

Today's News - Tuesday, August 2, 2011

- NYC's WORKac beats out U.K.'s Chipperfield, Dutch MVRDV, and Russia's Studio 44 to master plan New Holland Island in St. Petersburg (Russia).
- Rochon raves about Toronto's newest waterfront park: it is a "triumph of environmental technology, superb design and visionary city-building...a beguiling landscape that sits atop a vast, brainy infrastructure" that rebrands "the city as a place with an intelligent future" (we want one, too!).
- King hopes for the same (on a much smaller scale) when it comes to urban utility boxes proliferating in cityscapes everywhere (at least San Francisco has "a good set of design priorities").
- Gardner cheers a long over-due makeover for Nervi's 1963 George Washington Bridge Bus Terminal: its "pristine geometric beauty" is visible only to birds, but at street level, it is "one ugly monster of a building."
- Atelier Bow-Wow's (very cool) BMW Guggenheim Lab is ready for its pop-up close-up tomorrow in an NYC East Village lot that "until a few weeks ago was 'all rats and rubble.'"
- In Australia, a community center marks "a significant paradigm shift in retirement villages": "Just because you're designing for older people doesn't mean you literally have to serve up twee English architecture with old world charm."
- Viñoly feels right at home designing for Bard SummerScape opera production (set in modern-day New York, no less - with pix to prove it!).
- Lewis says DC's new Arena Stage is "emblematic" of how our love affair with ultra-convenient parking is changing, but "it will be at least a generation before Americans believe convenient parking isn't an entitlement."
- Welton is wowed by the design of an "ultimate beach house" by "a gifted modernist who looks to Mies and Koolhaas for inspiration."
- Bey offers an ode to the space race and how it shaped architecture and design: "I wonder if we'll feel that old magic again" (2 very cool videos, too!).
- Lots of winners (and images) in the first Spark:Concept Awards (universities, especially from Korea, made out like bandits!).
- An eyeful of the Gowanus Lowline: Connections winners.
- We couldn't resist: Terra Cibus: "you'll never look at a blueberry, or an Oreo cookie, in quite the same way again."
- Call for entries/EO/PPQ: Three Mills Green Playspace open (and free) design competition for a new playspace in East London.

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New York practice WORKac has beaten David Chipperfield, MVRDV, and Studio 44 to win the competition to masterplan the future development of New Holland Island in St Petersburg: public comments "overwhelmingly coincided" with the views of the competition organisers... -- Architecture Foundation; Iris Foundation; Amale Andraos/Dan Wood/Work Architecture Company [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Sherbourne Common: Clean, green, brainy and blue: Toronto's newest waterfront park is a triumph of environmental technology, superb design and visionary city-building...a beguiling landscape, injected with rays of electric blue at night, that sits atop a vast, brainy infrastructure...In every imaginable way, the tectonic detailing is superb... By Lisa Rochon -- Phillips Farevaag Smallerberg; The Planning Partnership; Teeple Architects; Jill Anholt [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Site utility boxes in SF by design, not chance: ...recent debate...directs attention to an urban reality we tend to ignore: There's a daunting amount of clutter on city streets...cities instead need to accept the clutter for what it is - part of today's landscape - and work to make it as unobtrusive as possible...a good set of design priorities outlined in the Better Streets Plan..."It's a design issue." By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

Manhattan transit hub to become slightly less ugly monster: If it were possible to soar on the wings of angels, or even on those of the lowly pigeons...we would be able, perhaps, to appreciate the pristine geometric beauty of the George Washington Bridge Bus Terminal. Unfortunately...at street level, [it] is one ugly monster of a building. But that is about to change with a nearly \$200 million renovation. By James Gardner -- Pier Luigi Nervi (1963); STV [image]- The Real Deal (NYC)

A Pop-Up Guggenheim as Urban Laboratory: ...a gritty, city-owned lot in the East Village that until a few weeks ago was "all rats and rubble"...BMW Guggenheim Lab...opening on Wednesday, it is part think tank, part open-air forum, part community center...to engage New Yorkers in discussions about urban living. -- Atelier Bow-Wow [images, links]- New York Times

Retiring to new heights: the Dalkeith Heights Community Building at Traralgon represents a significant paradigm shift in retirement villages..."Just because you're designing for older people doesn't mean you literally have to serve up twee English architecture with 'old world charm'..." -- Adam Detrick, [image]- Sydney Morning Herald

"It's a Familiar Place to Me": Rafael Viñoly on His Latest Foray Into Opera Set Design: discusses his latest project, the differences between architecture and set design...Bard SummerScape production of "Die Liebe der Danae" ("the Love of Danae")...set in modern-day New York...watery backdrop places the action at the southern tip of Manhattan... [slide show]- Artinfo

Breaking America's love affair with ultra-convenient parking: Clearly, the thinking on how we accommodate parking is in transition. But transition won't be easy...It will be at least a generation before Americans believe convenient parking isn't an entitlement...Arena Stage is emblematic of how we are beginning to assess and meet parking needs differently. By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Unfolding to the Elements: Irit Axelrod is an architect with offices in San Francisco and Tel Aviv -- and a gifted modernist who looks to Mies and Koolhaas for inspiration. Her clean and cool Unfolding House...will be, one surmises, the ultimate beach house. By J. Michael Welton [images]- Architects + Artisans

Ode to the Space Race: How it shaped architecture and design: Space and modernism connected to give us nearly 20 years worth of boomerang-shaped gas stations and amoeba-like signage...I wonder if we'll feel that old magic again. By Lee Bey [image, videos]- WBEZ Chicago Public Radio

1st Spark:Concept Awards: "Design For Everyone": There are 50 winners from around the world, with a great showing by Korean designers. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Hassell; etc. [link to info/images]- Spark

Gowanus by Design honors the six winning designs of inaugural design competition, Gowanus Lowline: Connections. -- Tyler Caine/Luke Carnahan/Ryan Doyle/Brandon Specketer; Aptom/Landscape Intelligence; Jessica Leete/Claire Ji Kim/Shan Shan Lu/Winnie Lai/Albert Chung; Nathan Rich/Miriam Peterson; Austin+Mergold; burkholder|salmons [links to images/info]- Gowanus by Design/Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation

All this useful beauty: In "Terra Cibus," photographer Caren Alpert zooms in on everyday objects—salt grains, kiwi seeds, fortune cookies...in ways that make them look utterly foreign and intriguing...you'll never look at a blueberry, or an Oreo cookie, in quite the same way again. [images] - VSL/Very Short List

Call for entries: Expressions of Interest (EOI)/Pre-qualification questionnaire (PPQ): Three Mills Green Playspace: a free and open design competition for a new and permanent playspace in the borough of Newham, East London; deadline: August 15- The Architecture Foundation (UK)

Book Review: Talkin' 'Bout (Not) My Generation: Uplifting Gen X Architects Showcase Pragmatic Optimism: In "New York Dozen: Gen X Architects" by architect Michael J. Crosbie, the framing of each architectural firm is extraordinary. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow



-- David Chipperfield Architects: The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK
-- J. Mayer H. architects: Metropol Parasol, Seville, Spain

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