

Today's News - Monday, February 9, 2015

- Ferro describes the 2015 MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program winner as an "immense, conical pipe installation - shaped almost like a series of nuclear reactors" that serves as a giant water purifier.
- Olcayto takes issue with RIBA's Skills Survey that shows practices think "architecture schools don't teach the practical skills. Isn't that the practices' job?"
- Betsky "sets the record straight on what makes for good architecture: Architecture should be neither weird nor boring, neither alien nor alienating, neither wasteful nor wanting in the qualities that make us human. It should be good."
- Linsell takes issue with "charitable" architecture (a la Architecture for Humanity): does it "undercut local firms? The promotion of human welfare and the advancement of society and the environment should be an integral part of our work, everyday. And that should definitely include getting paid for it."
- A Canadian architect explains how architecture and urban design "can help aboriginals to reconnect," and "might help begin to heal our social divide" - and reports on the University of Manitoba's "exploration of urban and architectural design principles that are inclusive to indigenous cultures."
- A fascinating profile of China's "most influential urban planner" who "represents a traditionalist view of architecture that has been regaining sway in recent years" (which has "made him controversial among younger architects").
- Merrick muses on England's new mansions: "Country piles of arguable quality are sprouting everywhere" - with changing planning policies producing "beauties and beasts" (and he names them).
- An in-depth look at the quandaries faced by Los Angeles neighborhoods: "the destruction of thousands of classic homes is disrupting and dividing neighborhoods, raising alarm about potentially irreparable damage to handsome, historic and architecturally distinctive communities."
- Altabe's open letter to Gehry: "OK, Frank, you don't like rectilinear shapes. I get that. But your point. What is it exactly? If you're an Expressionist, then you're not an architect. You're an artist. You make sculpture with windows."
- Hadid's plans for "the largest airport terminal on the planet" in China: "Gizmag noted that from above the terminal appears as a 'massive mutant starfish.' Not wrong" (and only £9 billion!).
- Canberra gets its first look at the early Massimiliano Fuksas/Guida Moseley Brown design for a new "UFO-inspired" convention center: the trick is who will "cough up the \$500 to \$700 million to build it," and how different it might look once value engineering comes into play.
- Morphosis beats out Holl and Gaa to design a new luxury hotel in Vals, Switzerland (yes, that Vals).
- Eye-fuls of what the Blanton Museum of Art's new Ellsworth Kelly building will look like: "Austin" is meant to be "a space for contemplation" (indeed!).
- The announced shortlist for a controversial monument attracts criticism for using a former Warsaw Ghetto site for "a monument to Polish 'righteous gentiles.'"
- Manchester, UK, landscape architects lobby for a High Line-style park called the Manchester's Maze: "the problem is a lack of funding to realize the dream."
- Beam waxes poetic about Paul Rudolph: he "is very, very hard to like," but he is "the architect to whom one cannot remain indifferent. Perhaps that is the highest possible praise."
- Architects riff on renderings: from "tiny Amanda Burdens, God Views and more": "It would do the public some good to be always a little skeptical of a rendering."
- Eye-fuls of the 2015 ArchDaily Building of the Year Awards: from Pritzker winners "to up-and-coming practices which have so far been less widely covered by the media" (Ban's win: a country club).
- Schumacher parses 10 FLW sites nominated to World Heritage List (and already designated National Historic Landmarks).
- Call for entries deadline reminder (registration deadline looms!): Atlanta Bridgescape Competition (two bridges in need of help!).

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MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program Winner Is A Giant Water Purifier: COSMO, by Andrés Jaque's Office for Political Innovation...immense, conical pipe installation - shaped almost like a series of nuclear reactors - filters 3,000 gallons of water at a time...can be easily produced around the world to give people access to clean water. By Shaunacy Ferro [images]- Fast Company / Co. Design

Universities don't exist to create oven-ready students: Practices are claiming architecture schools don't teach the practical skills. Isn't that their [practices] job? Call me a cynic, but what four out of five architects seem to be saying in this NBS poll for the RIBA is: 'Students - and the universities they graduate from - are stifling our profits.' This goes to the heart of a profession unable to fulfill both its desires and obligations. By Rory Olcayto - The Architects' Journal (UK)

What It Means to Make Good Architecture: Aaron Betsky sets the record straight on what makes for good architecture: ...dilemma architects must face: How not to simply build, but to make our environmental and social situation better - and still get paid...Architecture should be neither weird nor boring, neither alien nor alienating, neither wasteful nor wanting in the qualities that make us human. It should be good.- Architect Magazine

To hell with good intentions: Does 'charitable' architecture undercut local firms and produce unfair, western-dominated markets? ...subtle rebranding of architects...as saviours of humanity, is an uncomfortable one...The promotion of human welfare and the advancement of society and the environment should be...an integral part of our work, everyday. And that should definitely include getting paid for it. By Nikki Linsell -- Architecture for Humanity- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Racial peace through architecture: Urban design can help aboriginals to reconnect: ...might help begin to heal our social divide...The interpretation of indigenous culture in modern architecture has always presented a challenge...University of Manitoba...becoming a global leader in the exploration of urban and architectural design principles that are inclusive to indigenous cultures... By Brent Bellamy/Number Ten Architectural Group -- Douglas Cardinal- Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

