

Today's News - Tuesday, December 13, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us eye-fuls of a Henning Larsen-designed school in Aarhus, Denmark, that "sets the bar for future educational buildings," designing the interior "as a tremendous playground" (we want to play here!).
- Dittmar ponders the Ghost Ship inferno in Oakland, CA, and what "measures are needed to promote the safe use of old buildings for arts based activities" ("bare bones" and all).
- Murcutt minces no words about what he thinks of plans to put an 8.5-foot fence around Giurgola's Parliament House in Canberra, along with other architects who "were universally scathing."
- Mafi offers a fascinating look at how Iran's "modern architecture movement appears to be making up for lost time. As for the future of Iranian architecture? It's still a bit hazy."
- Lyndon Goode has big plans for a "sustainable and affordable" new city in the West Bank called Khalil Al Khadra, or "Green Hebron."
- Phoenix-based Wendell Burnette Architects is designing a hotel for a Saudi Arabian UNESCO site that will be practically invisible among the Jabal Ithlib rock formations.
- Lange makes a pilgrimage to Noguchi's (little-known) 400-acre public park in Japan, "a modernist fairy tale" that "feels like it was meant to be seen from the moon, not explored on a tiny bicycle" (great pix!).
- Hawthorne has high hopes - with reservations - about a "huge" project in L.A.'s arts district: "The risk - as with all of the projects emerging from BIG's huge and increasingly busy office - is that [its] final form won't quite make the leap from clever and opportunistic to something more architecturally powerful or profound."
- Campbell cheers Maya Lin's new Novartis building at the edge of the MIT campus: "Hang a mass of heavy granite in midair? Totally crazy, of course. I wish all our recent architecture were equally crazy - the granite screen works as urban design and unexpected urban art."
- Bozicovic revels in the spirit of Hariri's Baha'i Temple of South America, and waxes poetically about "one of architecture's most ambitious undertakings."
- Goettsch Partners' Zurich Insurance Group's North American HQ "would fit in well in the outskirts of Copenhagen or Amsterdam - in the Chicago suburbs it is honestly a bit shocking - in a good way."
- 1100 Architect transforms an 80-year-old church into a performing arts center for a Brooklyn school.
- Budds takes a long look at "the overlooked legacy" of AIA Gold Medalist Paul Revere Williams, who "succeeded in an industry and era rife with discrimination."
- Zeiger parses how young firms are moving beyond concepts and temporary installations to tackling "architecture's delicate pas de deux between ideas and physical realization."
- An update on +POOL's young team and their "audacious plan" to float a swimming pool in NYC's East River.
- Iovine sizes up the best architecture of 2016: it was "a banner year" defined by "both bold innovation and thoughtful renovation."
- Birnbaum sizes up "sexy infrastructure and other notable developments in 2016" that "are evidence that landscape architects continue to grow as a leading force in shaping our cities."
- Call for Entries: 2017 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers + 10th Dedalo Minosse International Prize + 2017 North American Copper in Architecture Awards.

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Henning Larsen Architects: Frederiksbjerg School, Aarhus, Denmark: ...a collaboration with GPP Arkitekter...it strives to set the bar for future educational buildings...a primary school version 2.0...designing the interior of the building as a tremendous playground. [images]

Hank Dittmar: Measures are needed to promote the safe use of old buildings for arts based activities to avoid tragedies like last week's Ghost Ship fire: ...tolerance for the...space that exists in the grey or informal economy disappears, and there seems to be no middle space between the fire trap and the luxury loft...There should be no tolerance for the fire trap without safe exits, but tolerance in planning and regulation for the bare bones, for the older building...- BD/Building Design (UK)

"Putting a fence around [Parliament House] is putting a noose around it": ...Glenn Murcutt, has slammed forthcoming changes...that will block public access to the building's famed grassy slopes...a 2.6-metre fence...would betray the intentions of Romaldo Giurgola... "We're getting like a gated community: very American style"...seemed to be "more about stopping civil protests than terrorism"...Other architects...were universally scathing...- Sydney Morning Herald

Nick Mafi: Why Iran Is Opening Its Doors to Bold Architecture: ...the modern architecture movement appears to be making up for lost time...beneath that increasingly fragile veneer of extremism is a growing sense of global curiosity and national pride...especially the flourishing of modern architecture...As for the future of Iranian architecture? It's still a bit hazy. -- Leila Araghi; Hooman Koliji; RYRA Studio [images]- Architectural Digest

Lyndon Goode outlines plans for new West Bank 'city': First phase of \$1bn blueprint would deliver 450 homes near Hebron...a "sustainable and affordable" new city in the Occupied Territories of Palestine...Khalil Al Khadra ("Green Hebron") targets the delivery of 12,000 homes, shops, offices, and new educational facilities... [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Saudi Arabia's First UNESCO Site to Get a Hotel: Designed by Phoenix-based firm Wendell Burnette Architects, the new building will reflect the surrounding area's natural topography...the Mada'in Saleh Hotel that will dwell among the Jabal Ithlib rock formations and the ancient city of Hegra. - Architect Magazine

