

Today's News - Wednesday, September 17, 2014

- Ike's family still not happy with Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial revision; Gehry Partners would rather walk away from the whole thing if it doesn't include the remaining tapestry and column elements.
- Wainwright delves deep into how developers "are ruining our cities" as "toothless authorities bow to the dazzling wealth" of foreign investors and their "steroidal schemes" that are making places "ever meaner and more divided" (a brilliant take-down!).
- Kynaston can only hope we've learned our "lesson of the Sixties" with massive slum clearance, shoddy building, and crappy design: "greed played its part - though, ambition, arrogance and contempt for the past mattered more...second time around, there is no excuse" (ditto re: take-down).
- Saffron says Philly may be "a city 'on the make'" that "has proudly drawn thousands of new residents of childbearing age," but what good is it if the schools are no good: "Give up on the schools, and the whole house of cards could collapse."
- Betsky channels Banham and L.A.'s "new normal: if visions of "greenways" come to pass, "the Plains of Id, Autopia, and Surfuria might merge, and we would have a whole new urban ecology."
- Architects are up in arms about towering plans around the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Queensland Museum: "They are undesirable from a conservation point of view, they are undesirable from an urban point of view."
- King cheers Mission Bay as a "model of housing diversity in San Francisco" that typical "judgmental San Franciscans dismiss with disdain" for being "boxy and bland": "I see something else: it bucks the trend of single-answer solutions being pushed by various factions in a city that has made being fractured a high art."
- Capps reports on a proposal "to connect the growing residential and commercial corridors between Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens" with the East River Skyway: "urban gondolas" would connect residential and commercial corridors between Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens," but the riders it would serve are the "gentrifiers," creating "greater obstacles to overcome than cost."
- Wainwright gives (mostly) thumbs-up to the Aga Khan Museum "in deepest suburban Toronto": it is "at once timeless and futuristic, somewhat unearthly. Among the beer stores and office parks, something sacred has landed."
- Hume cheers the new Fort York visitor center as "the best thing ever to happen to this long-neglected bastion" in Toronto: "Despite having been value-engineered within an inch of its architectural life, it is exquisitely detailed and spatially coherent."
- Burke beats out SHoP and TWBTA for Cummins' new office building in downtown Indianapolis.
- Charlie Rose to receive the National Building Museum's 2014 Vincent Scully Prize (best part: links to his interviews with numerous notable stars in the architectural firmament).
- Sheila Kennedy takes home the 2014 Berkeley-Rupp Prize (and \$100,000).
- Eyefuls of the UIA Architecture for All international award winners.
- One of our perennial faves: Arch Record's 5th Annual Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest - 2014 winners.
- Call for entries: The Architect's Newspaper 2nd Annual Best Of Design Awards + Museum of Science Fiction: Preview Museum Exhibit Design Competition + Call for papers: 52nd International Making Cities Livable Conference on Achieving Green Healthy Cities.

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Ike's Family Says No to Frank Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial Redesign: Get rid of those giant columns and screens or start from scratch, write Anne and Susan Eisenhower... "Gehry Partners has indicated that it will not present or associate its name with a design that does not include the tapestry and column elements and will withdraw from the project." - U.S. News & World Report

The truth about property developers: how they are exploiting planning authorities and ruining our cities: Affordable housing quotas get waived and the interests of residents trampled as toothless authorities bow to the dazzling wealth of investors from Russia, China and the Middle East...their steroidal schemes are causing irreparable harm to our cities...Places are becoming ever meaner and more divided...substituting community for vacancy. By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Let's not wreck our cities a second time: The lesson of the Sixties is not that there should never be urban change, but that it should be done with humility, rather than hubris...greed played its part...Ultimately, though, ambition, arrogance and contempt for the past mattered more...it seems we are in another of those year-zero moments...second time around, there is no excuse. By David Kynaston- Telegraph (UK)

City says it wants families, but does it really? Lydia DePillis wrote a provocative article about cities and families...Philadelphia has definitely become a city "on the make." It has proudly drawn thousands of new residents of childbearing age...The irony, of course, is that...grossly underfunded schools just barely managed to open on schedule...parenthood-and-cities thing isn't all it's cracked up to be...Give up on the schools, and the whole house of cards could collapse. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Beyond Banham: L.A. and the New Normal: Reyner Banham gave us tools to understand that Magical Kingdom of sprawl...A new plan would solidify nature's role...by threading "greenways" throughout the Southland...If such a vision comes to pass...will have come up with a system of spread-out amenities...that actually make sense out of sprawl. The Plains of Id, Autopia, and Surfuria might merge, and we would have a whole new urban ecology. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

