

Today's News - Thursday, May 15, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for not posting yesterday and posting so late today - the gods of the Internet tubes were not on our side.

- The 9/11 Memorial Museum was dedicated this morning; we've sifted through miles of reports and reviews and picked the most eloquent and thoughtful:
- Cotter: "Its nearest equivalent I can think of is the dynamic of religious pilgrimage sites...framed in moral terms, as a story of angels and devils."
- Davidson: "a huge and spectacularly mournful institution...the architects have taken care to lead visitors gently into the depths...I am discomfited and unhappy - and that is the museum's strength."
- Wainwright: "an emotional underworld beneath Ground Zero...the hallowed site remains as much a place of spectacle as ever."
- Kuang offers an in-depth look at what went into designing the exhibits that create "an overwhelming sense of absence and awe...an unprecedented hybrid of archaeological site, cathedral, and tourist attraction...the designers found a solution that felt inevitable."
- Hamill: "9/11 museum was built with respect, heartfelt emotion and dignified beauty."
- Editorial: "The WTC Museum is right on every level"; the design is "breathtaking," but "one wrong remains to be corrected: Congress has refused to appropriate \$60 million a year. Every one of the 535 Washington representatives needs to visit - so they can understand how disgraceful [it] has a \$24 admission fee for the public. The United States is much better than that."
- Hawthorne sees the the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures' "cast change may be a blessing in disguise. The academy should stop worrying about public-relations fallout and admit that the design process for the museum needs more time."
- Bayley cheers Shigeru Ban "finally receiving the attention he deserves. This year's Pritzker Prize resets architecture's compass" (mincing now words about starchitects "doing slick promotional selfies as premium brands" - ouch!).
- Wing cheers the Made in Earth NGO project in India that "balances considerations of need and culture with material and economic concerns" (great pix!).
- Jones looks at "what Rural Studio continues to teach us about good design," 20 years later.
- Hume gives two thumbs-up (and then some) to Shim-Sutcliffe's convent in Toronto that "is an exquisite addition to the city" and "a model of integrity and integration."
- Pedersen parses Rockwell's take on "the ideal design of a stadium. How do you make these huge facilities more urban friendly? (t'would that some could become a reality!)
- Farrelly sees the bike wars as culture wars: "the bike is the form of the future. That makes it dangerous," but "a city without pedestrians is not a city. It's a business park. And bikes are pedestrians on wheels."
- 20 design and construction associations form Alliance for a Resilient Tomorrow, "a new partnership dedicating to promoting resilience across the board."
- Qatar promises labor reforms for construction workers, but rights groups say it "sounded more like 'a change of name rather than substantive reform.'"
- Call for entries: Global Architecture Graduate Awards 2014 for undergraduates and postgraduates.

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[The 9/11 Story Told at Bedrock, Powerful as a Punch to the Gut: Metaphorical thinking was rife in the days and months after Sept. 11...The interior design of the museum...preserves this kind of thinking...Its nearest equivalent I can think of is the dynamic of religious pilgrimage sites...framed in moral terms, as a story of angels and devils...it seems to regard itself as a work in progress...](#) By Holland Cotter -- Minoru Yamasaki; Snøhetta; Daniel Libeskind; Davis Brody Bond - *New York Times*

[Getting to 9/11: How a museum's creators memorialized our collective agony: National September 11 Memorial Museum, a huge and spectacularly mournful institution...the architects have taken care to lead visitors gently into the depths...a museum's job is not just to preserve but also to explain...I'm relieved that the curators have handled the inherent tensions as deftly as they have...I am discomfited and unhappy—and that is the museum's strength...To visit is to volunteer for certain but tolerable pain.](#) By Justin Davidson -- Snøhetta; Davis Brody Bond; David Layman; Thinc; Local Projects - *New York Magazine*

[9/11 Memorial Museum: an emotional underworld beneath Ground Zero: ...the relics of the twin towers have been elevated into art objects...the hallowed site...remains as much a place of spectacle as ever...buffeted not just by the anguish and loss of that day, but by the compromise of competing interests that have waged war across the site ever since.](#) By Oliver Wainwright -- Snøhetta; Daniel Libeskind; Santiago Calatrava; Davis Brody Bond - *Guardian (UK)*

