

Today's News - Tuesday, November 29, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us eye-fuls of ZAO/standardarchitecture's latest in a series Micro Hutongs in Beijing this one a hostel that "evidences a materiality that is sensitive to the aged fabric of the hutong."
- McKay bemoans the changing definition of the "once-revered term 'architects' architect' - today what we have instead are self-aware media heroes."
- Proof is in the stormy rhetoric re: Schumacher's recent takedown of regulations and social housing: Harper says it's "time to stop listening" to him. The fact that the architecture world continues to give him airtime reveals the intellectual weakness of our profession."
- Architect/developer Zogolovitch, on the other hand, says "Schumacher is right to oppose regulations. Building regulations are stifling architects," and "initiatives like BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes are 'dangerous.'"
- ZHA responds to the "furor": "Patrik Schumacher's 'urban policy manifesto' does not reflect Zaha Hadid Architects' past - and will not be our future. Hadid did not write manifestos. She built them."
- Schumacher, "embarrassed by 'Mr. Nasty image,' claims he only wanted to trigger a discussion" - and "apologizes to friends and colleagues for embarrassing them" (includes his full statement).
- Wainwright x 2: he winds up our Schumacher ("Trump of architecture") round-up: "It is healthy for the left to be wrenched from the fuzzy echo-chamber, but much of his rhetoric verges on 'post-truth' territory" (otherwise known as "truthiness"?).
- The he takes on "Trumpitecture" and "what we can expect": "For the king of superlatives, nothing has ever turned out quite as 'tremendous' as he promised."
- Morgan minces no words about what he thinks of the design of the three Hope Point Towers proposed for Providence: "The name alone ought to be a warning - for so many reasons these 34, 43, and 55 story blocks make no sense at all. Is it not time for Providence to stop be pushed around by mediocre developers and second-rate architects?"
- King, on a much brighter note (thank you!), re: UC Davis's SO-IL/BCJ-designed Shrem Museum that "triumphs over a setting where it really shouldn't be. In a year where big buildings have grabbed so much attention, we should never forget that small works of ambition are equally vital."
- Foster + Partners and Rubio Arquitectura tops a starchitect-filled shortlist to win the job to expand Madrid's Prado Museum.
- Schuetze spends some quality time with Waterstudio's Olthuis, who is leading the way in floating buildings in the face of rising sea levels.
- Welton cheers the "rock stars from a roster of pedigreed national landscape architecture firms" now on the shortlist to master-plan Raleigh's 308-acre Dorothea Dix Park.
- A look at what went into overcoming the challenges in designing the \$2 billion, 2-million-square-foot expansion of the Calgary International Airport.
- A fascinating (and in-depth) look at Victor Gruen's history and legacy - the enclosed shopping mall - and its "recent decline and shape-shifting under the umbrella of new urbanism."
- The inaugural RIBA International Prize is won by Grafton Architects' "modern Machu Picchu" in Lima, Peru.
- Also eye-fuls of RIBA's "homes of the future" shortlist in the Project 2020 initiative (maybe it's just us , but they all look sorta similar).

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ZAO/standardarchitecture: Micro Hutong, Beijing, China: ...series of projects legitimizes hutong dwelling as a viable mode of contemporary small-scale, intimate accommodation, whilst also preserving the significant heritage value...hostel represents the latest iteration in this series, and evidences a materiality that is sensitive to the aged fabric of the hutong. By Jason Dibbs [images]

Graham McKay: Whatever Happened to "The Architects' Architect"? The definition of this once-revered term has shifted to something a lot less about buildings: We've in fact eliminated most architects and can see more clearly the elusive qualities of those scant few who are left...The concept of the architects' architect wasn't perfect, but today what we have instead are self-aware media heroes. - Common Edge

Phineas Harper: It is time to stop listening to Patrik Schumacher: [His] vision for a deregulated and privatised city is nothing more than a rehash of failed establishment ideas: Finally architecture is contributing to political discourse...Sadly, nothing could be further from the truth...The fact that the architecture world continues to give him airtime reveals the intellectual weakness of our profession, unable to see through the specious dogma. Are we really so cowed by fame that we lose all critical capacity when confronted with an outspoken starchitect? -- Zaha Hadid Architects- Dezeen

Patrik Schumacher is right to oppose regulations, says architect-turned-developer Roger Zogolovitch: Building regulations are stifling architects...scrapping many regulations could solve the UK's housing crisis...initiatives like BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes...are "dangerous" and often result in poor-quality architecture. -- CZWG; Solidspace- Dezeen

