

Today's News - Wednesday, December 14, 2016

- Zeiger ponders what design strategies might be "robust enough to resist this new political climate. When taken up as a politicized, bottom-up practice, it is nothing less than an act of radical hope."
- Hyderabad-based architect Venugopal has some issues with the process around master-planning a new Indian state capital, and the decision to call for new tenders instead of committing to Maki's competition-winning plan: "the government's current thinking seemingly blurs the distinction between fantastic imagery and architecture."
- O'Sullivan parses the impressive statistics being touted for a proposed humongous casino outside of Madrid that has "politicians drooling" - but the numbers don't add up; it's the kind "magical thinking that helped pump up, then burst, Spain's property bubble in the first place."
- Case in point - Spain's really big white elephant: Eisenman's €475.9 million "hulking" City of Culture of Galicia; now there's a short film that "keenly depicts how this former symbol of civic pride and cultural robustness has faded."
- Betsky has a few issues with "the High Line Effect," with a new generation of parks, "now for yuppies," that may "do wonders for the value of the real estate around them," but "along the way, they reinforce the embedding of social injustice into our cities."
- Speaking of the High Line Effect: Melbourne's Greening the Pipeline pilot project is a grand plan to turn a derelict but heritage-listed sewer into a 27-kilometer linear park.
- Melbourne is also getting its second Hadid tower that replaces ARM Architecture's plan to convert a former police building into residential apartments.
- As long as we're Down Under: the \$1.5-billion International Convention Centre Sydney at Darling Harbour is ready for its close-up.
- The V&A plans to open a new gallery "devoted to 20th- and 21st-century international design" in the Maki-designed culture and arts center in Shekou, Shenzhen "as part of the newly established Design Society cultural platform."
- A sneak-peek inside the MGM National Harbor's casino that includes an iron gate, designed by Bob Dylan (yes, that Bob Dylan).
- Eyefuls of Radio Canada's new HQ in Montreal by BLTA and Quadrangle Architects.
- Green looks at new tech campuses blurring the line between work and home "that may filter out to other suburban corporate campuses in coming decades."
- Winston's Q&A with Meier re: NYC's latest skyscrapers ("an insult to the city"), the color white, Trump, women in architecture (that may upset some), building models, and more.
- Dickinson makes the case to include cost and budgets as "an integral part of architectural education and criticism" - otherwise, "design will continue to live in an aesthetic bubble and fall easy prey to bean counters" (and "growing irrelevance"). - Meanwhile, NCARB's new licensure program at 17 schools will allow architecture students to get licensed a lot faster.
- WELL and BREEAM align their standards "to make it easier for projects pursuing both standards."
- Eyefuls of the finalists in AECOM/Van Alen Institute's "Urban SOS: Fair Share" competition.
- Call for entries: Royal Architectural Institute of Canada \$100,000 Moriyma RAIC International Prize + Call for presentations for ASLA 2017 Annual Meeting in L.A. next October.

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[Mimi Zeiger: Design strategies robust enough to resist this new political climate have yet to emerge: Although optimism is wearing thin at the moment, could speculative design be an answer? ...Design is not glib optimism. When taken up as a politicised, bottom-up practice, it is nothing less than an act of radical hope. -- New Cities, Future Ruins - Dezeen](#)

[P. Venugopal: Designing Amaravati Needs Expert Guidance and an Inclusive Framework, Not Baahubali-like Fantasies: Planning and building a capital city...calls for enormous patience, long-term vision and due consultation...the government's current thinking seemingly blurs the distinction between fantastic imagery and architecture...decision \[to\] not engage Maki...reflects some tepidation...it's high time that the government of India considers setting up an inclusive expert advisory panel... -- Balakrishna Doshi; Fumihiko Maki; Richard Rogers \[images\] - The Wire \(India\)](#)

[Feargus O'Sullivan: A New Plan to Turn Madrid Into Europe's Las Vegas: A mega-casino project is promising to spark a hiring and tourism boom, but it may not have learned from past mistakes: The idea is that it could lure up to 1.6 million annual visitors...It's no wonder that figures like this have got politicians drooling, but the project's exclamation point isn't the only dubious detail of Live! Resorts' makeup...has an eerily familiar ring to it...This is the sort of magical thinking that helped pump up, then burst, Spain's property bubble in the first place. - CityLab \(formerly The Atlantic Cities\)](#)

[White Elephant: Peter Eisenman's Ambitious "City of Culture of Galicia" Fades Into Ruin: More than 15 years after its inception, \[the\] hulking cultural complex Ciudad da Cultura de Galicia sits incomplete and empty...€475.9 million project...came to be regarded as a symbol of excess and vanity during strained economic times...ENTR_ECOT's short film of the project keenly depicts how this former symbol of civic pride and cultural robustness has faded from its former glory. - Architizer / urbanNext .net](#)

