

Today's News - Wednesday, January 29, 2014

- Bernstein and Quirk report on last night's MoMA/AFAM public forum: abandon all hope that the discussion would change things ("We've made our decision," Lowry said): "At times, Diller seemed to blame Williams' and Tsien's architecture. It's a damn shame that the building is so obdurate" + "the real fun began when the panel began to give their two cents."
- McGuigan (who was on the panel) pens her own thoughtful R.I.P. for the Folk Art building: "MoMA should hit the pause button and reconsider such irrevocable action."
- Political theorist Barber waxes most eloquently about remarkable public spaces that "represent oases of open interaction and exchange" and "the products of human imagination."
- Gallagher ponders Detroit's rush to tear down blight: "but then what? The notion that clearing away blight will by itself create demand - sort of a 'If you demolish it, they will come' - remains a stretch."
- Hume fumes about Toronto's chronic NIMBYism: "Where does this fear of change come from? And what does it say about us?"
- Hinshaw tackles Starbucks' stealth tactics "to avoid community resistance to corporate brands" by coming up "with enhanced and localized versions of itself."
- Sheridan and Hawkes offer planners "seven lessons to help Don Draperize your next presentation."
- StreetSeen is a new, free, "easy-to-use public engagement tool" that "allows planners and others to simply construct and deploy visual surveys."
- A report offers "recommendations on security design" to help "prevent, or at least mitigate, a Sandy Hook."
- Ferro pleads: "Designers, stop calling your work 'Iconic'" - unless it really, really is.
- Betsy ends up scratching his head when asked: "So who do you think are the most important American architects under 40 today?"
- Eyefuls of the first three buildings and first phase of the landscape for the Cornell NYCTech campus on Manhattan's Roosevelt Island.
- New images of Holl's expansion plans for the Kennedy Center "include something we haven't seen yet: interiors of the planned entry pavilion."
- Rinaldi cheers plans by Denver's "quirky" Kirkland Museum to move to new digs by Olson Kundig in the city's Museum District.
- Sportsmania: Sacramento Kings unveil AECOM's design for a \$448 million "see-through" arena (not all are pleased).
- Eyefuls of Rogers Stirk Harbour's first football stadium in Caracas with a "brightly colored bicycle wheel canopy roof" (it will look great from a plane!).
- Atlanta Braves tap Populous, "the most prolific designer of Major League Baseball stadiums" ("a very understandable and not surprising choice").
- 35th Annual Interiors Awards winners (great presentation!).

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[MoMA Defends Decision to Raze Folk Art Museum Building at Public Forum: ...650 people turned out...But after nearly two hours of debate, Glenn Lowry declared, "We've made our decision," dashing the hopes of anyone who thought the discussion might change things...At times, Elizabeth Diller seemed to blame Williams' and Tsien's architecture. "It's a damn shame that the building is so obdurate"... By Fred A. Bernstein -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Nicolai Ouroussoff; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Karen Stein; Jorge Otero-Pailos; Cathleen McGuigan - Architectural Record](#)

[Glenn Lowry on American Folk Art Museum: The Decision Has Been Made: the real fun began when the panel...began to give their two cents...answering the question of whether or not he considers architecture to be art, he emphasized that architecture, unlike art, is entirely linked to function... By Vanessa Quirk -- Elizabeth Diller/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Cathleen McGuigan; Nicolai Ouroussoff; Reed Kroloff; Jorge Otero-Pailos; Stephen Rustow/Museoplan; Karen Stein - ArchDaily](#)

[R.I.P., Folk Art Building: MoMA rushes to raze Midtown Manhattan gem: ...officials may have thought that DS+R's deft display of drawings and graphics to back up their decision would take the sting out of the news...But almost no one is applauding...MoMA should hit the pause button and reconsider such irrevocable action. By Cathleen McGuigan -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Architectural Record](#)

[What if the world was ruled by mayors? ...remarkable public spaces represent oases of open interaction and exchange...All are the products of human imagination...Yet planners and designers do not so much read a common essence into the city as draw it out. The quintessentially public character of urbanity comes first; designers riff on it...the struggle against urbanity and its promise of creative commonality continues...a struggle against public good, common space and the vital life of the metropolis. By Benjamin R Barber - Architectural Review \(UK\)](#)

[You tear down the blight in Detroit, but then what? The notion that clearing away blight will by itself create demand — sort of a "If you demolish it, they will come" — remains a stretch...would mean we don't need to come up with nontraditional solutions...blight removal is only the beginning. If that was enough to spark redevelopment, we'd be seeing more evidence of it already. By John Gallagher -- Dan Gilbert; Bill Pulte/Detroit Blight Authority; Detroit Future City - Detroit Free Press](#)

[Welcome to Toronto, where it's 'just say no': Whatever else Torontonians may be, they're always in the "no." No is their automatic answer to any question; their default position, fallback response and kneejerk reaction...Some NIMBY claims are so outrageous, they don't deserve to be taken seriously...Where does this fear of change come from? And what does it say about us? By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star](#)

