

Today's News - Thursday, January 17, 2013

- We lose Balthazar Korab, a master of the lens: "Despite what appears to be an attention-grabbing style, he kept a low profile compared with Shulman and Stoller."
- Becker minces no words re: possibility of Jahn's (not-loved-by-all) Thompson Center in Chicago becoming a casino: "You may think me a schlub, but I still think the idea of a civic heart of the city is something worth fighting for" (our must-read of the day).
- With the onslaught of climate change and numerous natural disasters, biomimicry could be the future of architecture, "making our constructed world more likely to survive."
- A great report on the recent British Council for Offices conference re: the office of future (edible edifices included): "The elephant in the room remains the question of whether we will still be heading into the office at all in the future."
- An unusual alliance in the Philippines is paying off: a pilot project by Interface and the Zoological Society of London creates a community-based supply chain for discarded nets that benefits local fishers (and fish), and becomes an innovative source of recycled materials for carpet tiles.
- A fascinating then-and-now look at the Architectural League's 1987 Vacant Lots study: "what was proposed, and what was built instead" (definitely worth spending time with).
- Will Holl's Sliced Porosity Block supercomplex be successful? Only time will tell.
- Some Institute of Architects of Brazil members don Niemeyer and Costa masks to protest Brasília handing over master plan contract to a Singapore firm.
- Q&A with Ma Yansong re: culture, design, and architecture: "The architectural design industry in China is seeking to affirm its identity."
- Campbell and Crosbie offer their tributes to Ada Louise: "She was the first to point out to me that the term 'authentic reproduction' is an absurd oxymoron" + She "made her readers want better architecture, even if they often didn't get it."
- Brussat hands out his "roses and raspberries" for 2012 - and already sees potential roses for 2013.
- One we couldn't resist: the "happiest (and saddest) countries in the world" (the U.S. "is a nation in decline" - perhaps it's time to consider Norway).
- Call for entries: 2013 Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition (deadline looms!) + 8th International Outdoor Furniture Design Contest for students and young professionals.

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Obituary: Death Of A Detroit Artist: Architecture Photographer Balthazar Korab, 86: Paris-trained architect, joined Cesar Pelli at Eero Saarinen's studio...His story and images...are collected in "Balthazar Korab: Architect of Photography," by John Comazzi...Despite what appears to be an attention-grabbing style, Korab kept a low profile compared with Julius Shulman and Ezra Stoller - Deadline Detroit

A Casino at the Thompson Center? Casting Dice for the Civic Realm: ...proclaimed "the most spectacular building ever constructed in the Loop" at its 1985 opening...has also always been the building people love to hate...it's not enough just to hate: there has to be revenge...You can learn a lot about our architecture - and our civic psyche - in the life and times of the Thompson Center...You may think me a schlub, but...I still think the idea of a civic heart of the city is something worth fighting for. By Lynn Becker -- Helmut Jahn [images]- ArchitectureChicago Plus

Biomimicry the Future of Architecture: After Hurricane Sandy and the devastating earthquake in Haiti, biomimicry has emerged as a viable way to move forward and rebuild...Architects invested in creating solutions to climate change must consider biomimicry...making our constructed world more likely to survive. -- Daniel Williams - DesignBuild Source (Australia)

Edible edifice: Building the offices of tomorrow: ...culinary delight was one of a number of concepts presented at a recent British Council for Offices Intellibuild conference...The elephant in the room...remains the question of whether we will still be heading into the office at all in the future. -- Sean Affleck/Make architects, - BBC News

Interface, Inc. and the Zoological Society of London pilot project in the Philippines hailed a success: By establishing a community-based supply chain for discarded nets, Net-Works aims to improve the livelihood of local fishers, while providing Interface with an innovative source of recycled materials for its carpet tiles. - Canadian Architect

Vacant Lots: Then and Now: In 1987, the Architectural League launched a design study to examine the potential of small-scale infill housing to contribute to the city's affordable housing portfolio. We look back at what was proposed, and what was built instead. -- adAPT NYC; Gustavo Bonevardi/Lee Ledbetter; Voorsanger and Mills Associates; Jin Kim; Karen Fairbanks/Jonathan Jaffe; Deborah Gans/Brian McGrath/Mark Robbins; Blumenfeld and Krone Architects; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Anthony Tsirantonakis/Nine Square Design; Marc L'Italien/Noah Carter; McDonough Nouri & Associates [images, links]- Urban Omnibus

A Mixed-Use Megacomplex In China, Built On Humanism: Six years in the making, Steven Holl's design eschews the strict rationality of his predecessors...Will Sliced Porosity Block supercomplex be successful? ...only time will tell. [images]- Fast Company

Brazilian Architects Don Oscar Niemeyer and Lúcio Costa Masks in Protest of Foreign-Built Masterplan: ...in protest of the Brasília city government's \$4.5 million, 50-year contract with Singapore's Jurong Consultants...during the 50th Annual Institute of Architects of Brazil (IAB) Awards... [image]- Artinfo

A conversation with: Ma Yansong/MAD architects: ...widely recognized as an important voice in a new generation of architects in China for his seamless combination of modernity and tradition...talked about his ideas on culture, design and architecture..."The architectural design industry in China...is seeking to affirm its identity." - China Daily

Ada Louise Huxtable's New England: She loved whatever is real, regardless of fashion or the vagaries of taste, and she hated any kind of phoniness. She was the first to point out to me that the term "authentic reproduction" is an absurd oxymoron. By Robert Campbell- Boston Globe

Critic Demanded Architecture Be Part Of Life: Ada Louise Huxtable made architecture a household word...viewed architecture...as a living, breathing manifestation of what a culture valued...made her readers want better architecture, even if they often didn't get it. It's still worth writing about. By Michael J. Crosbie- Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Roses and raspberries for 2012: From amid the doldrums of economic lethargy good news and potential roses for 2013... By David Brussat -- William D. Warner; Gary Brewer/Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Union Studio Architects [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

The Happiest (And Saddest) Countries In The World: The United States is a nation in decline...the first time in the six-year history of the Legatum Institute's Prosperity Index that America has not placed in the top 10...Norway takes the crown, followed by Denmark and Sweden...there are some areas where their data is unreliable. - Forbes

Call for entries: 2013 Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition; open to North American architects and interior designers; cash prizes + trips to Italy for CERSAIE 2013; deadline: February 6- Confindustria Ceramica (Italian Association of Ceramics) / Italian Trade Commission

Call for entries: 8th International Outdoor Furniture Design Contest; open to design students or young professionals, aged between 18 and 35 years; cash prizes; deadline: June 28- Gandia Blasco

- OMA: CCTV Headquarters, Beijing, China
- "Torre David: Informal Vertical Communities" by Alfredo Brillembourg & Hubert Klumpner
- "Invisible Cities" at MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts - ArcSpace

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