

Today's News - Wednesday, November 9, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're too depressed to do a full-length newsletter today. The last item (involving cats and the election results) cheered us a bit...maybe it will do the same for many of you.

- ArcSpace brings us MacLeod's take on the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture: "an elegant, understated architectural gesture" and "a poetic response to a deeply complex and intersectional subject."
- Jacobs spends some quality time with Maurice Cox to find out "how an ambitious planner and progressive new development are shaping Detroit - a city that has reached a historic tipping point."
- Bliss delves into new research re: the broken-windows theory: "the science behind it was always a bit thin," but "there may be a research-backed explanation for why some environments bring out poor behavior."
- Lubell cheers the "strikingly imaginative" rethinking of homeless architecture by USC's School of Architecture students that will result in a prototype shelter.
- Kamin finds a low-budget apartment building "makes a compelling case that Jenga architecture might amount to something more than an aesthetic fad" (despite a few "grating faults").
- High hopes that a new proposal for the Guggenheim Helsinki will pass muster with the city.
- Aibéo, on the other hand, minces now words about why Helsinki should say no: "the Guggenheim Foundation is the rat sausage we should be banning."
- On a brighter note, Medina queries Mia Lehrer re: how she feels about the master plan for L.A. River being handed over to Gehry, her new FAB Park, and cleaning up the river - "one mattress at a time."
- Tibbetts delves deep into how Charleston, SC, has stopped arguing about climate change and started planning for it instead, though "some risks are likely to remain unknown until the water comes."
- Campanella offers a fascinating history of how "Modernist architecture redrew the New Orleans skyline - all within 30 or so years."
- Rybczynski heads to Buffalo hoping to find Saarinen chairs at the Kleinhans Music Hall, "but I stayed for the architecture" of this "not widely known building" that "is remarkable in several ways."
- Nouvel, Chipperfield, SANAA, and OPEN are in the running to design the Pudong Art Museum on a prime location in Lujiazui.
- One we couldn't resist: "The emotional stages of watching the U.S. election results unfold, as told by cats - your friendly internet saviors are here."

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Adjaye Associates: Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC: The culmination of nearly 20 years of political red tape, the NMAAHC finally opened to great fanfare...an elegant, understated architectural gesture...A poetic response to a deeply complex and intersectional subject... By Finn MacLeod -- Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroupJJR [images]

Karrie Jacobs: Maurice Cox's Detroit: How an ambitious planner and progressive new development are shaping a city that has reached a historic tipping point: "It's a great time to be an architect in Detroit." -- Urban Design Associates; Hamilton Anderson Associates; Spackman Mossop and Michaels; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Dan Gilbert; Melissa Dittmer; Neumann/Smith Architecture; Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects; Merge Architects; Studio Dwell Architects; HOK; SmithGroupJJR; Brian Hurtienne [images] - Architect Magazine

Laura Bliss: Psychology Researchers Found New Evidence for the 'Broken Windows' Policing Theory: Do visual signs of neglect encourage criminality? The long-controversial idea may have just gotten a little stronger: ..the science behind the broken-windows theory was always a bit thin...there may be a research-backed explanation for why some environments bring out poor behavior.- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Sam Lubell: Strikingly Imaginative Structures for Housing L.A.'s Homeless: USC's School of Architecture...launched the Homeless Studio...rethinking homeless architecture, building temporary, moveable, modular, and expandable structures...students will deliver their finished structures to homeless people around the city, and their final project will become a prototype shelter... -- MADWORKSHOP/Martin Architecture and Design Workshop [images] - Wired

Blair Kamin: Jenga architecture trend works in new Hyde Park apartments: Chicago is joining the Jenga trend with the Vue53...this low-budget building makes a compelling case that Jenga architecture might amount to something more than an aesthetic fad...plays the Jenga game...for the most part, with aplomb. -- Valerio Dewalt Train Associates [images] - Chicago Tribune

One last chance for the Guggenheim Helsinki: ...a new proposal has been prepared...which will be presented to the City for a final vote on the fate of the project. By Nicholas Korody -- Moreau Kusunoki Architectes - Archinect

Pedro Aibéo: Democracy needs to know how sausage is made: NO Guggenheim Museum in Helsinki: At first glance, anyone would love to have another cultural institution nearby. But the Guggenheim Foundation is the rat sausage we should be banning. Here is why:- Helsinki Times (Finland)

Q&A: Mia Lehrer: We ask the landscape architect how she feels now the master plan for Los Angeles' River Revitalization, a "life's work," has been handed over to Gehry + Partners: Samuel Medina talks to her about that experience...her new design for FAB Park in downtown L.A., the importance of community outreach, and cleaning up the L.A. River, one mattress at a time. [images] - Metropolis Magazine

John H. Tibbetts When a City Stops Arguing About Climate Change and Starts Planning: Charleston, South Carolina, is adapting to a hotter, wetter and riskier future: ...other low-elevation cities should be watching... "we are seeing climate change, and people aren't arguing that anymore"...But even with this wealth of data, some risks are likely to remain unknown until the water comes.- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Richard Campanella: When modernist architecture redrew the New Orleans skyline: ...throughout the middle of the 20th century, local society embraced new thinking in architecture...That acceptance would completely redraw the skyline, all within 30 or so years. -- Leonard Spangenberg; Edward Durell Stone; aSkidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Curtis and Davis [images] - The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Witold Rybczynski: Letter from Buffalo: Revisiting Kleinhans Music Hall: It's all about the music at this little-known

concert hall designed by Eiel and Eero Saarinen: I came to Kleinmans for the chair, but I stayed for the architecture. Not widely known, this building, which opened in 1940, is remarkable in several ways. [images]- Architect Magazine

Pudong Art Museum gets prime location in Lujiazui: ...part of local government efforts to increase cultural attractions in the Pudong New Area...OPEN, SANAA, Ateliers Jean Nouvel and David Chipperfield Architects were picked to compete.- Shanghai Daily

The Emotional Stages Of Watching The US Election Results Unfold, As Told By Cats: 'Maybe it's a dream?' ...a large proportion of the world is in meltdown. But don't worry, your friendly internet saviours are here. [images]- Huffington Post

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