

Today's News - Friday, September 25, 2015

- Waite reports that the BBC has apologized to Hadid after the "fractious exchange" with Montague.
- Schumacher reports that Prince-Ramus takes home this year's \$100,000 Marcus Prize: He "is rewriting the story of architecture, taking aim at high modernism and starchitects."
- Kimmelman continues his commentary on the saga of Times Square's pedestrian plazas, and gives a (sort of) cheer to Mayor de Blasio, who "now looks as if he is picking up the mantle instead of a sledgehammer."
- Goldberger cheers the "fun-house moments" at DS+R's Broad museum: "I suspect that these whimsical interludes are what people will remember most about the architecture."
- Taylor-Hochberg calls the Broad "the white cube museum to end all white cube museums" with "a refined foyer-area that feels like a Neolithic waiting room for a very important cave person."
- Helmut Jahn has joined what could be an architectural petting zoo on Chicago's South Loop with an 86-story tower, not too far from Viñoly's 76-story tower announced yesterday.
- Eye-fuls of the five finalists' designs for a new Canadian Canoe Museum.
- Randall tours the smartest and greenest building in the world, PLP's Edge in Amsterdam: "It's about resource efficiency in the traditional sense - it's also about the best use of the humans."
- A good reason to head to Yale next week: "A Constructed World," the 3-day J. Irwin Miller Symposium, will "address how humankind is playing a decisive role in shaping the world."
- Weekend diversions:
 - It's a very Gehry kind of day: Kats finds LACMA's Gehry retrospective a bit too reverential "that occasionally leaves the exhibition smelling ever so slightly of antiseptic solution."
 - Zeiger says the show "starts out magnificently modest. You would think that the final gallery would cap the career an architect at the apex of his facilities. It doesn't."
 - A great excerpt from Goldberger's "Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry."
 - Pearman cheers Goldberger's "excellent" Gehry biography: it "is a history of an anxiety-driven, needy, thin-skinned genius. He is plainly on Frank's side. But he does not avoid the turkeys."
 - For Tarmy, "Gehry doesn't come across as a genius at all. He is depicted as a very talented man who worked very hard for a very long time."
 - Childers cheers "Building Art" for "agilely" balancing "the disparate subjects of art and biography. Goldberger's critical assessments are insightful and often riveting."
 - Simpson says it's "a warm and personable biography of the man," and an "eminently readable book" (not for "those looking for celebrity gossip").
 - There's lots to see at the new, pop-up South Street Seaport Cultural District (it will stay popped up through the end of the year).
 - "Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye" at the Art Institute of Chicago "highlights the threads and ideas that lead from one project to the next" + The show showcases Adjaye's "global textures."
 - Amarante is quite taken by Yale's "City of 7 Billion: A Constructed World": It "is supposed to blow your mind a little bit - all it took was an upside-down globe to do the trick for this reviewer."
 - Moore marvels at "Cosmonauts: Birth of the Space Age" and Wilton's Music Hall in London: "The legacy of Sputnik and the renovation of a beloved Victorian venue show how societies are shaped by dreams of escape."
 - Two "fascinating" shows in New York "explore little-known aspects of the midcentury movement" that "continues to weave its magic spell."
 - Heathcote hails Harwood and Davies' "England's Post-War Listed Buildings," a "wonderful doorstop of a book" that "documents the terrific diversity of an architecture that was for many years a cult at best."

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BBC apologises to Hadid over Qatar allegations: ...broadcaster has also apologised privately to the architect following a fractious exchange with presenter Sarah Montague on BBC Radio 4's Today programme...and posted an apology on the Radio 4 website. By Richard Waite- The Architects' Journal (UK)

