

Today's News - Monday, October 19, 2015

- ArcSpace brings us Kiser's take on SANAA's Grace Farms, and a big-picture take on Calatrava + ArcSpace is looking for student writers.
- Loos's take on The River at Grace Farms: it "will never be mistaken for a modest Amish barn-raising" - it "takes the concept of 'multifunctional' to a new extreme."
- Merrick visits The Broad, DS+R's "anti-icon in Los Angeles - a perfectly finished enigma. Only in LA can all that is air melt into a compelling architectural solid that presents itself, rather wonderfully, as both real and unreal."
- Zeiger sees the architectural parti for DS+R's McMurtry Building at Stanford University as "a wrestling hold out of Greek sculpture - a match of two equals," which "intertwines art and art history."
- Heathcote x 2: he bemoans the London Metropolitan University falling "prey to capital's craze for luxury flats" by selling off its "'Aldgate Bauhaus' - the worlds of architecture and design have reacted with disbelief."
- His take on Koolhaas being "utterly adept at wrong-footing the world," and his mix of "preservation and provocation" in Moscow: "The Garage is an architecture of dreaming, of subtle nostalgia and about the preservation of partial memory."
- Renzo gets his own chance to preserve and provoke in Moscow, being tapped to transform a 1907 power station into an art gallery.
- Lubell delves into why Gang "is one of those unicorns of architecture," and is "regarded by some as the world's top female architect outside of Hadid - innovators are looking closely at how 'actionable idealists' like Gang can pave the way."
- Saffron minces no words about what she thinks of the \$14 million light masts along Philly's North Broad (by a stellar design team, no less): "Folks, those 55-foot-tall poles are supposed to be art, of the iconic variety. Talk about a branding misfire."
- On a brighter urban note, Chikuba cheers the biodiverse Otemachi Forest in the heart of Tokyo: the "developers' vision was no hollow sound bite" - it's "a real gift of civil engineering" to the city (we want one!).
- Alter explains why "everything I ever knew or said about green sustainable design was probably wrong. The new doctrine: high quality windows, tons of insulation, a tight seal and hey, while you're at it, Passive House certification."
- Q&A with Berkowitz, president of 100 Resilient Cities, re: his hopes that "the organization will inspire a worldwide movement."
- Speaking of which: Call for entries: 100 Resilient Cities Challenge (international): receive funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer, assistance in developing a resilience strategy, etc.
- TCLF releases its newest Pioneers Oral History series with Quennell sharing his life-work insights.
- Eye-fuls of Stevens Institute of Technology's hurricane-resistant SURE HOUSE that just won the 2015 Solar Decathlon.
- Eye-fuls of HMMD's "Casablanca Bombing Rooms" competition winners.
- Call for entries: International Making Cities Livable issues a call for papers for its 53rd annual conference in Rome next June + IMCL design competition: Caring for Our Common Home: Sustainable, Just Cities & Settlements.

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- SANAA: River building, Grace Farms: Nestled into the rolling landscape...the building begins on a knoll and then flows down the long, gentle slope in a series of bends, forming pond-like spaces on its journey. By Kirsten Kiser
- Call for student writers for arcspace.
- Santiago Calatrava: ...designs suggest stylized natural objects... By Kirsten Kiser

The Spiritual and Spectacular Meet at an Ultramodern Community Center in Connecticut: ...Grace Farms...will never be mistaken for a modest Amish barn-raising...takes the concept of "multifunctional" to a new extreme...a hybrid entity that many will find easy to admire in part but that may be harder to comprehend as a whole. By Ted Loos -- SANAA- New York Times

The Broad: Jay Merrick visits Diller Scofidio + Renfro's anti-icon in Los Angeles: ...a successful, physically striking, and experientially unusual art container...The way the building works on the imagination is more significant...an art curator's massive dreamscape...a brilliant formal and programmatic conceit...a perfectly finished enigma...Only in LA can all that is air melt into a compelling architectural solid that presents itself, rather wonderfully, as both real and unreal. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

The Wrestlers: DS+R's McMurtry Building at Stanford University intertwines art and art history: ...architectural parti is a wrestling hold out of Greek sculpture - a match of two equals. By Mimi Zeiger -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; BOORA Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

