

Today's News - Thursday, July 30, 2015

EDIOTR'S NOTE: Tomorrow is this week's "floating" no-newsletter day. Monday may be next week's - we'll be back either Monday or Tuesday.

- Harner offers a totally fascinating look at "Tokyo's Olympic stadium fiasco": the politics, the architects, Hadid's design, and why a Japanese architect should get the job: "there is not and I believe cannot be found anywhere outside Japan a substitute for the marvelously unique visual, dimensional, chromatic, and spatial sensibilities of the Japanese."
- Another take on Helpern's proposal for expanding the Frick Collection - without destroying the treasured Page Garden: "Offering alternatives has become more common as preservationists and neighborhood organizations that once simply said 'no' now seek to influence what may be built."
- In the U.K., a new House of Lords report calls for a moratorium on any new "frightening and intimidating" shared space schemes, and brands such projects as "architectural conceits."
- Perhaps the Lords should take a look at "Cities Safer by Design," a new report that "offers urban design best practices and real-world case studies cities can use to put an end to traffic deaths and injuries."
- Hawthorne is more than disappointed in the design "mash-up" of L.A.'s newly expanded 405 freeway that already looks "haggard and disjointed - a sad reversal of infrastructural fortune. A region once synonymous with freeways no longer builds them with much confidence or skill" (blame it on the current "piecemeal political process").
- On a brighter note, Johnson delves into the details of the "sorely needed" restoration of FLW's Unity Temple: "this is the deluxe rehabilitation package, a stark contrast to the mostly emergency work that's been done through the years to keep the building grunting along."
- Saffron tackles the difficulties of adapting aging religious buildings to new uses, and a new study that "offers evidence that the most crucial factor in repurposing a house of worship is not money, but imagination."
- Zeiger's Q&A with Scheeren re: his first North American project and how "lessons drawn from his global skyscrapers might impact Vancouver's skyline and the city's urban landscape."
- Q&A with Busby re: his new book, "Architecture's New Edges" that offers "an inspirational message" about sustainable design. "Yet focusing on his portfolio is missing perhaps his greatest strength as an architect: his conscience."
- A fascinating look at how university presses "play a pivotal role in publishing game-changing work about cities, underscoring their audacity in believing that every city deserves the best ideas possible. We need that. And that's why their tenuous future is so alarming."
- NEA's new report "How Creativity Works in the Brain" explores "links between arts, learning, and neuroscience."
- One we couldn't resist: Kapoor's "opinion-splitting" ArcelorMittal Orbit tower "to be turned into £1m wonder-slide" (we can only wonder about that price tag).
- Call for entries: Dry Futures: International ideas competition for design responses to California's drought + ARTS THREAD x DESIGNERSBLOCK for London Design Festival 15 (international).
- Weekend diversions:
 - "New Monuments Forget the Future" in Toronto draws on architecture's increasing "sense of impermanence" with "artworks that reference architecture in varying degrees of flux."
 - Lamster cheers "Dan Kiley Landscapes" at the Dallas Center for Architecture that hopes "to create awareness that might stave off continuing threats to his work. Even his most prominent works are not safe."
 - Philly-based Leshko uses paper to "meticulously" recreate buildings in his Fishtown neighborhood as "a way to preserve Philly's historic fabric before the wrecking ball hits": "New construction is paper thin, kind of like my sculptures are."
 - Russell says Sherman's "Patience and Fortitude" chronicles "the unraveling of the New York Public Library's unholy deal. The story is not so much about power as the hubris of wealthy trustees."
 - Silverstein says that while the amount of detail in Reid's "Roads Were Not Built for Cars" might become "tedious" for the average reader, "for students, researchers, practitioners, it's a worthwhile reference."
 - Hill hails "Out of the Loop: Vernacular Architecture Forum Chicago" - it "offers something for everybody."

[Tweet](#)

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

[What Tokyo's Olympic Stadium Fiasco Says About Japanese Sensibilities: However much value we might place on Zara Hadid's protest...that her design was the result of "three decades of research into Japanese architecture and urbanism," there is not and I believe cannot be found anywhere outside Japan a substitute for the marvelously unique visual, dimensional, chromatic, and spatial sensibilities of the Japanese. By Stephen Harner - Forbes](#)

[Foes of Scrapped Frick Expansion Float Alternate Plan: ...would let the museum modernize without destroying its intimate feel...Unite to Save the Frick...met with museum officials to discuss...would largely reconfigure the museum's existing space...Offering alternatives has become more common as preservationists and neighborhood organizations that once simply said "no" to projects now seek to influence what may be built. -- Russell Page; David Helpern/Helpern Architects \[images\]- Wall Street Journal](#)

[Shared space schemes labelled 'dangerous': A new House of Lords report has called for a moratorium on any new 'frightening and intimidating' shared space schemes...branded the projects, such as Dixon Jones's innovative Exhibition Road streetscape in Kensington, an 'architectural conceit'...users actually report anxiety, fear and...a refusal to use the space at all.- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Saving Lives with Smart Urban Design: "Cities Safer by Design," a new report by the World Resources Institute \(WRI\) Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, offers urban design best practices and real-world case studies...cities can use to put an end to traffic deaths and injuries...shows policymakers, urban designers and planners, and landscape architects what works...- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects \(ASLA\)](#)

