

Today's News - Friday, June 8, 2012

- Bullivant and Glancey offer most eloquent and thoughtful pre-post-mortems on the future of London's Olympic development sites, with hopes that a "kind of rhizomatic, grassroots growth will embed this new piece of city into London's vast and evolving territory" - and that "a revival of intelligent and likable architecture and design...might still emerge when the circus has moved out of town" (the must-reads of the day).
- Russell cheers NYC's "park-building renaissance, with inventive design going well beyond trees and grass" (with credit to the High Line spurring "an economic bounce arguably greater than the 'Bilbao effect'").
- Foster and Holl on board to design the next Maggie's Centres in Manchester and London.
- Living Building Challenge takes top honors in 2012 Buckminster Fuller Challenge: "Bucky's probably watching down from the great geodesic dome in the sky - proud."
- Call for entries: Arch League/NY Transit Museum's Moleskine Grand Central Terminal Sketchbook competition.
- Q&A with Peter Cook re: the new architecture school at Queensland's Bond University and the 'memory' that is Archigram (a great read).
- Foges finds Heatherwick's studio "like stepping into a Renaissance cabinet of curiosities" - and the architect now keen on taking on whole cities.
- Weekend diversions:
 - Speaking of Heatherwick, Woodman finds his V&A show "to be full of engagingly daft ideas" and "some particularly inane schemes for large buildings" - he "wants to be an architect too," but "on the basis of the evidence in this show that may prove more of a stretch."
 - Moore has some problems with the wunderkind as well: while "there is no doubting Heatherwick's talent and appeal," is there really a there there? + the Serpentine Pavilion "promises to be a nice place to hang out," but it doesn't quite achieve "everything the concept promises."
 - Berg queries Walter re: his maps of London below the surface on view at the London Transport Museum: Is a hand-drawn map a better map? "Yes, it is a living thing."
 - "New Practices New York" competition winners on view at NYC's Center for Architecture puts the spotlight on the next generation of design leaders.
 - The festival hub for Toronto's Luminato dons animatronic fans and windsocks that "swivel and rotate, swell and deflate, all while changing in color and intensity in response to live music" (starting tonight!).
 - "Let's Talk About Bikes" at BSA Space in Boston explores the "enormous growth in bike infrastructure and ridership" in cities across the globe, and how its changing urban realms.
 - A Meier retrospective in Mexico City offers a look at his "design philosophy as a whole and in depth."
 - "Judith Turner: The Flatness of Ambiguity" at the UMMA in Ann Arbor offers an in-depth look at her 30-year career photographing buildings by some of the major architects of our time.
 - An eyeful of Chicago's newest (and largest) public art piece, "Color Jam" (every city should have one!).
 - Gatley's "Athfield Architects" solidifies the architect's reputation as the man who "helped change the face of Wellington" by linking "the functional with playful shapes and spaces" to produce a number of "extraordinary buildings."
 - McGuirk is intrigued by "Home-Made Europe: Contemporary Folk Artifacts," an eye-catching "catalogue of human resourcefulness."
 - An amazing eyeful of what can be found in Meuser's "Architectural and Cultural Guide Pyongyang."

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Op-Ed: The architecture of the Olympics: The resolutely top-down nature of the project is clear, but the soft planning of the adaptive stages of the scheme should enable the kind of rhizomatic, grassroots growth which will embed this new piece of city into London's vast and evolving territory. By Lucy Bullivant -- Ricky Burdett; Nicholas Serota; Wilkinson Eyre; Zaha Hadid; Hopkins Architects; Andy Altman- Domus

Game Over: When London was named host city for the 2012 Olympics...experts thought it was the urban planning behind the bid that ultimately won the day. Now...with several lackluster venues in place, many are wondering: What happened to that grand vision? By Jonathan Glancey -- Foster + Partners; Ian Simpson; Piercy Conner; de Rijke Marsh Morgan (dRMM); Niall McLaughlin; AECOM; Alice Rawsthorn; Zaha Hadid; William J. R. Curtis; Anish Kapoor/Cecil Balmond; Hopkins Architects; Populous; Magma Architecture; Wilkinson Eyre; KSS Design Group; David Morley Architects; John Lyall; John MacAslan- Metropolis Magazine

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Lush Governors Island Ease City Life: ...the city's park-building renaissance continues, with inventive design going well beyond trees and grass...High Line has spurred...an economic bounce arguably greater than the "Bilbao effect"... By James S. Russell -- Weiss/Manfredi; West 8 [images]- Bloomberg News

Foster and Holl to design next Maggie's centres: ...the latest high-profile architects appointed to design a Maggie's Cancer Care Centre [in Manchester and London]... -- Foster + Partners; Steven Holl Architects [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Living Building Challenge takes top honors in 2012 Buckminster Fuller Challenge: A holistic, performance-based green building standard that goes waaay beyond LEED, is awarded \$100,000...Bucky's probably watching down from the great geodesic dome in the sky — proud. -- Buckminster Fuller Institute [links]- Mother Nature Network

