

Today's News - Tuesday, November 5, 2013

- Saffron says Philly's challenge today "isn't to cajole suburbanites to come downtown for an evening" on the Avenue of the Arts: "concentrating culture is an old strategy that has run its course" - it's time to appeal to millennial entrepreneurs and "the Brooklyn phenomenon."
- New images of Wilkinson Eyre's Battersea Power Station scheme include "a circular glass lift that will emerge out of the top of one of the rebuilt chimneys giving the public views across London" (and lots more).
- Chaban reports on SHoP's new Domino Sugar design with taller towers in a complex that "resembles Dubai on the East River" - but there will be more public space, and the "towering trade-off is one many locals seem willing to make."
- Nobel finds much to like in SHoP's "skinny-minnie" West 57th Street tower: "It could be quite beautiful" with a "new take on terra-cotta" that "sets a worthy precedent" (and probably why the Landmarks Preservation Commission gave it its blessing).
- SO-IL tapped to design the New Museum's new startup incubator for art, technology, and design in an old warehouse next door.
- AHMM is sent back to the drawing board to come up with "an even more ambitious scheme" for Google's London HQ.
- Eyefuls of the three shortlisted proposals for a cultural space on the Presidio's Crissy Field in San Francisco (see King's recommendation to George Lucas in ANN Yesterday's News).
- Hawthorne has some very valid reasons for saving Houston's Astrodome from the wrecking ball: "There may be no piece of architecture more quintessentially American," offering a "brash combination of Space Age glamour, broad-shouldered scale and total climate control."
- Wainwright's "eyes tune in, magpie-like" on some of London's restored gilded heritage, and cheers its resurgence in the hands of young architects: "there has been an alarming fad for gold-colored cladding" that makes a building look like it "has been dipped in a vat of metallic mustard," but "there might be renewed hope for the gilder's tip yet."
- Davidson takes on the "cranky optimist with an acid wit" that is Robert A.M. Stern: "He's so old-fashioned that he's practically countercultural" (he's "been battling away spitballs for decades, and he seems to enjoy the sport").
- Doonan takes on "wiggly and squiggly, jagged and jutting" iconic architecture that makes "all the original midcentury stuff look like a bunch country cottages" (though the architects are "grumpy and inflexible - like a really annoying bunch of Fountainhead-reading egomaniacal lunatics").
- A new suburban development in Oregon based on "35 Sustainable Goals" sounds veritably utopian!
- Blum plumbs the winners of the Workplace of the Future Design Competition: they "revealed a wealth of fresh ideas," though "it seems oddly fitting that in a climate-obsessed future, our most pressing wish (and a workplace's greatest perk) will be simple temperature control."
- One we couldn't resist: today's Google Doodle pays homage to Raymond Loewy on his 120th birthday and "how his designs defined the modern era" (we do so love his Studebaker Avanti!).

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Philadelphia's revival strategy must shift - to new millennial residents: The challenge today isn't to cajole suburbanites to come downtown for an evening; it's making the city more livable for the thousands of new residents...while the Avenue of the Arts has enjoyed a respectable run...concentrating culture is an old strategy that has run its course...What drives cities now are entrepreneurs and ... "the Brooklyn phenomenon." By Inga Saffron - Philadelphia Inquirer

Wilkinson Eyre unveils new images of Battersea Power Station scheme: £750 million restoration and redevelopment will include a circular glass lift that will emerge out of the top of one of the rebuilt chimneys giving the public views across London. -- Rafael Vinoly; Ian Simpson; dRMM; Purcell [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Domino Sugar redevelopment plan: Bigger is better! Developer Two Trees touts taller residential towers...In place of five clusters of towers...proposed interconnected pairs of towers marching along the water in unusual configurations. The whole complex resembles Dubai on the East River...reconfigured towers make for more publicly accessible space...towering trade-off is one many locals seem willing to make... By Matt Chaban -- SHoP Architects [images] - NY Daily News

