

Today's News - Monday, November 21, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us a housing co-operative just north of Zurich that is "an ambitious new model for co-op housing developments."
- Getting grumpy (and Trumpy) news out of the way: Schumacher at his seemingly Scroogiest with a screed calling for tossing all regulations, scrapping social housing (and tenants "rights to 'precious' city-center properties"), and privatizing public spaces (Hyde Park could be replaced with a new city. "How much are you actually using it?"); video of his talk, fiery comments, and his rather Joycean response follow.
- Davidson minces no words about what Manhattan could be like if Trump Tower becomes White House North: it "will be not a mere annoyance but a state-sponsored takeover of public space," turning "a public thoroughfare into a glowering moat" (it's pretty bad now).
- Schwab tracks down Public Architecture's John Peterson to figure out "what architects can do in the age of Trump: find ways to make a difference in their community and put their skills to work for good" (or at least "find solace in trying").
- Bryan Lee refers back to Whitney M. Young's admonishment of the AIA "for lacking the courage to speak out on issues of injustice" - now, "we find ourselves in the same position of indifference," and it's time to "develop a multipoint platform for Design Justice."
- McKee weighs in on the possible ramifications of a Trump Administration on landscape architecture: "The job description [for landscape architects] just got bigger for us all."
- Green parses the results of the new Administration if/when it tries to roll back progress on climate change: "lawsuits and protests" will ensue, "with responsible, globally-minded states, cities, communities, and companies leading the way forward" (fingers crossed!).
- Hawthorne has reservations about the redesign of the Crystal Cathedral, "one of the triumphant landmarks of Southern California kitsch": the interior seems to be "heavy, earthbound and handsome to a fault" - with a "well-appointed tastefulness that Philip Johnson spent much of his career gleefully skewering."
- Turning to brighter news: Kolson Hurlley offers a fascinating look beyond the starchitecty plans for DC's 11th Street Bridge Park to the "audacious plan" that could be "a model for how to build a trophy urban design project while fulfilling a vision of social responsibility."
- A stretch of NYC's Hudson River waterfront is about to get a starchitecty skyline by Meier, Viñoly, and KPF, with a Mathews Nielsen park.
- Cheng has an interesting Q&A with Kuma re: "the values of regionalism, critical writing and the need for architects to be 'humble.'"
- Richardson's verdict on "London's new cathedral for design": the Design Museum is "a meeting place, where ideas and people are the attractions rather than objects" - and "Fear and Love" is "an intriguing romp through contemporary world issues."
- It's an intriguing shortlist of five vying for MoMA PS1 2017 Young Architects Program.
- The winners of the Metropolis/Staples Business Advantage Tomorrow's Workplace Design Competition "provocatively look to the broader community" (NORCs and inflatable office bubbles in parks included).
- Eye-fuls of the 100 artful works for Article 25's annual "10x10 Drawing the City London" auction - online and on view until November 29.
- Landes walks us through a brief history of Soviet architecture: it "captured the creativity of their architects but also the state's centralized message."
- Architecture New Zealand's Harvey considers the "copyright crisis" in architecture: The crediting of architects is an important way for the profession to regain some ground, having been subsumed by the big contractors and multidisciplinarys."
- Hosey explains the details of AIA COTE's overhaul of its Top Ten Awards criteria that "ups the ante on its Measures of Sustainable Design."
- Call for entries: 2017 AIA COTE Top Ten Awards.

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Duplex Architekten et al: Mehr Als Wohnen, Hunziker, Switzerland: ...a housing co-operative situated in Hunziker, just north of Zurich. The precinct, which translates to mean 'More Than Living,' has emerged as an ambitious new model for co-op housing developments. By Jennifer McMaster -- Futurafrosch; Pool Architekten; Müller Sigrist; Miroslav Šik; Müller Illien [images]

Patrik Schumacher calls for social housing and public space to be scrapped: ...a solution to London's housing crisis that involves getting rid of regulations, privatising all public space and scrapping social housing...an eight-point plan...said the real "tragedy" was that social-housing tenants have rights to "precious" city-centre properties...suggested that Hyde Park could even be replaced with a new city. "How much are you actually using it?" -- Zaha Hadid Architects - Dezeen

Justin Davidson: Trump Tower, Fifth Avenue, and the Militarization of Urban Public Space: ...has turned his stretch of Fifth into the urban equivalent of the security line at JFK...over the next four years he'd like to slip back to his Tower on weekends...that will be not a mere annoyance but a state-sponsored takeover of public space...will have turned a public thoroughfare into a glowering moat. - New York Magazine

Katharine Schwab: What Architects Can Do In The Age Of Trump: Work on the problems you think are important, commit to pro bono work, and "find solace in trying": John Peterson/Public Architecture re: how architects can find ways to make a difference in their community and put their skills to work for good. [images] - Fast Company / Co.Design

Bryan Lee Op-Ed: The Ethical Argument for Architects to Stand Against Trump: Nearly 60 years after the AIA was admonished by...Whitney M. Young for lacking the courage to speak out on issues of injustice, we find ourselves in the same position of indifference...the AIA in partnership with the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), Arquitectos, the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers and other cultural architecture organizations should develop a multipoint platform for Design Justice that outlines the ideals of a just city and a just profession. - Next City (formerly Next American City)