[Freeway design is a mash-up on newly expanded 405: ...a sad reversal of infrastructural fortune is happening in Southern California. A region once synonymous with freeways no longer builds them with much confidence or skill...it should look as good to drivers going 3 mph as 63. Instead, it's a hodgepodge, a patchwork...a piecemeal political process usually guarantees a piecemeal final product. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Fixing Frank: Unity Temple gets a sorely needed \\$23 million restoration: ...this is the deluxe rehabilitation package, a stark contrast to the mostly emergency work that's been done through the years to keep the building grunting along...Why was it so hard to start renovating...one of the great American buildings? By Steve Johnson -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Gunny Harboe; The Judson Studios \[images\]- Chicago Tribune](#)

[Wing and a prayer? Not so when rethinking religious buildings: ...aging religious buildings are hard to adapt for new uses...a new study by the Philadelphia-based Partners for Sacred Places offers evidence that the most crucial factor in repurposing a house of worship is not money, but imagination. By Inga Saffron -- Seiler + Drury; Ennis Nehez \[images\]- Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[Q+A> Ole Scheeren: Büro Ole Scheeren's first North American project reframes architecture's core values...Mimi Zeiger spoke to him about how the new project and lessons drawn from his global skyscrapers might impact Vancouver's skyline and the city's urban landscape. \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

Q+A: Peter Busby on Architecture's New Edges: ...discusses his new book and how the architectural profession has changed over the course of his 30-year career...an inspirational message about sustainable design...Yet focusing on Busby's portfolio is missing perhaps his greatest strength as an architect: his conscience. By Brian Libby -- Perkins+Will- Architect Magazine

What University Presses Have Done for Urban Design: ...play a pivotal role in publishing game-changing work about cities...have shouldered the urbanism genre...because risk-averse mainstream publishers aren't convinced that this work is worthwhile...underscoring the audacity of university presses in believing that every city deserves the best ideas possible. We need that...And that's why the tenuous future of university presses is so alarming. By Anna Clark- Next City (formerly Next American City)

"How Creativity Works in the Brain": Links between Arts, Learning, and Neuroscience Examined in New NEA Report: Brain research is a young field, which makes it the perfect time to invest in creativity research...- National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Anish Kapoor 's ArcelorMittal Orbit to be turned into £1m wonder-slide: ...the opinion-splitting observation tower on the London 2012 park is to be converted into the world's longest and tallest tunnel slide...will circle the red structure five times before a 50m plunge to the bottom. -- Cecil Balmond; Ushida Findlay Architects; Buro Happold; bblur architects [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Call for entries: Dry Futures: International ideas competition seeking future-focused design responses to California's drought; cash prizes; deadline: September 1- Archinect

Call for Entries: ARTS THREAD x DESIGNERSBLOCK for London Design Festival 15: open to 2015 graduate designer/makers worldwide + ARTS THREAD members worldwide graduated from 2010-2015; deadline: August 16- Arts Thread (UK)

"New Monuments Forget the Future" at Birch Contemporary in Toronto: In the wake of rapid urban developments populated by functional structures seemingly designed neither to offend nor impress, architecture - at one time synonymous with permanence - appears to be becoming increasingly shortsighted and transient...Drawing on this sense of impermanence, [(the show] brings together artworks that reference architecture in varying degrees of flux. - Canadian Architect

Landscape great Dan Kiley is subject of retrospective at the Dallas Center for Architecture: Among the motivations for "Dan Kiley Landscapes" is to create awareness that might stave off continuing threats to Kiley's work. Even his most prominent works are not safe..."Some Kiley designs are dying quiet deaths"... By Mark Lamster -- Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation- Dallas Morning News

Hyperrealistic Paper Sculptures Capture the Memory of Buildings: Philadelphia-based artist Drew Leshko meticulously recreates buildings...as a response to the morphing architectural composition of...Fishtown. The forces of gentrification have radically changed the area...a way to preserve Philly's historic fabric before the wrecking ball hits..."New construction is paper thin, kind of like my sculptures are." By Diana Budds [images]- Fast Company / Co. Design

"Patience and Fortitude: Power, Real Estate, and the Fight to Save a Public Library" by Scott Sherman: A historic-preservation battle over Carrère & Hastings's 1911 marble palace for the New York Public Library...raises tough historic-preservation questions...chronicles the unraveling of the library's unholy deal. The story is not so much about power as the hubris of wealthy trustees... By James S. Russell -- Foster + Partners; TEN Arquitectos - Architectural Record

"Roads Were Not Built for Cars" by Carlton Reid: ...infrastructure for bicycles, tricycles, and more were the precursors to the later transportation system dominated by automobiles. For the typical reader...arguments would be more usefully condensed into a long-form article...the amount of detail became tedious...For students, researchers, practitioners...it's a worthwhile reference...the big takeaway is that...cars are not the way of the future... By Yoshi Silverstein/Mitsui Design- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

"Out of the Loop: Vernacular Architecture Forum Chicago" edited by Virginia B. Price, David A. Spatz, and D. Bradford Hunt: ...12 essays on various aspects of the city's built fabric, from its grid and common building types to racism and industry...offers something for everybody. I found myself drawn to the essays and tours that focused more on buildings rather than, say, social structures... By John Hill- A Daily Dose of Architecture/Archidose



7 Outstanding Transformations: Society changes but buildings remain firmly in their place...most buildings will at some point inevitably face a conversion of either its original program or structure, or both. -- MVRDV; OMA; Herzog & de Meuron; Atelier Peter Zumthor; Tegnestuen Vandkunsten; Sambuichi Architects; Eduardo Souto de Moura [images]

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)

© 2015 ArchNewsNow.com