

Today's News - Thursday, September 26, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to technical difficulties we were unable to post yesterday (stuff happens).

- Mackenzie takes a long look at how some (mostly young) Australian architects are "abandoning the myths of the hero architect to adopt a more democratic and collaborative design process."
- Heathcote has an interesting take on the spate of technology giants' current quest for over-the-top groundscraper HQs: could there be a correlation to the skyscraper index, "one of the great irreverent economic indicators," that is said to portend "the imminence of financial crisis"?
- A detailed laundry list of Calatrava projects that have left "some clients fuming": "He was paid even when repairing his own mistakes" (+ link to Bernstein's Calatrava Q&A).
- Merrick finds merit in Hadid's Serpentine Sackler Gallery: it is a "modern classic" that "shows how to update but not upstage a revered building. There is certainly nothing grand or blingtastic" about it ("blingtastic" definitely gets added to our lexicon!).
- Wainwright, on the other hand, finds it to be a "wedding marquee battling a stiff breeze" that "looms clumsily over a beautifully restored Georgian building. It is not quite clear what function all this overwrought writhing serves."
- On a brighter note, he does find JW3, London's latest cultural center, "the kind of ambitious hybrid offspring that might be produced if an academy school had a lovechild with the Barbican" ("once you get past the fortifications").
- Bernstein adds Foster to a roster of high-profile condo buildings rising in NYC, where "the focus seems to be on lifestyle more than architecture" for buyers who "apparently believe that only more is more."
- Quigley spotlights some of his favorite spaces at the just-about-to-open, dome-topped San Diego Central Library: "Look at the history of architecture and it's always one of joy. I was very conscious about getting the joy back in."
- Twelve Architects (the firm) lands the £600 million Russian airport (river included) that will welcome fans to the 2018 World Cup.
- AIA's just-released "Cities as a Lab : Designing the Innovation Economy" report "demonstrates how design can foster innovative approaches to American cities' changing needs" + it joins the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge as its newest partner.
- Wigley steps down as dean of Columbia University GSAPP.
- Esperdy eloquently explains the evolution of the SAH Archipedia, an ever-expanding online encyclopedia of American architecture, and "explores the critical challenge of creating structural and descriptive metadata for the new resource."
- Eyefuls of the winners of the 10th Annual Emirates Glass LEAF Awards 2013 + 54Jeff Ideas Competition to repurpose the long-shuttered Grand Rapids Public Museum.
- 10 reasons why you should attend the 2013 World Architecture Festival in Singapore next week (besides schmoozing).
- Some great shots of Park(ing) Day 2013: "There were goats, for goodness sake."
- Call for entries: International 2-stage open competition for OAO Hotel Ukraina entryway in Moscow.

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Team architects reclaim the city: ...architecture's contribution to the planning of big cities is in decline...corresponds to the ascent of the "starchitect"...Some architects...are exploring more meaningful ways to participate in the city...abandoning the myths of the hero architect to adopt a more democratic and collaborative design process. By Andrew Mackenzie -- Elenberg Fraser; Hassell; Michelle Tabet/Arup- Australian Financial Review

Designs on immortality: Bold designs for headquarters say something about a company's ambitions and priorities: The skyscraper index...one of the great irreverent economic indicators...periods in which the tallest skyscrapers are built and the imminence of financial crisis...another correlation...technology giants -- including Apple, Google and Facebook...If skyscrapers can tell us something about the temperature of an overheating economy, what do these groundscrapping new HQs say? By Edwin Heathcote -- Renzo Piano; RMJM; Foster + Partners; Frank Gehry; NBBJ; AHMM; KPF [images]- Financial Times (UK)

A Star Architect Leaves Some Clients Fuming: Santiago Calatrava Collects Critics as Well as Fans: "He was paid even when repairing his own mistakes"...likely to come under renewed scrutiny in New York...the new PATH train station at ground zero...six years behind schedule and will cost \$4 billion, twice the original budget. [images + link to Fred A. Bernstein's Calatrava Q&A] [images]- New York Times

The new Serpentine Sackler Gallery: A modern classic takes shape: Zaha Hadid's new creation...shows how to update but not upstage a revered building...not a few architectural aficionados will wince and murmur: "Designer chic"...There is certainly nothing grand or blingtastic about the transformation and extension of the old gunpowder magazine. By Jay Merrick -- Liam O'Connor Architects [images]- Independent (UK)

