

## Today's News - Thursday, April 5, 2012

EDITOR'SNOTE: We'll be celebrating our 10th ANNiversary at the Center for Architecture this evening! So, we've decided to gift ourselves the day off tomorrow - a good Friday to take off (since it's also Good Friday). We'll be back Monday, April 9.

- Weinstein is swept away by windswept designs in two new books and an art installation.
- Five ways to be a part of National Architecture Week.
- Big dreams to turn the soon-to-be defunct (well, maybe not soon) Tappan Zee Bridge across the Hudson into a three-mile, 30-acre park, but some experts are doubtful (oh ye of little faith).
- Benfield is optimistic about new trends in urban housing: "smart growth is here to stay."
- Kamin weighs in on Preservation Chicago's "Chicago Seven" list of endangered building (there are actually more than 7 this year).
- Brussat is disappointed in Duany's defense of Graves getting the Driehaus - he stayed away from the celebration "in part because I didn't want to play the skunk at a garden party I would normally seek to venerate."
- "Team Canada" named for this year's Venice Biennale.
- An amazing slide show of the 21 of the ugliest buildings in the world (a tower "adorned with sculptures of crawling babies"?!?!?).
- Call for entries: best private plots - Die besten Gärten 2012 international design competition for the best sustainable residential landscapes anywhere in the world.
- We couldn't resist: a 1950s propaganda film by General Motors: "more parking, lane miles was automaker's prescription at mid-century, with a cameo from Robert Moses."
- Weekend diversions:
- Iovine cheers "City of Mirages: Baghdad, 1952-1982" at NYC's Center for Architecture, a "small but intense exhibition" that "leaves a more lasting impression not of rubble but of the extraordinary joint effort across cultures to lift a nation through architecture."
- Lange sits down for a Q&A with FLW's favorite photographer Guerrero about to take center stage at the WUHO Gallery in L.A. + Q&A with the show's curator.
- Hawthorne and Hess give two thumbs-up to Cliff May retrospective: "the most intriguing question the show explores is how May was able to win over the broad home-buying audiences that purer modernists never could" + his success "clearly challenges the narrow notion that modernism and history are irreconcilable."
- An Auckland architect's parallel career as a cartoonist skewers "the excesses of the profession, council bureaucracy, contractors and clients."
- "Our House Is Round" is a new environmental picture book that explains "pollution, climate change, energy conservation, and natural resources in engaging, child-friendly ways" (a good gift for a few naysayers we know).

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Book Review: Advancing Windswept Design: Pointers from Art Nouveau, Zaha Hadid, and Charles Sowers: New books and installation art highlight breezy refinements in wind-inspired design. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

"Design Connects": Five Ways to Take Part in National Architecture Week: Join us April 8-14 for a week of showcasing the positive role architects play in our communities and highlight the power of design. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Brainstorming Ways to Turn Tappan Zee Into Park: ...the ideas already generated...is consistent with trends in preservation and urban design...Still, many bridge experts and planning professionals urge caution, doubting it will be possible to turn the existing bridge into a three-mile, 30-acre park...  
-- Tappan Bridge Park Alliance; Lisa Tziona Switkin/James Corner Field Operations; Kim Mathews/Mathews Nielsen [slide show] - New York Times

The Hottest Trends in Urban Housing: Small is in, buying is (maybe) out, and smart growth is here to stay....Number one among reasons why this trend toward more city living and walkable suburban living is the "great convergence"...of the two largest generations in American history...Baby Boomers and Millennials... By Kaid Benfield [images, links] - The Atlantic Cities

Hospitals, movie theaters top Preservation Chicago's annual 'Chicago Seven' list of endangered buildings: Preservation Chicago took the unusual step of naming old Prentice Women's Hospital to the list for the second straight year. By Blair Kamin -- Bertrand Goldberg [images] - Chicago Tribune

Heavy lifting in classical architecture: Andrés Duany asserts that redefining postmodernism and other types of architecture as classical will expand the "territory" claimed by classical architecture. I think it'll just confuse the public's perception of the yawning difference between classicism and modernism... By David Brussat -- David Watkin; Michael Graves [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Architecture "Team Canada" announced for Venice Biennale 2012: 18 winners were selected out of 26 finalists from across Canada. [images] - Migrating Landscapes