Alexandra Lange: A journey to Isamu Noguchi's last work: [His] most fabled playground, Moerenuma Park in Japan, is a modernist fairy tale: Moerenuma Koen...a 400-acre public park, completed in 2005, that includes mountains, rivers, beaches, and forests of play equipment...feels like it was meant to be seen from the moon, not explored on a tiny bicycle...The most sublime experience is at the rim of Sea Fountain... [images]- Curbed

Christopher Hawthorne: Huge Arts District development along L.A. River races for approval: 670 Mesquit...combines the clean lines and economy of minimalist art and postwar Los Angeles architecture...The risk - as with all of the projects emerging from BIG's huge and increasingly busy office - is that...final form won't quite make the leap from clever and opportunistic to something more architecturally powerful or profound...What could really set [it] apart...is its urbanism... -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group [images]- Los Angeles Times

Robert Campbell: New Novartis building is a work of art...at the edge of the MIT campus...Hang a mass of heavy granite in midair? Totally crazy, of course. I wish all our recent architecture were equally crazy...an ambitious building...A host of issues...addressed by the architecture, often brilliantly...granite screen...works as urban design...unexpected urban art. --

[Maya Lin; Toshiko Mori; Michael Van Valkenburgh; CannonDesign; Bialosky Architects \[images\]](#) - Boston Globe

[Alex Bozikovic: Spirit in the sky: Siamak Hariri spent a lifetime hoping to unite religion and technology - and realized his dream in \[the Baha'i Temple of South America\] in Chile. Bozikovic reports from Santiago on one of architecture's most ambitious undertakings: Complex in its form and innovative in its materials and details, it pushes the building art in the service of spirituality. -- Hariri Pontarini Architects \[images\]](#) - Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Raising the Bar: Goettsch Partners provides a refreshing jolt to the Chicago suburbs with Zurich Insurance Group's North American HQ: ...a formally ambitious exercise in large-office design...thinking about the project's presentation to the car-bound masses...While the project would fit in well in the outskirts of a city like Copenhagen or Amsterdam...in the Chicago suburbs it is honestly a bit shocking - in a good way. -- Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects; Cannon Design \[images\]](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[1100 Architect transforms 80-year-old church into a performing arts center: The Berkeley Carroll School, Performing Arts Center \[in\] Park Slope, Brooklyn...can now provide the pre-K Berkeley Carroll School with seating for 396...can be reconfigured to serve as a lecture hall or venue for music, theater, events, and multi-media audio-visual performances. \[images\]](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[Diana Budds: The Overlooked Legacy Of Pioneering African-American Architect Paul Revere Williams: He succeeded in an industry and era rife with discrimination: ...in addition to being the first African-American architect to become part of the AIA and the first elevated into its College of Fellows, \[he\] is the first African-American recipient of AIA Gold Medal...designed over 2,000 buildings... \[images\]](#) - Fast Company / Co.Design

[Mimi Zeiger: The Build Up: After a period of concepts and temporary installations, a rising generation of practitioners tackles spaces for art and culture: For some emerging firms, architecture's delicate pas de deux between ideas and physical realization is a newfound pleasure and challenge...Budget is lowbrow, concept highbrow. But steering the budget toward a design imperative can make or break a project. -- SO-IL/Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Young & Ayata; Assemble Studio; Productora - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Why This Architect Is Spending 10 Years Building A Swimming Pool: ...an audacious plan to engineer a public, water-purifying swimming pool to float in New York City's East River...By creating their own nonprofit, the team was able to keep the difficult elements of their plan...+POOL plans to finalize and announce the site for the pool by summer 2017... -- Oana Stanescu; Dong-Ping Wong; Jeff Franklin; Archie Lee Coates; PlayLab & Family \[images\]](#) - Forbes

[Julie V. Iovine: The Best Architecture of 2016: Structures New and Reclaimed: Both bold innovation and thoughtful renovation defined the year in architecture...\[it\] was a banner year... -- Phil Freelon; David Adjaye; SmithGroupJJR; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; SO-IL; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; West 8; OMA New York - Wall Street Journal](#)

[Charles A. Birnbaum: Sexy infrastructure and other notable developments in 2016: ...these projects are evidence that landscape architects continue to grow as a leading force in shaping our cities... -- The Cultural Landscape Foundation \(TCLF\); West 8; James Corner Field Operations; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; Roberto Burle Marx; Lawrence Halprin; Clarke, Rapuano & Hollerman; Harriet Pattison; Ruth Shellhorn; Diana Balmori; etc. - Huffington Post](#)

[Call for Entries: 2017 Architectural League Prize for Young Architects + Designers: Support - What does support stand for? What props up architecture today? open to full-time residents, who need not be citizens, of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico; cash prizes; deadline: February 13, 2017 - Architectural League of New York](#)

[Call for entries: 10th Dedalo Minosse International Prize for commissioning a building honoring the Client's role in the design process; no fee; deadline: February 17, 2017 - ALA - Assoarchitetti / Regione del Veneto](#)

[Call for Entries: 2017 North American Copper in Architecture Awards for outstanding application of architectural copper alloys; projects must be located in the U.S. or Canada; deadline: January 31, 2017 - Copper Development Association/Canadian Copper & Brass Development Association](#)

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