

Today's News - Tuesday, April 12, 2016

- ArcSpace x 2: Q&A with curators Bose, Self, and Williams about "Home Economics," this year's British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale + CO-AP's childcare center in Sydney that "exemplifies the delight that can be found from adapting older structures for new programs and purposes."
- Koolhaas (a Q&A), Sperber ("If she was not my hero, why does her death matter so much?"), and Lambert weigh in on Zaha (Ed. Note: ANN feature "Zaha" has been updated to include all postings we've run to date).
- Washburn warns us of the challenges inherent in "making the smart city also an equitable one," and the dangerous "delusion that what you want personally is what everybody wants. "I" is not "we"."
- Dittmar dallies over some of London's "tall buildings bloopers," and bemoans that some of the city's "great new architecture" isn't appearing on the skyline.
- Very interesting commentary from some of those involved in rebuilding Christchurch five years after the Canterbury earthquakes (the good and the bad).
- Reynolds and Waretini explain Gap Filler, an "experimental model for development in Christchurch" that is also a model "to rethink the way cities can be built from grassroots involvement."
- Data gleaned from six Italian cities prove "that density of population is as vital as Jane Jacobs said."
- A handful of NYC architects, designers, and engineers weigh in on Calatrava's WTC Transit Hub - some see a white dove, others, a white elephant (or a "bleached and sanitized carcass" ouch!).
- Meanwhile, a few more details - and images - of Calatrava's Dubai tower debut: it would be "a notch taller" than SOM's Burj Khalifa.
- Libeskind goes public with what has been a "secret museum" plan in Erbil, Iraq.
- King has high (and green) hopes for Piano's towering plan for San Francisco: "he wants to leave a different sort of mark, showcasing the possibilities of sustainable design at skyline scale."
- Davidson continues his L.A. sojourn, spending time with Mia Lehrer to see how the city "has begun to rediscover the overlap of nature with civic life, especially in downtown areas starved for open space."
- Kamin cheers Wrigley Field's exterior being restored to the way it looked in the 1930s: "Now it gives something to the street, and to passersby, as all good urban buildings should."
- Fraser minces no words about what he thinks led to closing a number of Edinburgh schools: "Children's learning was lower priority than enriching bankers and lawyers," and Britain has "forgotten the sheer joy of making good school buildings."
- Saffron considers her evolution from reporter to critic: she had "strong biases about how cities should be treated and a reporter's instincts about what makes a good story. The pairing of urban reporting with a design sensibility turned out to be a powerful hybrid."

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Venice Biennale Curator Series: Britain: Q&A with Shumi Bose, Jack Self and Finn Williams about this year's British Pavilion... "Home Economics," a reflection on the home as the contemporary frontline of British architecture. By Robert Martin

CO-AP: Camperdown Childcare Center, Sydney, Australia: ...located down an unassuming back street...within a former warehouse, the center exemplifies the delight that can be found from adapting older structures for new programs and purposes. [images]- ArcSpace

Rem Koolhaas: Zaha Hadid was a combination of beauty and strength (Q&A): [Our] relationship was based on shared ambition, shared empathy, shared interest and a shared motivation to challenge the same things...I think she made an enormous contribution as a woman, but her greatest contribution is as an architect.- Dezeen

Esther Sperber/Studio ST Architects: The Shadow of Zaha Hadid: She was amazing, but my role models are smaller, more approachable, perhaps more like I want to see myself when I grow up...She imagined things no one had ever seen, and she was able to make these fantasies become physical realities. I could not see myself in her...If she was not my hero, why does her death matter so much?- Lilith Magazine

Phyllis Lambert offers tribute to Zaha Hadid, 1950-2016: Not everything Zaha built or proposed was groundbreaking and a person of such talent and force of character, especially a woman, has many critics. When, with some distance, her work is assessed within the context of our time, I am convinced that Zaha Hadid will surely stand at the pinnacle of ambitious architecture.- Canadian Architect

When All is Optimized: The wired metropolis creates clear winners and losers. The challenge ahead: Making the Smart City also an Equitable one: ...I would like to warn of the dangers to both self and community of the delusion that what you want personally is what everybody wants. "I" is not "we"...social cohesion is the mainstay of a city's resilience. Certainly a city that decreases social cohesion through technology cannot be called SMART. By Alexandros Washburn- Common Edge