Are these the ugliest buildings in the world? In pictures: 21 of the ugliest buildings ever designed and built. -- Anish Kapoor/Cecil Balmond; Rose, Beaton & Rose (1975); MZ Architects; Václav Aulický/Jir(i Kozák (1992); Manfred Hermer (1975); BFLS; Mihail Vinogradov/Viktor Kramarenko; Dennis Lau/Ng Chun Man; Sumet Jumsai; Terry Farrell (1994); MVRDV/Blanca Lleó; Lab Architecture Studio/Bates Smart; Frederick Gibberd (1967); CY Lee; Baikdoosan Architects; BBPR architectural partnership; etc. [slide show] - Telegraph (UK)

Call for entries: best private plots -- Die besten Gärten 2012 international design competition: will award €15,000 to the best sustainable residential landscapes anywhere in the world; deadline: June 4- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

1950s General Motors Propaganda Film: Solution to Congestion Is More Roads: More parking, lane miles was automaker's prescription at mid-century, with a cameo from Robert Moses. [video] - The Atlantic Cities

The Land of Broken Promises: On the brink of a second golden age, Baghdad once fueled the imagination of the world's greatest architects..."City of Mirages: Baghdad, 1952-1982"...at the Center for Architecture, presents that promising story...small but intense exhibition...leaves a more lasting impression not of rubble but of the extraordinary joint effort across cultures to lift a nation through architecture. By Julie V. Iovine -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Walter Gropius; Le Corbusier; Alvar Aalto; Constantinos Doxiadis; Gio Ponti; Josep Lluís Sert; Venturi, Roach, Scott Brown [images] - Wall Street Journal

Q&A: Pedro E. Guerrero on Being Inspired by the Masters: ...he photographed the work of modern architects like Marcel Breuer, Eero Saarinen and Philip Johnson...best known for his 20-year friendship and working relationship with Frank Lloyd Wright, his first client. By Alexandra Lange [images] - New York Times

Frank Lloyd Wright's photographer, in focus: "Pedro E. Guerrero: Photographs of Modern Life," billed as the first in-depth retrospective [at WUHO Gallery]...Emily Bills, director of the Julius Shulman Institute at Woodbury University and co-curator said the goal was to show how Guerrero built a career in parallel to photographers such as Shulman but with less fame. - Los Angeles Times

["Carefree California: Cliff May and the Romance of the Ranch, 1920-1960" at UC Santa Barbara: The Pacific Standard Time exhibition...looks at five decades of...ranch-style homes...was never cut out to be a modernist. Not an orthodox one, anyway...Perhaps the most intriguing question the show explores is how May was able to win over the broad home-buying audiences that purer modernists...never could. By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times Magazine](#)

[Ranch Dressing: "Carefree California: Clifford May and the Romance of the Ranch House": ...crowning proof of May's modernist credibility is his success, with partner Chris Choate, in achieving the Holy Grail of modernism: a buildable and successful low-cost, prefabricated house...clearly challenges the narrow notion that modernism and history are irreconcilable. By Alan Hess - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[There's a lot of bad architecture around: For the past 25 years, Auckland architect Malcolm Walker has had a parallel career as a cartoonist satirising the excesses of the profession, council bureaucracy, contractors and clients. In an extract from "Did You Mean To Do That?," a collection of his cartoons, Walker talks to its editor, John Walsh. - New Zealand Herald](#)

["Our House Is Round: A Kid's Book About Why Protecting the Earth Matters" by Yolanda Kondonassis, a new environmental picture book, answers the question by explaining pollution, climate change, energy conservation, and natural resources in engaging, child-friendly ways. - Our House Is Round](#)

[Colombia: Transformed / Architecture = Politics: The curators of the exhibition making its world debut in Chicago this week throw the spotlight on five Colombian architects who leverage brick, concrete, and glass forms to improve the lives of ordinary people. By Vladimir Belogolovsky and Fernando Villa, AIA, LEED AP - ArchNewsNow](#)



[-- Coop Himmelb\(l\)au: Musée des Confluences, Lyon, France](#)  
[-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Rocca London Gallery, London, UK](#)  
[-- The Camera: Fernando Alda: The poetry of the skeleton](#)

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