

Today's News - Tuesday, December 20, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us Dibbs's take on (and eyefuls of) Hadid's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut.
- Pedersen goes jogging in his former NYC nabe, and is struck by the city's changing skyline, most notably Vinoly's 432 Park Avenue: "At 96 stories...it visually reads like a cross between an optical illusion and a practical joke."
- Sydney-based Cole calls for "no unpaid overtime. At best this is a self-destructive tendency, at worst it normalizes wage theft" - the commercial side of architecture is currently "either overlooked as an important teachable skill, or ignored all together at university level."
- Grimshaw's Middleton minces no words about what he thinks of architectural education "led by an elite band of stylistic dictators - myopically in thrall to its art and style; for nearly half of students it is a stepping stone to anything but architecture" (and "starving the profession of a future generation").
- Evans explains "why architects need to master the skill of storytelling. It's something that can be learned. What it's not is an add-on that simply frames a presentation."
- Kimmelman gets "one Grinch moment" sounding one "sour design note" in his otherwise laudatory "thank you note for a few projects that kept faith with architecture's ideals and NYC's better self."
- Mark x 2: The AJ's top 10 buildings of 2016 + What buildings to look out for in 2017.
- Hawthorne offers a second take on SO-IL/BCJ's Shrem Museum of Art: among four recent California museum projects, it is "the most thoughtful, the least predictable, and the most encouraging about the trajectory of American architecture."
- Volner parses this year's Art Basel Miami Beach, "In the face of an emerging political reality," folks couldn't "do much more than nervously knock back another cocktail, hoping that a show of normalcy could somehow hold the line against the new normal" (a good dose of design fair history, too!).
- Wainwright parses "a busy bricolage of bits and bobs - and a bit of an eyeful" that is Richard Murphy's own abode, the RIBA 2016 House of the Year - "a cave of wonders worthy of Wallace and Gromit."
- Murphy, meanwhile, blasts his homeland, saying Scotland is one of the "worst countries in Europe" to be an architect" - and urges "young designers to leave the country to further their careers" (RIAS begs to differ).
- Fairs talks to Koolhaas re: why OMA's overseas offices are being "given independence from the head office in Rotterdam" (and why he's not surprised by Trump's win).
- Eyefuls of OLIN's plans for Manhattan's Pier 26, designed for the neighborhood, not for tourists.
- London's mayor pledges £770m for cycling initiatives, which makes sense, seeing as "cycle traffic on the first two major cycle superhighways has risen by 55% in six months."
- Eyefuls of Snøhetta's visitor centre for the Lascaux cave paintings that "recreates the appearance and atmosphere of the caves in Montignac, which have been closed to the public for over 50 years."
- Payette unveils its latest design for the National Coast Guard Museum "perched high" on the New London, CT, waterfront that promises "not take away from the H.H. Richardson-designed Union Station" (skeptics abound, and a lot of money still needs to be raised).
- Call for entries: Applications for Harvard GSD's Daniel Urban Kiley Teaching Fellowship in Landscape Architecture + 2017 Modernism in America Awards.

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Zaha Hadid Architects: Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut, Lebanon: ...melds local traditions with innovative geometries, creating an architectural manifestation of the Institute's ideals of opportunity, pluralism, creativity and tolerance. By Jason Dibbs [\[images\]](#)

Martin C. Pedersen: Who Owns the View? ...there is no missing Rafael Vinoly's 432 Park Avenue...It's not so much an ugly building, as a confounding one. At 96 stories...it visually reads like a cross between an optical illusion and a practical joke...whose height somehow makes it feel smaller and somewhat inert, like a clunky, unsharpened pencil...shaped and stretched by diabolically clever real estate lawyers... - Common Edge

Clinton Cole/plusC Architectural Workshop: In 2017 let's pledge for no unpaid overtime: At best this is a self-destructive tendency, at worst it normalises wage theft in professional practice...the commercial side of architecture has long been either overlooked as an important teachable skill, or ignored all together at university level.- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Mark Middleton/Grimshaw: Scrap architecture degrees and revitalise the profession: ...by scrapping Part 1 and opening post graduate study and professional training to other disciplines: There is a strong sense of a failing system...Academia has seemingly become less interested in teaching the science of architecture...[and] myopically in thrall to its art and style...Architecture has become devalued as a degree...for nearly half of students it is a stepping stone to anything but architecture... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Martyn Evans: Why architects need to master the skill of storytelling: The secret of success is the ability to understand and present the history and next chapter of a proposed scheme as a compelling story...Storytelling...is a skill. It's something that can be learned. What it's not is an add-on that simply frames a presentation...Writing a good story is 80% of the job; telling it is the rest. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Michael Kimmelman: The Best Architecture in New York of 2016: ...how architects have changed New York City this year, making it more livable, humane and energizing: ...a kind of belated thank you note for a few projects that kept faith with architecture's ideals and the city's better self. -- Andrew Berman Architect; Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates; Beyer Blinder Belle; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/Gensler; Renzo Piano; Adriaan Geuze/West 8; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group [\[images\]](#)- New York Times

