

## Today's News - Tuesday, January 6, 2015

- Dunlap pays eloquent tribute to Cuban master Porro, whose "architecture gave lyrical expression to a hopeful young Cuban revolution in the early 1960s."
- Massengale weighs in on the Bingler/Pedersen/Betsky debate re: the NYT op-ed "How to Rebuild Architecture" - and the AIA's response (or rather lack thereof).
- Goldhagen offers a most thoughtful take on One WTC: "Everyone had every right to expect a major civic icon. Which we did not get. This is a fair-to-middling commercial office building with some notable good features" that represents "a gross betrayal of public trust" (it's not all the architects' fault).
- Pogrebin and Qin look deep into the debate swirling around Hadid's Tokyo Olympic stadium that "looks to some like a pleasingly sleek, contoured spaceship. But many others deplore it."
- Heathcote ponders the Walkie Talkie: "Is it innovative or oddball? Is it the worst building in London?" (even Viñoly is surprised it got built).
- Meanwhile, Viñoly talks about his ever-changing architectural style and his towering 432 Park: architects try too hard to be "fashionable," and buildings "shouldn't be evaluated by photographs - something that happens too often these days."
- Glancey looks into "what's behind architects' skyward push."
- Making the case to allow the Frick Collection expansion: "The public benefits offset the lost views of a privileged few" with a "thoughtfully updated and designed proposal."
- The scaffolding comes down on DS+R's Broad Museum revealing a "newly disappointing façade - things are not looking quite as originally envisioned," and "probably won't do much to endear critics."
- Booth checks in on Quinlan and Francis Terry's "fight against the wave of skyscraper construction" in London, "beginning with a classically inspired design for the site of Hyde Park barracks" (shades of Chelsea Barracks brouhaha?).
- Mecanoo brings its Dutch touch to Boston that Houben envisions as a catalyst for a once crime-ridden neighborhood.
- Bernstein x 2: the once-"dowdy" Cooper Hewitt has been "updated with taste and restraint by some of the best minds available" - now, "America's design museum practices what it preaches."
- He says the Van Alen Institute's new look will have visitors looking up.
- Montreal has big plans to demolish an elevated portion of its Bonaventure Expressway that will include 20,000 square meters of green space - but not all are convinced: "People will not want to walk around in a space surrounded by nine lane of traffic."
- Eyefuls of three firms' winning proposals in the Liget Budapest competition to design four museums (no winner named for the fifth museum - yet).
- Call for entries (deadlines loom!): AIA SPP Small Project Design Competition - POP-UP 2015: A Safe Place + Harvard GSD 2015 Wheelwright Prize Competition + American Society of Architectural Illustrators 30th Annual Architecture in Perspective Awards + Azure magazine's 2015 AZ Awards for Design Excellence.

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**Obituary: Ricardo Porro, Exiled Cuban Architect, 89:** Porro's architecture gave lyrical expression to a hopeful young Cuban revolution in the early 1960s before he himself fell victim to its ideological hardening...lived long enough to see his two National Art Schools...newly embraced around the world as the crown jewels of modern Cuban architecture. By David W. Dunlap -- John Loomis; Roberto Gottardi; Vittorio Garatti [images]- New York Times

**What do we want? Change! When do we want it? Now!** I'm writing about the AIA's response to the common-sense proposal by Steve Bingler and Martin C. Pedersen in the New York Times Op-Ed "How to Rebuild Architecture," and...Aaron Betsky's [response] in Architect magazine...why has it published this extreme attack...without even a short editor's comment? If I were the President of the AIA, I would worry that the organization's reputation would be tainted by it. By John Massengale- Massengale.com

**Symbol in the Skyline:** With the opening of One World Trade Center, Ground Zero's fraught icon is finally complete: Everyone had every right to expect a major civic icon. Which we did not get. This is a fair-to-middling commercial office building with some notable good features...As a civic icon and a public monument, what One WTC mostly represents is a gross betrayal of public trust. In no way is it remarkable. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); THINK; Daniel Libeskind; Norman Foster [images]- Architectural Record

**National Pride at a Steep Price:** The debate over an Olympic stadium to be built for the 2020 Summer Games illustrates how the structures have become potent symbols of architectural prowess and economic pride...looks to some like a pleasingly sleek, contoured spaceship. But many others deplore it..."has nothing to do with the architectural design...it has to do with planning and the long-term vision." By Amy Qin and Robin Pogrebin -- Zaha Hadid; Fumihiko Maki; Toyo Ito; Arata Isozaki; Thomas Hanrahan/Pratt Institute- New York Times

**Walkie Talkie takes on towering presence:** Is it innovative or oddball? Is it the worst building in London? Is it a brilliant ruse to reappropriate public space at a high level and give something back to the city or is it a ploy to create value by swelling the upper floors where rental yields are higher? Or is it, perhaps, all of the above? Even...Rafael Viñoly, confesses: "I'm totally amazed it got built..." By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