[Stealthbucks: The non-Starbucks Starbucks: To avoid community resistance to corporate brands, Starbucks is disguising itself in ways that belie its Northwest roots...shops around the world designed by local design teams with a community's unique character and preferences in mind...to come up with enhanced and localized versions of itself. By Mark Hinshaw - Crosscut \(Seattle\)](#)

[Lessons from Don Draper \(for Planners\): What cues should urban planners and policy makers take from the field of advertising to help pitch planning ideas? ...take a closer look at how the real ad men and women create powerful campaigns and memorable messages. Here are seven lessons to help Don Draperize your next presentation. By Georgia Sheridan and Amber Hawkes/Melendrez \[images, links\] - PLANetizen](#)

[StreetSeen: A New Tool for Understanding the Built Environment: Want an easy to use public engagement tool that helps you to understand the visual preferences of the public? ...a free online tool allows planners and others to simply construct and deploy visual surveys. By Jennifer Evans-Cowley - PLANetizen](#)

[Special report: Can design prevent another Sandy Hook? Our experts say no, but it could save lives. In this report, they offer recommendations on security design you can bring to your K-12 clients to prevent, or at least mitigate, a Sandy Hook on their turf. \[link to full report\] - Building Design + Construction \(BD+C\)](#)

[Designers, Stop Calling Your Work "Iconic": Unless it's an actual symbol dampen the enthusiasm a little: ...what makes something actually "iconic"? ...when can you brand something with the big I without sounding like a pompous ass? For one thing, whatever it is, it should probably be at least a few years old. By Shaunacy Ferro - Fast Company / Co. Design](#)

[Where to Find the World's Most Important Young Architects: Young architects can more easily obtain significant commissions in Europe than in the U.S.: "So who do you think are the most important American architects under 40 today?"](#)

I started to answer, stopped, and scratched my head...the disciples of Greg Lynn, Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture, or Hernan Diaz Alonso are not yet doing work of note...I do not see a new generation of classicists or New Urbanists... By Aaron Betsky -- SO-IL; WORKac; REX; Ball-Nogues; MOS; HWKN; Bjarke Ingels; David Adjaye- Architect Magazine

Ithaca on the East River: Roosevelt Island tech campus by Morphosis, Handel, Weiss/Månfredi, and James Corner Field Operations taking shape: The first three buildings and first phase of the landscape of the new Cornell NYCTech campus... [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

This Is What the Kennedy Center Could Look Like in 2017: More renderings of the Kennedy Center's planned \$100 million expansion have been filed with the National Capital Planning Commission...include something we haven't seen yet: interior photos of the planned entry pavilion. -- Steven Holl Architects [images]- Washington City Paper (Washington, DC)

Move to new digs a big deal for Denver's Kirkland Museum: ...quirky museum, home to a sprawling collection of art, furniture and household items by an array of international design superstars, is moving to Denver's Museum District...adding a new attraction to the cultural hub. By Ray Mark Rinaldi -- Olson Kundig Architects - Denver Post

Sacramento Kings unveil final \$448 million arena drawings: ...a see-through building...adjacent public plaza is envisioned...with tomatoes growing in hydroponic gardens, an outdoor grandstand or grassy amphitheater...and a sunken area...lined with almond trees...a potential legal obstacle...A group opposed to the city's planned \$258 million subsidy says it may file a lawsuit...to force a public vote... -- AECOM [images]- Sacramento Bee (California)

Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners designs its first football stadium: Caracas project began with a commission to design a bus station...Estadio Nacional de Fútbol de Venezuela will sit on a hillside...features a lightweight, brightly coloured bicycle wheel canopy roof... [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Atlanta Braves select Populous to design stadium: ...the most prolific designer of Major League Baseball stadiums..."a very understandable and not surprising choice"...also might be involved in designing the planned adjacent mixed-use development... - Atlanta Journal-Constitution

35th Annual Interiors Awards winners: Designer of the Year: Krista Ninivaggi/SHoP Architects; Legend Award: Trisha Wilson; MSR; designLAB architects; Yazdani Studio of Cannon Design; Cannon Design; Southside Design; The Gallery HBA London; HLW; Studio O+A; Coelacanth K&H Architects; TAL Studio; INNOCAD; Massive Design; ZGF Architects; Annie Masincup [links to images, info]- Contract magazine

ANN Feature: What is "Quiet Design" and Why Should It Matter? Some Troubling Queries for Cathleen McGuigan and Sundry Fans of "Architectural Quietism." By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- Estudio Entresitio: Villaverde Municipal Health Care Center, Madrid, Spain...certainly one fine result.
-- After the Tsunami, at the 'Women's River'; ...former residents -- and architect initiatives such as Architecture for Humanity -- disagree with the hasty reconstruction plans made up by the central government. By Ulf Meyer
-- "A Question of Qualities: Essays in Architecture": Jeffrey Kipnis' collection of mind-blowing theoretical essays...a remarkable insight into the mind of one of today's most piercing and playful architectural thinkers. By Martin Søberg

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