[Aaron Betsky: The High Line Effect: Big surprise: Parks are now for yuppies...do wonders for the value of the real estate around them, which...is not where working-class people live...Most of the new generation of semiprivate yuppie parks do create both social and environmental benefits. The problem is that, along the way, they reinforce the embedding of social injustice into our physical urban fabric. -- Ross Barney Architects; Sasaki Associates; Thomas Heatherwick; Ryan Gravel; Gehry Partners \[images\] - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Disused sewer to become 27km linear park: The Greening the Pipeline pilot project...in Melbourne's west. Inspired by New York's famed High Line...covers a 100-metre section of the heritage-listed Main Outfall Sewer...Once completed, proponents will begin seeking funding for the next stage of the project - a five-kilometre section... -- Henry Architects; GHD; Arup \[images\] - ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

[Zaha Hadid Architects wins second Melbourne project: ...on the site of the former Victoria Police headquarters...The Mayfair...21-storey tower replaces a previous scheme to convert the former police building into residential apartments, designed by ARM Architecture... -- Elenberg Fraser \[images\] - ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

[International Convention Centre Sydney opens: ...at Darling Harbour...\\$1.5-billion, 250,000-square-metre development...now the largest exhibition space in Australia...ICC Sydney replaced the Sydney Convention Centre...and the Sydney Exhibition Centre...less than 30 years old at the time...demolished to make way for the new centre. -- John Andrews; Cox Richardson/Taylor & Partners \(1988\); Hassell; Populous \[images\] - ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

[V&A Museum Reveals Opening Plans for New Gallery in China: ...devoted to 20th and 21st century international design...in the Sea World Culture and Arts Center in Shekou, Shenzhen as part of the newly established Design Society cultural platform. -- Maki and Associates \[images\] - Artinfo](#)

[Inside MGM National Harbor's casino, atrium, and retail options: Sneak a peek...more than just a 308-room hotel...The entrance of the casino is decorated with an iron gate, known as "Portals," that was designed by...Bob Dylan. -- Eddie Abeyta/HKS Hospitality Group; SmithGroupJJR \[images\] - Curbed DC \(Washington, DC\)](#)

[Béique Legault Thuot Architectes \(BLTA\) and Quadrangle Architects part of consortium to design new Maison Radio-](#)

Canada in Montreal: ...will be built in the parking lot east of the broadcaster's existing building... features include clear and simple wayfinding, interconnected spaces with the public and ample natural light on all floors. [images]- Canadian Architect

Jared Green: New Tech Campuses Blur Line Between Work and Home: ...leading tech companies are trying to hold on to their top talent by creating exciting little bits of urban life in suburban environments...that may filter out to other suburban corporate campuses in coming decades. -- BNIM; Design Workshop; SWA Group [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Anna Winston: New York's latest skyscrapers are "disrespectful to the whole city" says Richard Meier: [NYC] is losing its character...latest towers are an insult to the city..."This is not Kuala Lumpur"...Do you think that cities like New York and London have an obligation to ask architects to create something that is for the social good? "I think they do." [images]- Dezeen

Duo Dickinson: Is Cost Architecture's Weakest Link To Reality? Unless budgets become an integral part of architectural education and criticism, design will continue to live in an aesthetic bubble and fall easy prey to bean counters...It's easy for us to blame cheap clients for poor outcomes, but that's a cop-out - and represents the worst in us: aggressive condescension from a place of growing irrelevance.- Common Edge

Architecture students at 17 schools will get licensed quicker with help from NCARB's new licensure program, IPAL [Integrated Path to Architectural Licensure]: ...promises to streamline the architectural licensure process...by incorporating the Architectural Experience Program into the curriculum...Initiated by NCARB, the in-school program will enable students to also take the ARE. - Archinect

WELL and BREEAM to align standards: The goal is to make it easier for projects pursuing both standards. -- International WELL Building Institute (IWBI) and BRE (Building Research Establishment)- Building Design + Construction (BD+C)

Finalists For "Urban SOS: Fair Share" Competition: ... invited students to apply the tools and technologies of the sharing economy to create more equitable access to resources, sustainable built environments and enriched lives for urban residents. -- WELP (Waste Help System), Durban, South Africa; The Living City, Athens, Greece; First Class Meal, Los Angeles; En Comúna, Quito, Ecuador -- AECOM; Van Alen Institute [images]- World Landscape Architecture

Call for entries: Royal Architectural Institute of Canada 2017 Moriyma RAIC International Prize (\$100,000); deadline: March 8, 2017 - Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

Call for entries: Call for Presentations for ASLA 2017 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, October 20 - 23, 2017; deadline: February 1, 2017 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)



Henning Larsen Architects: Frederiksbjerg School, Aarhus, Denmark: ...a collaboration with GPP Arkitekter...it strives to set the bar for future educational buildings...a primary school version 2.0...designing the interior of the building as a tremendous playground. [images]

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