

Today's News - Thursday, December 1, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, December 6.

- Guggenheim Helsinki plans really bite the dust this time - among the objections: "one of the Finnish capital's best locations would have been handed over to a 'McDonald's of art'" (ouch!).
- Volner channels "the architecture of Trump": "The problem is one of attitude - all the buildings, good or bad, just don't care one way or the other - the more theres they build, the less there there is" (the Panama City hotel/resort is "a fat, unlovable building" that should pay a royalty to Dubai's Burj Al Arab - double-ouch!).
- Sisson parses a new report that contradicts a common NIMBY argument: "Low-income housing doesn't affect nearby property value."
- Harvey hails Auckland's Bishop Selwyn Chapel, "an elegant and delightful sacred space," and "the most magical and poetic New Zealand building I've visited this year."
- Concerns abound about how public Chicago's Jackson Park will be when "private money begins to reshape a public jewel" (i.e. the Obama presidential library).
- Weather permitting, 'tis the season to "relax in hammocks in the middle of 5th Avenue," part of the LOT's glowing "Flatiron Sky-Line" installation, winner of this year's Van Alen Institute/Flatiron Public Plaza Holiday Design Competition.
- Hudson takes a deep dive into the pros and pitfalls of crowdfunding to get projects off (or on or into) the ground "from the people who've done it."
- Call for entries: 2016 Chicago Prize Competition: On The EDGE + World Landscape Architecture/WLA Awards.
- Weekend diversions (and lots of 'em!):
- Hawthorne says the Louis Kahn show at the San Diego Museum of Art is "a pleasure to walk through; what it doesn't do is reassess the relationship of his work to that of his peers or his era. Kahn belonged, or was assigned, to an architectural category of one."
- Miranda evaluates how the Salk Institute, "Kahn's masterpiece in our midst, is holding up - the building that guesses tomorrow is aging - very, very gracefully (and scientists still love working in it).
- Sorkin Studio and Terreform's "Metrophysics" at SCI-Arc explores green cities, and "has the potential to inject a dose of inspiration for a university in transition and city searching for a new moral compass."
- Roberts explores "New York at Its Core," the Museum of the City of New York's "audacious curatorial gamble" that "explains why New York is so New Yorky."
- Also New Yorky: Hearst Tower celebrates its 10th anniversary with "Building with History: The Exhibit" that showcases, for the first time, Foster + Partners projects "gathered in one display - a journey through the firm's 50-year history."
- Still in NYC, Scherer parses "Charles Percier: Architecture and Design in an Age of Revolutions" at the Bard Graduate Center Gallery that "explores the work of Napoleon's architect" and "his evolving style in all its cool grandeur."
- Darley lauds the V&A Micro Museum's "Planning the Dream" that showcases East London's Lansbury Estate, and "the contribution made by this modest pocket handkerchief of land to post-war development," and "a reminder of an era of social responsibility."
- Eyeiful of "Shifting Objectives: Design from the M+ Collection" in Hong Kong, the museum's first design show with exhibits that date from 1937 to now (check out Li Naihuan's human-scale replica of the CCTV building as a wardrobe!).
- Brussat x 2: he doesn't like 1 WTC, but Dupré's fascinating "One World Trade Center: Biography of the Building" takes "the widest look imaginable at an endeavor vital to the spiritual and emotional revival of the nation after 9/11. It is as big a book as its subject is tall."
- He cheers Lubell and Goldin's "Never Built New York" that is "chock-a-block with the sort of crash-and-burn modernist egotecture that Manhattan has wisely avoided countless times over the years, but, I'm afraid, not quite enough."
- Mattioli also cheers "Never Built New York": Goldin and Lubell "describe with irony, and sometimes nostalgia," the most significant projects "that would have drastically changed the city - but never did."
- Eyeiful from Harmon's "In You Are Here: NYC: Mapping the Soul of the City": over four centuries, the maps "grew less starry-eyed and idealistic, more satirical and dystopian."
- Mulder's "The City Beautiful" is the photographer's "homage" to Corbu's Chandigarh, India.

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Guggenheim Helsinki museum plans rejected by city councillors: After five-hour talks, councillors vote 53-32 to kill off €150m addition to Guggenheim museums in Venice and Bilbao: ...finally buried a controversial plan for a striking new shrine to modern and contemporary art on the city's waterfront...objectors said one of the Finnish capital's best locations...would have been handed over to a "McDonald's of art" ... -- Moreau Kusunoki Architectes [images]- Guardian (UK)

Ian Volner: Fool's Gold: The Architecture of Trump: the Trump Ocean Club International Hotel & Tower in Panama City [is] a fat, unlovable building that should probably be paying monthly royalties to the Burj Al Arab, the svelter sail-shaped tower in Dubai it attempts to impersonate...the great sin of the Trump Organization...has not been the consistent perpetration of bad architecture...The problem is one of attitude...all the company's buildings, good or bad, just don't care one way or the other...the more theres they build, the less there there is.- Artforum

Low-income housing doesn't affect nearby property value, says new study: Analysis of a decade of data in 20 major markets contradicts a common NIMBY argument: ...focused on the 20 most expensive metro areas...that have a need for additional affordable housing but often face significant local opposition. By Patrick Sisson -- Trulia- Curbed

Justine Harvey: Gold sanctuary: Bishop Selwyn Chapel: Fearon Hay Architects' design for a chapel at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell is an elegant and delightful sacred space: ...the most delightful, magical and poetic New Zealand building I've visited this year...some critics might argue that it required too large an investment...better spent on feeding the poor. But, I disagree...It is an important investment for Auckland's future: a vessel for people's memories and history - and it's beautiful.- ArchitectureNow (Architecture New Zealand)

