

Today's News - Wednesday, November 18, 2015

- ArcSpace has Kiser revisiting Estudio Barozzi Veiga's Szczecin Philharmonic Hall that recently won the 2015 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award, "the first time that a project from behind the former iron curtain wins the prize."
- Bozikovic reports on grand plans for a stretch of land underneath Toronto's Gardiner Expressway, "a bold new public-space project" to remake a desolate space "into a place unlike any other in the city."
- Philly's grand plan to transform unused rail lines into the elevated Viaduct Rail Park is already bringing "private investment to blighted areas. There's good reason for the optimism."
- Finch reflects on his visit to Adelaide and ponders: "Why do cities try to be more like somewhere else?"
- Moore mulls Oxford University having "developed a taste for big-name architectural projects" (that mostly miss the mark). "Is the trend anything more than a need to attract billionaire sponsors?"
- PLP gets the green light to move ahead with its 62-story skyscraper to replace the stump of the unfinished Pinnacle (a.k.a. Helter Skelter), despite objections. "There is plenty more room in the cockney clouds."
- Dittmar cheers the upcoming climate conference in Paris putting urbanism on the agenda, but we have to start thinking "much bigger than floating houses."
- Adam reports on the report "Tomorrow's Home: Emerging social trends and their impact on the built environment": "As society changes, so must the places where we live."
- Housing in Boston (as in other places) doesn't fit us anymore: "existing housing stock was built for a very different time. Yet, for decades, we've continued to construct housing as if we were still living in the 1960s."
- O'Sullivan reports on Berlin's radical plan to keep housing affordable. - Capps digs into the roots of and the future of "treescrapers": are they "the future of dense urban living? Can they work? Are they green?"
- dRMM's de Rijke talks about the coming era of the "plyscrapers," and offers 21 reasons "timber is the new concrete."
- Keskeys reports on Holl's long-delayed "next great landmark" for Copenhagen and "instant architectural icon for Denmark" now, finally, moving forward.
- Big plans for "a cultural 'city within a city' that will change the face of London," and its hope to be designated a Healthy New Town.
- Keegan queries Chakrabarti re: his break with SHoP to open his own new shop, and the "fluid spectrum" between architects and urban designers.
- Berg outlines some not all that well-known "programs and incentives that are helping architecture firms to reduce the risk of looking beyond their own country's borders."
- Beam takes to task "a vocal subset of architects" he calls 9/11 "truthers" who reject government reports about what brought down the WTC towers: "even if you think that 'the truth is out there' - this isn't it."
- Call for entries (deadlines loom!): Proposals for CNU-NE 2016 New England Urbanism Summit + 2016 Festival des Architectures Vives + FAV La Grande Motte for young architects and landscape architects + Central Park Summer Pavilion New York.

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Estudio Barozzi Veiga: Szczecin Philharmonic Hall, Szczecin, Poland: ...won the 2015 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award...the first time that a project from behind the former iron curtain wins the prize. By Kirsten Kiser [images]

\$25-million project reimagines area under Gardiner with paths, cultural spaces: ...a bold new public-space project...will remake an area under the Gardiner Expressway – stretching over 1.75 kilometres – into a place unlike any other in the city. Called Project: Under Gardiner...uses the structure of the highway as a canopy for a string of loosely designed outdoor "rooms." By Alex Bozikovic -- PUBLIC WORK; Ken Greenberg [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Before Viaduct Rail Park is born, it nurtures area investment: Backers of a plan to transform unused rail lines north of Center City into an elevated park say it will draw private investment to blighted areas. That may already be happening at 990 Spring Garden...one example...along the proposed three-mile linear park, which takes New York's High Line as an inspiration. It's happening even before the park's backers...have finished raising money for its first phase. There's good reason for the optimism. -- Boxwood Architects - Philadelphia Inquirer

Why do cities try to be more like somewhere else? For Paul Finch a visit to Adelaide revealed exciting new architecture, but also an unfortunate readiness to demolish a distinctive building; ...unmissable symbol of the city's ambitions is the magnificent Adelaide Oval...a good example of what cities can do if they only encourage architects and developers to answer..."How can we make this city more like itself, rather than more like somewhere else?" ...this is surely the attitude that should prevail in the inevitable debates that take place in relation to heritage and regeneration. -- Cox Architecture- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Oxford's dreaming spires... and hard cash: Oxford University has developed a taste for big-name architectural projects - most recently the controversial Blavatnik School of Government by Herzog & de Meuron. Is the trend anything more than a need to attract billionaire sponsors? ...a privileged inner life wrapped in a distancing exterior. By Rowan Moore -- Rafael Viñoly; Zaha Hadid; Wilkinson Eyre- Observer (UK)

Reworked Pinnacle to set new heights for London: Planning approved for 62-storey skyscraper which was abandoned four years ago and has been redesigned by PLP Architecture:...formerly known as the Pinnacle or Helter Skelter...officially known as 22 Bishopsgate...will be the tallest building in the Square Mile at 278 metres...approved despite objections..."There is plenty more room in the cockney clouds. We need a high-rise revolution if London is to remain the world's most desirable work and urban living space." [images]- Guardian (UK)

