

Today's News - Thursday, December 22, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Happy Every-Holiday-There-Is to everyone! (We heard the number of holidays this time of year is somewhere in the mid-20s - who knew!) We're heading into our own Holiday Hiatus, and plan to return Tuesday, January 3rd (though if we're overwhelmed with news in the interim, we might post once or twice next week). May 2017 be filled with grand adventures and great expectations fulfilled!!!

- Florida considers whether Jane Jacobs predicted "the Age of Trump" in "Dark Age Ahead" that now "serves as a survivors' guide to a world where facts have no meaning," and "society falls victims to the whims of 'frauds, brutes, and psychopaths.'"
- Lina Sergie Attar, an architect who grew up in Aleppo, considers "what's been lost from Aleppo's 'magical' Old City."
- Odogwu cheers the Nigerian Institute of Architects "going green" with the Waste to Wealth initiative, but "wonders if all the practitioners understand the green potential of their profession."
- Miller finds out why Scherabon gave up architecture to become a data designer: He "wanted to communicate the inequality of cities rather than contribute to it. His work - even while relaying the most depressing information - conveys a certain optimism."
- Borges considers: "What happened to the future? When did we decide that the present was the best we were going to get?" (ambition and arrogance included).
- Glancey offers a glimpse of a "quietly exciting new generation of churches, mosques, temples, and chapels where architecture discovers that still point in a fast spinning world offering true solace and peace."
- Bell rounds up new museums opening in 2017 that will "redraw the world's culture map."
- The new ICC Sydney "may have gotten off to a rocky start," but it "opened its doors to the world with its head held high" as an "undeniably a city-shaping project."
- Diamond Schmitt has big plans to revamp a 1932 Art Deco former industrial structure in Toronto into "a bustling mixed-use hub for the city's rapidly growing downtown community."
- Schmidt Hammer Lassen's (amazing) Dokk1 library in Aarhus, Denmark, is a community hub that "merges old and new concepts of how a public place for learning should function."
- Dykers explains the "psychology of the new Times Square - well-placed obstacles is the key to unlocking the potential of a space."
- A fabulous round-up of "30 Moments in Lighting" celebrating Architectural Lighting Magazine's 30th anniversary (Turrell and night skies included!).
- Call for entries: Arnold W. Brunner Grant (open to U.S. citizens).
- Weekend diversions:
- Ciampaglia cheers the documentary "Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future": "the core of the film is [son] Eric's search for closure with his father," and "taps into a kind of cosmic poetry that's unexpected, expansive, and beautiful" (airing on PBS December 27 - we've seen it - it's a must-see!).
- Saarinen and Koolhaas documentaries by their sons "are not just interesting explorations of familial relationships and architectural works, but visually arresting films that aim to transform their parent's works."
- We want to go play at the National Gallery of Victoria's "Haven't you always wanted...?" in Melbourne - "a playful reinvention of the suburban car wash" where Melburnians can "gather, play and daydream."
- Filler fills us in on seven new books about Brutalism: "the rehabilitation of a once-reviled phase in the building art is underway," though "some older observers will see this fascination as the return of the repressed, a reminder of why Brutalism fell into disfavor and disrepute in the first place."
- Dwyre calls "Thinking the Contemporary Landscape" a "must-read" book that "explores the divides within landscape architecture and urban design."
- Schwab cheers "Francis Kéré: Radically Simple": "Unlike world-famous, media-savvy architects - his work stays remarkably rooted in his own biography and identity."
- Barber and Walker round up the 16 "urban-focused books perfect for young urbanists - and their design-savvy parents" (we probably couldn't handle the "heart-wrenching story of two polar bears").

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Richard Florida: Did Jane Jacobs Predict the Rise of Trump? Ever prescient, ["Dark Age Ahead"] outlined a coming dark age - and how to get through it: ...she ominously predicted a coming age of urban crisis, mass amnesia, and populist backlash ...serves as a survivors' guide to the Age of Trump...a world where every new outrage quickly leads to another, where facts have no meaning...society falls victims to the whims of "frauds, brutes, and psychopaths." - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

What's been lost from Aleppo's 'magical' Old City: Lina Sergie Attar, a writer and architect who grew up in Aleppo, remembers a city that has been nearly lost after years of conflict. - PRI / Public Radio International

Greg Odogwu: Nigerian Institute of Architects going green: When the Minister of Environment...received the leadership of the NIA...it was a paradigm-shifting event...it is only a few that are aware of the value that architects can add...In fact, one wonders if all the practitioners understand the green potential of their profession...Waste to Wealth initiative. -- Tonye Oliver Braide- Punch (Nigeria)

Meg Miller: To Tackle Big Urban Issues, This Architect Became A Data Designer: Herwig Scherabon wanted to communicate the inequality of cities rather than contribute to it: [He] remembers the exact moment that he no longer wanted to be a practicing architect...The experience led him to question the ethical implications of his career...His work is thoughtful, considered, and completely compelling, even while relaying the most depressing information. It conveys a certain optimism... [images]- Fast Company / Co.Design

Sofia Borges: Hobbit holes and sci-fi monuments: Ingenious visions of the future: What happened to the future? When did we decide that the present was the best we were going to get? We were promised a better future and we received the present day instead. (excerpt from "The Tale of Tomorrow: Utopian Architecture in the Modernist Realm") -- Bruce Goff; John Lautner; Antti Lovag; Ricardo Bofill; Moshe Safdie; etc. [images]- CNN Style

