

## Today's News - Friday, September 23, 2011

- Weinstein offers a meditation on three must-read books that "are proof positive that despite the omnipresence of AutoCAD and BIM, pencils refuse to die!"
- Goldberger rarely comments on unbuilt projects, but he makes an exception in the case of Apple's Cupertino HQ to ponder "why is Foster's design troubling, maybe even a bit scary?" (a touch of "imperial hubris" perhaps?).
- Big plans to turn a 54 blighted acres on Long Island into a new hub where people can work, live and shop without a car using "form-based zoning" which emphasizes design rather than density.
- An eyeful of "starchitects on parade" in a sleepy vineyard in Provence ("Gehry and Ando and Nouvel, oh my!").
- Is architecture best taught by practicing architects? Yes, says Gordon Murray; no says Kevin Rhowbotham.
- A stellar shortlist of home-grown and international talent vies for Olympic Park Legacy project.
- Serie Architects wins a seriously huge project in China.
- Call for entries: SBIC 2011 Beyond Green High-Performance Building Awards.
- Weekend diversions:
- Hawthorne peruses the 1989 "Blueprints for Modern Living" that looked at the "giant, complex legacy of the Case Study program": the "houses were sublime. As prototypes, they were lousy."
- Huxtable hails the "subtle heresies" in "The American Style," a "small, unorthodox exhibition" at the Museum of the City of New York.
- Anderton lines up a notable array to talk about "Pacific Standard Time" that showcases (here, there, and everywhere) everything from "indoor-outdoor living to radical ceramicists and lifestyle lessons from Barbie.
- An eyeful of highlights from Hadid's "Form in Motion" show in Philly.
- The Nevada Museum of Art "investigates the shifting terrains of architectural invention."
- The CCA's "Modernism in Miniature" explores the encounter between photography and architectural model-making between 1920 -1960."
- An eyeful of Palladio in Pittsburgh: "His giant footprints are everywhere."
- Melbourne's Pin-Up gallery offers "Graphic Architecture," a collection of "resonant printed matter connected to the field of architecture."
- Here's to PoMo power: quips and quotes from just about everybody re: the V&A's "Postmodernism: Style and Subversion" (some great slide shows, and poor Philip Johnson gets most of the blame) - musings that are definitely worth spending some time with.

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**Book Review: Pencils that Refuse to Die: Meditations about New Books on Architectural Drawing: Three recent books dealing with architectural drawing by pencil you need to read.** By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

**Apple's New Headquarters: ...it's hard not to comment on the new headquarters that Apple plans to build in Cupertino, California...So why is Foster's design troubling, maybe even a bit scary? ...there seems to be very little sense of any connection to human size...When companies plan wildly ambitious, over-the-top headquarters, it is sometimes a sign of imperial hubris.** By Paul Goldberger -- Foster + Partners; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Johnson Burgee; Kevin Roche; Renzo Piano- New Yorker

**Turning a Blighted Area in Central Suffolk County Into a Hub: The Brookhaven town supervisor envisions turning 54 acres into a new hub where people can work, live and shop without a car...using "form-based zoning," which emphasizes design rather than density, and which elicits community engagement from the outset... -- Vision Long Island; Jason Duckworth- New York Times**

**Starchitects on Parade: How a sleepy vineyard in Provence landed the biggest names in architecture...Le Puy-Sainte-Réparate...most of the work commissioned by a single patron. -- Jean Nouvel; Frank Gehry; Tadao Ando; Oscar Niemeyer; Norman Foster; Renzo Piano [slide show essay]- New York Times Magazine**

**Is architecture best taught by practising architects? Yes, says Gordon Murray, practitioners understand the design process best; but Kevin Rhowbotham feels it may already too late to salvage a sinking discipline- BD/Building Design (UK)**

**Designers for Olympic Park shortlisted: "We have a dynamic mix of international and home grown talent..." -- Agence Ter; Gustafson Porter; James Corner Field Operations; Ken Smith Landscape Architect; West 8; Cottrell & Vermeulen Architecture; David Kohn Architects; Erect Architecture; The Landscape Partnership; Ushida Findlay Architects- London24 (UK)**

**Serie Architects civic centre triumphs in China: ...has won a competition to design the Wuxi Xishan Civic Centre... [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)**

**Call for entries: SBIC 2011 Beyond Green™ High-Performance Building Awards to recognize buildings, initiatives and products that shape, inform and catalyze the high-performance building market; deadline: November 15- Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC)**

**Reading L.A.: The giant, complex legacy of the Case Study program: Consider this installment the All-Star Game of the series..."Blueprints for Modern Living: History and Legacy of the Case Study Houses" [1989]...the Case Study houses were sublime. As prototypes, they were lousy. By Christopher Hawthorne -- John Entenza; Charles and Ray Eames; Richard Neutra; Julius Ralph Davidson; Raphael Soriano; Pierre Koenig; A. Quincy Jones; Craig Eilwood; Gregory Ain; Harwell Hamilton Harris [images, links]- Los Angeles Times**

**Symbols of Our Nation: A small, unorthodox exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York, "The American Style: Colonial Revival and the Modern Metropolis," has a large agenda: to restore the reputation of a tradition discarded by modernists as irrelevant and expendable...The show's subtle heresies start almost immediately. By Ada Louise Huxtable -- Donald Albrecht; Thomas Mellins; McKim, Mead & White; Carrère and Hastings; Peter Pennoyer- Wall Street Journal**