**Rafael Viñoly Reaches for the Sky:** ...talks about his ever-changing architectural style and his towering new skyscraper, 432 Park Avenue: He thinks that too many architects today are interested in making buildings that are fashionable...He also thinks that people need to visit a structure to properly experience it; a building shouldn't be evaluated by photographs - something that happens too often these days... By Alexandra Wolfe- Wall Street Journal

**Skyscrapers: The race to the top:** Dubai's Burj Khalifa is the tallest building in the world, but it may be eclipsed soon. What's behind architects' skyward push? By Jonathan Glancey -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Daniel Libeskind; Gensler; Dar Al-Handasah architects- BBC

**Editorial: Expand the Frick Collection:** The public benefits offset the lost views of a privileged few: The museum's thoughtfully updated and designed proposal...is to replace the private garden with a public one on the roof of a new addition. -- Davis Brody Bond- Crain's New York Business

**The Broad Museum Reveals Its Newly Disappointing Facade:** ...removed the last of the exterior scaffolding, and things are not looking quite as originally envisioned...simplified design should help the museum achieve its still nebulous opening date of sometime in fall 2015, but probably won't do much to endear critics... -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images]- Curbed Los Angeles

**Architects' vision of London takes inspiration from 19th-century Paris:** Quinlan and Francis Terry are spearheading a fight against the wave of skyscraper construction...beginning with a classically inspired design for the site of Hyde Park barracks..."I think we have the hearts of ordinary people on our side every time, but not the politicians or the architects. That is sad because we have right on our side." By Robert Booth -- Wilkinson Eyre; Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) [images]- Guardian (UK)

**Dutch architect's design brings light to Dudley Square:** Francine Houben envisions building as a symbol: A \$125

million building in Roxbury will serve as the new headquarters for Boston's public schools...Bruce C. Bolling  
Municipal Building...incorporates the facades of three buildings more than a century old..."It will be a catalyst for the  
neighborhood." -- Mecanoo; Sasaki Associates [images]- Boston Globe

Cooper Hewitt Goes from Dowdy to Digital: Its new galleries, updated with taste and restraint by some of the best  
minds available...With this renovation, America's design museum practices what it preaches. By Fred A. Bernstein --  
Gluckman Mayner Architects;Beyer Blinder Belle; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Hood Design; Pentagram; Local Projects  
[images]- Architectural Record

The Van Alen Institute's New Look: Don't be surprised, during even the most compelling programs at the new Van  
Alen, to see audience members looking up. By Fred A. Bernstein -- David van der Leer; Collective-LOK [Jon Lott  
(PARA-Project), William O'Brien Jr. (WOJR), Michael Kubo (over,under)] [images]- Architectural Record

Bonaventure Expressway remake plans unveiled: ...will be rebuilt as an urban boulevard...elevated section will be  
demolished and transformed into 20,000 square metres of green space...between the northbound and southbound  
lanes...Projet Montreal isn't as enthusiastic about the project..."People will not want to walk around in a space  
surrounded by nine lane of traffic." [images]- CTV Montreal

Sou Fujimoto Chosen to Design Budapest's House of Hungarian Music: ...one of three practices chosen to design  
buildings for the Liget Budapest project, one of Europe's largest museum developments -- Vallet de Martinis DILD  
Architectes/Museum of Ethnography; Középülettervező Zrt/PhotoMuseum Budapest and Museum of Hungarian  
Architecture (National Gallery - Ludwig Museum: no winner) [images]- ArchDaily

Call for entries: AIA SPP Small Project Design Competition – POP-UP 2015: A Safe Place: design a discreet,  
compact and efficient shelter for the homeless; travel stipend and construction budget; deadline: January 30-  
American Institute of Architects Small Project Practitioners (AIA SPP)

Call for entries: 2015 Wheelwright Prize Competition: Harvard GSD launches third round of \$100,000 traveling  
fellowship for early-career architects; deadline: January 30- Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) /  
Wheelwright Prize

Call for entries: 30th Annual Architecture in Perspective 30; cash prizes; deadline: January 12 (student deadline:  
February 9)- American Society of Architectural Illustrators (ASAI)

Call for entries: 2015 AZ Awards for Design Excellence in architecture, landscape architecture, interior design,  
products, concepts, and student work (international); deadline: February 20- Azure magazine (Canada)

ANN Feature: Book Review: "Saint John's Abbey Church: Marcel Breuer and the Creation of a Modern Sacred  
Space," by Victoria M. Young: A history of the making of a contemporary sacred architectural masterpiece  
transcends its subject and becomes a broadly applicable study of peerless client-architect communication. By  
Norman Weinstein [images]- ArchNewsNow

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