

Today's News - Thursday, May 1, 2014

- Bernstein pens a most eloquent tribute to Fred Schwartz, who "wasn't so much an architect as a public citizen who used architecture as a tool to improve lives. Other tools included empathy and patience" (we counted him a friend and will sorely miss him).
- Al Sabouni's eloquent and touching report from Homs: "If one lesson could be learned from the conflicts we're experiencing in Syria, it is that architecture is much more powerful than one might like to think - leading through architecture could make a way for us out of this black hole."
- Ferro queries Ingels, Diller, Wilkinson, Fentress re: "how morality fits into the process of accepting or rejecting a commission."
- H&deM tapped for new Vancouver Art Gallery: "they are very sensitive to place."
- Londoner Simpson, "one of the world's leading practitioners of New Classicism and New Urbanism," tapped to design University of Notre Dame's new School of Architecture.
- King cheers the five teams tapped to craft "concepts" for a park at the edge of San Francisco's Crissy Field: "It's an unusual exercise in that the next step isn't to select a winner."
- Mironova takes an in-depth look at how community land trusts can help solve a broad range of problems, including inequality and affordability that affect residents across the country.
- New research shows that "green space puts people in a better mental state, with 'significant and sizable' effects."
- STUDIO V's mixed-use vision for Crescent Cove on Queens' waterfront gets a green light with a design "determined to not continue the trend" of generic lass towers rising elsewhere.
- Goldberger is aghast that an architect's already half-finished house in a Raleigh, NC, neighborhood has NIMBYs swarming at the gates: it's "an example of modern architecture trying hard, very hard, to be a good neighbor" - it "couldn't fit in better unless he were prepared to throw in the towel and produce a make-believe Victorian."
- Wainwright and Stamp pay tribute to Hollein, "who mixed forms and materials with promiscuous abandon, designing with a magpie sensibility," and "what still excites us about" his work."
- Results of London auction of work by architects rakes in £5.6 million, with pieces by Hadid, Pei, and Aalto exceeding expectations (and others not at all).
- A very, very long shortlist in the running for the inaugural Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize and Prize for Emerging Architecture (265 nominees!).
- An impressive list of winners in Cooper-Hewitt's 2014 National Design Awards.
- Ditto re: winners of the Center for Active Design's inaugural Excellence Award + 2014 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards.
- The official Call for Entries for the Guggenheim Helsinki will launch June 4, but you can sign up now to get in the loop.
- Call for entries: ideas for upcoming exhibition re: "how museums and galleries can be re-imagined once our existing ideas about them are destroyed."

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Obituary: Frederic Schwartz, 1951-2014: ...wasn't so much an architect as a public citizen who used architecture as a tool to improve lives. Other tools included empathy and patience. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown; Tracey Hummer; THINK Team [slide show]- Architectural Record

A table for two: Long before war hit them, the streets of Homs were hit by architecture. Or rebuilding, anyway...If one lesson could be learned from the conflicts we're experiencing in Syria...it is that architecture is much more powerful than one might like to think...leading through architecture - could make a way for us out of this black hole. By Marwa Al Sabouni, Homs, Syria- RIBA Journal (UK)

Weapons, Bribes, And Dictators: Where Architects Draw The Line: Zaha Hadid says it's not her job to pay attention to how many migrant workers die in the construction of her World Cup stadium. We asked Bjarke Ingels, Liz Diller, Clive Wilkinson, and Curtis Fentress how morality fits into the process of accepting or rejecting a commission. By Shaunacy Ferro -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Fentress Architects; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG- Fast Company

Architects behind Tate Modern chosen to design new Vancouver Art Gallery: Herzog & de Meuron will have two themes: building for art, and making downtown work better... "they are very sensitive to place"... By Marsha Lederman and Alex Bozokovic -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; KPMB Architects; SANAA; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects- Globe and Mail (Canada)

London architect John Simpson to design new School of Architecture building at the University of Notre Dame: ...one of the world's leading practitioners of New Classicism and New Urbanism...- Notre Dame News (Indiana)

