

Today's News - Wednesday, April 10, 2013

- A sad news day: Brake and Capps pay tribute to Soleri, the mastermind behind Arcosanti (and so much more).
- On a brighter note, Woodman gets behind the movement to get Scott Brown her Pritzker: "This egregious oversight has been attributed to sexism but its larger failure is one of blindness to the collaborative nature of architecture" (5,000+ have signed the petition so far - including yours truly, of course).
- Dowling reports on Australian research that shows "if you design suburbs so walking to public transport, shops and parks is an easy option, people will walk."
- Dittmar visits Canberra and gets "a fresh perspective on the development of garden cities, and some concerns about the new wave of enthusiasm for them. I want to cheer for new garden cities, as an idealist and lover of the picturesque, but I am a doubter."
- Badger explores a new study into "why some cities - and neighborhoods - have so much more 'urban nature' than others."
- Florida cheers a new report that "traces the decline of downtown San Jose - other cities and redevelopment agencies can take lessons from the city's history."
- Lackmeyer traces the "long struggle" of Oklahoma City's UpTown and a growing momentum to bring it back to life.
- Jacobs parses the "newest trend in urban development - micro units. Now that cities are reviving, maybe this incorrigibly macro nation of ours can begin thinking micro. Hallelujah!" (with a few caveats).
- Ingersoll hails the architecture and landscape of the Louvre-Lens: "a mystery lurks beneath the seemingly impossible lightness and thinness of the volumes and elements" (it "feels like drinking Champagne").
- Loyola University to build a new business school and apartment building in Chicago's (already "congested") Gold Coast.
- Eyefuls of the Lufthansa Aviation Center's interior gardens based on landscape-scenes from five continents, combining "the elegance of the aircraft construction with the needs of a modern, ecological and economical office building."
- Green shares Friedberg's "journey of ideas - he has always been interested in the social side of design - how people use his spaces."
- Hill's Q&A with Finch re: the past, present and future of the World Architecture Festival and the Inside Festival.
- One we couldn't resist: a vortiginous (and sometimes rather gloomy) fly-through of what the One World Trade Observation Deck will be like.

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Obituary: Paolo Soleri, 1919-2013: The visionary architect and artist...was best known as the mastermind behind Arcosanti, the ongoing experimental community outside of Phoenix, Arizona...under construction for more than 40 years... By Alan G. Brake [images, video]- The Architect's Newspaper

Obituary: Paolo Soleri Dies, 93: The architect and theorist founded his own vision for sustainability in Arcology, and planned one of its great laboratories in Arcosanti...his work is the subject of an ongoing series of exhibits at the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art...also the subject of a new documentary... By Kriston Capps [slide show, links]- Architect Magazine

Denise Scott Brown deserves her Pritzker: ...petition demanding recognition for her involvement in the work that won Robert Venturi the 1991 Pritzker Prize is a commanding show of public support...This egregious oversight has been attributed to sexism but its larger failure is one of blindness to the collaborative nature of architecture. By Ellis Woodman- BD/Building Design (UK)

Build it and they will walk: the suburbs that foster good health: If you design suburbs so walking to public transport, shops and parks is an easy option, people will walk - that is the simple and clear finding of long-term Australian research...encouraging people to walk as part of their daily routine was a much more effective strategy than trying to get people to the gym. By Jason Dowling- The Age (Australia)

Leading us down the garden city path: Even Canberra cannot override the problems of blending town and country: My stay there has given me a fresh perspective on the development of garden cities, and some concerns about the new wave of enthusiasm for them. By Hank Dittmar -- Walter and Marion Griffin- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Completely Puzzling Relationship Between City Population and Parks: Why do some cities - and neighborhoods - have so much more "urban nature" than others? There's no neat relationship between city population and parks per capita...City Nature offers comparisons of urban nature across cities, as well as an analysis of 2,661 "naturehoods"... By Emily Badger -- Jon Christensen; Trust for Public Land; ParkScore [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

Lessons From Silicon Valley's 'Downtown': A new report from SPUR traces the decline of downtown San Jose: ...provides a detailed and intriguing history of the challenges that continue to face downtown...other cities and redevelopment agencies can take lessons from the city's history. By Richard Florida- The Atlantic Cities

UpTown momentum underway in Oklahoma City: The long struggle for UpTown NW 23 has been replaced by dreams of recreating South Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas: The effort...dates to the early 1990s...Such activity leaves the Tower Theater and the newly dormant Gold Dome as the two largest properties with uncertain fates. By Steve Lackmeyer -- Anthony McDermid/TAP Architecture; Brian Fitzsimmons/Fitzsimmons Architects- The Oklahoman

It's a Small World: The newest trend in urban development? Micro units. In Seattle, they call them "apodments"...Now that cities are reviving, maybe...this incorrigibly macro nation of ours can begin thinking micro. Hallelujah! ...the most intriguing micro project in, of all places, Providence, Rhode Island... By Karrie Jacobs -- Northeast Collaborative Architects/The Arcade; SmartSpace SoMa; adAPT NYC; nARCHITECTS; Pierluigi Colombo; Amie Gross Architects- Metropolis Magazine

SANAA's Anti-Louvre: ...the architecture of Louvre-Lens generates an even greater sense of liberation than Delacroix's painting "Liberty Leading the People"...a mystery lurks beneath the seemingly impossible lightness and thinness of the volumes and elements...22-hectare landscape...what was an inaccessible industrial dump [now] a magnificent public park...Whether Marianne's struggle to revive the region will succeed...some liberation has already begun. By Richard Ingersoll -- Imrey-Culbert; Catherine Mosbach- TraceSF (San Francisco)

Loyola University to build new business school, apartment building in Gold Coast: ...a new \$67 million Quinlan School of Business and a 35-story residential tower... -- Solomon Cordwell Buenz (SCB) [image]- Chicago Sun-Times

Lufthansa Aviation Center, Frankfurt Am Main, Germany: In these nine gardens...typical landscape-scenes of all five continents were created...from a 'California Beach' to a traditional 'Japanese

[Temple Garden'...combines the elegance of the aircraft construction with the needs of a modern, ecological and economical office building... -- WKM Landschaftsarchitekten \[images\]- World Landscape Architecture](#)

[M. Paul Friedberg's Journey of Ideas: "I didn't enter the landscape architecture profession in the normal way"...He has always been interested in the social side of design — how people use his spaces. By Jared Green \[images\]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Talking WAF - Interview with Paul Finch: ...the driving force behind the World Architecture Festival and the more recent Inside Festival, about the festival's past, present and future. By John Hill - World-Architects.com](#)

[One World Trade's Observation Deck Unveiled: ...visitors will move through trippy video hallways, into a cave-like foundation room. After a quick 60-second elevator ride up 100 floors...It's certainly not an experience for those with vertigo. \[images, video\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Book Review: "Original Copies: Architectural Mimicry in Contemporary China" by Bianca Bosker: A must-have for those who wish to see a design phenomenon and trend explained in a clear and concise manner without the pretentious tribal signifiers that so plague academic writers. By Christian Bjone- ArchNewsNow](#)



[Sambuichi Architects: Rokko Shidare Observatory, Kobe, Japan](#)

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