The Serpentine Sackler Gallery: A wedding marquee battling a stiff breeze: Zaha Hadid's extension looms clumsily over a beautifully restored Georgian building in Kensington Gardens: It is not quite clear what function all this overwrought writhing serves. By Oliver Wainwright -- Liam O'Connor Architects [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

JW3: is London's latest cultural centre 'a new postcode for Jewish life'? From kosher cooking to evenings with Kevin Spacey, JW3 focuses on Jewish culture without being expressly Jewish. And it is an ambitious space -- once you get past the fortifications...the kind of ambitious hybrid offspring that might be produced if an academy school had a lovechild with the Barbican. By Oliver Wainwright -- Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands [images]- Guardian (UK)

Foster + Partners Tower to Join Spate of High Profile Condo Buildings Rising in New York City: ...the focus seems to be on lifestyle more than architecture, a pitfall in an era when buyers are willing to spend \$20-to-\$80 million on condos and apparently believe that only more is more. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Shigeru Ban/Dean Maltz; Soo Chan/SCDA; Zaha Hadid; Herzog & de Meuron; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/Rockwell Group/Ismael Leyva Architects; Robert A.M. Stern [slide show]- Architectural Record

Tour new San Diego Central Library with its architect - Rob Quigley: Building's designer highlights special features, from oak tree to dome-top window washing: "I was very conscious about getting the joy back in." By Roger Showley- San Diego Union-Tribune

Twelve Architects comes in to land with Russian airport win: The practice, founded by ex-RMJM staffer Matt Cartwright, beat three Russian practices to land the job of designing £600 million Rostov-on-Don airport, where football fans will arrive for the 2018 World Cup. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Architects' "Cities as a Lab: Designing the Innovation Economy" Report Spotlights How Innovative Design Strengthens Economy and Spurs Invention in Urban America: ...demonstrates how design can foster innovative approaches to American cities' changing needs. [link to report]- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

The American Institute of Architects Joins the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge: At the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting, the AIA was announced as a partner in a new effort to boost resiliency in cities: ...being led by the Rockefeller Foundation with Swiss Re, Palantir, Architecture for Humanity, and AIA. - Architect Magazine

Mark Wigley Steps Down as Dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation: Under his direction, GSAPP has embraced architecture's uncertainties... "you attend a school in which the teachers don't have the answers," but facilitate experiments with each student in order for them to find their own...the school will begin searching for its next dean. - ArchDaily

Building Data: Field Notes on the Future of the Past: Gabrielle Esperdy has been part of a team working on the development of SAH Archipedia — an online encyclopedia of American architecture sponsored by the Society of Architectural Historians. Here she explores the critical challenge of creating structural and descriptive metadata for the new resource — and argues that the digital platform has the potential "not only to publish scholarship but to produce it." - Places Journal

10th Annual Emirates Glass LEAF Awards 2013 winners announced -- Steven Holl Architects; studiomk27; Yasuhiro Yamashita/Atelier Tekuto; Shinichiro Iwata; WSP Architects; Studio Seilern Architects; Ector Hoogstad Architecten; Henning Larsen Architects; Batteriid Architects; archi5; Oscar Tusquets Blanca; SKEW Collaborative; Kaunitz Yeung Architecture; Sir Peter Hall; etc. [images]- Arena International

54Jeff: An Ideas Competition winners announced: ...proposals for the repurposing of 54 Jefferson, once home to the Grand Rapids Public Museum, closed to the public since 1994 -- Danielle Berwick; ABC-STUDIO; Peter Dumbadze/University of Michigan/Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning [images]- SITE:LAB

10 Reasons why you should attend the 2013 World Architecture Festival in Singapore: October 2-4 at the Marina Bay Sands Resort, designed by Moshe Safdie. - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Park, get set, go: Here's what it looks like when the weird and the car-free steal your spot: Did you miss Park(ing) Day 2013? There were goats, for goodness sake. [slide show]- Grist Magazine

Call for entries: International 2-stage open competition for OAO Hotel Ukraina entryway in Moscow; deadline: October 25- Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design (Moscow)

Book Review: "Never Built Los Angeles" by Sam Lubell and Greg Goldin; foreword by Thom Mayne: The contradictions and challenges of Los Angeles as a metropolitan conceit of perpetual promise continue. By Sam Hall Kaplan - ArchNewsNow



-- Tham & Videgård Arkitekter: Summerhouse, Lagnö, Sweden: a restrained yet contrast-filled reinterpretation of the Swedish gabled boat houses.

-- Tadao Ando: He spent his early years as a professional boxer and truck driver, until he...taught himself architecture and eventually became one of the Great Fathers of contemporary architecture.

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