5 design firms offer visions for park at edge of Crissy Field: A piece of San Francisco that does not yet exist...will soon be the focus of some of the world's leading design firms...selected by the Presidio Trust to craft "concepts" for the parkland...It's an unusual exercise in that the next step isn't to select a winner. By John King -- James Corner Field Operations; Page & Turnbull; Olin; Olson Kundig Architects; Snøhetta; Walter Hood; West 8; Jensen Architects; CMG Landscape Architecture- San Francisco Chronicle

The Value of Land: How Community Land Trusts Maintain Housing Affordability: Oksana Mironova charts an alternative strategy to land ownership and property management that helps communities solve a broad range of problems - including widening inequality and decreasing community control over housing costs - that affect residents across the country.- Urban Omnibus

If You Live Near A Park, You're More Likely To Be Happy: Green space puts people in a better mental state, with "significant and sizable" effects...research published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, could provide further reasons to invest in green space...- Fast Company

Astoria's Crescent Cove: STUDIO V Architects presents a mixed-use vision for Queens' waterfront...one-million-square-foot development...When asked about the new, generic glass towers of Jersey City and Williamsburg and Long Island City, Jay Valgora says he is determined to not continue that trend. -- Ken Smith Landscape Architect [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Is This House Too Modern to Exist? ...an example of modern architecture trying hard, very hard, to be on its best manners...to be a good neighbor...It's hard to imagine how Cherry could have designed a house that fit in better than the one that now stands half-finished [in Raleigh, North Carolina]...unless he were prepared to throw in the towel and produce a make-believe Victorian. By Paul Goldberger -- Louis Cherry [images]- Vanity Fair

Hans Hollein: Postmodern Viennese architect who mixed forms and materials with promiscuous abandon: ...brought his unique brand of witty historicist collage to everything...developed a trademark style of combining classical motifs with futuristic industrial materials...Designing with a magpie sensibility, he would sample forms and materials from different periods and cultures... By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Remembering the "Eclectic Gusto" of Architect Hans Hollein: A look into what still excites us about the Viennese designer, who died last week at 80...known as a designer of "witty" buildings who valued meaning over function. By Jimmy Stamp

[images] - Smithsonian magazine

Works by architects and designers make £5.6m at auction: Zaha Hadid, I.M. Pei and Alvar Aalto all exceed expectation... "The Architect," a sale devised for auctioneers Phillips by US architect Lee Mindel, included pieces by Le Corbusier, Lutyens, and Frank Lloyd Wright. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize Nominees: MCHAP and Mies Crown Hall America's Prize for Emerging Architecture (MCHAP.emerge) announced 265 nominees for the two inaugural prizes...will receive a monetary prize, \$50,000 and \$25,000, respectively [images] - Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)

Cooper-Hewitt Announces Winners of the 2014 National Design Awards -- Brooks + Scarpa; Roman and Williams Buildings and Interiors; Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture; Ivan Chermayeff/Tom Geismar/Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv; Witold Rybczynski; etc. - Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Center for Active Design Names Inaugural Excellence Award Recipients -- VMDO Architects; BKSK Architects; GGLO; Design Workshop, Inc.; BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group; etc. - Contract magazine

2014 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards Winners -- Dewberry; OPN Architects; Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership; JKMM Architects; Bettisworth Welsh Whiteley; Snohetta/Clark Nexsen/Another Inside Job; designLAB architects; The Miller Hull Partnership; Gensler; Rice+Lipka Architects; *MULTIPLICITIES; etc. [images] - Contract magazine

Malcolm Reading Consultants to Manage Architectural Competition for Proposed Guggenheim Helsinki: ...will be inaugurated on June 4...sign up to receive information... - Guggenheim Museum

Call for entries: To Be Destroyed: A call for ideas for upcoming exhibition "TBD"...propose how museums and galleries can be re-imagined once our existing ideas about them are destroyed; deadline: June 30 - Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA)

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