London's tall buildings bloopers: There's lots of great new architecture in London but you wouldn't know it to look at the skyline: They are of a sameness (despite their many odd shapes)...It is a curious thing, this design problem. For London is seeing a new spate of good architecture, with designers delivering buildings that are striking as well as contextual...they don't seem to be employed building towers for the investment market. By Hank Dittmar -- Eric Parry; Robert Adam; Demitri Porphyrios; David Chipperfield; George Saumarez Smith; O'Donnell and Toumey; Caruso St John; Haworth Tompkins; Patrick Lynch-BD/Building Design (UK)

Christchurch - Five Years On: Part I: ...commentary from those involved in rebuilding the city five years after the Canterbury earthquakes [and] progress made during what has been a period of tremendous change. By Peter Marshall/Warren and Mahoney, David Sheppard/Sheppard & Rout Architects, and Ann Brower/Lincoln University -- Peddle Thorp Melbourne; MJMA (MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects); Architectus; Wilson & Hill Architects; Borromeo Architects; +MAP Architects; Thom Craig Architects [images]- ArchitectureNow (New Zealand)

An experimental model for commercial property development in Christchurch: The creative urban regeneration initiative Gap Filler has been at the heart of the movement to not only bring some life back into Christchurch's post-earthquake-devastated central city, but also to rethink the way cities can be built from grassroots involvement. By Dr. Ryan Reynolds and Chloe Waretini/Enspiral Network- ArchitectureNow (New Zealand)

Jane Jacobs Was Put to the Test in 6 Italian Cities: Data backs up long-held beliefs about urban livability...they proved that density of population is as vital as Jacobs said. By Jen Kinney- Next City (formerly Next American City)

White Dove or White Elephant? Santiago Calatrava's World Trade Center Transit Hub opened with much anticipation and mixed reviews. AN reached out to New York's architects, designers, and engineers to hear their thoughts on the structure. — Meredith TenHoor; Hector Design Service; Claire Weisz/WXY; Mark Wigley; Duks Koschitz; Stephen Zacks - The Architect's Newspaper

Developers debut 'tallest' Dubai tower: Scheme by Santiago Calatrava Valls comes with hotel and viewing decks: ...would be "a notch taller" than Burj Khalifa... [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Daniel Libeskind's Secret Museum of the Kurds: The architect goes public with the controversial project [in Erbil, Iraq] for the first time: "In a time of destruction, especially a time of cultural destruction, you have a desire to build"... By Elizabeth Greenspan [images]- Bloomberg/BusinessWeek

'Starchitect' Renzo Piano has designs on Howard Street site: ...to design a 37-story, 400-foot combination of hotel and condominiums...near the new Transbay Transit Center..555 Howard St...he wants to leave a different sort of mark, showcasing the possibilities of sustainable design at skyline scale. By John King -- Mark Cavagnero Associates - San Francisco Chronicle

Can Los Angeles Embrace the Urban Park? ...for decades the classic urban park, in the sense of a shared, shaded refuge for the harried masses, remained an afterthought...the city has begun to rediscover the overlap of nature with civic life, especially in downtown areas starved for open space.
By Justin Davidson -- Rios Clementi Hale; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Mia Lehrer Associates [images]- New York Magazine

Wrigley Field remake: Now it's beautiful outside, too: ...exterior is being restored to the way it looked in the 1930s...seems likely to go down as one of the most welcome aspects of Wrigley's controversy-wracked reinvention...Now it gives something to the street, and to passersby, as all good urban buildings should. By Blair Kamin -- VOA Associates; Harboe Architects [images]- Chicago Tribune

Malcolm Fraser blasts process that led to Edinburgh school closures: Children's learning was lower priority than enriching bankers and lawyers...[he] said Britain cared less about making things than it did about financial processes, and had "forgotten the sheer joy" of making good school buildings. -- Halliday Fraser Munro- BD/Building Design (UK)

Origin Stories: Critics don't need to report? Think again: Plenty of tough on-the-ground reporting equipped me to become an architecture critic: I can't claim I had a clear idea of what kind of critic I would be...What I did have were strong biases about how cities should be treated and a reporter's instincts about what makes a good story...The pairing of urban reporting with a design sensibility turned out to be a powerful hybrid. By Inga Saffron- The Pulitzer Prizes

ANN feature: Zaha. A special issue: I didn't know Zaha Hadid. We met once - in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, of all places. My encounter with her left an indelible impression. By Kristen Richards- ArchNewsNow.com

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