

Today's News - Tuesday, February 19, 2013

- Hales hails Wingårdh's architectural folly at the Stockholm Furniture Fair: it stole the show, proving "the extraordinary power of architecture, even when a building lasts just four days" (on a personal note - we've missed her missives, and so glad to have her back!).
- Menking minces no words about the mega-projects under way in Manhattan: Hudson Yards "is the result of a process that only looks at the bottom line (and the Houston streetscape), not what this city has been at its best or might be at its best in the future."
- Lange reports from Houston: "Do we have to patch together a new kind of criticism out of typologies of parking lots, a close reading of neighborhood covenants? Yes and no. First you have to look for the patterns."
- Some St. Petersburg architects and citizens (and "Moscow intellectuals") want to see the almost-completed Mariinsky Theater 2 razed, but "we should wait until the construction is finished before turning on the protest chorus."
- Hume cheers the Gehry/Mirvish Toronto project "combining art and architecture of the highest order...it's a safe bet they will stand out on the skyline, and for all the right reasons."
- Rave reviews for BIG's towering addition to the Vancouver skyline: the city's design panel gives it a thumbs-up, calling it a "whole composition that is urban art" (upcoming public hearings might bring out the NIMBYs).
- Brooklyn's growing cultural district is finally getting its own (striking!) hotel.
- King reviews the Bay Area's three new concert halls: each may have its flaws, but "what counts is that each venue not only celebrates the art of live music, but has the potential to reshape the landscape around it."
- Wainwright x 2 - both thumbs-up: Fujimoto's Serpentine pavilion "promises a breath of fresh air. Let's hope he sets a precedent for selecting architects who are not just concerned with arm's-length gestures."
- He cheers Wentworth's "Black Maria" for bringing "a welcome dose of anarchic community spirit to an area that often feels suffocated by its own patrolled newness."
- An eye-ful of what Arup envisions as an urban buildings for 2050: this "building of the future is a sight to behold."
- Rainwater cheers AIA's "Healthier Communities Through Design" as a "roadmap" and "key resource for government officials, design professionals, and other stakeholders collaborating to address America's public health challenges."
- "Awesome woman alert": Q&A with Jane Smith of Spacesmith (full disclosure - she's a friend...and awesome, indeed!).
- Video conversation with Gorlin, Arsham, and Pharrell on art and architecture, filmed in Miami's "Gorlin" apartment building - "We're sitting in your idea right now. That's deep."
- Steffes's latest installment of Chicago's Shoreline Motels includes rare and unexpected images, many not seen in decades (and a rarely-seen rendering of an unbuilt tower by Bruce Graham of SOM).
- Lamb Hart's A New Humanism: Part 10 focuses on "how the evolved mind that encounters architecture works in practice."
- MIT's new Center for Advanced Urbanism will focus on "the planning, design, construction and retrofitting of urban environments for the 21st century."
- A good reason to be in D.C. over the next month: Nordic Cool 2013 festival at the Kennedy Center (Bjarke will be there, too).

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[How an Architect Stole the Stockholm Furniture Show: Gert Wingårdh's architectural folly proves the extraordinary power of architecture, even when a building lasts just four days.](#) By Linda Hales [images]- ArchNewsNow

[Editorial> New York's New Corporate Quarters: As megaprojects rise across Manhattan, William Menking calls for a renewed sense of quality place...Some may consider Hudson Yards a "planned" community but in truth it is the result of a process that only looks at the bottom line \(and the Houston streetscape\) not what this city has been at its best or might be at its best in the future.](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[Patterns of Houston: Who is the best architecture critic of suburbia? Of no zoning? Do we have to patch together a new kind of criticism out of typologies of parking lots, Mike Davis on surveillance, a close reading of neighborhood covenants? Yes and no. First you have to look for the patterns.](#) By Alexandra Lange- Design Observer

[Design of Mariinsky Theater 2 causes uproar in St. Petersburg: Local architects are also unimpressed by the plain structure, which has become the most expensive theatre building in the world...citizens and Moscow intellectuals...demanding that the new theatre be razed to the ground..."we should wait until the construction is finished before turning on the protest chorus"...](#) -- Dominique Perrault; Diamond Schmitt Architects [image]- Russia Beyond The Headlines

