

Today's News - Wednesday, June 5, 2013

- An Istanbul-based designer explains why Gezi Park became the center of a movement, and why "this moment is particularly important for members of the design community."
- Lots of news from the other side of the Big Pond: Yesterday, we all thought Holl's Maggie's Centre was a go - but not so fast: the planning committee voted thumbs-down, so it's back to the drawing board to resolve the issues.
- Heathcote hails Fujimoto's Serpentine Pavilion as "a building that is ineffably light and seductively complex, perhaps the most exquisite this site has seen."
- Murray muses that the pavilion is "a lovely thing, like a visual expression of the seemingly counterintuitive fact that molecules combine to make air" (too bad about those pesky balustrades).
- Wainwright sees the Serpentine as "a 3D garden trellis on steroids" and "one of the most radical pavilions to date" - except for those balustrades (great video).
- He gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Hopkins' Brent Civic Centre: "If public buildings reflect the mores of their time," then this "functional civic machine will always stand as a fitting monument to our corporate times" (with a boiler that runs on fish oil, to boot).
- Australian architects cry foul over plans for a bridge over the Hawkesbury River in Windsor, claiming the scheme would have adverse impacts on one of Australia's oldest urban spaces.
- Russell bristles at a "ghastly" design to replace the Tappan Zee Bridge that would be "one of the ugliest bridges in America," and the "hopeless rail plan" for Penn Station - both "leave New York cheated."
- Litt is cheered by a historic city-county agreement - the "next wave of downtown projects is a big step for Cleveland's public realm."
- Hume hails Gehry's latest plan to remake Toronto's King St.: it's the "best yet. This time the height and heritage cards are trumped by the possibility of gaining a major architectural landmark."
- NYC's next Gehry will be Facebook's new HQ in Silicon Alley: "Although renderings are not yet available, we can expect classy new digs for the social media monolith."
- LMN's new Museum of History and Industry in Seattle in a decommissioned WPA-era naval reserve "respects the nautical influences of the Art Moderne building."
- An eyeful of Chipperfield's St. Louis Art Museum addition, ready for its close-up: the "modest design is marked by deference to an illustrious past, both architectural and symbolic, but it is clearly a building of its time."
- An eyeful of BIG's LEGO House: "It's going to be looking at LEGO® from all its different aspect - as an art form, its cultural impact."
- Dunlap reports on a most memorable memorial to Ada Louise Huxtable: "A steady procession of mourners all but traced the history of modern American architecture" (we were a "coalition of the disobedient").
- Berkemeier to be the Australian Institute of Architects' new National President.
- A long list of winners of the 2013 Scottish Design Awards.
- Two we couldn't resist: Grabar gapes at what an Irish town is doing to prepare for the G8 gathering: "So that the eyes of presidents and prime ministers aren't burdened with scenes of pesky blight and unemployment, the country is spending £2 million to make abandoned storefronts look like real live businesses" (with pix to prove it).
- Plans are floated to transform an Osaka canal into a swimming pool: "getting roaring drunk and jumping, or falling, into Dotonbori Canal will be less risky, health-wise, but it will no longer be free."

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[A Walk in the Park: How Istanbul's Central Park \[Gezi Park\] became the center of a movement: ...this moment is particularly important for members of the design community...decision to build a shopping mall on Taksim Square in the fashion of a 19th-century artillery barracks that once stood on the site became a tipping point...creating a neo-Ottoman Las Vegas in this 6000-year-old city. By Gökhan Karakus/Emedya Design \[images\] - Architectural Record](#)

[Steven Holl's Maggie's Centre rejected: The City of London's planning committee...voted 11 to 8 against the American star's three-storey scheme in Smithfield...raised concerns about the proposed glass façade...\[we\] will now work to address the issues raised and resolve them quickly." \[images\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Sou Fujimoto's Serpentine Pavilion, London: The Japanese architect has created an exquisite temporary structure...a building that is ineffably light and seductively complex, perhaps the most exquisite this site has seen. By Edwin Heathcote \[image\] - Financial Times \(UK\)](#)