China's Fog Weighs Heavily on Shoulders of Its Premier Architect: For 70 years, Wu Liangyong has ridden out the country's political storms to establish himself as its most influential urban planner...has responded to the growing problems...by publishing a new master plan for the Beijing area...represents a traditionalist view of architecture that has been regaining sway in recent years...views have made him controversial among younger architects...- New York Times

England's new mansions: monstrous carbuncles or superb architecture? Country piles of arguable quality are sprouting everywhere, but are they a decadent irrelevance today? ...policy has produced beauties and beasts. By Jay Merrick -- Robert Adam; Baca Architects; BPR Architects; Richard Meier; David Chipperfield; James Gorst; Groundwork; Robin Hamilton [images]- Independent (UK)

In Los Angeles, Vintage Houses Are Giving Way to Bulldozers: The fight over redevelopment is particularly pitched in a home-starved city with a diversity of architectural styles...the destruction of thousands of classic homes is disrupting and dividing neighborhoods, raising alarm...about potentially irreparable damage to handsome, historic and architecturally distinctive communities that...define Los Angeles as much as Hollywood or Venice. By Adam Nagourney [images]- New York Times

Open letter to Frank Gehry: OK, Frank, you don't like rectilinear shapes. I get that. And you're sour on the clarity and simplicity of modern architecture. Fair enough...But that's where I get stuck, Frank -- your point. What is it exactly? ...where does this self-expression leave you as an architect? If you're an Expressionist, then you're not an architect. You're an artist. You make sculpture with windows. By Joan Altabe- Examiner

Zaha Hadid unveils plans to build the largest airport terminal on the planet - in China: ...new Daxing Airport near Beijing...roughly 7.5-million-square-foot space have all the trademark design flourishes of Hadid's work...Gizmag noted that from above the terminal appears as a "massive mutant starfish." Not wrong. -- ADP Ingénierie [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Early design of new Canberra convention centre released by Guida Moseley Brown Architects and Massimiliano Fuksas: It's Canberra's UFO-inspired convention centre of the future - if someone can cough up the \$500 to \$700 million to build it...design could look very different once future funding restraints and other restrictions come into play. [images]- The Canberra Times (Australia)

Morphosis Architects chosen to design new luxury hotel in Vals, Switzerland: features 100 luxury suites highlighting the world-class alpine locale. Details of the winning scheme will be unveiled at a celebratory event March. - TravelDailyNews

First-Ever Ellsworth Kelly Building to Be Built at University of Texas at Austin: Blanton Museum of Art...will build and acquire his first-ever building on its grounds. The stand-alone structure, which is titled "Austin"...is meant to be "a space for contemplation"... -- Overland Partners [images]- artnet News

Shortlist announced for controversial Warsaw monument: Plans have attracted criticism over former Warsaw Ghetto site...to commemorate the Polish people who risked their lives saving Jews during the Nazi occupation...a monument to Polish "righteous gentiles"... -- Mateusz Tanski/Eduard Freudmann/Gabu Heindl; Grzegorz Dutka/Szymon Wroblewski; Pedro Pena Jurado/Daniel Zarhy; Andrzej Bulanda/Jadwiga Gayczyk- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Landscape architects lobby for Manchester High-Line-style park: ...would put the city on the map...Castlefield Viaduct, which links Manchester to Salford, could be the centre of a regeneration sparked by green space. "We'd call it 'Manchester's Maze'"...the problem is a lack of funding to realise the dream. -- John Haxworth/Dan Mitchell/Barton Willmore- HorticultureWeek (UK)

The architect to whom one cannot remain indifferent: Paul Rudolph is very, very hard to like...I love the sunlit, Florida Rudolph, and I can't stomach the elephantine monumentalism of his famous buildings in downtown Boston, and in Dartmouth. Rudolph is the artist to whom one cannot remain indifferent. Perhaps that is the highest possible praise. By Alex Beam [images]- Boston Globe

Riffing on renderings: Architects unpack the pretty pictures: NYC's top design minds guide us through tiny Amanda Burdens, God Views and more: "It would do the public some good to be always a little skeptical of a rendering..." -- Marc Kushner/HWKN; Dan Kaplan/FXFWOLE; Morris Adjmi Architects; Ken Hudes/Atelier New York Architecture [images]- The Real Deal (NYC)

2015 ArchDaily Building of the Year Awards: ...represent Pritzker Prize winners...to up-and-coming practices...which have so far been less widely covered by the media. -- Studio MK27; OTO; Vo Trong Nghia Architects; EFFEKT; Shigeru Ban Architects; spaceworkers; CEBRA + JDS + SeARCH + Louis Paillard Architects; WORKac; Álvaro Siza + Carlos Castanheira; sporaarchitects; Building; Emre Arolat Architects; Herzog & de Meuron; GH+A Guillermo Hevia [images]- ArchDaily

10 Frank Lloyd Wright sites nominated to World Heritage List: ...represent some of the more innovative of Wright's buildings...All of the sites have already been designated National Historic Landmarks in the U.S. By Mary Louise Schumacher- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Call for entries (deadline reminder!): Atlanta Bridgescape Competition (international); an urban design challenge seeking creative strategies

to enhance two bridge in Downtown Atlanta, Georgia; stipend for Phase II; earlybird registration deadline (save money!); February 17 (submissions due March 3)- Midtown Alliance / Central Atlanta Progress/Atlanta Downtown Improvement District / AIA Atlanta / Architecture and Design Center.

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