Architects' bid to save QPAC from 30-storey towers: ...plan proposes a five-star hotel be built over the Queensland Performing Arts Centre and a second tower near the Queensland Museum..."They are undesirable from a conservation point of view, they are undesirable from an urban point of view and they are clearly unworkable from a financial point of view." -- Robin Gibson (1970-80s); Australian Institute of Architects Queensland Chapter- Brisbane Times (Australia)

Mission Bay, model of housing diversity in San Francisco: ...one of those neighborhoods that all judgmental San Franciscans...dismiss with disdain. The architecture is boxy and bland. The retail scene's anemic. It feels too new. But...I see something else: all manner of housing for all types of people...it bucks the trend of single-answer solutions being pushed by various factions in a city that has made being fractured a high art. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Next Up For Brooklyn, an Urban Gondola: The East River Skyway...to connect the growing residential and commercial corridors between Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens...the general outline sure sounds pleasant...If you had any question about the riders [it] aims to serve, it's gentrifiers...Building a transit system that appears to benefit the most promising parcels in gentrifying New York has greater obstacles to overcome than cost. By Kriston Capps [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Aga Khan Museum: North America finally gets a home for Islamic art: ...a cosmic space for a spectacular hoard of Islamic art...in a business park on the edge of Toronto...at once timeless and futuristic, somewhat unearthly...Among the beer stores and office parks, something sacred has landed. By Oliver Wainwright -- Fumihiko Maki; Charles Correa [images]- Guardian (UK)

Fort York visitor centre a welcome addition to Toronto's heritage: New facility, which opens Sept. 20, will bring new visibility to city's most significant historical site...the best thing ever to happen to this long-neglected bastion...Despite having been value-engineered within an inch of its architectural life, the centre is exquisitely detailed and spatially coherent. By Christopher Hume -- Patkau Architects; Kearns Mancini Architects- Toronto Star

Cummins selects firm to design downtown office building: ...Deborah Berke Partners to design its global distribution headquarters in downtown Indianapolis...named Ratio Architects Inc. as the local architect of record...also was considering —SHoP Architects and Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects.- Indianapolis Business Journal

TV Journalist Charlie Rose Awarded National Building Museum's 2014 Vincent Scully Prize: ...will receive the award at a gala at the NBM on Nov. 18. Frank Gehry, former director of the NYC Department of City Planning Amanda Burden...will be featured speakers. + Rose's video interviews with: Philip Johnson; Renzo Piano;; Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Jean Nouvel; Ada Louise Huxtable; Rem Koolhaas; Steven Holl; Tod Williams and Billie Tsien; Shigeru Ban; Diller Scofidio + Renfro-Architect Magazine

Architect and Professor Sheila Kennedy Awarded 2014 Berkeley-Rupp Prize: UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design selected Kennedy for its biannual \$100,000 prize honoring a design practitioner or academic who has worked to advance sustainability and gender equity in architecture..includes a semester-long professorship, public lecture, and gallery exhibition. -- Kennedy & Violich Architecture- Architect Magazine

UIA Prize: Friendly spaces accessible to all: UIA Work Programme, "Architecture for All"...international award to recognize construction uniting architectural quality and accessibility... -- Nikiforidis-Cuomo Architects; Ingarden and Ewy Architects; Alberto Ferrer/Teresa Hermida/SCF Architects; Magda Mostafa/Autism ASPECTSS Design Index; etc. [images]- International Union of Architects (UIA)

5th Annual Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest - 2014 winners -- David Fox; Roland Escalona; RTKL Associates; etc. [images]- Architectural Record

Call for entries: The Architect's Newspaper 2nd Annual Best Of Design Awards to recognize great buildings and building elements in nine categories; open to international architects and students, but projects must be in the U.S.; registration deadline: November 3 (submissions due: December 7)- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: Museum of Science Fiction: Preview Museum Exhibit Design Competition (international); registration deadline: October 31 (submissions due November 30)- Museum of Science Fiction (Washington, DC)

Call for entries: Call for papers: 52nd International Making Cities Livable Conference on Achieving Green Healthy Cities, Bristol, UK, June 29 - July 3, 2015; deadline for abstracts: October 31- International Making Cities Livable (IMCL)

"House in Motion": Danish artist Jes Fomsgaard has worked with architectural motives - inspired by the principles of modern city planning...Architect Anders Abrahamsen has been exploring the field between art and architecture in both theory and praxis for years...a first time collaboration between the two; at the Danish Architecture Center, Copenhagen [images]

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