Laura Mark: The AJ's top 10 buildings of 2016 -- Herzog & de Meuron; Loyn & Co; Foster + Partners; Caruso St John; Reiach and Hall; Michael Laird Architects; Peter Cook; Peter Salter; John Pawson; Hayhurst and Co; Takero Shimazaki Architects [\[images\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Laura Mark: The buildings to look out for in 2017: ...architectural projects set to complete next year. -- Foster + Partners (2); Waugh Thistleton; NORD; Garber & James; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Duggan Morris; Peter Zumthor; KieranTimberlake; Carmody Groarke [\[images\]](#)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Christopher Hawthorne: What SO-IL's Shrem Museum of Art Says About the Future of Museum Design: ...represents a steadfast turn away from an architecture of self-promotion: ...as a work of architecture, the most thoughtful, the least predictable, and the most encouraging about the trajectory of American architecture...We'll see what happens when SO-IL starts landing...more complicated commissions...For now, [it] has thrown down an interesting challenge to its peers and

competitors. -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson [images]- Architect Magazine

Ian Volner: The design fair at the end of the world: 2016 Art Basel Miami Beach...braces for the new normal: Miami's yearly cultural cataclysm...rooted in...19th-century premise about the free movement of products and people...In the face of an emerging political reality that threatens that very ideal, fair organizers and attendees alike could not seem to do much more than nervously knock back another cocktail, hoping that a show of normalcy could somehow hold the line against the new normal. - Curbed

Oliver Wainwright: House of the Year: a cave of wonders worthy of Wallace and Gromit: Richard Murphy's Edinburgh townhouse...is a maximalist bricolage of sliding doors, pulleys and peepholes: In this slipping, sliding transformer of a home...you have to be careful where you tread...a three-dimensional spatial riddle...that revels in its playful architectural tricks...it feels more like climbing through a game of snakes and ladders...It's a busy bricolage of bits and bobs - and a bit of an eyeful. [images]- Guardian (UK)

Richard Murphy: Scotland one of 'worst countries in Europe' to be an architect: ...urged young designers to leave the country to further their careers..."There is an enormous hypocrisy in Scotland"...- Scottish Construction Now

Marcus Fairs: OMA offices around the world get "independent voice" says Rem Koolhaas: ...given independence from the head office in Rotterdam, allowing [him] to concentrate on personal projects...six overseas offices would continue to carry the Office for Metropolitan Architecture name "for the time being." -- Reinier de Graaf; Shohei Shigematsu; Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli; Iyad Alsaka- Dezeen

Pier In: Renderings revealed for OLIN's Manhattan Pier 26: The plans brim with programming but are intended, for the most part, to provide space for quiet relaxation...a canvas of possibility on a blank concrete slab...All of the funds are secured. - The Architect's Newspaper

Sadiq Khan to spend £770m on London cycling initiatives: Mayor's proposed investment gets near levels seen in cycle-friendly nations such as Netherlands and Denmark: ...he wants to make riding a bike the "safe and obvious" transport choice for all Londoners...cycle traffic on the first two major cycle superhighways...had risen by 55% in six months. - Guardian (UK)

Snøhetta unveils visitor centre for world-famous Lascaux cave paintings: ...framing a huge replica of one of the world's most important examples of prehistoric cave art...Lascaux IV...recreates the appearance and atmosphere of the caves in Montignac...which have been closed to the public for over 50 years. -- Duncan Lewis; Casson Mann [images]- Dezeen

Latest architectural designs for National Coast Guard Museum unveiled: ...perched high on the New London waterfront...estimated \$100 million museum...concept is in its infancy...building built on stilts...would engage the waterfront and not take away from the Henry Hobson Richardson-designed Union Station. -- Payette [images]- The Day (Connecticut)

Call for entries: Call for applications: Daniel Urban Kiley Teaching Fellowship in Landscape Architecture 2017-18: Fellow will be appointed Lecturer in Landscape Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design; deadline: February 10, 2017- Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Call for entries: 2017 Modernism in America Awards to celebrate the documentation, preservation and re-use of modern buildings, structures and landscapes built in the United States or on U.S. territory; earlybird deadline (save money!): March 1, 2017 (final submissions due April 14, 2017)
http://www.docomomo-us.org/awards?mc_cid=c193fe181c&mc_eid=7140c02031 - Docomomo US

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