

Today's News - Thursday, December 19, 2013

- Mallett bemoans that planning in the U.K. "has been shorn of creativity and the 'visioning'" which "is now done largely by the private sector" - it's time for city planners "to rediscover the power of design when we plan."
- Medina meets The Architecture Lobby, a new organization of architects that wants to "empower architects to realize their own value and that of the work they produce."
- Dowling finds some dour voices re: Melbourne selling laneways to make way for development: "A loss of any laneway is to be bemoaned...they are vibrant, exciting places and are really critical to the character of our city."
- An energy company has towering plans to replace Johansen's Mummies Theater in Oklahoma City, but fear not - his "masterpiece won't go down without a plaque, or something, in memorialis" (oh joy).
- KPF's Kohn returns to his roots with a mixed-use tower across from Philadelphia's Kimmel Center; he "considers this his legacy to the city."
- Eyefuls of Johnson Pilton Walker's towering design that won the Parramatta Square competition (cantilevered "sky terrace" included).
- The MAS report "All Hands on Deck" is a guide to "catalyzing public, private and community sectors to prioritize resilience."
- Green x 2: Philly's green infrastructure initiatives to convert 9,600 impervious acres into permeable ones have public support "because city officials have made a point of making 'the same investment in every neighborhood,' rich or poor."
- He queries Balsley re: resilient waterfront parks in a great Q&A.
- L.A.'s new People St program will allow community members "to apply online for city permission to install a parklet, plaza, or bike corral on an underused stretch of roadway - a bottom-up alternative to traditional city planning."
- Olcayto weighs in with his own witty take on FAT's "sassy, witty style" in both its writing and design: perhaps it was all "too cool for the straight world of architectural design."
- Q&A with Zoë Ryan re: her plans as curator of the second Istanbul Design Biennial, "The Future Is Not What It Used To Be" (sounds serious - and fun!).
- Louise Bethune, America's first professional female architect, is finally getting a memorial grave marker (note that's grave marker, not gold medal).
- One we couldn't resist: the third season of Places' Fairy Tale Architecture, this year by Rice+Lipka, studio SUMO, and Bernheimer Architecture (one of our favorite holiday traditions!).
- Speaking of holidays, now you'll have lots of time off to delve into some of next year's call for entries: Holcim Awards 2013/2014 + 2014/15 World Habitat Awards + Logo Design Competition for CALA: Center for Architecture and Urban Design Los Angeles + International VELUX Award 2014 for Students of Architecture.

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The planner as urban visionary: The state can play a positive role in the design of our cities...planning has been shorn of creativity and the "visioning" is now done largely by the private sector...a counter-culture emerging among architects, urbanists and urban designers dismayed by design's absence as a tool in British planning...we need to rediscover the power of design when we plan? By Lee Mallett/Urbik - BD/Building Design (UK)

Meet The Architecture Lobby: A new organization of architects wants to change the way the profession is structured. Their first step is to empower architects to realize their own value and that of the work they produce..."You almost never hear the terms 'labor' and 'architecture' together." By Samuel Medina - Metropolis Magazine

Melbourne City Council sells laneway to make way for development: This is a very Melbourne Christmas sale - part of the fabric of the city in fact...as part of a big new retail, office space and hotel development..."A loss of any laneway is to be bemoaned...they are vibrant, exciting places and are really critical to the character of our city"... By Jason Dowling - The Age (Australia)

Glass Tower May Replace John Johansen's Mummies Theater [Stage Center] in Oklahoma City: ...would become the headquarters of OGE Energy Corp...master plan also includes a second tower...But Johansen's masterpiece won't go down without a plaque, or something, in memorialis. -- ADG [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

47-story hotel/condo building set for South Broad: ...mixed-use luxury boutique hotel and condominium tower...across from the Kimmel Center, for more than \$200 million...would be Pennsylvania's "tallest structure built for residential use"....A Eugene Kohn considers this his legacy to the city. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) [image] - Philadelphia Inquirer

Johnson Pilton Walker design wins Parramatta Square competition: Key features of the 53-storey buildings include a cantilevering double-height sky terrace on the 25th floor... [images] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Municipal Art Society Releases New Report on Catalyzing Public, Private and Community Sectors to Prioritize Resilience: "All Hands on Deck: Mobilizing New Yorkers for a Livable and Resilient City" Proposes a Framework for Tackling this Critical Issue [link to report] - Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS)

The New Philadelphia Story Is About Green Infrastructure: Over the next 25 years...to convert 9,600 impervious acres into permeable greened ones...initiatives have retained public support to date because city officials have made a point of making "the same investment in every neighborhood," rich or poor. By Jared Green [images, links to reports] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Interview with Thomas Balsley on Resilient Waterfront Parks: "Part of our job when we work anywhere near the shores is to anticipate the effects of global warming, the storm surges." By Jared Green [images] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

How to Get to People Street: New initiative will allow locals to alter the streetscape in Los Angeles: ...People St program...community members will be able to apply online for city permission to install a parklet, plaza, or bike corral on an underused stretch of roadway...stands out as a bottom-up alternative to traditional city planning. [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

FAT weren't just witty architects they were good writers too: FAT's sassy, witty style was too cool for the straight world of architectural design. Sean Griffiths, Sam Jacob and Charles Holland were better writers than any of their peers...buildings, like the writing, are witty, well-crafted and smart. Yet in the world of architectural design, where sober and dour still rules, that's not always a good thing. By Rory Olcayto - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Zoë Ryan: With her appointment as curator of the second Istanbul Design Biennial ["The Future Is Not What It Used To Be" October 18 to December 14, 2014]...she is helping shape one of the most important new design events even as she approaches her third year as chair and curator of architecture and design at the Art Institute of Chicago. - Architectural Record

A Century After Her Death, America's First Female Architect Gets Her Due: Louise Bethune, the first woman to work as a professional architect in the U.S., is being honored this week with a memorial grave marker..."She wanted to prove that she was an architect equal in stature to other architects working at the time like Louis Sullivan and Daniel Burnham." By Shaunacy Ferro [images] - Fast Company

Fairy Tale Architecture: Places (third season): Jorge Luis Borges' "The Library of Babel" by Rice+Lipka; Nigerian folk tale "Why the Sun and Moon Live in the Sky" by studio SUMO; Grimm Brothers' "The Juniper Tree" by Bernheimer Architecture. By Kate Bernheimer & Andrew Bernheimer [images]- Places Journal

Call for entries: Holcim Awards 2013/2014: 4th international competition celebrates projects and visions that contribute to a more sustainable built environment; \$2 million in prizes; registration deadline: March 24, 2014 (submissions due March 31, 2014)- Holcim Foundation

Call for entries: 2014/15 World Habitat Awards: open to any individual, organization or government agency that has an innovative and sustainable housing solution in any country of the world; cash prizes; deadline: May 14, 2014- Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF)

Call for entries: Logo Design Competition for CALA: Center for Architecture and Urban Design Los Angeles; cash prize; registration deadline: January 24, 2014 (submission deadline: March 7)- AIA Los Angeles (AIA/LA)

Call for entries: International VELUX Award 2014 for Students of Architecture: "Light of Tomorrow" - widen the boundaries of daylight in architecture; registration deadline: March 3, 2014 (submission deadline: May 2, 2014)- VELUX

Nuts + Bolts #7: Leveraging Your Passion: Principals already know what they love to do. It is learning to let go of the other, more mundane tasks that they find difficult. By Steve Whitehorn- ArchNewsNow



-- "Gathered Sky" by James Turrell, Beijing Temple of Wisdom, China
-- The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA, by Kirsten Kiser

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