Jonathan Glancey: Designing for God: An architect's guide from opulence to modesty: ...the most moving and attractive new places of worship are notably modest...this quietly exciting new generation of churches, mosques, temples and chapels where architecture discovers that still point in a fast spinning world offering true solace and peace. -- Emre Arolat Architects; EMC Arquitectura; Niall McLaughlin; etc. [images]- CNN Style

Jonathan Bell: New museums opening in 2017: Redrawing the world's culture map: ...a host of cities and countries getting their first major modern art gallery...from South Africa to Canada and Abu Dhabi. -- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Studio Architektoniczne Kwadrat; Amanda Levete/AL\_A; Snøhetta; Heatherwick Studio; SmithGroupJJR; Studio KO; architectsAlliance; Jean Nouvel; Aranguren & Gallegos Arquitectos; Youssef Haidar; MET Studio [images]- The Spaces (UK)

A new Sydney gem: International Convention Centre Sydney by Hassell + Populous: It may have gotten off to a rocky start, but the new ICC Sydney opened its doors to the world...with its head held high...Although it may not have won over every critic, [it] is undeniably a city-shaping project...breathing new life into the once tired Darling Harbour landscape...With a hefty \$1.5 billion price tag, the precinct's real challenge...begins now. [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Diamond Schmitt Architects to Revamp Historic Toronto Site: ...transforming a historic industrial structure into a bustling mixed-use hub for the city's rapidly growing downtown community...Waterworks...will emphasize its urban context within the constraints of the Art Deco-style building from 1932. [images]- Contract magazine

[A Library From the Future Arrives In Denmark: In Aarhus, Dokk1 merges old and new concepts of how a public place for learning should function: ...is more than Scandinavia's largest library - it's a community hub that meets the changing needs of Denmark's second largest city. -- Schmidt Hammer Lassen \[images\]- CityLab \(formerly The Atlantic Cities\)](#)

[The Psychology of the New Times Square: ...well-placed obstacles is the key to unlocking the potential of a space, to giving people...the freedom to follow their instincts and shape the space for themselves. -- Craig Dykers/Snøhetta- The New Yorker](#)

[AL 30th Anniversary Issue: 30 Moments in Lighting: The Influence of James Turrell; Transformation of the Night; Light Pollution and the Night Sky; The Energy Crisis of the 70s; Nobel Prize for the Discovery of the Blue LED; etc. By Elizabeth Donoff, Derek Porter, Randy Burkett, Mariana G. Figueiro, Glenn Shrum, Mark Rea, Mark Loeffler/Atelier Ten- Architectural Lighting Magazine](#)

[Call for entries: Arnold W. Brunner Grant \(U.S. citizens\); single award of up to \\$15,000 for advanced architectural investigation that will effectively contribute to the knowledge, teaching or practice of the art and science of architecture; deadline: February 1, 2017- Center For Architecture Foundation](#)

[Dante A. Ciampaglia: PBS Documentary Explores the Life and Work of Eero Saarinen: ...emotional thicket of appreciation and resentment, of celebration and pain, is at the heart of "Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future"...\[airs\] December 27. Directed by Peter Rosen, with cinematography by Eric Saarinen...the core of the film is Eric's search for closure with his father...taps into a kind of cosmic poetry that's unexpected, expansive, and beautiful. \[videos\]- Architectural Record](#)

[Fathers, Sons, & Architecture: Eric Saarinen and Tomas Koolhaas have both produced visually-stimulating architectural documentaries that give unique insight into their parents' minds and works...The results are not just interesting explorations of familial relationships and architectural works, but visually arresting films that aim to transform their parent's works..."Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future" and "Rem"- Metropolis Magazine](#)

["Haven't you always wanted...?" at NGV, Melbourne: As part of its 2016 Architecture Commission show, the National Gallery of Victoria has on display a playful reinvention of the suburban car wash...a place for Melburnians to gather, play and daydream. -- M@ STUDIO Architects \[images\]- Artinfo](#)

[Martin Filler: The Brutal Dreams That Came True: ...several new books indicate that the rehabilitation of \[a\] once-reviled phase in the building art is underway...what was once underappreciated or even despised...often attains new value when its existence is threatened...Brutalism could bring out the best in lesser architect...Some older observers will see this fascination with grandiosity and ugliness as the return of the repressed, a reminder of why Brutalism fell into disfavor and disrepute in the first place.- New York Review of Books](#)

[Cathryn Dwyre: Solid Landing: A new must-read book explores the divides within landscape architecture and urban design: "Thinking the Contemporary Landscape," a 17-essay collection, attempts to set up a discourse between opposing ideologies...the diversity of this volume evidences a fraught world in need of urban design leadership, solutions for the anxious environment of climate change, and rethinking the future of landscape's territory and meaning in the 21st century.- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Katharine Schwab: The Architecture Of Radical Simplicity: A new monograph collects the brilliant, community-focused work of African architect Francis Kéré: Unlike world-famous, media-savvy architects...his work stays remarkably rooted in his own biography and identity; "Francis Kéré: Radically Simple"- Fast Company / Co.Design](#)

[Megan Barber and Alissa Walker: The 16 best kids' books about design and cities: New urban-focused books perfect for young urbanists - and their design-savvy parents. "The Brownstone" by Paula Scher, illus. by Stan Mack; "Roberto: the Insect Architect" by Nina Laden; "Listen! Listen!" by Ann & Paul Rand; etc.- Curbed](#)



[Zaha Hadid Architects: Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, American University of Beirut, Lebanon: ...melds local traditions with innovative geometries, creating an architectural manifestation of the Institute's ideals of opportunity, pluralism, creativity and tolerance. By Jason Dibbs \[images\]](#)

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