SHoP Architects Goes Skinny: The model-thin design 105-111 West 57th Street is the next tallest tower in New York City: Will New York become a city of Skinny Minnies, the fat trunks of eras past surrounded by a fresh field of tall reeds? It could be quite beautiful...new take on terra-cotta...updating of a native New York way of building sets a worthy precedent. By Philip Nobel [images] - Architect Magazine

New Museum to Launch Startup Incubator: ...for art, technology, and design, drawing more than 60 startups under its wing...Studio-X, Columbia University's global network of architecture, design, and urban planning studios, will be the anchor member...SO-IL to transform its neighbor, a 19th century warehouse... - Architectural Record

Google sends AHMM back to the drawing board: Consented Kings Cross HQ to be entirely redesigned...in favour of an even more ambitious scheme. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Star Wars: Three options unveiled for San Francisco's Mid-Crissy Field: The Presidio Trust authored strict planning guidelines to ensure historic and environmental preservation. -- WRNS Studio/Chora; Urban Design Group/Cheryl Barton; EHDD [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Why the Astrodome is worth saving: Houston is deciding whether to invest in [its] future...stadium could be razed soon...There may be no piece of architecture more quintessentially American...offers a key case study in how modern architecture treated the natural world — and how radically the balance of power in that relationship has shifted over the last half-century. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Hermon Lloyd; W.B. Morgan; Wilson, Morris, Crain and Anderson; Buckminster Fuller (1965) - Los Angeles Times

Bling in the City: London's love affair with gold architecture: 150 years after it was built, Holborn Viaduct has been restored...shining a light on the City's gilded heritage...there has been little use of gold leaf on our buildings. Instead, there has been an alarming fad for gold-coloured cladding...looking like the

building has been dipped in a vat of metallic mustard...younger practices have been showing there might be renewed hope for the gilder's tip yet... By Oliver Wainwright -- Rafael Viñoly; Egret West; Studio Weave; AOC [images]- Guardian (UK)

Unfashionably Fashionable: Robert A.M. Stern's buildings seem like they've always been there. What's the crime in that? ...[he] has been batting away spitballs for decades, and he seems to enjoy the sport...a cranky optimist with an acid wit...He's so old-fashioned that he's practically countercultural..."It's nice to do buildings that people like," Stern says, with an impish smile. "I'm not sure all my colleagues get to enjoy that." By Justin Davidson- New York Magazine

Architects Are the New Comedians: What makes today's signature skyscrapers such a laugh riot? Wiggly and squiggly, jagged and jutting...make all the original midcentury stuff look like a bunch of country cottages...Though the buildings themselves are very entertaining, the same cannot be said of the architects. Grumpy and inflexible, they seem like a really annoying bunch of Fountainhead-reading egomaniacal lunatics. By Simon Doonan -- Renzo Piano; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Richard Rogers; Antonio Lamela; Santiago Calatrava- Slate

Pringle Creek Community, Salem, Oregon: ...new suburban development "is an experimental model in sustainable living"...part of a former 275-acre mental health care facility for the developmentally disabled...master plan...centered around "35 Sustainable Goals"... -- Opsi Architecture [images]- Build a Better Burb

Office Upgrades: The [Metropolis/Business Interiors by Staples] Workplace of the Future Design Competition revealed a wealth of fresh ideas and a bit of uncertainty about exactly where we're headed: ...question of mobility was the elephant in the room...it seems oddly fitting that in a climate-obsessed future, our most pressing wish (and a workplace's greatest perk) will be simple temperature control. By Andrew Blum -- Joseph Filippelli/Olson Kundig Architects; Eckhart; etc. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Raymond Loewy: How his designs defined the modern era: The Studebaker Avanti, Shell Oil logo, and Sears Coldspot refrigerator were all the creations of the iconic industrial designer...honored today by a Google Doodle.- Christian Science Monitor



-- Kazuyo Sejima & Associates: Shibaura House, Tokyo, Japan
-- Alvar Aalto: Finlandia Hall, Helsinki, Finland (1971)
-- Diller Scofidio + Renfro: In the world of unorthodox artist-architects, few have made such an impact as New York City-based design studio...

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