

Today's News - Wednesday, November 21, 2012

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're taking a Thanksgiving break for the rest of this week - with much to be thankful for: family, friends, colleagues - and you, dear readers. We'll be back Monday, November 26...

- Kimmelman gives thoughtful consideration to what's next in a post-Sandy world: it will be "a test of civic unity. Our relationship to the water can't stay the same, and at the same time the city is not worth saving if it sacrifices its principles and humanity" - time to heed the Australians' mantra (your must-read of the day!).
- McDonald cheers Belfast's "architectural renaissance," but bemoans "the immense damage done to the fabric of tight urban neighborhoods...hacked through by roads engineers. It's not a place for the faint-hearted, particularly cyclists and pedestrians. In fact, it's not a 'place' at all."
- Perhaps those roads engineers should be required to read Speck's "Walkable City," a "delightful, insightful, irreverent work designed to knock us out of complacency and make us aware of the simple but real possibilities."
- Ulam offers an in-depth look at how some "contemporary landscape interventions are transforming mid-century buildings and plazas to address their urbanistic failings."
- Spiegelman proffers one of the best descriptions we've read about the "Dickensian" saga still swirling around Dallas's Nasher Sculpture Center and its shiny new neighbor involving light, heat and shadows (including a "bizarre plan" by Prince-Ramus!).
- Long, for the most part, likes what he sees happening at London's Borough Market: "The place is event retail, a coming-together of luxury, the history of the capital and a still-spontaneous street life that is rare in central London today."
- Hyde gives a high-five to an inner-Sydney youth center: "this is a space that respects the intelligence and humanity of the people who will use it."
- A slide-show essay re: Gorlin's affordable (and prefabricated) townhouses in East New York.
- An eyeful of hidden urban retreats - "nifty little houses tucked away in corners, on roofs, and slipped into the spaces between buildings."
- Goldberger's Scully Prize lecture tackled "Architectural Criticism in the Age of Twitter" and "whether it makes any real difference in public discourse. He says it does 'truly shape the city.'"
- Good news on the architecture billings front: "All regions reporting positive business conditions," though "we'll have a few more bumps before we enter a full-blown expansion."
- Roudavski of the University of Melbourne ponders the future of architectural education: it will require "systematic forays into the unknown. These journeys outside disciplinary comfort zones need to be consciously encouraged by the architectural community."
- UCLA A.U.D seems to be taking the idea to heart, lining up Gehry, Lynn, and Mayne for its new IDEAS platform "to encourage research collaboration with industry."
- Eyeful of the finalists in BD's competition to design a budget hotel room that show "how innovative design has the potential to transform this sector."
- Call for entries/ proposals: LA Forum Summer 2013 exhibitions and installations that provoke discourse on contemporary architecture and urban design.
- In Edinburgh, the first RSA Architecture Open exhibition of project renderings by a slew of Scottish architects (Dunlop tells us it's a "straight fight between good and evil, pen and computer. Hand or machine" - cool!).
- Welton takes a second look at Stone: "much of his work - ornamental, a little swaggering and absolutely American - lives on," and Hunting "has captured much of it in her new book, 'Edward Durell Stone, Modernism's Populist Architect.'"

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Vetoing Business as Usual After the Storm: Fixing things in New York to avoid another hurricane catastrophe is a no-brainer. What's standing in the way is democracy...Hurricane Sandy was a toll paid for procrastination...saving New York and the whole region for the centuries ahead will become a test of civic unity...Our relationship to the water can't stay the same, and at the same time the city is not worth saving if it sacrifices its principles and humanity. By Michael Kimmelman- New York Times

Belfast's architectural renaissance marred by motorway madness: ...they call it the "Shatterzone"...sums up the immense damage done to the fabric of tight urban neighbourhoods by motorways and feeder routes hacked through by roads engineers...It's not a place for the faint-hearted, particularly cyclists and pedestrians. In fact, it's not a "place" at all. By Frank McDonald -- Forum for Alternative Belfast (Fab); Hackett Hall McKnight Architects; O'Donnell + Tuomey- Irish Times

Walkable City: This timely, important book by Jeff Speck should be required reading for city planners – and anyone simply hoping for a more walkable downtown...a delightful, insightful, irreverent work – a book designed to knock us out of complacency and make us aware of the simple but real possibilities.- Christian Science Monitor

