

Today's News - Thursday, April 2, 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow is this week's "floating" no-newsletter day - we'll be back Monday, April 6.

- O.K...so the Internets went wild with the opening of Gehry's Facebook HQ - a.k.a. MPK20 building ("a Walmart as imagined by hobbits" - Curbed; "ridiculously cool" - Popular Mechanics), so we've opted for MPK20's Instagram page with 100+ images (and growing)...make up your own mind.
- On to more serious news: An in-depth look at the huge cost of poor land use in the world's greatest cities: "Even small steps to restore a healthier balance between private and public good would yield handsome returns" (but good luck trying to get "more liberal zoning rules" and a better land-tax system).
- Dovey delves into anti-growth lawsuits that "are all the rage these days" - including one in NYC contending that bike lanes "are harmful to the environment and should be scrapped" (groan).
- Nark tries to nail down whether Meier's Teachers Village will make Newark the next Brooklyn: "Luring middle-income residents is essential to reviving a devastated urban core. But will it be enough to turn around the city's battered downtown?"
- Larson takes a long look at the National Parks Service's dilemma in dealing with climate change and a post-Sandy world, particularly on Ellis Island: "The landmark's damage and repairs are now a tug of war with nature, as well as a battle to determine what constitutes history and why."
- Bernstein cheers the new Center for Architecture Sarasota, "a handsome glass-and concrete building" designed as a furniture store in 1960; what he finds most interesting is that the original architect (a Rudolph protégé) "is alive and kicking, at 84. A new generation of architects is ready to learn the lessons of his career, and of his modest furniture store with the immodest overhangs."
- Q&A with Tchoban re: his Russian national pavilion at Expo 2015 in Milan, his other projects, and "the peculiarities of Russian and international architecture."
- Urbach steps down as director of Philip Johnson's Glass House to pursue "research and writing projects."
- Richard Rogers donates the 1967 home he designed for his parents in Wimbledon to Harvard GSD.
- The RAIC gives the 2015 Green Building Award to P+W's Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) at the University of British Columbia.
- Weekend diversions:
- Russell raves about MoMA's "Latin America in Construction," an "extraordinary rich tapestry of exploratory, innovative and utterly exuberant works by dozens of key figures, many yanked from obscurity."
- Bernstein gives two thumbs-up to "Ten Tops," an "intriguing exhibition" at Manhattan's Skyscraper Museum: "the sky is getting quite a few new baubles," but in many cities, "Cracker Jack boxes with prizes on top only serve to disrupt established hierarchies, and rarely for the better."
- Ferro lauds "The Landscape Architecture Legacy of Dan Kiley" at NYC's Center for Architecture: "new photographs commissioned for the retrospective are a call for better maintenance and protection of his tranquil modernist masterpieces."
- "Re-Corbusier" at Maison La Roche in Paris "serves as an imaginative counterpoint to the career survey of the architect's work" that will be on view at the Centre Pompidou later this month.
- H&dE gets to show off its "intellectual rigor and sensual intuition" in "Material Future: The Architecture of Herzog & de Meuron and the Vancouver Art Gallery" (at the VAG, of course).
- Margolin's "World History of Design," a multi-volume set 15 years in the making, expresses his philosophy "that the discipline's potential lies in solving big problems and the creation of culture, not just the newest products" (or style).
- "Down the Long Driveway, You'll See It" by Gaudin and Arnold is a "vivid new photo book" that explores New Zealand's Modernist masterpieces (great slide show!).
- Gruzdys is quite taken by Scheer's "The Death of Drawing: Architecture in the Age of Simulation": "If one wants to know what is going on in the profession and schools of architecture, this book is a must read."
- On the other hand, Welton's "Drawing from Practice: Architects and the Meaning of Freehand" explores and illuminates the ways that 26 architects "use freehand drawing to shape the built environment."
- One we couldn't resist (and missed yesterday): Planetizen April 1st Edition - at least read the headlines - they left us howling!

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Space and the city: Poor land use in the world's greatest cities carries a huge cost: What drives prices skyward is a collision between rampant demand and limited supply... the scarcity is artificial...land-use rules have piled up so plentifully that getting planning permission is harder than hailing a cab on a wet afternoon...Even small steps to restore a healthier balance between private and public good would yield handsome returns.- The Economist (UK)

Anti-Growth Lawsuits Are All the Rage: A lawsuit contends that bike lanes [in New York City] are harmful to the environment...and should be scrapped...not the first to use cherry-picked environmental concerns against a project...environmentally flavored lawsuits against infill and public transit projects are all the rage these days. By Rachel Dovey- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Is Newark the Next Brooklyn? The "homeless billionaire," a world-renowned architect and the future of Brick City: Ron Beit...uses words like "metaphysical" and "ecosystem" when discussing his vision for Teachers Village...Luring middle-income residents is essential to reviving a devastated urban core. But will it work in Newark? Will it be enough to turn around its battered downtown? By Jason Nark -- Richard Meier [images]- Politico

Ellis Island After the Flood: Preserving history against nature's wishes: But how do you protect nature from itself? Nature, in this context, gets qualified; agency-protected nature is sliced away from the nature surrounding it. Fearing the nature that has been destroyed by humans, the agency prioritizes saving the nature that's only managed by humans. By Jordan Larson- The Awl

A Center for Architecture in Sarasota: ...a handsome glass-and concrete building (designed as a furniture store by Joe Farrell and William Rupp in 1960)...The most interesting thing about the renovation is that Farrell is alive and kicking, at 84...A new generation of architects is ready to learn the lessons of his career, and of his modest furniture store with the immodest overhangs. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Guy Peterson [images]- Architectural Record