In Jackson Park, private money begins to reshape a public jewel: ...parts...are expected to be taken over by a wave of development, including, most notably, the Obama presidential library...Much of it will be privately financed, triggering worries about whether the...landmark will remain...accessible to all...Cities accept private money...but cede some control over how they are designed and managed. -- Friends of the Park; Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. - Chicago Tribune

Golden Arches: See the glowing winner of this year's Flatiron Public Plaza Holiday Design Competition: ...relax in hammocks in the middle of 5th Avenue...part of "Flatiron Sky-Line," this year's winning installation... -- Van Alen Institute; Eleni Petaloti/Leonidas Trampouki/LOT [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

People power: Using crowdfunding as a way of getting a project off the ground can allow architects to be proactive, but it does have its pitfalls. Kath Hudson finds out the pros and cons from the people who've done it. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Studio Octopi; etc. [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Call for entries: 2016 Chicago Prize Competition: On The EDGE (international): visionary proposals for the Chicago's Lakefront; cash prizes; deadline: January 10, 2017- Chicago Architectural Club / Chicago Architecture Foundation

Call for entries: World Landscape Architecture/WLA Awards: an opportunity for landscape architects from all countries to be recognised on the world stage by their profession; earlybird deadline (save money!): December 31, 2016 (submissions due February 17, 2017)- World Landscape Architecture

Christopher Hawthorne: A vast Louis Kahn retrospective lands at the San Diego Museum of Art: "Louis Kahn: The Power of Architecture" ...[is] a pleasure to walk through, densely packed as it is with models, photographs and sketches...What the show doesn't do is reflect much of a desire to reassess...the relationship of his work...to that of his peers or his era...Kahn belonged, or was assigned, to an architectural category of one. -- Vitra [images]- Los Angeles Times

Carolina A. Miranda: Louis Kahn's Salk Institute, the building that guesses tomorrow, is aging - very, very gracefully: Its function may be for science, but Kahn's structures feel more like a temple to nature...confluence of events makes it a fine time to evaluate how the Salk, Kahn's masterpiece in our midst, is holding up. -- Luis Barragán [images]- Los Angeles Times

"Metrophysics": Ecological urbanism to the rescue? Michael Sorkin Studio and Terreform explore green cities at SCI-Arc: ...spanning from the mid-1990s through today...with its broad stylistic mantle and critical urban approach, [it] has the potential to inject a dose of inspiration for a university in transition and city searching for a new moral compass. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Sam Roberts: This Museum Show Explains Why New York Is So New Yorky: "New York at Its Core," the new permanent exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York is the culmination of an audacious curatorial gamble...The nexus of money, diversity, density and creativity that the exhibition embodies is what nurtured the regenerative core of the Big Apple... [images]- New York Times

Hearst Tower celebrates 10th anniversary with new Foster + Partners exhibit: "Building with History: The Exhibit" marks the first time the firm's projects will be gathered in one display, and features building models, master plans, and original sketches...a journey through [the firm's] 50-year history. [images]- Inhabitat

Barrymore Laurence Scherer: "Charles Percier: Architecture and Design in an Age of Revolutions": An exhibition at the Bard Graduate Center Gallery explores the work of Napoleon's architect: ...receiving his own spotlight in the thoughtfully conceived exhibition...first comprehensive survey of Percier's oeuvre...encourages us to study his evolving style in all its cool grandeur.- Wall Street Journal

Gillian Darley: Lessons from Lansbury: A new V&A Micro Museum exhibition in the heart of...Lansbury Estate showcases the ambitions of post war planning which should be a model for new housing: "Planning the Dream" highlights the contribution made by this modest pocket handkerchief of land to the post war development of London and beyond. Now sandwiched between gigantic developments...far beyond the means of almost all Londoners, it is a reminder of an era of social responsibility... [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Design demystified in Hong Kong show "Shifting Objectives: Design from the M+ Collection": ...has inaugurated its first design exhibition...featuring 120 of the 2,500 works of design and architecture it has collected in the past four years. The exhibits date from 1937 to now... -- Aric Chen [images]- South China Morning Post

David Brussat: 1 WTC's biography: Judith Dupré's fascinating "One World Trade Center: Biography of the Building"...The chapters unfold almost as a tale of suspense...the murky areas that snuggle unstated between the lines create a mounting frisson...it takes the widest look imaginable at an endeavor vital to the spiritual and emotional revival of the nation after 9/11...[it] is as big a book as its subject is tall.- Architecture Here and There

David Brussat: Unbuilt New York (Whew!): "Never Built New York" by Greg Goldin and Sam Lubell...illustrates profusely just how many bullets the city has dodged over the years...chock-a-block with the sort of crash-and-burn modernist egotecture that Manhattan has wisely avoided countless times over the years, but, I'm afraid, not quite enough.- Architecture Here and There

An Incredible Journey into the New York City that Never Was: In "Never Built New York," Greg Goldin and Sam Lubell...describe with irony, and sometimes nostalgia, the most significant architectural and planning projects...that would have drastically changed the city - but never did...Just as compelling as the extraordinary collections of drawings is the vivid language the authors use to tell the projects' stories. By Guglielmo Mattioli [images]- Metropolis Magazine

100 Years of Artists' Maps of New York City: Artists and designers through the ages have imposed their visions of the present and future on an always-changing New York. "In You Are Here: NYC: Mapping the Soul of the City," Katharine Harmon compiles 200 such maps, spanning four centuries...as the city grew ever more crowded, artists' maps...grew less starry-eyed and idealistic, more satirical and dystopian. [images]- Hyperallergic

A Photographer's Homage to an Architect's Modernist City: Martien Mulder's "The City Beautiful" is an exploration of the quiet weight of the relationship between light and space in Le Corbusier-designed Chandigarh, India.- New York Times

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