Zaha Hadid Architects Responds to Patrik Schumacher's "Urban Policy Manifesto": ...we chose not to cover his speech...boos from the crowd indicated that this was not a position that the wider architectural profession was interested in giving publicity to...his speech became front page news...causing Zaha Hadid Architects to write an open letter in response to the furore. - ArchDaily

Patrik Schumacher embarrassed by "Mr Nasty image" after World Architecture Festival speech: ...said he regrets the reaction to his recent speech about London's housing crisis, and claims he only wanted to trigger a discussion...and apologised to friends and colleagues for embarrassing them. - Dezeen

Oliver Wainwright: Zaha Hadid's successor: scrap art schools, privatise cities and bin social housing: The extreme views of Patrik Schumacher...are causing outrage...Hadid jokingly dismissed his theories...as "Patrik-metricism"...He has found plenty of allies...it is often hard to tell whether he actually believes in what he is saying, or if he is merely playing the provocateur...It is healthy for the left...to be wrenched from the fuzzy echo-chamber, but much of his rhetoric verges on "post-truth" territory. - Guardian (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: Trumpitecture: what we can expect from the billionaire cowboy builder: Donald Trump's towers glitter with gold lamé and mirrored glass. But underneath lurks a story of broken promises, angry buyers and lawsuits. What does this mean for his \$500bn presidential building spree? For the king of superlatives, nothing has ever turned out quite as "tremendous" as he promised. - Guardian (UK)

William Morgan Challenges the Three Hope Towers Design: The name alone ought to be a warning...for so many reasons these 34, 43, and 55 story blocks make no sense at all, particularly in architectural and urban terms...Is it not time for Providence to stop be pushed around by mediocre developers and second-rate architects? -- Sol Wassermuhl/IBI Group

[images]- GoLocalProv (Rhode Island)

John King: New UC Davis museum puts natural light to striking use: The Manetti Shrem Museum of Art...faced...the most difficult task of all - to triumph over a setting where it really shouldn't be...In a year where big buildings have grabbed so much attention, we should never forget that small works of ambition are equally vital...Small pleasures in a small setting... -- Florian Idenburg/SO-IL; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Lutsko Associates [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Foster + Partners and Rubio Arquitectura to expand Madrid's Prado Museum with Salón de Reinos [Hall of Realms] renovation: ...will create a new public focus for the city by uniting the Prado's various buildings through public spaces and underground links. [images]- designboom

Christopher F. Schuetze: A Dutch Architect Offshores the Future of Housing: In an era when the needs of growing urban centers are changing rapidly and rising sea levels threaten waterside construction, Koen Olthuis has been busy working on a solution: the floating building...has completed more than 200 floating homes and offices... -- Waterstudio [images]- New York Times

J. Michael Welton: Mapping a future for Dix Park: The finalists read like a list of rockstars from a roster of pedigreed national landscape architecture firms...\$3 million master plan for Raleigh's Dorothea Dix Park with its 308 acres of rolling hills... -- OLIN; James Corner Field Operations; Sasaki; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Civitas; Nelson Byrd Woltz - News & Observer (North Carolina)

Architect Overcomes Challenges in Airport Project: Calgary International Airport...new International terminal. Part of a \$2 billion expansion program, the two million square foot facility...North America's first terminal to incorporate a call-to-gate system...supports the environmental goals...by providing a green alternative to energy-consuming elevators and escalators...sound attenuation is a major issue, rife with special challenges -- DIALOG [images]- Building Enclosure magazine

Victor Gruen: Architect of an American Icon: 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of...the enclosed shopping mall. On this occasion...a closer look at its history and original conception by an Austrian immigrant, as well as the classic mall's recent decline and shape-shifting under the umbrella of new urbanism. - Austrian Information

RIBA International Prize won by 'modern Machu Picchu': The Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología (UTEC) in Lima...chosen from a shortlist of six...designed by Dublin-based Grafton Architects..."a series of landscaped terraces with clefts, overhangs and grottos...an exceptional example of civil architecture"... -- Shell Arquitectos [images]- BBC News

RIBA unveils 'homes of the future' shortlist: Project 2020 initiative being run with house builder Taylor Wimpey...competition to develop new housing types that explore materials, techniques and technology... -- Artform Architects; Igor Russo/Flanagan Lawrence; More Design; NewGround Architects; Origin 3 Studio; Openstudio Architects [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

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