'Aldgate Bauhaus' falls prey to capital's craze for luxury flats: London Metropolitan University is selling the Sir John Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture and Design: ... one of Britain's best respected arts schools, the worlds of architecture and design have reacted with disbelief...recent outpouring of concern from designers has underlined the importance of making to learning. By Edwin Heathcote -- Florian Beigel/Architecture Research Unit - Financial Times (UK)

Garage Museum by OMA: Rem Koolhaas mixes preservation and provocation in Moscow, turning a Soviet-era workers' canteen into a contemporary art space: Koolhaas is utterly adept at wrong-footing the world...The Garage revels in the contrast between mass catering and elitist art. It is an architecture of dreaming, of subtle nostalgia and about the preservation of partial memory. By Edwin Heathcote -- Konstantin Melnikov [images]- Icon (UK)

Renzo Piano to convert Moscow power station into art gallery: ...will transform Moscow's GES2 power station and the two hectares of grounds...into an exhibition space for the V-A-C Foundation...Red October district...is already home to...the Strelka Institute and a soviet cinema that now houses the Udamnik Contemporary Art Center. [images]- Dezeen

The City-Sculpting Buildings of Chicago's Biggest Architect: Jeanne Gang is one of those unicorns of architecture: ...not only widely respected for her research, but has crossed the line into building on a large scale...regarded by some as the world's top female architect outside of Zaha Hadid...Other firms in the Chicago Architecture Biennial are carving out revolutionary models of practice...But in the current reality, innovators are looking closely at how "actionable idealists" like Gang can pave the way. By Sam Lubell -- Studio Gang [images]- Wired

After \$14 million on light masts, North Broad remains in the dark ages: Folks, those 55-foot-tall poles are supposed to be art, of the iconic variety...Talk about a branding misfire...I found no one who could explain why the city opted to spend its limited money on the masts instead of on pedestrian improvements. By Inga Saffron -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; James Carpenter Design Associates [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

[A Forest Grows in Otemachi: ...greening proposal seemed almost utopian: a biodiverse forest...3,600-square-meter Otemachi Forest...would be a real departure from the typical setback plaza that's dotted with a few carefully pruned trees...developers' vision...was no hollow sound bite...a real gift of civil engineering to Tokyo. By Susan Rogers Chikuba -- Taisei Corporation \[images\]- Artscape Japan](#)

[Everything I ever knew or said about green sustainable design was probably wrong: What's changed? Insulation and sealing...I have even accepted that in a properly designed house, air conditioning isn't necessarily evil. The new doctrine: high quality windows, tons of insulation, a tight seal and hey, while you're at it, Passivhaus certification. By Lloyd Alter- TreeHugger](#)

[Newsmaker: Michael Berkowitz: The president of 100 Resilient Cities hopes the organization will inspire a worldwide movement.- Architectural Record](#)

[Call for entries: 100 Resilient Cities Challenge \(international\): receive funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer, assistance in developing a resilience strategy, etc.; deadline: November 24- 100 Resilient Cities / Rockefeller Foundation \(100RC\)](#)

[Landscape Architect Nicholas Quennell Shares Life-Work Insights in Video: The Cultural Landscape Foundation just released the latest installment in their Pioneers Oral History series... -- Quennell Rothschild & Partners - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Hurricane-resistant SURE HOUSE \[by Stevens Institute of Technology\] wins the 2015 Solar Decathlon: ...will be dismantled and moved to the East Coast to act as a community education center. \[images\]- Inhabitat](#)

[HMMD announces the winners of "Casablanca Bombing Rooms" competition: ...3 winners and 6 honorable mentions with creative ideas from Australia, China, Japan... -- William Song Yuan/Rachel Hurst; Iryna Safonova/Laurène Mousnier; Rina Chinen \[images\]- World Architecture](#)

[Call for entries: Call for papers: 53rd International Making Cities Livable Conference on Caring for Our Common Home: Sustainable, Just Cities & Settlements, Rome, June 13-17, 2016; deadline: December 20- International Making Cities Livable \(IMCL\)](#)

[Call for entries: 2016 International Making Cities Livable Design Competition: Designing for Our Common Home: Sustainable, Just Cities & Settlements \(international\); deadline: December 20- International Making Cities Livable \(IMCL\)](#)

[A Filtered View: Buckminster Fuller \(Not Al Gore\) Invented the Internet: the first in a new series of musings by Charles F. Blosszies, FAIA- ArchNewsNow.com](#)

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