

Today's News - Friday, January 17, 2014

- Hawthorne has a very candid conversation with Diller re: the MoMA/AFAM fracas: "I think that the press has been too fast to reduce the conversation to heroes and villains and martyrs. What we're doing is sharing a progress report" (and a lot more).
- Lawrence Speck minces no words re: the need "to acknowledge that architecture is a group effort. We are not a tidy, self-contained club. Did Ayn Rand do this to us?" (no more dramatic capes and berets, please).
- RIBA's Hodder wants to get architects' voices heard: "We have to think about who we're engaging with and we have to be seen as part of the wider team."
- Eyeful's of fjmt's winning design for the Casey Cultural Precinct in Australia (looks very cool!).
- Between Lange's assessment of WORKac's Edible Schoolyard in Brooklyn (pix by Baan), and Mirviss's musings on FXFOWLE's 3-schools-in-one on the Queens East River waterfront (pix by Sundberg/Esto), we're thinking it would be nice to be young again!
- Four teams offer some intriguing proposals for multi-use parking garages in four Long Island communities.
- Call for entries: Harvard GSD 2014 Wheelwright Prize - a \$100,000 traveling fellowship open to talented early-career architects worldwide.
- Weekend diversions:
 - Freeman offers a thoughtful take on the fascinating history of the rise and fall of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies (all those starchitects in their pre-star days - "it made architecture seem awfully glamorous"), and gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Agrest's documentary, "The Making of an Avant-Garde" (a great read!).
 - Ferro ferries us through a Q&A with the Zawistowski's re: the new film "Reality Check" and "what architecture schools get wrong."
 - Ciampaglia cheers "If You Build It" documenting a high school design class in rural North Carolina that presents "most surprisingly, the limits of design's power to be an engine of civic transformation," but the "students' arc is inspiring, and the psychological impact Studio H has on Windsor is uplifting, if bittersweet."
 - Pearson previews "Building M+: The Museum and Architecture Collection," on view in Hong Kong, that offers a sneak-peek at what the new museum will have in store.
 - Iovine is quite taken with "The Rebirth of Rome" at the Wolfsonian in Miami Beach: some great designs "will have you wondering how your own aesthetic leanings could be so compatible with those of Benito Mussolini."
 - World Design Capital status for Cape Town is "an African first" as the city kicks off a year-long celebration of culture and design.
 - Lokko cheers "Afritecture: Building Social Change," a "timely" and "ambitious" exhibition in Munich that "gives cause for hope" (her history on Mandela's built legacy is amazing - who knew?).
 - Phnom Penh kicks off a festival celebrating urban art, architecture, and ideas: "By envisaging its potential as a global city, we can create awareness for the new generation of Cambodians."
 - King finds Mires's "Capital of the World: The Race to Host the United Nations" a "thoroughly entertaining book" (who knew the UN could have ended up in the Presidio!).

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Elizabeth Diller defends MoMA plan to demolish American Folk Art building: "I think that the press has been too fast to reduce the conversation to heroes and villains and martyrs...We want to share the problem with others and invite them to really take a hard look...You try to future-proof the design. And if you design something in an idiosyncratic way, so that there's no other way to use it, you've made yourself vulnerable...What we're doing is sharing a progress report." By Christopher Hawthorne -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Los Angeles Times

Together: It's time to acknowledge that architecture is a group effort: We are not a tidy, self-contained club...Did Ayn Rand do this to us? Has Howard Roark left such a deep psychological scar on our profession...Maybe it is time to drop the dramatic cape and beret...work together as strong professionals locked arm in arm with our fellow professionals in other disciplines to create extraordinary cultural artifacts. By Lawrence W. Speck/PageSoutherlandPage- The Architect's Newspaper

Profession needs more influence, says Stephen Hodder: RIBA president begins campaign to get architects' voices heard...said architecture is too marginalised in the wider construction industry..."We have to think about who we're engaging with and we have to be seen as part of the wider team." - BD/Building Design (UK)

fjmt wins \$125 million Casey Cultural Precinct design competition with contemporary architecture: ...one of the largest projects a local government in Victoria has ever embarked on. -- Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Edible Schoolyard for P.S. 216, Designed by WORKac: Can architects (and Alice Waters) turn kiddos into foodies? ...2,300-square-foot building...could have been just a plain old shed. But the design makes it a beacon, a reminder that architecture for children needn't be dumb to be cheerful and friendly. By Alexandra Lange -- Work Architecture Company [images/Iwan Baan]- Architect Magazine

View Master: Located on the East River in Queens with panoramic views of Manhattan, a new public school by FXFOWLE lives up to its arresting site: A bold move for the city's school system, the dynamic new building riffs on the traditional school box. By Laura Mirviss [images]- Architectural Record

Long Island Index unveils innovative designs generated by its ParkingPlus Design Challenge: 4 design teams...each paired with one Long Island community...exploring innovative new solutions for integrating beautiful, high-performance, parking structures into their transit-served downtown areas. -- Utile, Inc.; LTL Architects; Roger Sherman Architecture and Urban Design; dub Studios [images]- Long Island Index/Rauch Foundation