[All that is solid melts into air at Sou Fujimoto's Serpentine Pavilion: ...a lovely thing, like a visual expression of the seemingly counterintuitive fact that molecules combine to make air. By Christine Murray \[images\] - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Serpentine Gallery becomes Serpen-Tron with radical new pavilion: It looks like a 1980s vision of a computer mainframe or a 3D garden trellis on steroids. But will Sou Fujimoto's amazing grid be able to cope with rain and other humdrum British realities? ...as a powerful distillation of a young architect's ideas and one of the most radical pavilions to date... By Oliver Wainwright \[video\] - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Brent Civic Centre seen as machine for making money: ...designed to bring council functions under one roof - and as a clever sequence of money-making possibilities...If public buildings reflect the mores of their time...then \[it\] is an apt beacon of our age of streamlining and efficiencies...functional civic machine will always stand as a fitting monument to our corporate times. By Oliver Wainwright - Hopkins Architects; Make \[image\] - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Don't spoil Australia's oldest urban space, say architects: Plans for a new crossing over the Hawkesbury River at Windsor have drawn criticism from the Australian Institute of Architects...scheme would have adverse impacts on Thompson Square..."Agencies need to look beyond their own narrow interests and consider the ways in which their projects impact on community values." - Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Ghastly Bridge, Hopeless Rail Plan Leave New York Cheated; ...one of the ugliest bridges in America could get built...Tappan Zee Bridge replacement...crowned by 400-foot-high towers that look like insect antennae waving aimlessly in the wind...Downriver in Manhattan, four architect teams unveiled concepts intended to jump-start the project of replacing New York's Penn Station... By James S. Russell - Skidmore Owings & Merrill \(SOM; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture; SHoP Architects \[images\] - Bloomberg News](#)

[City-County agreement over next wave of downtown projects is a big step for Cleveland's public realm: ...historic agreement...over how to spend excess cash raised for construction of the downtown convention center and Global Center for Health Innovation \[formerly Medical Mart\]...The net effect...could be huge. They'd link the Mall and Public Square to each other and to the lakefront as never before. By Steven Litt - Cleveland Plain Dealer](#)

[Frank Gehry's latest plan to remake Toronto's King St is best yet: The first proposal...was an](#)

instantly recognizable Gehry...The latest offering, though equally Gehryesque, explores new architectural territory...now things feel more organic, integrated and fluid...This time the height and heritage cards are trumped by the possibility of gaining a major architectural landmark... By Christopher Hume [images]- Toronto Star

Frank Gehry Takes Facebook to New York's "Silicon Alley": Although renderings are not yet available, we can expect classy new digs for the social media monolith...Roman and Williams...to design Facebook's main cafeteria. It's a mark of grown-up good taste...- Artinfo

Water World: Seattle opens LMN Architects' Museum of History and Industry: MOHAI selected a decommissioned naval reserve...built between 1941 and 1942 under the Works Progress Administration...renovation of the reserve respects the nautical influences of the Art Moderne building... -- Benjamin Marcus Priteca/William R. Grant (1942); Mithun; Hargreaves Associates [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

David Chipperfield-designed Addition to St. Louis Art Museum Opens This Month: ...modest design defers to the museum's 1904 building by Cass Gilbert...project is marked by deference to an illustrious past, both architectural and symbolic, but it is clearly a building of its time. It remains to be seen if his elegant restraint will bring the increased recognition this world-class institution in an oft-overlooked American city seeks. -- HOK; Michel Desvigne [slide show]- Architectural Record

The BIG LEGO® House Reveal: Located in the heart of The Lego Group's birthplace and home town of Billund, Denmark..."It's going to be looking at LEGO® from all its different aspects - as an art form, its cultural impact. -- Bjarke Ingels Group [image, video]- ArchDaily

Remembering Ada Louise Huxtable: A steady procession of mourners...all but traced the history of modern American architecture as they arrived on the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art: Richard Meier, followed by Kevin Roche, followed by David Childs, followed by Frank Gehry. Paul Goldberg. And many more. By David W. Dunlap- New York Times

Australian Institute of Architects announces new National President: ...Sydney-based architect Paul Berkemeier...an active advocate for architectural education and accreditation...- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Reiach & Hall and Chambers McMillan lead Scottish Design Awards honours: ...picked up the Architecture Grand Prix and the Chairman's Award for Architecture respectively. -- NORD; Oberlanders Architects; Collective Architecture; Simpson & Brown; Stallan-Brand Architecture and Design; Ian Springford Architects; LDN Architects; etc. [images]- Urban Realm (Scotland)

The Bizarre Fake Storefronts Northern Ireland Is Building for the G8: So that the eyes of presidents and prime ministers aren't burdened with scenes of pesky blight and unemployment...the country is spending £2 million to make abandoned storefronts look like real live businesses...At least the dog is fooled. By Henry Grabar [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Osaka takes plunge with canal pool: ...getting roaring drunk and jumping, or falling, into Dotonbori Canal ...will be less risky, healthwise, but it will no longer be free...plans are moving forward to build an 800-meter-long swimming pool in the heart of the canal...has been greeted with laughter, disbelief and hope. [image]- Japan Times



Sambuichi Architects: Inujima Seirenscho Art Museum, Inujima, Higashi-ku, Okayama, Japan: Recycling the Remnants of History

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