**DnA/Frances Anderton: Back to the Future: Design in "Pacific Standard Time": From indoor-outdoor living to radical ceramicists and lifestyle lessons from Barbie, Pacific Standard Time is showcasing it all..."Living In a Modern Way: California Design 1930—1965"... "Eames Words" -- Julius Shulman; Craig Hodgetts/Ming Fung/Hodgetts + Fung; Deborah Sussman/Sussman/Prejza; Johnson Favro; etc. [images, links]- KCRW (Los Angeles)**

**Zaha Hadid Takes Design for a Whirl: See Highlights From the Starchitect's New Philadelphia Museum of Art Exhibition "Zaha Hadid: Form in Motion"...in a space designed by Hadid's own team... [slide show]- Artinfo**

**"Landscape Futures: Instruments, Devices and Architectural Inventions" investigates the shifting terrains of architectural invention, where the construction of new spatial devices...from the inhabitable to the portable, can uncover previously inaccessible aspects of the built and natural environments. -- David Benjamin & Soo-in Yang/The Living; Mark Smout & Laura Allen/Smout Allen; David Gissen, Mason White & Lola Sheppard/Lateral Office; Geoff Manaugh [images]- Nevada Museum of Art**

"Modernism in Miniature: Points of View" at the Canadian Centre for Architecture explores the encounter between photography and architectural model-making between 1920 -1960....provokes questions about the relationship between media in architectural culture and the specific impact of photography on the perception of the miniature. [images]- Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)

Palladio and Pittsburgh: 16th-century architect's influence at every corner: ...there is no architect -- anytime, anywhere - who has so influenced the history of buildings. His giant footprints are everywhere...if you really want to get to know Palladio...then go to the Heinz Architecture Center...special exhibit..."Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey." By John Conti [slide show]- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

"Graphic Architecture" at Pin-Up Architecture and Design Project Space in Melbourne: curated by Warren Taylor from The Narrows...draws from Taylor's own collection with local and international contributions of resonant printed matter connected to the field of architecture. -- Architectural Association School of Architecture; Experimental Jetset; Karel Martens; Fabio Ongarato Design; Archigram; Milton Glaser; Tomato; AMO; etc.- Architecture & Design (Australia)

PoMo power: the return of postmodernism: The iconic style of the 70s and 80s is back, with a V&A show and a new generation of architects flirting with its pluralist concepts...It had to happen. Postmodernism...which seemed to give form to the consuming excess of the Reagan-Thatcher years and which the architecture and design world then dumped as summarily as a herpes-ridden lover -- is back. By Rowan Moore -- Charles Jencks; Edouard François; Terry Farrell; Philip Johnson; Michael Graves; Denise Scott Brown; Robert Venturi [slide show]- Observer (UK)

Has postmodernist design eaten itself? Gaudy and irreverent, postmodernism was once an iconic chapter in design history. Now it sells gimmicky corkscrews. Can the V&A's forthcoming retrospective tell us why? ...was it really so bad? ...revivalism seems to be one of the permanent legacies of postmodernism. Retro has become a perpetual condition...proving a difficult habit to kick. By Justin McGuirk -- Ettore Sottsass; Robert Venturi; Denise Scott Brown; Michael Graves; John Portman; Frank Gehry; Peter Shire; Michele De Lucchi; Marco Zanini; Philip Johnson [images]- Guardian (UK)

Postmodernism at the V&A ... more than ironic teapots and ugly chairs: The presentation is noisy, disjointed, crowded, clever, at once slick and messy, elegant and cacophonous, complex and enervating. Phew...high art and low design, lofty ambitions and walking-dead aspirations...Postmodernity isn't over yet, even if the word itself...is toxic. By Adrian Searle -- James Wines/SITE; Frank Gehry; Terry Farrell- Guardian (UK)

You can't be serious: Postmodernism was meant to offer liberation from modernism's chilly rigour. Instead, it became a byword for kitsch and empty irony. Can the V&A's autumn blockbuster rescue the movement's reputation? ...Buildings that look like toys. Teapots that look like buildings..."Modernism was the transparent window, but postmodernism is the shattered mirror." And we are still picking up the pieces. -- Paula Scher/Pentagram; Philip Johnson- Financial Times (UK)

Postmodernism is dead: A new exhibition signals the end of postmodernism. But what was it? And what comes next? ...on 24 September, we can officially and definitively declare that postmodernism is dead. Finished. History...How do I know this? Because that is the date when the Victoria and Albert Museum opens what it calls "the first comprehensive retrospective" in the world: "Postmodernism—Style and Subversion 1970-1990." By Edward Docx -- Philip Johnson- Prospect magazine (UK)

Postmodernism: the 10 key moments in the birth of a movement: Postmodernism is the star of a new exhibition at the V&A, but what's it all about? What are its landmarks? And why is it so heavy on the irony? The modern world died at 3.32pm in St Louis, Missouri, on 15 July 1972...After Pruitt Igoe fell, a new architecture arose. -- Charles Jencks; James Stirling- Guardian (UK)

One-on-One: Architecture that leads to a point: Interview with Daniel Libeskind: "Every building, every city should have a story." By Vladimir Belogolovsky- ArchNewsNow



-- Arata Isozaki & Anish Kapoor: ARK NOVA, A Tribute to Higashi Nihon, Japan  
-- Herzog & de Meuron: Stade Bordeaux Atlantique, Bordeaux, France

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