

Today's News - Wednesday, July 9, 2014

- Freeman pens an eloquent tribute to Cuban architect and urban planner Mario Coyula Cowley, who many "came to know and appreciate for his gracious generosity in receiving professional visitors in Havana."
- Two reports re: protests against Hadid's 2020 Tokyo Olympics stadium design: demolishing the 1964 Olympics stadium "that has come to symbolize the country's revival after World War II is just one reason why some are up in arms" + ZHA has "refined" the design to make it "more efficient, user-focused, adaptable and sustainable" (but is it enough to calm the protests - not likely).
- Waterfront Auckland has big plans for a residential neighborhood, though lack of affordable housing raises concerns - but fear not: while affordability may not be part of the mix, there's the promise of "diversity to be incorporated into the precinct" (meaning what, exactly?).
- Grabar explains how Arlington, Virginia, "avoided the worst of suburbanization and revealed the path toward sustainable urban development" that has many wanting to emulate its path - too bad "NIMBYism, motivated by fear of change or a resistance to newcomers, continues to paralyze Arlington-style transformations" across the country.
- Campbell and Rosenbaum give (mostly) thumbs-up to the Ando/Hilderbrand/Seldorf transformation of the Clark Art Institute: "the architecture and the surrounding landscape have been choreographed into a single work of art" (with a dollop of "Hollywood") + it "has largely succeeded" in "striving for grand-scale intimacy" and international allure: "We're the Berkshire Bilbao."
- Byrnes explains to the naysayers why the beauty of Adjaye's Sugar Hill affordable-housing complex in Harlem is more than skin deep: "The facade may take some getting used to, but what's happening inside should soon turn the place into a neighbor that's easy to love."
- An emergency housing prototype by Garrison Architects is proof that the NYC Office of Emergency Management is "becoming one of the more design-savvy parts of city government" (but what happens if no one wants to leave?).
- de Monchoux digs Foster's Yale School of Management building: he may have "studied under Paul Rudolph at the university's New Haven campus," but "it's hard to see much of the Brutalist master's heavy hand and gorgeous gloom" in the "determinedly lightweight and relentlessly sunlit glass-and-steel building."
- Santa Monica's latest "stunning garage" by Behnisch Architekten takes "an enlightened approach to the pedestrian."
- Burns parses living in a SCADpad, the "experimental encampment" in an Atlanta parking garage that could be one solution to affordable housing by repurposing under-used structures (though "our testing certainly showed these are singleton dwellings").
- Wainwright considers Dubai's grand plans for the world's first indoor city: "a kind of pick'n'mix urban collage" that "samples bits of cities from around the world with gay abandon" ("medical tourism" and parking for 50,000 vehicles a big draw) - ya gotta see it to believe it.
- Bose sits down with Moneo "to discuss his illustrious 60-year career" in Madrid: he "maintains an affable modesty and a deep sense of consideration," despite his Pritzker and RIBA Gold Medal.
- Mehaffy and Salinger explain "why a lot of architecture that wins awards and leaves design critics breathless, strike ordinary people as ugly to look at and frustrating to use" in a "frank assessment of the design industry that will infuriate some readers," says Walljasper (written a few years ago, but still insightful - or infuriating - depending on your POV).
- The U.K.'s Landscape Institute and urbanist/cartoonist Cowan offer a delightful animation that "shows how the livability of our cities is contingent on designers working with the landscape rather than against it."
- Call for entries: 2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition for NYC's Governors Island + International Digital Design Competition for vision42 - a proposal for a river-to-river auto-free light rail boulevard for Manhattan's 42nd Street + 2015 USITT Architecture Awards (international) to honor excellence in theater design + Lumion Visualization Competition 2014 for kids and teenagers ages 6-20 (Grand Prize: \$30,000!).

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**Obituary: Mario Coyula Cowley, 1935-2014: ...celebrated Cuban architect and urban planner...**

Many people in the North American architecture and urban planning community came to know and appreciate...his gracious generosity in receiving professional visitors in Havana...This is how I first came to know him... By Belmont Freeman - Architectural Record

**In Tokyo, Protestors Don't Want 1964 Olympics Stadium Replaced by Zaha Hadid's: ...vintage structure is being readied for demolition followed by replacement with a futuristic arena...** But a collection of architects and lay people alike are hoping to convince the Japan Sport Council to do otherwise...destruction of a building that has come to symbolize the country's revival after World War II is just one reason why some are up in arms... By Naomi R. Pollock -- Mitsuo Katayama (1964); Edward Suzuki - Architectural Record

**Protests pay off as Hadid alters Tokyo stadium: Critics say Olympic proposal is too big and costly: Zaha Hadid Architects has admitted it has made changes to...the stadium that will be the centrepiece of the 2020 Olympics...design had been "refined to optimise the investment and make the stadium even more efficient, user-focused, adaptable and sustainable."** - BD/Building Design (UK)

**Auckland waterfront plan slammed as 'ghettos for the rich': 600 homes for Wynyard Quarter but MP concerned about lack of affordable dwellings...**A Waterfront Auckland spokesman confirmed no affordable housing was planned but diversity was to be incorporated into the precinct...17 new structures would rise on a waterfront site...connected by lanes, thoroughfares and public spaces. -- Architectus; Athfield Architects; Studio Pacific Architecture - New Zealand Herald

**The suburb of the future is here: How one city avoided the worst of suburbanization and revealed the path toward sustainable urban development: ...Arlington County, Virginia...has shown that the mistakes of American suburban development can be corrected...planners and residents now seek to emulate Arlington's success. Yet NIMBYism, motivated by fear of change or a resistance to newcomers, continues to paralyze Arlington-style transformations from Boston to the San Francisco Bay.** By Henry Grabar - Salon

