

Today's News - Tuesday, June 17, 2014

- ArcSpace rounds up seven tomes to satisfy any kind of holiday, from entertaining to enlightening.
- Iovine reports from the Venice Biennale: "what sometimes looks like a wholesale rebuke is more like a wake-up call. And that is only one part of the biennale."
- Rajagopal is quite taken by the elephants in the room at the Silver Lion-winning Chilean Pavilion that "shows just how little architects understand modernity."
- Webster is quite taken by Rem - and concrete cows: "The question is: what do these rock-solid ungulates have to do with the future of architecture? The answer: more than you imagine."
- Forget the World Cup stadiums (and their seemingly never-named designers), "a renaissance of Brazil's heroic-minded and intellectual architecture is taking place, after decades of lying dormant."
- Conti catches up with an architect exploring architecture's new frontier: "bio-mimicry in architecture could dramatically change what everyday buildings look like and how we experience them," and could someday "inspire wonder," which "is what architecture does at its best."
- Bentley makes the case for a carbon tax: "as designers know well, the impacts of inaction are potentially disastrous. Planning for an uncertain future is difficult enough. Without a guiding market signal like a carbon tax, we are directionless."
- Speck offers his "general theory of walkability" in a compelling (and thoroughly engaging) TedTalk.
- Walkability "gains a toehold" in king-of-sprawl Texas, where "dense, mixed-use town centers and revitalized historic downtowns have drawn attention to walkability even in suburbs."
- Birnbaum explains the importance of studying the High Line "when discussing how we measure success in our public landscapes"; as it "continues to activate development along its boundaries, I also hope these edge conditions provide site-specific lessons about managing change."
- ASLA taps Design Workshop for the Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project around its D.C. HQ, intended to be "a world-class model and education tool for developers, designers, city officials, and the public."
- BIG winds things up with a watch museum in Switzerland "conceived as a 'landmark to precision' embedded in the Alpine landscape" (with lots of pix to prove it).
- Christiansen cheers plans to add another modernist building to Kettle's Yard in Cambridge (U.K.), designed by "the bright young Canadian architect Jamie Fobert."
- Vancouver-based Leckie discusses "the importance of discovery in design and the textural differences between projects in Mexico and the Pacific Northwest."
- A great Q&A with Sperry, "the architect who wants to build a more humane prison."
- Sydney picks five finalists shortlisted in the Green Square Aquatic Centre competition (and they're all Australian - what a concept!).
- The L.A. Business Council has a long list of winners in its 44th annual Los Angeles Architectural Awards.
- Eye-fuls of the winners of the 31st Annual IALD International Lighting Design Awards (great presentation).
- Goat tales (we couldn't resist): rental goats are on the rise in the fire-prone Bay Area to clear dry brush + they're chomping their way through invasive plants on state land on Long Island.

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7 Architecture Books to Fill Up Your Suitcase: Bike Town Tokyo by Yoshiharu Tsukamoto & René Kural; The Images of Architects by Valerio Olgiati; Atmosphere by Peter Zumthor; A Topology of Everyday Constellations by Georges Teyssot; Vitruvius: Writing the Body of Architecture by Indra Kagis McEwen; Content by OMA/Rem Koolhaas; Behind the Green Door by Rotor

Just the 'Fundamentals': Rem Koolhaas takes on modernity at this year's International Architecture Exhibition: ...raises questions about contemporary architecture's subservient role to increasingly elaborate technologies and its complicity in an overall impoverishment of the experience of space...what sometimes looks like a wholesale rebuke is more like a wake-up call...And that is only one part of the biennale... By Julie V. Iovine - Wall Street Journal

The Elephant in the Room: The Chilean Pavilion at the Venice Biennale: The exhibit, which won the Biennale's Silver Lion, shows just how little architects understand modernity: ...those willing to spend a little more time reading the objects in Mrs. Gutiérrez's living room might come away with a radically new vision of modernity and modernism. And it starts with those elephants. By Avinash Rajagopal [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Is architecture dead? Not if these concrete cows have anything to do with it: The question is: what do these rock-solid ungulates have to do with the future of architecture? The answer: more than you imagine...a bold reminder that architecture is - or at least should be - about a great deal more than blueprints, digital renderings and scale models. By George Webster -- Rem Koolhaas; Wouter Vanstiphout; Sam Jacob [images, video] - CNN

Beyond the World Cup stadiums, architecture in Brazil returns to glory: ...a renaissance of Brazil's heroic-minded and intellectual architecture is taking place, after decades of lying dormant...a generation of architects is crafting new spaces in a more democratic spirit... By Vincent Bevins -- Guilherme Wisnik; Francisco de Paiva Fanucci/Marcelo Carvalho Ferraz; Angelo Bucci; Lúcio Costa; Le Corbusier; Oscar Niemeyer; João Vilanova Artigas; Paulo Mendes da Rocha; Lina Bo Bardi; GMP Architects [images] - Los Angeles Times