Softening Modernism's Hard Edge: Contemporary landscape interventions are transforming mid-century buildings and plazas to address their urbanistic failings. By Alex Ulam -- Dan Kiley; Lawrence Halprin; M. Paul Friedberg & Associates (1970s); Rogers Marvel Architects; Ken Smith Landscape Architect; Frank Sanchis/World Monuments Fund (WMF); Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); Diller Scofidio + Renfro; OLIN; Edward Durell Stone; Thomas Balsley Associates; HM White Site Architects; Utile; Reed Hilderband [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Towering Controversy: The Nasher Sculpture Center...is embroiled in a fight...Can beauty be evil? Is David confronting Goliath? It's a complicated Dickensian story involving...accusations of bad faith, egos and, most of all, light, heat and shadows...a bizarre plan for an almost 400-foot construction...by Joshua Prince-Ramus, to stand between the two buildings and to diffuse the light. By Willard Spiegelman -- Renzo Piano- Wall Street Journal

Borough Market trade up: London's oldest fruit and veg market has been given a strikingly modern makeover that complements its thousand-year history...The place is event retail, a coming-together of luxury, the history of the capital and a still-spontaneous street life that is rare in central London today...The new architecture ranges from the self-consciously modern...to the self-effacing... By Kieran Long -- Jestico + Whiles- Evening Standard (UK)

Waterloo Youth Family Community Centre: Collins and Turner's conversion of an inner-Sydney youth centre brings two organizations under the one (green) roof...this is a space that respects the intelligence and humanity of the people who will use it. It is a far and refreshing cry from the many sterile "wash down" environments, or from their flip side, the "youth-branded" spaces of imported graffiti and wacky graphics. By Olivia Hyde/BVN Donovan Hill -- Terragram [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

The People's Architect: An inside look at Alexander Gorlin's affordable townhouses: ...a tour of his latest project—East New York's Nehemiah Spring Creek—a neighborhood of prefabricated townhouses for first-time home buyers. [slide show essay]- New York Magazine

Urban Retreats: Secluded Spaces Hidden in Cities: ...daydream about living in one of these nifty little houses, tucked away in corners or on roofs, slipped into the spaces between buildings. -- Messana O'Rorke; Teatum+Teatum; adNAU; Matthew Baird Architects; hut architecture; Werner Aisslinger [images]- Flavorwire

Paul Goldberger on Architectural Criticism in the Age of Twitter: ...gave a talk...before he was presented with the 14th Vincent Scully Prize at the National Building Museum...[he] examined the state of architectural criticism today, why it should exist, and whether it makes any real difference in public discourse. He says it does "truly shape the city." - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Architecture Billings Index Positive for Third Straight Month: All regions reporting positive business conditions...strongest

pace of growth since December 2010..."we'll have a few more bumps before we enter a full-blown expansion." --
Architecture Billings Index (ABI)- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Frontier land: the future of architectural education: How should the architects of tomorrow learn? In an age of frontier technologies and open-source prototyping, the future is about rethinking the discipline as a dynamic system of relationships...requires systematic forays into the unknown...outside disciplinary comfort zones need to be consciously encouraged by the architectural community. By Stanislav Roudavski/University of Melbourne- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

UCLA Architecture's new IDEAS platform to encourage research collaboration with industry: Frank Gehry, Greg Lynn and Thom Mayne to lead expanded UCLA Architecture and Urban Design (UCLA A.U.D) master's program at new satellite location...will continue to be known as SUPRASTUDIO - University of California

BD Small Hotel: Rooms for change: The enthusiastic response to BD's competition to design a budget hotel room shows how innovative design has the potential to transform this sector. -- Nicos Yiatros/Konstantinos ZaverDinos; W&BS; Ian Springford Architects; Project Orange: Bright Space Architects; Coupdeville Architects; De Matos Ryan; G1 Architecture; Andrew Mulroy Architects; Ninian McQueen; CTHM; Michael Trentham architects [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries/Call for proposals: LA Forum Summer exhibitions and installations that provoke discourse on contemporary architecture and urban design, problematize the politics of the built environment, and/or investigate Los Angeles as a site of cultural production; deadline: December 10- Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design/LA Forum

Royal Scottish Academy reveals RSA Architecture Open exhibitors: ...first ever open submission exhibition exclusively for architecture..."to stimulate debate and showcase...projects from a number of emerging practices alongside work from some of Scotland's best architects..."; November 24 - December 16, Edinburgh -- Alan Dunlop Architects; Gross.Max; GMA | Ryder; etc. - Urban Realm (Scotland)

A Second Look at Edward Durell Stone: ...much of his work – ornamental, a little swaggering and absolutely American – lives on. And Mary Anne Hunting has captured much of it in her new book, "Edward Durell Stone, Modernism's Populist Architect." By J. Michael Welton [slide show]- Architects + Artisans

Book Review: The Pesky Persistence of Psychological Encounters with Home Design: Edwin Heathcote elegantly meditates on the symbols and myths infusing domestic design in "The Meaning of Home." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

-- Under construction: Casanova + Hernandez architects: Ceramic Museum and Mosaic Garden, Jinzhou, China
-- Michael Maltzan Architecture: Playa Vista Park, Playa Vista, California

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