[The Near-Impossible Challenge of Designing the 9/11 Museum: You get an overwhelming sense of absence and awe...an unprecedented hybrid of archaeological site, cathedral, and tourist attraction...How do you rise to the event itself for the - people who lived it without overwhelming everyone else?" ...the designers found a solution that felt inevitable.](#) By Cliff Kuang - *Jake Barton/Local Projects; Tom Hennes/Thinc; David Layman [images]- Wired*

[9/11 museum was built with respect, heartfelt emotion and dignified beauty: The new National September 11 Memorial & Museum will make sure that people who lived through the savage attack will always hold the 2,753 who died in the World Trade Center close at heart.](#) By Denis Hamill - *NY Daily News*

[Always to remember: The WTC Museum is right on every level: 9/11 Memorial Museum's design is breathtaking, keeping faith with the reverence for the bedrock that became the last resting place for so, so many...one wrong remains to be corrected: Congress has refused to appropriate \\$60 million a year...Every one of the 535 Washington representatives needs to visit — so they can understand how disgraceful it is that this national site of profound remembrance has a \\$24 admission fee for the public. The United States is much better than that.](#) - *NY Daily News*

[Film museum's cast change may be a blessing in disguise: By refusing to budge on its construction timeline, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is doubling down on the least-promising elements of the design...The academy should stop worrying about public-relations fallout and admit that the design process for the museum needs more time...A delay at this stage could turn out to be the museum's saving grace.](#) By Christopher Hawthorne -- Zoltan Pali; Renzo Piano - *Los Angeles Times*

[You want a glitzy new cultural centre in Backofbeyondistan? Don't call Shigeru Ban: The quiet king of paper architecture is finally receiving the attention he deserves...After years of spectacular indulgence in architecture, it is good to see radical economy and radical thinking prioritised over spectacle and sensationalism...This year's Pritzker Prize resets architecture's compass.](#) By Stephen Bayley - *The Spectator (UK)*

[An NGO Committed to a Different Kind of Humanitarian Architecture: The Rana House by the Made in Earth NGO, formed by four Italian architects, was designed as a small caring and living center for 15 HIV-positive children and their mother...balances considerations of need and culture with material and economic concerns...Architects need to forget bucolic visions and deal with complicated realities"...](#) By Sherin Wing [images] - *Metropolis Magazine*

[20 Years Later, What Rural Studio Continues to Teach Us About Good Design: It reminds us that work by the privileged meant to aid the underprivileged should be a reciprocal exchange of ideas and input, and that the architecture of place is still a worthy pursuit in an increasingly globalized world.](#) By Rennie Jones -- D.K. Ruth; Samuel Mockbee; Andrew Freear [images] - *ArchDaily*

Nuns' residence inspires faith: The new Sisters of St. Joseph Residence an architectural highlight: ...the striking new structure...is an exquisite addition to the city...the building, which just won a Governor-General's Medal, is a model of integrity and integration. By Christopher Hume -- Shim-Sutcliffe Architects - Toronto Star

After the Big Game: Often the designer of choice for mega events, David Rockwell imagines the ideal design of a stadium: ...has spent most of his career engaged in the art of spectacle...we asked him to tackle a larger, but related, design problem: the stadium. How do you make these huge facilities more urban friendly? By Martin C. Pedersen -- Rockwell Group [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Culture wars on the roads: The bike wars are culture wars...sitting behind a bike makes many people mad. Really mad. Why? Because bikes represent cultural change. Cultural change is threatening...But the bike is also the form of the future. That makes it dangerous...In cycling policy, as in all things green, Australia lags...A city without pedestrians is not a city. It's a business park. And bikes are pedestrians on wheels. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Design and Construction Groups Launch Alliance for a Resilient Tomorrow: 20 associations announced...a new partnership dedicating to promoting resilience across the board. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Qatar Pledges Labor Reform, But Rights Groups Say It Falls Short: Reforms come as Qatar prepares to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022...sounded more like "a change of name rather than substantive reform." - Wall Street Journal

Call for entries: Global Architecture Graduate Awards / GAGA 2014: undergraduate and postgraduate categories; cash prizes; deadline: July 1 - Architectural Review (UK)



Steven Holl Architects: Reid Building, Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland, UK: Holl is not hiding behind Mackintosh, but lets his work supplement it self-confidently and in a clearly contemporary style...a new, shiny piece of Glas(s)gow. By Ulf Meyer

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