

Today's News - Friday, July 22, 2011

- Weinstein cheers a bravura example of an architectural documentary that does right by Wright's Guggenheim.
- As the 9/11 Memorial nears completion, Anderson offers an informative overview of the "complicated, contentious process" to build "on possibly the most complicated and fraught construction site on Earth" (lots of useful links, too) + her Q&A with Michael Arad: the memorial "is a built equivalent of a moment of silence."
- We forgot to include Rose's Stirling view in yesterday's round-up: "could a political dark horse say 'on your bike' to the bookies' Olympic favorite?"
- Another sparkling (if perhaps not surprising) shortlist for the RIBA Lubetkin Prize for the best international building outside the EU.
- Aberdeen, Scotland, names its own stellar shortlist in a controversial project to design a new "civic heart" for the city.
- Amidst all these stellar lists, Wainwright offers up an amusing take on the "bloated icons and dreary sheds" vying for the Carbuncle Cup: "nominees fall into two categories: the failed iconic, and the grimly mundane."
- And to help us keep our feet on the ground, Felton uses Chicago's new Marilyn Monroe sculpture as the starting point in a take-down of overused cultural icons: "What is an icon these days but a cliché on stilts?" + Arthur Plotnik's new book "is a veritable plea to the masses" - especially those who make "a habit of critiquing things" - to stop using boring superlatives.
- It looks like HOK's NOAA project, stalled since '09, is getting a second wind.
- Kamin on "a grandiose plan" for redeveloping Chicago's historic (and humongous) former main post office that could include North America's tallest building: is it doable or a pipe dream?
- NYC's People Make Parks initiative focuses on participatory design processes that are beginning to catch on in other cities.
- Metro Manila is catching on to community gardens being "one of the most effective ways to counter the negative impact of urbanization."
- Arkitek Camp, a design-and-build camp in Malaysia, teams up budding architects with design professionals to design and construct a building from scratch (good times included).
- Weekend diversions:
- Iovine is intrigued by CCA's "Architecture in Uniform" and the architects who "had a hand in carrying out an array of objectives both worthy and horrific."
- Melbourne's Pin-up architecture gallery presents "Housing Project" - "a thought provoking exhibition and installation engaging with issues of urban design, density and housing."
- Kamin offers a handy round-up of all things new re: FLW + two cool videos about Wright's futuristic gas station - still in operation in Cloquet, Minnesota.
- New Practices New York and New Practices São Paulo take up residence at NYC's Center for Architecture before heading to the São Paulo International Architecture Biennial.
- LTL takes center stage in L.A. with "4 Projects: 4 Scales - Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis Architects."

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"Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum": Bravura Example of an Architectural Documentary - Wright's Guggenheim Done Right: A look at great architecture as the product of the dance of the designer's intellect in an architectural film that doesn't miss a beat. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

9/11 Memorial Nears Completion, Ending Complicated, Contentious Process: After an agonizing process, a memorial to victims of 9/11 is about to open on possibly the most complicated and fraught construction site on Earth + Letting History Speak for Itself: Q&A with Michael Arad: "it is a built equivalent of a moment of silence." By Nicole G. Anderson -- Peter Walker; Snøhetta; Davis Brody Bond Aedas - Gotham Gazette (NYC)

Stirling prize shortlist: big names stop the judges in their tracks: The six architects on the Stirling prize shortlist 2011 have all been there before. But could a political dark horse say 'on your bike' to the bookies' Olympic favourite? By Steve Rose -- AHMM; Bennetts Associates; David Chipperfield; Zaha Hadid; Hopkins Architects; O'Donnell & Tuomey - Guardian (UK)

Shortlist for RIBA Lubetkin Prize for the best international building outside the EU. -- Foster + Partners (2); Zaha Hadid Architects WOHA; Rick Mather/SMBW [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Six finalists chosen to design new 'civic heart' for Aberdeen: ...bidding to transform Aberdeen's Union Terrace Gardens...The controversial City Gardens Project...has divided opinion with some quarters wishing to preserve the sunken Victorian gardens in its current state. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro/Keppie Design/Olin Studio; Foster & Partners/Madimir Djurovic Landscape Architecture; Snøhetta/Gareth Hoskins Architects/AECOM; Gustafson Porter /Niall McLaughlin Architects/Space Syntax/Arup; Mecanoo Architecten/Cooper Cromar/Ian White; West 8/Archial Group - STV News (Scotland)