Call for entries: "What draws you to Grand Central?" Moleskine Grand Central Terminal Sketchbook Celebrating the Centennial: submit a sketch or drawing that captures and/or re-imagines Grand Central, representing or evoking what this iconic building means to you; deadline: July 3- Architectural League of New York / New York Transit Museum

Q&A: Sir Peter Cook, co-founder of Archigram, talks about his work on the new architecture school at Queensland's Bond University and the 'memory' that is Archigram..."I am always interested in the highly artificial – the contrived, the manmade – and nature." [from Architectural Review Asia Pacific] -- Gavin Botham/CRAB Studio [images]- Australian Design Review

Material Man: Thomas Heatherwick's unconventional approach flouts design orthodoxy: A visit to [his] London studio is like stepping into a Renaissance cabinet of curiosities...he's now keen to look at how infrastructure might be used in unexpected ways to create distinctive characters for whole cities. It is another jump in scale... By Chris Foges/Architecture Today- Architectural Record

Heatherwick, the architect? Ellis Woodman finds Thomas Heatherwick's V&A show to be full of engagingly daft ideas: He wants to be an architect too, however, and on the basis of the evidence in this show that may prove more of a stretch...one can't help feeling that, however much he builds, it will still be the nutty handbags and funhouse chairs for which he will be best remembered. - BD/Building Design (UK)

"Heatherwick Studio: Designing the Extraordinary" at the V&A; Serpentine pavilion: Once you get past the cute concept and the clever execution you think: now what? ...what's troubling is if he becomes the go-to man for questions of public life and national identity...Herzog & de Meuron and Ai Weiwei insist that uncovering actual bits of old concrete was never the point, and in truth it's hard to know how that would make the place more compelling. By Rowan Moore- Observer (UK)

The Invisible Underworld of London: Artist Stephen Walter maps the city below the surface. Part of "Mind the Map: Inspiring art, design and cartography" at the London Transport Museum...Is a hand-drawn map a better map? "Yes, it is a living thing." By Nate Berg [images]- The Atlantic Cities

"New Practices New York" Exhibition at Center for Architecture Showcases New York's Future Design Leaders: ...fourth biennial competition and exhibition...to recognize six promising new architecture and design firms... -- Abruzzo Bodziak

Architects; Holler Architecture; The Living; SLO Architecture; formlessfinder; Christian Wassmann - PR Web

Luminato 6, Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity: ...Festival's hub at David Pecaut Square will be transformed. Re-imagined as Windscape...an array of animatronic fans and windsocks...will swivel and rotate, swell and deflate, all while changing in colour and intensity in response to live music; June 8–17 -- Diamond Schmitt Architects [images]- Luminato

"Let's Talk About Bikes": ...the rollout of a comprehensive bike-sharing program in Boston, along with enormous growth in bike infrastructure and ridership—developments that mirror trends in cities across the globe...examines these changes in the urban realm...curated and designed by Chris Grimley, Michael Kubo, and Mark Pasnik of over,under.- Boston Society of Architects/AIABSA Space / Boston Society of Architects

The Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil in Mexico City Presents Richard Meier Retrospective through August 26: ...exhibition of some of the most emblematic works...make it possible to view his design philosophy as a whole and in depth for the first time in Mexico City. [images]- Archinect

"Judith Turner: The Flatness of Ambiguity" at the UMMA in Ann Arbor: architectural photography of buildings by some of the major architects of our time...60 works that span the artist's three-decade career... -- Alvar Aalto; Shigeru Ban; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Louis Kahn; Fumihiko Maki; Renzo Piano; Joseph Rosa.- University of Michigan Museum of Art

Stuck Bumper to Bumper in a "Color Jam": ...covers 76,000 square feet of a downtown Chicago intersection in swaths of color...moving from from the street crosswalks, along the adjacent sidewalks, and up the facades of corner buildings. -- Jessica Stockholder's [images]- Architizer

Ian Athfield, the architect who helped change the face of Wellington: "Athfield Architects" by Julia Gatley...linking of the functional with playful shapes and spaces has seen him produce a number of extraordinary buildings, reinventing and reappraising his aesthetic and practical approach to architecture. [images]- National Business Review (New Zealand)

Home-Made Europe: the DIY geniuses shaking up design: A new book celebrates the resourcefulness of people who innovate everyday objects..."Home-Made Europe: Contemporary Folk Artifacts"...a catalogue of human resourcefulness. By Justin McGuirk [images]- Guardian (UK)

North Korea Has Some Of The World's Most Spectacular Architecture: German architect Philip Meuser offers a rare glimpse into one of the most secretive states in the world in his book "Architectural and Cultural Guide Pyongyang." [slide show]- Business Insider

The Geeky Side of Design: "Architects are often phenomenal at connecting us to the outdoors, but horrible at disconnecting us when it's necessary. And that is the fundamental problem with architecture today," says the sometimes irreverent but always straight-talking Joe Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng. By Wendy Ordemann- ArchNewsNow



-- Jan Kaplický/Future Systems; Andrea Morgante: Enzo Ferrari Museum, Modena, Italy
-- Grimshaw Architects: Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science, Miami, Florida

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