\$100,000 Marcus Prize given to Joshua Prince-Ramus: [He] is rewriting the story of architecture, taking aim at high modernism and starchitects like Frank Gehry and Santiago Calatrava...Every other year...Marcus Corporation Foundation awards the prize to a rising talent in the field of architecture...He generally rejects the architect-as-artistic-genius approach of many renowned architects. By Mary Louise Schumacher -- REX [images]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Making Times Square's Pedestrian Plazas Work: City Hall's plan focuses on better policing, but better management and a clear cultural vision may be just as important...Big ideas take time. Complicated cities like New York face long-term challenges...Times Square does, too. To his credit, Mayor de Blasio now looks as if he is picking up the mantle instead of a sledgehammer. By Michael Kimmelman -- Craig Dykers/Snohetta- New York Times

The Broad Is L.A.'s Latest Paradox: Grand Avenue...has high architectural ambitions...yet great buildings alone do not make a vibrant urban center, great streets do...you experience it...as an object more than as a piece of a larger urban entity...fun-house moments...For all the seriousness with which Diller Scofidio + Renfro have taken on the challenge of this building, I suspect that these whimsical interludes are what people will remember most about the architecture. By Paul Goldberger- Vanity Fair

The Broad Museum opens its doors for a look beyond the veil: The white cube museum to end all white cube museums has touched down in Los Angeles: ...as it lifts up its "veil" on the corners facing Grand Ave to welcome visitors through its glass wall entrance, as if to say, "come out of the hot sun, it's cool here under my pointy skirt"...a refined foyer-area that feels like a Neolithic waiting room for a very important cave person. By Amelia Taylor-Hochberg -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images]- Archinect

Helmut Jahn-Designed Supertall for South Loop Would Become Chicago's Fifth Tallest: ...expected to stand at a whopping 86 stories...news comes literally just hours after a 76-story tower proposal designed by architect Rafael Viñoly made its public debut. [images]- Curbed Chicago

Five design concepts for a new Canadian Canoe Museum: ...to relocate to the Parks Canada property beside the Peterborough Lift Lock. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Heneghan Peng Architects; Bing Thom Architects/Lett Architects; Provencher_Roy/NORR; 5468796 Architecture/Moriyama & Teshima Architects [images]- KawarthaNOW (Canada)

The Smartest Building in the World: Inside the connected future of architecture: A day at the Edge in Amsterdam starts with a smartphone app...Wherever you go, the app knows your preferences for light and temperature, and it tweaks the environment accordingly...the greenest building in the world...It's about using information technology to shape both the way we work and the spaces in which we do it. It's about resource efficiency in the traditional sense...but it's also about the best use of the humans. By Tom Randall -- Deloitte; PLP Architecture [images]- Bloomberg Business

"A Constructed World" J. Irwin Miller Symposium: leading experts from architecture, anthropology, economics, geography, and

philosophy address how humankind is playing a decisive role in shaping the world. October 1–3, Yale School of Architecture-
Yale School of Architecture

Frank Gehry Gets Reverential Treatment at LACMA: ...[he] has had a varied relationship with the town...the site of his earliest achievements and some of his most exceptional buildings...But Gehry has also shouldered numerous disappointments...which receive far less thorough treatment. It's an omission that occasionally leaves the exhibition smelling ever so slightly of antiseptic solution...exhibition fails to ultimately reconcile Gehry's outré sense of self with his current status as a luminary. Perhaps that's the point. By Anna Kats - Artinfo

Frank Gehry at LACMA: Is the title simply an honorific celebration of the 86-year-old Pritzker-winning designer, or is that Frank, frank - a curatorial pun referencing an honest, stripped down approach to architecture? ...starts out magnificently modest...You would think that the final gallery would cap the career an architect at the apex of his facilities. It doesn't...It's an image designed to draw back the curtain on the act of architectural production, but frankly, it's about the production of Frank. By Mimi Zeiger - Icon (UK)

Why Frank Gehry Is Not a "Starchitect": The 86-year-old master may be the quintessential example of this term in the public's mind. But to Gehry, the word misunderstands his work entirely, as Paul Goldberger writes in this excerpt from his new biography, "Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry." - Vanity Fair

"Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry": Paul Goldberger's excellent new biography is a history of an anxiety-driven, needy, thin-skinned genius...He is plainly on Frank's side...But he does not avoid the turkeys... By Hugh Pearman - Architectural Record