**Clark Art Institute meshes with rural landscape: ...has been around since 1955, but you'd have to say it's being truly reborn in 2014...so radically revamped and enlarged that it feels like an entirely new place...Visitor Center...looks great and it's beautifully detailed. But it's maybe just a little Hollywood...What's really exciting...the way the architecture and the surrounding landscape have been choreographed into a single work of art...by devoting the same amount of design attention to the landscape as to the architecture.** By Robert Campbell -- Tadao Ando; Gary Hilderbrand; Annabelle Selldorf; Gensler [images] - Boston Globe

**Striving for Grand-Scale Intimacy: Risking the Clark Art Institute's unique allure for international stature: ...it has largely succeeded, thanks to a discreet addition and sensitive delicate restorations..."We're the Berkshire Bilbao..."** By Lee Rosenbaum -- Tadao Ando; Gary Hilderbrand/Reed Hilderbrand; Daniel Perry (1955); Pietro Belluschi (1973); Annabelle Selldorf; Gensler - Wall Street Journal

**Harlem's Most Inventive New Building Looks Odd, But It's for a Purpose: Sugar Hill is an affordable-housing complex full of supportive amenities and innovations. But some are having a hard time with its neo-brutalist style...how it relates to the surrounding area...If you look hard enough, though, context appears...everything in view is done with Sugar Hill's empowerment in mind. The facade may take some getting used to, but what's happening inside should soon turn the place into a neighbor that's easy to love.** By Mark Byrnes -- David Adjaye [image] - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

**New York Architects Test Out Emergency Housing Prototypes to Combat Next Sandy: Garrison Architects and the NYC Office of Emergency Management have developed a prefab, modular housing solution for those misplaced by**

disaster...OEM...becoming one of the more design-savvy parts of city government...The biggest question—how long are the units meant to last? ..."the last thing you can imagine is putting up affordable housing and then taking it back down."  
[images]- Metropolis Magazine

Edward P. Evans Hall: Norman Foster studied under Paul Rudolph at Yale, but his School of Management building on the university's New Haven campus takes a different tack: ...it's hard to see much of the Brutalist master's heavy hand and gorgeous gloom in Foster's subsequent output of determinedly lightweight and relentlessly sunlit glass-and-steel buildings.  
By Thomas de Monchaux -- Foster + Partners; IBI Group • Gruzen Samton [images]- Architect Magazine

Artful Parking: Santa Monica opens another stunning garage, this time by Behnisch Architekten: "The approach we took is as much about public space and urban city building as it is about architecture"...has "an enlightened approach to the pedestrian"... -- Studio Jantzen [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Multistorey car park in US transformed into designer micro-apartments: Many of the 105 million parking spaces in American cities are under-used: could they be repurposed into affordable housing? ...SCADpad, an experimental encampment [in Atlanta]...the size of the average US parking spot, roughly 135 square feet...our testing certainly showed these are singleton dwellings. By Rebecca Burns -- Christian Sottile/Savannah College of Art and Design [images]- Guardian (UK)

The world's first indoor city: a greatest hits mashup of London and New York: Dubai's Mall of the World...will also have galleons, waterfalls, a giant retractable dome – and be climate-controlled: A kind of pick'n'mix urban collage...samples bits of cities from around the world with gay abandon...all sealed under snaking bubble rooftops...spurred on by the new deadline of the 2020 Expo...stately pleasure-dome might be more than just a mirage in the desert. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Rafael Moneo: Shumi Bose sat down with him in his Madrid office to discuss his illustrious 60-year career in that city. Despite winning the Pritzker Prize in 1996 and the RIBA Gold Medal in 2003, Moneo maintains an affable modesty and a deep sense of consideration — as do his architectural interventions. [images]- DesignCurial (UK)

The Architect Has No Clothes: Why so much modern design looks harsh and feels inhospitable: At last, an explanation for the why a lot of architecture that wins awards and leaves design critics breathless, strike ordinary people as ugly to look at and frustrating to use. Michael Mehaffy & Nikos A. Salingaros's frank assessment of the design industry will infuriate some readers... -- Jay Walljasper - Commons Magazine

How can we work with the landscape to make liveable places? A collaboration between the Landscape Institute, UK, and urbanist and cartoonist Rob Cowan, this animation shows how the liveability of our cities is contingent on all those responsible for designing and managing our cities working with the landscape rather than against it. [video]- Landscape Institute (UK)

Call for entries: 2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition: ...design and construct an architectural pavilion on Governors Island, NYC; registration deadline: August 15 (submissions due September 2)- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

Call for entries: International Digital Design Competition – urban design for vision42 – a proposal for a river-to-river auto-free light rail boulevard for Manhattan's 42nd Street; cash prizes; registration deadline: September 8 (submissions due October 1)- Rational Urban Mobility / The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: 2015 USITT Architecture Awards to honor excellence in the design of theatre projects (international); deadline: September 1- United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT)

Call for entries: Lumion Visualization Competition 2014: The next generation of architects - create the best architectural video you can; international competition for kids and teenagers ages 6-20; Grand Prize: \$30,000; deadline: September 21- Lumion



10 Things to See in Berlin: Berlin has many things - but above all, it has history. Layer upon layer of history. In fact, no other city has the 20th century's European history encased in its urban fabric like the German capital. -- Gehry Partners; David Chipperfield Architects; Daniel Libeskind; Dominique Perrault; Sergei Tchoban & Sergei Kuznetsov; Eisenman Architects; OMA; Snøhetta; Aldo Rossi; Richard Rogers Partnership (Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners) [images]

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