

Today's News - Wednesday, April 2, 2014

- ANN Feature: Taylor cheers Johnston Marklee's new home for the Menil Drawing Institute in Houston: "In the somewhat arbitrary hierarchy of fine art media, where painting is king, the new MDI elevates the medium by providing a distinguished, respectful home."
- Mouzon calls for "a green rating system that is fast, friendly and free": LEED was "a great idea in the beginning," but it is "skewed heavily to Gizmo Green solutions that are completely ignorant of where the building is being built, and for whom."
- Steuteville says that smart urbanists should "seek out and connect with groups" that already support smart growth to reverse "the Sisyphean cycle of urban placemaking."
- Davies proposes a "thought experiment": "suppose historic CBD buildings demolished in the 1960s and 70s had instead been preserved and sensitively adapted to other uses. How would our cities be different today?" (be careful what you wish for!)
- Miranda offers an interesting take on BIG's second "pass at pleasing" picky Park City, Utah, "after NIMBYs thwarted" the first (much-lauded elsewhere) design for the Kimball Art Center: "one can't help but feel an air of lost opportunity."
- Woodman gives two thumbs-ups to Haworth Tompkins' Everyman Theatre in Liverpool that avoids "the institutional associations that a more monumental treatment might invite while better maintaining the established urban grain."
- The skyline of a "gentrifying downtown L.A. is finally in for a dramatic change" with a new high-rise by HansonLA.
- Five "starlets" are in the running to take on making over London's Science Museum research center.
- The on-again-off-again Guggenheim Helsinki satellite may be on again with a design competition launching in June - but with a big BUT: "a decision to go ahead with the project would be taken after the architectural competition is completed."
- Copenhagen's big Blue Planet aquarium by 3XN has been a big hit in its first year, but is already planning a makeover after 20% of visitors surveyed "said they were dissatisfied with the current set-up."
- Groves cheers a 19th-century shotgun house in Santa Monica staring down a firing squad - and winning.
- Q&A with Ben Wood re: China's transformation over the past 15 years: "One day, the only people doing architecture in China will be Chinese architects."
- Clemence has a sprightly Q&A with Libeskind re: Italy, product design, the state of architecture today, and designing the Venetian pavilion for the Venice Architecture Biennale.
- Eyefuls of all 129 winners in the 2014 A+ Awards.
- Call for entries: LEAF Awards 2014 to honor architects "setting the benchmark for the international architectural community."

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ANN Feature: Drawing an Elegant Conclusion: Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee: Houston: In the somewhat arbitrary hierarchy of fine art media, where painting is king, drawing is often considered less valuable. The new MDI elevates the medium by providing a distinguished, respectful home. By Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA [images]- ArchNewsNow

Anti-LEED: A green rating system that is fast, friendly and free: The LEED rating systems were a great idea in the beginning, but they have become a symbol of all that is wrong with green building today...skewed heavily to Gizmo Green solutions that are completely ignorant of where the building is being built, and for whom. We need the opposite sort of system... By Steve Mouzon/Mouzon Design- Better! Cities & Towns (formerly New Urban News)

Come together locally for smarter growth: Connecting competence to organized support is key to reversing the Sisyphean cycle of urban placemaking: Urbanists, if they are smart, will seek out and connect with groups that are already supporting, or likely to support, urban place and show them how to form stronger, more permanent coalitions for prosperous and sustainable neighborhoods and centers. By Robert Steuteville- Better! Cities & Towns (formerly New Urban News)

What if all those heritage buildings hadn't been torn down? Imagine if those magnificent historic city streetscapes and marvellous 19th century buildings in the centres of our major cities were never destroyed. How would things be different today? ...the value of this sort of exercise is understanding that you can't change one parameter without realising it'll generate knock-on changes elsewhere, not all of them what you want. By Alan Davies - Crikey (Australia)

BIG Plans a Second Design for Picky Park City: After NIMBYs thwarted a historically grounded design for the Kimball Art Center, Bjarke Ingels Group takes another pass at pleasing his Utah clients...one can't help but feel an air of lost opportunity...History doesn't have to stay stuck in the past. It can point to the future, too. By Carolina A. Miranda -- Elliot Workgroup [images]- Architect Magazine

Everyman Theatre: Haworth Tompkins' new venue retains the essence of the much-loved Liverpool landmark...called for a significant degree of deference to the existing urban condition...to blur the distinction between the theatre and the street...sparing the theatre the institutional associations that a more monumental treatment might invite while better maintaining the established urban grain...The ghost of Carlo Scarpa haunts proceedings too... By Ellis Woodman [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

New high-rise on Broadway would be one of tallest in Southland: The 34-story apartment and retail complex, called Broadway @ 4th, would house 450 units and fill in a key block in gentrifying downtown L.A...the skyline is finally in for a dramatic change. -- HansonLA [image]- Los Angeles Times

Starlets vie for Science Museum research centre: ...five rising stars competing...for the high-profile £1 million refurbishment of an existing building. -- 6A Architects; Coffey Architects; David Kohn Architects; HAT projects; Witherford Watson Mann Architects- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Guggenheim seeks architect to design Helsinki satellite: Open competition launch in June as hope springs eternal for Finnish branch: ...co-organised with the Finnish Association of Architects...a decision to go ahead with the project would be taken after the architectural competition is completed. - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Blue Planet already eyeing renovations: Despite over a million people visiting The Blue Planet in its first year of existence, northern Europe's largest aquarium is already planning to renovate...after 20% of visitors...said they were dissatisfied with the current set-up. "To be honest, it hasn't been good enough" ... -- 3XN; Atelier Brückner- The Copenhagen Post (Denmark)

Aim is true for Santa Monica's 'shotgun house' relocation: The historic 19th century structure that narrowly escaped demolition arrives full circle, to within blocks of its longtime location. It will become the Santa Monica Conservancy's headquarters. By Martha Groves -- Fonda-Bonardi and Hohman Architects- Los Angeles Times

'One Day, The Only People Doing Architecture In China Will Be Chinese Architects': ...Ben Wood has participated from the ground up in the sweeping transformation of China's largest cities in the past 15 years...Q&A re: current trends in architecture and retail estate in China. - Forbes

Q&A: Daniel Libeskind on Italy, Product Design, and the State of Architecture Today...and designing the Venetian pavilion for

[the Venice Architecture Biennale](#). By Paul Clemence [images]- Metropolis Magazine

[Announcing the Winners of the 2014 A+ Awards](#): ...explore the 129 winning firms who managed to snag an award in more than 60 categories. [link to images, info]- Architizer

[Call for entries: LEAF Awards 2014](#): Now in its 11th year, Awards honour the architects ...setting the benchmark for the international architectural community; multiple entry discount registration deadline: April 20 (submission deadline: June 2)- Arena International

[Opening a New Chapter on Designing Public Libraries: Why Robert Dawson's photographic essay on the public library plays it safe by looking back when architects need to scan an emerging horizon](#). By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow



-- [MAD Architects: China Wood Sculpture Museum, Harbin, China](#): ...signals that even China's frozen northern periphery is beginning to be reshaped...behind the thunderbolt-hued building is China's leading experimental architect, Ma Yansong... By Kevin Holden Platt

-- [Exhibition: Film and Architecture as the act of framing: Q&A with Morten Melgaard](#), who has been researching the relationship between architecture and film for several years.

-- [Rafael Viñoly](#): Today he is a household name and ranks among the greatest living architects. Recently however, his star status has been a little burnt...

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