Architecture's new frontier: Buildings that mimic nature: Making buildings "green" has become common...simulating nature in the design of a building — is a new frontier...“bio-simulance,” or “bio-mimicry,” in architecture could dramatically change what everyday buildings look like and how we experience them...will someday “inspire wonder,” which “is what architecture does at its best.” By John Conti -- Dale Clifford/Carnegie Mellon University [images] - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Editorial> It's Time for a Price on Carbon: New carbon pollution standards are a start, but the U.S. needs to do more on climate change: And as designers know well, the impacts of inaction are potentially disastrous...Planning for an uncertain future is difficult enough. Without a guiding market signal like a carbon tax, we are directionless. By Chris Bentley - The Architect's Newspaper

The general theory of walkability: Jeff Speck at TEDxMidAtlantic - TEDxTalks

In Sprawling Texas, Walkability Gains a Toehold: ...interest in making Texas cities more walkable, as Dallas has attempted downtown, is on the rise — a subtle shift spurred in part by changing demographics and the state's growing population...Dense, mixed-use town centers and revitalized historic downtowns have drawn attention to walkability even in suburbs... - Texas Tribune

[Living on the Edge: Everyone one wants to live next to a park...the High Line is important to examine when discussing how we measure success in our public landscapes - it has been deemed a success, in part because of the contiguous development it has spurred...continues to activate development along its boundaries, I also hope these edge conditions provide site-specific lessons about managing change... By Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation \[images\]](#)- Huffington Post

[ASLA Selects Design Workshop for Chinatown Green Street Demonstration Project: ...greening the streets surrounding ASLA's headquarters in Washington, D.C...to be a world-class model and education tool for developers, designers, city officials, and the public.](#) - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[BIG's Spiraling Watch Museum Unveiled: ...chosen to expand the headquarters of iconic Swiss watchmaker Audemars Piguet in Le Brassus, Switzerland...The 25,800-square-foot pavilion will feature a museum and is conceived as a "landmark to precision" embedded in the Alpine landscape. -- Bjarke Ingels Group \[images\]](#)- Architizer

[The modernists move into Cambridge: ...plans to add another modernist building to Kettle's Yard: If an Arts Council grant comes through...Cambridge will be able to boast another fine addition to its portfolio of modernist buildings as well as a gallery worthy to exhibit the best contemporary art. Fingers are crossed and hopes are high. By Rupert Christiansen -- Jamie Fobert- Telegraph \(UK\)](#)

[Palettes of Discovery: We asked Michael Leckie, one of the principals of Vancouver-based Campos Leckie Studio, about the importance of discovery in design and the textural differences between projects in Mexico and the Pacific Northwest. \[images\]](#)- sixty7 Architecture Road (Canada)

[Meet the Architect Who Wants to Build a More Humane Prison: Prisons are arguably the worst human rights offenders in America, and business is booming...but what the stats obscure is the architecture and design industry that mass incarceration is built on...Raphael Sperry wants to change that...discussed the culture around prisons, punishment, and privatization in America, and what we can do about it. -- Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility \(ADPSR\)- Motherboard](#)

[New aquatic centre puts heart into Green Square: ...five Australian finalists shortlisted from 144 local and international entries in the competition to design the Green Square Aquatic Centre and neighbouring Gunyama Park. -- Andrew Burns Architect; Cullinan Ivanov Partnership; CHROFI & McGregor Coxall; Andrew Burges Architects; TYP-TOP Studio \(Andrew Daly and Kevin Liu\) \[images\]](#)- City of Sydney (Australia)

[2014 Los Angeles Architectural Awards: 44th annual awards recognize 36 project teams + the 2014 Julius Shulman Emerging Talent Award. -- Minarc; ZGF Architects; EGAN| SIMON architecture; Lehrer Architects; Studio Pali Fekete Architects \[SPF: a\]; Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects/Gruen Associates; Ehrlich Architects; Michael W. Folonis Architects; LPA; Harley Ellis Devereaux; Belzberg Architects; Morphosis; HOK; GREC Architects/Killefer Flammang Architects; Moore Ruble Yudell; The Albert Group Architects; Marmol Radziner; Clive Wilkinson Architects; Pei Cobb Freed & Partners/Gensler; James Corner Field Operations; Michael Maltzan Architecture; Rios Clementi Hale Studios; etc. \[images\]](#)- Los Angeles Business Council

[31st Annual IALD International Lighting Design Awards: 16 winners representing architectural lighting design projects from ten countries... -- Speirs + Major; Sean O'Connor Lighting; Tillotson Design Associates; Akari+Design Associates; Maurice Brill Lighting Design; BIAD Zheng JianWei Lighting Studio; Lightteam; etc. \[link to images, info\]](#)- International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD)

[Goats to the Rescue in Fire-Prone Bay Area: Fire management professionals are working ahead of time to try to clear brush, high grass and other fire hazards...it can be tough to find someone willing to do the job. It's backbreaking labor...Brush clearance can get extremely expensive, and it requires constant maintenance. That's one reason why people have been turning to rental goats...- Environmental News Network \(ENN\)](#)

[No Kidding: Goats Remove Weeds at Long Island Preserve: Marks the First Time Goats Will be Used to Eat Invasive Species on State Land: ...pilot program cost about \\$8,000...That is just a fraction of the \\$50,000 or more estimated it would take to mechanically clear the area.- Wall Street Journal](#)

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