Sergei Tchoban: 'I do not believe in the globalization of architecture': The architect responsible for the Russian national pavilion at Expo 2015 (May 1-October 31) in Milan took some time out to talk about the characteristics of the Expo design, his other projects, the peculiarities of Russian and international architecture, and more. [images]- Russia Beyond The Headlines

Henry Urbach Leaves Directorship of Philip Johnson's Glass House: ...he now intends to pursue "research and writing projects." - The Architect's Newspaper

Richard Rogers donates 1967 home for parents to Harvard Graduate School of Design: Before becoming a place for GSD students to stay and study [in Wimbledon], Rogers has commissioned his former colleague Philip Gumuchdjian to renovate the house and restore it to its original domestic state. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

RAIC announces recipient of 2015 Green Building Award: A Vancouver research institute, designed to be one of the most sustainable buildings in North America...The Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) at the University of British Columbia... -- Peter Busby/Perkins+Will [images]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) / Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC)

Exploring construction: "Latin America in Construction," an inspiring new show at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)...an extraordinary rich tapestry of exploratory, innovative and utterly exuberant works by dozens of key figures, many yanked from obscurity... By James S. Russell -- Luis Barragán; Oscar Niemeyer; SEPRA Arquitectos; Clorindo Testa; Eladio Dieste; Carlos Raúl Villanueva; Germán Samper; Fernando Martínez Sanabria; Guillermo Avendaño; Ricardo Porro; Vittorio Garatti; Roberto Gottardi; Lúcio Costa; Lina Bo Bardi [images]- The Economist (UK)

"Ten Tops" at the Skyscraper Museum: ...the sky is getting quite a few new baubles...intriguing exhibition...Towers in Taipei, Mecca, and Seoul have a chance to dominate skylines. But in...New York, London, and Paris, Cracker Jack boxes with prizes on top only serve to disrupt established hierarchies, and rarely for the better. By Fred A. Bernstein -- C.Y. Lee and Partners; Kohn Pedersen Fox/KPF; SL Rasch; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/SOM; Daniel Libeskind; Wilkinson Eyre; TFP Farrelly [images]- Architectural Record

The Glorious Landscape Design Of Dan Kiley: The prolific landscape architect's work is on display at New York's Center for Architecture: The 27 works featured in "The Landscape Architecture Legacy of Dan Kiley," on display in new photographs commissioned for the retrospective, are a call for better maintenance and protection of his tranquil modernist masterpieces. By Shaunacy Ferro [images]- Fast Company / Co. Design

A New Exhibition Celebrates Le Corbusier, Through the Eyes of Those He Influenced: "Re-Corbusier," a new exhibition at Maison La Roche, Villa Jeanneret in Paris...serves as an imaginative counterpoint to the career survey of the architect's work that will begin at the Centre Pompidou later this month.- New York Times T Magazine

Architects bring 'intellectual rigour and sensual intuition' to design of new Vancouver Art Gallery: "Material Future: The Architecture of Herzog & de Meuron and the Vancouver Art Gallery" exhibition shows the rigorous process that Herzog & de Meuron is applying to the design challenge. [images]- Vancouver Sun

Design expert sees society, not just style, at core of innovation: Victor Margolin would rather talk about the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990...believes that the discipline's potential lies in solving big problems and the creation of culture, not just the newest products...This philosophy informs his forthcoming book, "World History of Design" (Bloomsbury), a multi-volume set 15 years in the making... - Chicago Tribune

Inside New Zealand's Modernist Masterpieces: "Down the Long Driveway, You'll See It" by Mary Gaudin and Matthew Arnold: A vivid new photo book explores modernist, mid-century NZ homes. -- Ernst Plishke; Helmut Einhorn; Cedric Firth; Warren & Mahoney; Jack Manning; William Alington; Hall & Mackenzie; Mark-Brown & Fairhead; John Scott; Ted Wood [images]- AnOther Magazine (UK)

"The Death of Drawing: Architecture in the Age of Simulation" by David Ross Scheer: ...lays out the contemporary practices of design that have pushed aside architectural drawing as the dominant means of architectural expression. The author crafts his sentences precisely, illustrating ideas that explain concepts clearly. If one wants to know what is going on in the profession and schools of architecture, this book is a must read. By Sophia A. Gruzdys- Architectural Record

"Drawing from Practice: Architects and the Meaning of Freehand" by J. Michael Welton: ...explores and illuminates the ways that 26 diverse and reputable architects use freehand drawing to shape the built environment...generously illustrated book...traces the tactile sketch, from initial part to finished product, through words, images, and photographs that reveal the creative process in action.- Dexigner

Planetizen April 1st Edition: Matthew McConaughey to Star in 'The Urban Planner'; Ray LaHood to Guest Star on Final Season of Mad Men; Study Examines the Evolution of the New York Minute; New Study Finds Asthmatic Children Cause Inner City Traffic Congestion; Urban Issues Prioritized as Politicians' Children Come Out as City-Dwellers; Resident Demands 'Everything in My Back Yard'; etc.- PLANetizen

-- Atelier Peter Zumthor: His buildings stand out against their surrounding contexts, whether urban environments or natural landscapes, as statements of formal clarity. By Martin Søberg
-- Interview: Jacques Herzog: Herzog & de Meuron is one of the largest and currently, perhaps the most successful Swiss architectural practice..Q&A about his current trials and tribulations, as well as his influences and goals. By Ulf Meyer

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