

Today's News - Tuesday, September 17, 2013

- Chipperfield and Gormley are among the five 2013 Praemium Imperiale Laureates.
- Davidson minces no words about most of the starchitect-designed "1,000-footers" stomping onto Manhattan's 57th Street ("clunky, preening yet graceless" - ouch!); "shouldn't architects who reach for physical heights be extending themselves creatively, too?"
- Grabar reports on "Grand Paris" plans to make "a hip new future" for the city: "Paris just wants to be Brooklyn."
- Kimmelman can give Paris one reason why: plans for Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park that include "a new work of public architecture" described as a "manta ray - or, maybe, a humongous Tostito" (in a good way): "another architectural landmark in the city never hurts."
- King parses the three newly-revealed proposals for the Presidio's Crissy Field, "one of the most potentially memorable sites in San Francisco."
- Wainwright wanders the Lisbon Architecture Triennale: "strictly no buildings allowed. But is it all a bit too irreverent?" (sofas that swallow you up included).
- Portland, Oregon's new federal building is actually a 1970s office building reinvented "as a metaphor for sustainable and transparent government" (and oh so green).
- Rosenbaum takes on another Renzo, this time his Art Institute of Chicago Modern Wing: "Renovations after four years may involve remedies to insufficient 'light harvesting' by architect's 'flying carpet.'"
- Hinshaw is a bit hesitant about plans for a new public restroom a developer is giving to Seattle in exchange for a few extra floors - it should be a "proverbial win/win," but is it really?
- Belarusian Union of Architects launches the 10th National Architecture Festival in Minsk next week.
- Eyefuls of some (amazing!) finalists in the SXSW Place by Design competition and the Cradle to Cradle Product Innovation Challenge.
- EPA hands out 39 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants.
- One we couldn't resist: "The competition was stiff" in Arch Record's Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest.
- Call for entries: International Biannual Zumtobel Group Award - Innovations for Sustainability and Humanity in the Built Environment + SC2013 International Ideas Competition: imagine new urban regeneration in Harbin, China, and Vigo, Spain (open to architecture students and architects under 35).

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The recipients of the 25th Praemium Imperiale: 5 new Laureates announced: Each laureate receives an honorarium of 15 million yen [@\$151,000] -- David Chipperfield; Antony Gormley [links to images, info]- Japan Art Association

Giants in Our Midst: The first of the 1,000-footers stomps onto 57th Street: ...we bear the aesthetic cost.....One57...a luxury object for people who see the city as their private snow globe. Tall and clunky, preening yet graceless...shouldn't architects who reach for physical heights be extending themselves creatively, too? By Justin Davidson -- Christian de Portzamparc; SHoP Architects; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Rafael Viñoly - New York Magazine

Paris just wants to be Brooklyn: A radical reinvention aims to fix the City of Light: As artists and young people find themselves priced out, or surrounded by chain stores, Paris plans a hip new future: It's not that Paris needs more buildings, it's that buildings need more Paris. The city's frontiers are changing..."Grand Paris"... By Henry Grabar - Salon

A Step Up for Brooklyn Bridge Park: A viewing platform and landscape designs would add to the allure...And another architectural landmark in the city never hurts...Voilà: A new plan... The meadow and field would add breathing room to Pier 6...also envisions a new work of public architecture...its architect describes as a manta ray...or, maybe, a humongous Tostito... By Michael Kimmelman -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Michael Van Valkenburgh [images]- New York Times

Details emerge on 3 Crissy Field proposals: Three very different proposals were presented for one of the most potentially memorable sites in San Francisco...All three finalists have histories in the Presidio. By John King -- UDG/George Lucas; EHDD/Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy; WRNS Studio/Chora [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Lisbon Architecture Triennale: strictly no buildings allowed: From sofas that swallow you up to a 3D-printed coral reef, the Triennale explores architecture beyond building. But is it all a bit too irreverent? ...Close, Closer. "It's about a generation of architects that are more interested in big ideas than the details of buildings"... "sometimes cities need irreverence." By Oliver Wainwright -- Beatrice Galilee [images]- Guardian (UK)

Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building: Cutler Anderson Architects and SERA Architects reinvent a 1970s office building in Portland, Oregon, as a metaphor for sustainable and transparent government. [images]- Architect Magazine

Roof Goof? Art Institute of Chicago Closes Top Floor of Renzo Piano's Modern Wing: Renovations after four years may involve remedies to insufficient "light harvesting" by architect's "flying carpet." By Lee Rosenbaum - ArtsJournal

A new loo for Seattle? In exchange for a few extra floors, a local developer promises a Portland Loo for Pioneer Square...a public benefit, not on the property for which bonus floor space is being granted, but elsewhere...A proverbial win/win? Maybe. Maybe not. By Mark Hinshaw [images]- Crosscut (Seattle)

Minsk to host National Architecture Festival 26-28 September: The 10th National Architecture Festival Minsk 2013...built around the theme "Belarusian Architecture - from Dream to Reality" and includes four major competitions... -- Belarusian Union of Architects (BUA)- BeTA / Belarusian Telegraph Agency

Place by Design 15 Finalists: ...honors visionary design work that achieves a positive community impact through the creation or re-imagining of public spaces...three winners will be honored in the SXSW Eco Awards. -- Architecture for Humanity; Kent State Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative; Gensler; uAbureau; RTKL; bcWORKSHOP; envelope a + d; etc. [images, links]- SXSW/South By Southwest / Autodesk

Conventional Materials Get a Green Redux: The 10 finalists in this year's Cradle to Cradle Product Innovation Challenge employ bio-based and recycled materials in sustainable building materials. [images, links]- Architect Magazine

EPA Awards 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants: 39 non-profit and tribal organizations...to develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in low-income, minority and tribal communities overburdened by harmful pollution.- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest - 2013: The competition was stiff... -- Gregory Klosowski/Pappageorge Haymes Partners; Harold Vinasco/Beame Architectural Partnership; Callison; etc. [images]- Architectural Record

Call for entries: World Habitat Awards: projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems; £10,000 to each of the two winners; deadline: November 1- Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF)

Call for entries: International Biannual Zumtobel Group Award - Innovations for Sustainability and Humanity in the Built Environment; €140,000 total purse; no fee; deadline: November 30- Zumtobel

Call for entries: SC2013 International Ideas Competition: How do we imagine new urban regeneration in Harbin, China, and Vigo, Spain? open to architecture students or architects under 35 years old; cash prizes; registration deadline: November 15 (submission deadline: November 22)- Future Magazine (Spain/China/Ecuador)



- Travel guide: London: ...some of the most significant projects in contemporary London architecture, with a wink at some of the city's classics and an exquisite selection of hotel and restaurant tips.
- Zaha Hadid Architects: ...the uncrowned queen of contemporary iconic architecture. Her buildings practically scream, "I'm a Hadid."
- Eisenman Architects: Cidade da Cultura de Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

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