Climate change will force us to think much bigger than floating houses; It's good news that urbanism will be on the agenda at next month's climate talks, but they're unlikely to do more than scratch the surface of a topic that will engage architects and planners for decades to come.By Hank Dittmar- BD/Building Design (UK)

Living in the future: As society changes, so must the places where we live: ...a major influence on housing demand is the 18-34 age group – generation Y or the Millennials...social trends in this age group would be the most likely to reveal the needs for tomorrow's home..."Tomorrow's Home: Emerging social trends and their impact on the built environment" [report] By Robert Adam -- ADAM Urbanism; Grainger; Lily Bernheimer/Space Works Consulting- RIBA Journal (UK)

Our houses don't fit us anymore: How Boston's housing crunch is redefining our life partners: ...existing housing stock was built for a very different time...Two- and three-family homes now draw roommates in their 20s and 30s...it's the downtown that now draws families...Yet, for decades, we've continued to construct housing as if we were still living in the 1960s. By Mike

Ross - Boston Globe

Berlin Just Showed the World How to Keep Housing Affordable: Under a new plan, low-income tenants of public housing will pay less than a third of their income in rent: In a city with high numbers of public housing residents, the effect of the new rule could be striking...ruling binds the Berlin Senate to build 30,000 new public housing units within the next 10 years... By Feargus O'Sullivan - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Are 'Treescrapers' the Future of Dense Urban Living? A vertical garden tower just won a significant award for architecture. Is it time to start taking these designs seriously? Bosco Verticale...named the Best Tall Building Worldwide for 2015 by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat...But it only makes the questions about these projects more urgent: Can they work? Are they green? By Kriston Capps -- Stefano Boeri; Bjarko/Serra Architects; Jean Nouvel/Patrick Blanc; Büro Ole Scheeren; Vincent Callebaut Architectures; Vo Trong Nghia Architects; MAD Architects; Axis Mundi; Penda Architecture [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

21 reasons we're entering the "plyscraper" era: Timber is the new concrete, according to professor Alex de Rijke, founder of dRMM architecture, and he has 21 reasons to explain why; #21: "It's just way more sexy than steel or concrete." [images]- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

This Simple Sketch Sowed the Seed for Copenhagen's Next Great Landmark: Seven years ago, Steven Holl Architects won an international competition to design the LM Harbor Gateway...an instant architectural icon for Denmark...city authorities have approved the design, and construction can finally begin...two towers connected by a slender pedestrian bridge some 490 feet (150 meters) above the harbor. By Paul Keskeys [images]- Architizer

Old Oak - a cultural 'city within a city' that will change the face of London: Plans are afoot to transform a swathe of industrial West London wasteland into a huge new cultural city...30-year development scheme for Old Oak and Park Royal Common...have applied for recognition of the development as a Healthy New Town -- a National Health Service initiative... [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Q+A: Vishaan Chakrabarti of PAU: The New York architect and urban planner talks about his new shop, Partnership for Architecture and Urbanism, and the "fluid spectrum" between architects and urban designers. By Edward Keegan - Architect Magazine

The Unexpected Profitability in Work Abroad: For new revenue streams, consider exporting your services to other countries....Though venturing into foreign markets can seem precarious, these programs and incentives are helping architecture firms to reduce the risk of looking beyond their own country's borders. By Nate Berg -- Álvarez-Díaz & Villalón; Jünk Architects - Architect Magazine

The 'truthers' and 9/11: There is a vocal subset of architects who insist the US government is hiding the truth about the destruction of the World Trade Center towers: ...has struggled to gain credibility within the architectural profession...it is important to understand the "truthers'" core message...I don't agree...But even if you think that "the truth is out there"...this isn't it. By Alex Beam -- Richard Gage/Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth - Boston Globe

Call for entries: Call for Proposals: CNU New England 2016 New England Urbanism Summit: Getting it Built: Connecting Ingenuity to Opportunity, April 28 - 29, 2016, Providence, Rhode Island; deadline: December 13- Congress for the New Urbanism, New England Chapter (CNU-NE)

Call for entries: 2016 Festival des Architectures Vives + FAV La Grande Motte: "Innovate"; Montpellier, France, June 15-28; open to young architects and landscape architects; deadline: December 4- Festival des Architectures Vives (FAV)

Call for entries: Central Park Summer Pavilion (CPSP) New York: create a multi-usage area in the emblematic park that can host different activities in summer; cash prizes; earlybird registration (save money!); December 11 (submission deadline: January 22, 2016)- Arquideas (Spain)

Hurricane Sandy Victims Return to Resilient, Sustainable, Affordable Homes on Raritan Bay in New Jersey: The Rebuilding Union Beach demonstration project returns 14 families to new homes, and launches an online Project Guide for other communities needing to rebuild in the wake of a natural disaster. By Scott Lauer [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

A Filtered View #2: Ubiquitous Stuff - Why is Most of it so Ugly? Maybe Apple should design all of this stuff; or maybe Philippe Starck. By Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA [images]- ArchNewsNow.com

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