Call for entries: Harvard GSD 2014 Wheelwright Prize: \$100,000 traveling fellowship open to talented early-career architects worldwide; registration deadline: February 15 (submissions due March 4) - Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

"The moment for something to happen": On the heyday, the demise and the legacy of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, 1967 - 1984: As memories...simultaneously fade and become embroidered with the half-truths of selective recollection, and as the original protagonists age and expire...documenting the history and assessing [its] legacy is under way...One indisputable accomplishment of the IAUS...it made architecture seem awfully glamorous. By Belmont Freeman -- Peter Eisenman; Kenneth Frampton; Colin Rowe; Mario Gandelsonas; Anthony Vidler; Kurt Forster; Julia Bloomfield; Massimo Vignelli; Suzanne Frank; Diana Agrest; Richard Meier; Charles Gwathmey; Frank Gehry; Rem Koolhaas; Robert A.M. Stern; etc. [images]- Places Journal

What Architecture Schools Get Wrong: The new film "Reality Check" follows a year in the life of Virginia Tech's design/buildLAB, bringing a long-simmering debate over architecture education to the screen: Q&A with Keith and Marie Zawistowski about the film, design/buildLAB, and the importance of hands-on experience in design education. By Shaunacy Ferro [images, video]- Fast Company

"If You Build It": A new documentary profiles a high school design class and captures the struggles of rural America: Patrick Creadon packs into his film's 82 minutes nuanced discussions of education reform...and, most surprisingly, the limits of design's power to be an engine of civic transformation...Still...students' arc is inspiring, and the psychological impact Studio H has on Windsor is uplifting, if bittersweet. By Dante A. Ciampaglia -- Emily Pilloton/Matt Miller [video]- Architectural Record

Herzog & de Meuron's M+ Museum in Hong Kong: Curated by Aric Chen..."Building M+: The Museum and Architecture Collection" [at ArtisTree] looks at designs for the building and...items that will fill its design and architecture galleries... By Clifford A. Pearson -- TFP Farrells; Ove Arup; Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA; Renzo Piano; Shigeru Ban Architects + Thomas Chow Architects; Snøhetta; Toyo Ito & Associates + Benoy; Rocco Yim; Yung Ho Chang/Atelier FCJZ; Ai Weiwei; Liu Jiakun, MAD (Ma Yansong, Dang Qun, Yosuke Hayano); Urbanus; Studio Pei-Zhu; Steven Holl; Paul Rudolph; OMA; Frank Lloyd Wright [slide show]- Architectural Record

Where Fascism Succeeded: Italian design between the world wars looks surprisingly good today: "Rirth of Rome" at The Wolfsonian-FIU museum in Miami Beach will have you wondering how your own aesthetic leanings could be so compatible with those of Benito Mussolini...The most compelling objects and architecture here transcend the aesthetics of dictatorship as authentic explorations into new ideas. By Julie V. Iovine- Wall Street Journal

Empowering cities with good design: Celebrating a year of culture and design, South Africa's oldest city is showcasing its influential architecture, historical buildings and contemporary artists and designers...throughout 2014...World Design Capital status for Cape Town...an African first...design programme based on the motto 'Live Design. Transform Life'...- FXMagazine / DesignCurial

Mandela's built legacy and a new dawn for african architecture: "Afritecture: Building Social Change"...a timely exhibition...gives cause for hope...the potential for our words (and works) to fall into that murky territory between good intention and bad deed, is huge...at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the 29 practices...in this ambitious exhibition straddle this line (or lines) with varying degrees of sophistication, success and ease. By Lesley Lokko -- Diébédo Francis Kéré; Luyanda Mpahlwa; TU Munich; Doherty; Sharon Davis [images]- Architectural Review (UK)

Our City Festival 2014: Ideas for Our City: Phnom Penh: ...a festival celebrating urban art, architecture, and ideas..."a unified vision for the city is essential. By envisaging its potential as a global city, we can create awareness for the new generation of Cambodians." -- Hun Chansan/Re-Edge Architecture + Design; Sovan Philong; Inari Virkkala/Komitu Architects- Phnom Penh Post (Cambodia)

Forget George Lucas — put the UN in the Presidio! If New York power-brokers hadn't pulled strings...San Francisco's former Army post would be home to the United Nations instead. That's the surprising local angle to "Capital of the World: The Race to Host the United Nations," by Charlene Mires...thoroughly entertaining book... By John King [images]- San Francisco Chronicle



-- Photo Report From Doha. By Pygmalion Karatzas -- Arata Isozaki; Legorreta + Legorreta; Jean Nouvel; NORR; Coelacanth K&H; Allies & Morrison; OMA; Cesar Pelli; etc.

-- BIG: ...Bjarke Ingels Group...risen to world-wide renown in record time, winning commissions left and right...all burst of unflinching confidence and supercharged youthful energy. By Jakob Harry Hybel

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