[Frank Gehry and impresario David Mirvish would change face of Toronto: Combining art and architecture of the highest order, the project includes culture and condos in equal measure...It's unlikely triple Toronto towers will resemble his New York skyscraper, but it's a safe bet they will stand out on the skyline, and for all the right reasons.](#) By Christopher Hume-Toronto Star

[Rave reviews for towering addition to Vancouver skyline: ...most distinctive tower project in a century got an enthusiastic endorsement from the city's design panel this week...described as a "whole composition that is urban art."](#) -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Hotel for BAM and Barclays Center: A growing cultural district that includes the Brooklyn Academy of Music has become such a tourist draw in recent years that it's finally getting its own hotel...the cultural district is in the midst of big changes.](#) -- Thomas Leiser/LEESER Architecture [image]- New York Post

[3 new Bay Area concert halls let music ring out: ...worth visiting to see how architecture can bring cultural ambitions to life...Each project has its flaws...What counts is that each venue not only celebrates the art of live music, but has the potential to reshape the landscape around it. \[Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall; Bing Concert Hall; SFJazz Center\]](#) By John King -- Richard Olcott/Ennead Architects; Yasuhisa Toyota; BAR Architects; William Rawn; Mark Cavagnero Associates [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

[Sou Fujimoto's Serpentine pavilion promises a breath of fresh air: Master of delicate, beguiling structures, the young Japanese architect marks an exciting new direction for west London's summer structure...Let's hope he sets a precedent for selecting architects who are not just concerned with arm's-length gestures...](#) By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

[Richard Wentworth's Black Maria theatre breathes life into King's Cross: Designed with young Swiss architecture practice Gruppe, the temporary structure is part public stage, part meeting house...attempts to "magnetise" this oversized atrium...brings a welcome dose of anarchic community spirit to an area that often feels suffocated by its own patrolled newness.](#) By Oliver Wainwright -- Stanton Williams [images]- Guardian (UK)

[Is This What Urban Buildings Will Look Like In 2050? With internal farms, walls that convert CO2 to oxygen, and even the ability to personalize itself based on your DNA, this concept for the building of the future is a sight to behold.](#) -- Arup [images]- Fast Company

[Healthier Communities Through Design: ...a helpful document, produced by the American Institute of Architects. Local Leaders: Healthier Communities Through Design is a roadmap...a key resource for government officials, design](#)

professionals, and other stakeholders collaborating to address America's public health challenges. By Brooks Rainwater [images, links]- Metropolis Magazine

Awesome Woman Alert: Jane Smith Of Spacesmith: "One never knows the full impact of our work, but good intention is a start"...advice for recently graduated, aspiring, or struggling designers, engineers, and planners? "Don't be discouraged...you never know what direction your path will take. Keep your mind open to all possibilities and get ready for the ride!" - Architizer

Gorlin, Arsham, and Pharrell on Art and Architecture: ...discuss their influences and creative processes...in Gorlin's apartment in his eponymous building in Miami..."We're sitting in your idea right now... That's deep." [video]- The Architect's Newspaper

Chicago's Shoreline Motels – Central: Initially seen as a more modern and convenient alternative to Chicago's rapidly aging hotels, these brand-new and sometimes architecturally distinctive properties in the central area were all built in the 1950s and 1960s, and are now mostly forgotten...includes rare and unexpected images, many not seen in decades...a little-seen rendering of an unbuilt tower by Bruce Graham of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM). By Patrick Steffes [images]- Forgotten Chicago

A New Humanism: Part 10: The mind that encounters architecture: ...starts a series...that takes a deeper look at "experience" itself – what is it like to be there – focusing on how the evolved mind that encounters architecture works in practice. By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler [images]- Metropolis Magazine

MIT's Center for Advanced Urbanism: Alexander D'Hooghe and Alan Berger...focusing on the planning, design, construction and retrofitting of urban environments for the 21st century...the center's first conference, April 9-10 at the school's Media Lab...contends that infrastructure is the biggest investment a community or nation can make, and that it pays off in ways more important than practicalities. - Architects + Artisans

Kennedy Center Expects Warm Reception for Nordic Cool 2013: ...showcases the region's breathtaking natural landscape...and its world-renowned reputation for design, technological innovations and green initiatives; February 19-March 17 [link to festival details]- The Washington Diplomat



-- I.M. Pei/Pei Partnership Architects: Bank of China Headquarters, Beijing, China
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Antwerp Port Authority Headquarters, Antwerp, Belgium

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