Bradford McKee: Get Ready: There can scarcely be any overstating the threat the Trump presidency poses to the interests of the landscape architecture community...this presidency will be the greatest constraint many of us will work under in our lifetimes, on the order of anathema to everything landscape architecture has ever stood for...I am proud to be part of ASLA because its vision is this: Leading the design and stewardship of land and communities...The job description just got bigger for us all. - Landscape Architecture Magazine

Jared Green: President-elect Trump Seeks to Rollback Progress on the Climate: ...the vast majority of Americans believe climate change is a cause of major concern, and their concerns should be heeded. The alternative will be lawsuits and protests...with responsible, globally-minded states, cities, communities, and companies leading the way forward. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Christopher Hawthorne: The Crystal Cathedral redesign: Why tasteful updates add up to architectural disappointment: ...one of the triumphant landmarks of Southern California kitsch...digitized version of the remade cathedral interior that is heavy, earthbound and handsome to a fault...more suggestive of...a high-end law firm...The redesign put the fundamental spirit of the building at risk...aims for the sort of well-appointed tastefulness that Philip Johnson spent much of his career gleefully skewering. -- Richard Neutra; Philip Johnson and John Burgee; Richard Meier & Partners; Scott Johnson/Johnson Fain

[images]- Los Angeles Times

Amanda Kolson Hurley: Bridging D.C.'s Starkest Divide: Can a park over the Anacostia River spur a revolution in urban development? Scott Kratz has an idea to close the gap between the city's haves and have-nots...an audacious plan...developing a new protocol...to spread its benefits to all...If it succeeds, it will be a model for how to build a trophy urban design project while fulfilling a vision of social responsibility...Equitable Development Plan..."what gets measured gets done"... -- OMA; OLIN- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Meier, Viñoly, KPF tapped to realize delayed Upper West Side development: The project [Waterline Square] picks up where Riverside Center left off: ...to build out a nearly five-acre portion of undeveloped land on the...Hudson River waterfront. -- Christian de Portzamparc/Goldstein, Hill & West; Richard Meier and Partners; Rafael Viñoly Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF); Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects [images]- Curbed New York

Linda Cheng: Kengo Kuma on 'the mother of architectural design': Q&A re: the values of regionalism, critical writing and the need for architects to be "humble": "...architects are often used as a branding tool...It's a kind of misunderstanding architects have about the value of themselves. Architects should be humble." - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Vicky Richardson: Design Museum: does its architecture match its ambitions? ...her verdict on London's new cathedral for design: This is very much a new model for a museum...a meeting place, where ideas and people are the attractions rather than objects..."Fear and Love: Reactions to a Complex World"...an intriguing romp through contemporary world issues by international names... -- Terence Conran; Deyan Sudjic; Justin McGuirk; RMJM (1963); John Pawson; OMA; Morag Myerscough; Sam Jacob; OK-RM [images]- The Spaces (UK)

MoMA PS1 Announces its 2017 Young Architects Program Shortlist: In its 18th year running, the New York institutions' program celebrating up-and-coming designers selected five finalists....will provide a backdrop for the summertime concert series, "Warm Up." -- Bureau Spectacular; Ania Jaworska; Office of Ill; Sabin Design Lab; SCHAUWSCHIEH- Architect Magazine

Working With Your Elders: The winning proposals for [Metropolis and Staples Business Advantage] Tomorrow's Workplace Design Competition provocatively look to the broader community: Ethelind Coblin Architect was inspired by "naturally occurring retirement communities" (NORCs)... "Co-Gen Flex Space"...a kind of Co-op where people across generations can work individually in the same highly adaptable environment...runner-up Jie Zhang of Opt Studio..."FoAM"...a series of inflatable mobile offices...within a network of urban parks. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Article 25 unveils the artworks by 100 prominent architects, designers and artists for their annual "10x10 Drawing the City London: 100 Translated Spaces in Brixton" exhibition and auction: ...live auction at RIBA, London, on November 29; online auction open now. [images]- Article 25 (UK)

Nora Landes: The Enduring Power of Soviet Architecture: ...starting shortly after the revolution...architecture was increasingly called upon to reinforce Soviet rhetoric and collective identity throughout the realm. Monumentality, industrial motifs, and a strained blending of classicism and modernism...captured the creativity of their architects but also the state's centralized message. -- Konstantin Melnikov; Ilya Golosov; B. I. Artiushin; S. V. Savin; Vladimir Tatlin; Yulian L. Shvartsbreim; etc. [images]- Artsy magazine

Justine Harvey/Architecture New Zealand: Copyright crisis: The crediting of architects is an important way for the profession to regain some ground, having been subsumed by the big contractors and multidisciplinarys, and by the vagaries of a demanding and ever-changing industry. - ArchitectureNow (New Zealand)

Lance Hosey: Redefining Sustainable Design: AIA COTE Overhauls Its Top Ten Awards Criteria: With the increasingly higher performance expectations for buildings, the AIA Committee on the Environment ups the ante on its Measures of Sustainable Design for its annual recognition program. - Architect Magazine

Call for entries: 2017 AIA COTE Top Ten Awards; new measures and metrics emphasize the importance of actual performance in addition to design intent; deadline: January 18, 2017 - AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE)

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