Bloated icons and dreary sheds go head to head in the race for the Carbuncle Cup: Clunky slabs and botched "landmarks" battle it out to win the coveted title of worst building of the year...nominees fall into two categories: the failed iconic, and the grimly mundane. By Oliver Wainwright [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Simpsons Syndrome: Overused Cultural Icons Trigger a Gag Reflex: ...Marilyn Monroe's legs stood astride a plaza in Chicago...fighting a losing battle with her pleated skirt...the endless recycling of images, whether from film, photos or art, that have become — and here's that dreaded word again — iconic. What is an icon these days but a cliché on stilts? By Eric Felton - Wall Street Journal

Ban 'awesome': Why are our superlatives so boring? Author says we need to pick better ones -- so try 'transcendent' on for size...Arthur Plotnik's book "Better Than Great: A Plenitudinous Compendium of Wallopingly Fresh Superlatives" is a veritable plea to the masses, especially the portion of the masses that makes a habit of critiquing things. - Chicago Tribune

Stalled HOK Project Gets a Second Wind: Work recently resumed on the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Headquarters in Riverdale, Maryland...Construction of the \$66.2 million NOAA facility resumed in April after work was halted in 2009. [images] - Architectural Record

Old Chicago post office redevelopment plan unveiled: ...a grandiose plan for redeveloping the long-vacant property and the area around it, including a 2,000-foot skyscraper that would dethrone the Willis Tower as the city's and North America's tallest building...promises to transform the area into an "urban mecca"... "It's a pipe dream - is it doable?" ... By Alejandra Cancino and Blair Kamin -- Laurence Booth/Booth Hansen - Chicago Tribune

People Make Parks: Anoo Siddiqi of the Hester Street Collaborative and Hillary Angelo of Partnerships for Parks explore participatory design processes in New York City's public spaces and introduce the People Make Parks initiative. [images] - Urban Omnibus

Community gardens: ...one of the most effective ways to counter the negative impact of urbanization in

[Metro Manila...A very good project...is now being developed by Gina Lopez who heads the commission for rehabilitating the Pasig River...working in close collaboration with the Green Architecture Movement of the United Architects of the Philippines \(UAP\)... - Philippine Daily Inquirer](#)

[Designs that matter: A team of budding architects and design professionals picks up construction know-how and ruminates on why design matters at a design-and-build camp on Mantanani island...Arkitek Camp 2011...provides participants with a real client and a very real design brief. Over 21 days, participants are expected to design and construct a building from scratch. -- Ian Hall \[images\]- The Star \(Malaysia\)](#)

[Building for War: "Architecture in Uniform" marks the great strides in design that modernity has taken thanks to World War II...primarily about architects...\[who\] had a hand in carrying out an array of objectives both worthy and horrific. By Julie V. Iovine -- Jean-Louis Cohen; Albert Kahn; Henry Dreyfuss; Fritz Ertl; Dan Kiley; Erich Mendelsohn.; Albert Speer; Walter Gropius; Marcel Breuer; Louis Kahn; Eiel Saarinen; Skidmore Owings & Merrill \(SOM\) - Wall Street Journal](#)

["Housing Project" architecture exhibition opens in Melbourne: There's a new show on at what is becoming known as Australia's only dedicated architecture gallery - Pin-up Architecture & Design Project space...a thought provoking exhibition and installation engaging with issues of urban design, density and housing...part of the State of Design Festival and Melbourne Open House 2011. - Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[All things FLW: Fallingwater, other Frank Lloyd Wright buildings considered for World Heritage List; SC Johnson to exhibit Wright Foundation artifacts; Wright store opening at Rookery. By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Welcome to Cloquet, Minnesota, Home of Frank Lloyd Wright's Only Gas Station: ...still in operation...a futuristic vision of the gas station as place of community and culture with a novel waiting room... \[videos\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Fresh faces in familiar places: New Practices New York and New Practices Sao Paulo at the Center for Architecture in New York City to September 10...will be exhibited at the Sao Paulo International Architecture Biennial...Both exhibitions are the result of a highly competitive process to identify the best young firms practicing today. -- EASTON + COMBS; which earned the highest honor in the competition; Archipelagos; LEONG LEONG; MANIFOLD; SOFTlab; SO-IL; Tacklebox; Metro Arquitetos Associados; Vazio S/A Arquitetura e Urbanismo; Triptyque Arquitetura; 23 Graus Sul Arquitetura; Yuri Vital Architect; PAX.ARQ; Arkiz - World Architecture News \(UK\)](#)

["4 Projects: 4 Scales - Lewis.Tsurumaki.Lewis Architects": The projects range from 69 million to 108 square feet, yet each is predicated on a strategy of optimistic opportunism; through August 28- Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design](#)

[2011 Rudy Bruner Award Winners Offer Innovative Models for Urban Placemaking: This year's winners reflect a common understanding of the critical role that citizens, institutions, and governments play in the creation of successful civic places. - ArchNewsNow](#)



[3XN: Museum of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK](#)

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