How Frank Gehry became Frank Gehry: How do you get to Disney Hall? Practice, practice, practice: In Paul Goldberger's excellent and comprehensive treatment, Gehry doesn't come across as a genius at all. He is depicted as a very talented man who worked very hard for a very long time, learning only gradually how to design the buildings that would make him famous. The narrative isn't very sexy, but it is undeniably fascinating. By James Tarmy - Bloomberg Business

"Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry": ...distinctive qualities - liberalism, modesty that masks driving ambition and an unwillingness to relinquish creative control - have shaped Gehry's career...agilely balances the disparate subjects of art and biography. Paul Goldberger's critical assessments...are insightful and often riveting, but he does not neglect the prosaic details of the man's personal life. By Doug Childers - Richmond Times-Dispatch (Virginia)

"Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry" by Paul Goldberger: Architecture like art on fire: ...a warm and personable biography of the man...Gehry's remarkable achievement will not be completely demystified in this eminently readable book...will impart a sense of the humble perseverance, patience and resilience necessary to compile the many setbacks, disappointments and minor victories into a singular creative career...those looking for celebrity gossip will find little to satisfy... By Donald E. Simpson - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The South Street Seaport fetes its new Cultural District with exhibits curated by James Sanders/JS + A Studio: ...xhibitions by the AIANY's Center for Architecture, the Guggenheim, No Longer Empty, and Eyebeam, among others, created programming in spaces damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012...events and exhibitions may not mollify opponents of the redevelopment, but they do provide a valuable public platform for the art and architecture in lower Manhattan. - The Architect's Newspaper

A Major Exhibition for an Architect on the Rise: "Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye" at the Art Institute of Chicago...largest comprehensive survey of the work of the OBE-awarded British architect...highlights the threads and ideas that lead from one project to the next. "David is a fearless architect, an unconventional thinker, and he is committed to rethinking the possibilities of architecture," says Zoe Ryan... By Gay Gassmann - New York Times

The global textures of David Adjaye showcased in Art Institute of Chicago: "Making Place: The Architecture of David Adjaye"...there is considerable buzz suggesting he is among the top candidates to design of the Obama Presidential Library on Chicago's South Side. Q&A about his influences, philosophy and approach. By Hedy Weiss - Chicago Sun-Times

Topsy-turvy & proud, exhibit ponders "City of 7 Billion: A Constructed World" at Yale: ...is supposed to blow your mind a little bit with its physical depictions of data that reframe the entire world as one city...all it took was an upside-down globe to do the trick for this reviewer...the show can be a bit dense. "This is a highly brainy exhibition"... By Joe Amarante -- Joyce Hsiang/Plan B Architecture and Urbanism); Bimal Mendis; Robert A.M. Stern - New Haven Register (Connecticut)

"Cosmonauts: Birth of the Space Age" [at the Science Museum]; Wilton's Music Hall, London: The legacy of Sputnik and the renovation of a beloved Victorian venue show how societies are shaped by dreams of escape. By Rowan Moore -- Tim Ronalds [images] - Observer (UK)

Jewish History & Modernism: Midcentury modernism continues to weave its magic spell in two fascinating exhibitions in New York... "Revolution of the Eye: Modern Art and the Birth of American Television" at the Jewish Museum and "Designing Home: Jews and Midcentury Modernism" at the Museum of Jewish Heritage discuss Jewish architects, artists, and designers...both explore little-known aspects of the midcentury movement... By Jane L. Levere - The Architect's Newspaper

The beauty of Brutalism: why we now love 1960s housing estates: Once seen as 'concrete monstrosities', now even the National Trust is celebrating British modernism: ...a wonderful doorstop of a book called "England's Post-War Listed Buildings" by Elaine Harwood & James O Davies...documents the terrific diversity of an architecture that was for many years a cult at best...Brutalism, for all its darkness and danger, has been subsumed by an unstoppable heritage industry. Modernism is the past. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

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