos Center at Columbia University that “obtains a wondrous harmony,” along with being “joyous and life-affirming” (and then some!).
- Schindler explains why this might be a good time to revisit Model Cities, the “federal program meant to rebuild the country’s poorest neighborhoods without the displacement and disenfranchisement” - but “was written off as a failure and a footnote in 1974.”
- Keegan waxed poetic about the two ballparks hosting the World Series, where “the 2016 season will unfold in venues that are genuine fields of dreams.”
- Ingalls has an interesting Q&A with Lorenzen and Tolkin re: “Does teaching architecture enhance architectural practice?”
- One we couldn’t resist: Dudley rounds up “the coolest empty buildings in America” - many built in a “spasm of corporate hubris.”
- Cheers to the shortlist of six in the running for the inaugural RIBA International Prize (great presentation). And congrats to the inaugural American Architecture Prize winners (also good presentation).
- Call for entries: 2017 Coverings Installation & Design (CID) Awards + 2017 Ceramic of Italy Tile Competition.
Edward Dimendberg: Diller Scofidio + Renfro’s Vagelos Center [at Columbia University] masterfully balances verticality, high-tech medicine, and spaces for learning: ‘...the micro and the macro, the cell and the city, obtain a wondrous harmony...’ DS+R’s most perfectly resolved building...Joyous and life-affirming... -- Gensler [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Susanne Schindler: Model Cities Redux: This federal program meant to rebuild the country’s poorest neighborhoods without the displacement and disenfranchisement of urban renewal lasted only eight years before it was written off as a failure and a footnote in 1974...Fifty years after it was passed into law, Model Cities deserves a second look. [images]- Urban Omnibus

Edward Keegan: A tale of two ballparks: Wrigley vs. Progressive: Chicago and Cleveland...Neither team’s current ballpark existed when they last raised the world championship pennant...Neither was the work of a neophyte ballpark designer...Neither has its original name...The last four to seven games of the 2016 season will unfold in venues that are genuine fields of dreams. -- Zachary Taylor Davis (1910); HOK Sport (1994) [images]- Crain's Chicago Business

Julia Ingalls: Does Teaching Architecture Enhance Architectural Practice? ...architects that both teach and practice serve as a crucial connective tissue between the highly abstract realm of academia and the gritty, oftentimes grinding reality of permits, stakeholder meetings and aesthetic compromises; Q&A with Sarah Lorenzen and Peter Tolkin. - Archinect

David Dudley: Pretty Vacants: The Coolest Empty Buildings in America: They’re weird, amazing, and available. Behold the nation’s most impressive vacant structures. [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

RIBA International Prize 2016 Shortlist: ...six buildings in the running...Projects demonstrate a range of innovative responses to the role of public architecture... -- Menos é Mais, Arquitectos Associados/João Mendes Ribeiro Arquitecto; Zaha Hadid Architects; David Chipperfield Architects/Taller Abierto de Arquitectura y Urbanismo; Agence d'Architecture Philippe Prost; DRDH Architects; Grafton Architects/Shell Arquitectos [images]- RIBA / Royal Institute of British Architects


Call for entries: 2017 Coverings Installation & Design (CID) Awards (international) for outstanding achievements in the design and installation of tile and stone; cash prizes; deadline: January 6, 2017- Coverings

Call for entries: 2017 Ceramic of Italy Tile Competition: open to North America-based architects and designers for domestic and international projects; cash prizes + CEU-accredited trip to Italy; deadline: January 6, 2017- Ceramic Tiles of Italy

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