

Today's News - Monday, December 12, 2011

- ArcSpace brings us the Steel and Silver Huts at the Toyo Ito Museum of Architecture in Japan.
- Berg contemplates "what the 2012 TED Prize Means for The City 2.0."
- Zandberg is taken with a final thesis by a landscape architecture major who dealt with the "settlements of the so-called Bedouin diaspora" that "should not be seen as targets for demolition, but rather as spaces that deserve redefinition and organization for the benefit of their residents."
- Scotland's new Maggie's Centres are "small but perfectly formed constructions" that aim "to make sure people do not lose the joy of living in the fear of dying."
- LaBarre on the firestorm brewing over MVRDV's design for luxury residential skyscrapers in South Korea (for the DreamHub development master planned by Libeskind): does the "pixelated cloud" resemble the twin towers exploding on 9/11?
- Li looks at how and why AIAANY "has increasingly been involved in the social and living impacts of urban planning and architecture."
- We wonder if there were any activist architects at Occupy Broadway that wants to reclaim New York City's Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) \_ terrific slide show with PPS's Kent pointing out the good, the bad, and the useless.
- Doig digs plans for underground parks in a long-abandoned subway and trolley tunnels: could "the basement the new penthouse?"
- Moore makes his pick of the best architecture of 2011 (and "a strong field of turkeys").
- Glancey's review of the week in architecture includes cheers for Hertzberger's RIBA Gold Medal, and "Germany's walkable rollercoaster" that is "loopily lovable."
- Wainwright cheers winner of the Windermere Steamboat Museum competition "to house dear old Dolly and the swanky Esperance."
- Campbell has some very nice (and some very not-so-nice) things to say about Stern's new Harvard Law building: it's "a little pompous and a little dull...blandly handsome in its stiff-shirted, slightly overfed way," but "it's a good building" (sounds like a lot of lawyers we know).
- Rochon cheers Safdie's first residential tower in Toronto that proves "when intelligent rigor is applied to a promising design, architecture sparkles not only for the people who live inside but also for the public walking by."
- Meanwhile, Safdie's U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, is an "open, light-filled design that befits an organization dedicated to the better angels of our nature."
- Queensland's Gold Coast gives the green light to a \$950 million triple-tower resort.
- Slevin looks to Architecture Research Office and Gustafson Guthrie Nichol folks for answers to "the profound question: why is this year different than any other year (or why was it the same)?"
- Appleyard meets Heatherwick, "whose quirky style points to a new kind of architecture...not the old modernist hero-architect hiding behind a mask of whimsy."
- ASAP is a new model for collecting and chronicling architecture; it launches tonight in Manhattan (perhaps we'll see some of you there!).

If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be?

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[Toyo Ito Museum of Architecture: Steel Hut & Silver Hut, Imabari, Japan](#)

[What the 2012 TED Prize Means for The City 2.0: The decision to award the generalized city is meant...to get a community of thinkers involved in coming up with new ideas to embrace and improve our urban world. By Nate Berg- The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Right to life: Unrecognized Bedouin settlements should not be seen as targets for demolition, but rather as spaces that deserve redefinition and organization for the benefit of their residents. By Esther Zandberg -- Noa Tal- Ha'aretz \(Israel\)](#)

[How Maggie's Centres built a design for life: ...two new Maggie's on the way for Scotland...These small but perfectly formed constructions...despite their very different designs, the aim of each building is the same – to make sure people do not lose the joy of living in the fear of dying. -- Frank Gehry; Zaha Hadid; Maggie Keswick Jencks; Charles Jencks; Page|Park Architects; Reich and Hall- The Scotsman \(UK\)](#)

[Do These Skyscrapers Look Like The Twin Towers Exploding? MVRDV Responds: ...architects describe a pair of luxury residential skyscrapers \[The Cloud\]...in South Korea as rising through a "pixelated cloud." Others say the buildings look like the twin towers exploding on 9/11..."We are highly surprised by the reactions...there was no intention to create a resemblance to 9/11 or hurt anybody's feelings"... By Suzanne LaBarre \[images, links\]- Fast Company](#)

[Building New York: AIAANY On Designing a Better Future: ...design has remained the lynchpin for the organization, but it has increasingly been involved in the social and living impacts of urban planning and architecture..."achieving changes that aren't just motivated by profit motive"... By Roland Li -- Rick Bell; Young-Hwan Choi/Sarah Khan/Andre Cortes; Frank Gehry; Swanke Hayden Connell; Christian de Portzamparc; Rafael Vinoly; Foster + Partners \[images, links\]- International Business Times](#)

[At Occupy Broadway, A Theatrical Plan To Reclaim New York City's Public Spaces: The point? To reclaim the more than 500 privately-owned spaces...created for public use..Known officially as Privately Owned Public Spaces \(POPS\) and colloquially as "bonus plazas"... "People are excited about this ugly, not-very-feng-shui bonus plaza because we're using it"... Fred Kent/Project for Public Spaces; Jerold Kayden; Mitchell Moss \[slide show\]- Huffington Post](#)

[Underground: The next urban frontier: Parks, Apple stores and even skyscrapers are heading beneath the earth. Is the basement the new penthouse? Proponents of landscape infrastructure assert that every inch of a city can be used...It's a school of thought that's gaining traction — both above the surface and below it. By Will Doig -- Dan Barasch/James Ramsey/Delancey Underground; Braulio Agnese/Dupont Underground; Matthew Fromboluti/OX Studio \[links\]- Salon](#)

[The best architecture of 2011: It was the year of pop-ups and postmodernism — and the playful Frank Gehry went sky high...a strong field of turkeys... By Rowan Moore -- Peter Zumthor; David Chipperfield; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Adam Khan; O'Donnell and Tuomey; Assemble; Rafael Viñoly- Observer \(UK\)](#)

[Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: ...architecture awards enjoy an office romance, Germany's walkable rollercoaster is loopily lovable, and a new exhibition shows us light at the end of the Tube...RIBA's President's Medals Student Awards 2011... By Jonathan Glancey -- Herman Hertzberger; Kibwe Tavares; Basimah Kaki; Hannah Robertson; Heike Mutter/Ulrich Genth \[images, links\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[London architects win Lake District Windermere Steamboat Museum contest: Practice which took the Young Architect of the Year award in 2007 beats seven others to house dear old Dolly and the swanky Esperance. By Martin Wainwright -- Carmody Groarke \[images\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[A Robert A.M. Stern building embodies tradition at Harvard Law: ...building is a little pompous and a little dull. Maybe that's](#)

the image the law school wants to project...From the point of view of urban design, Threepeat has some virtues...interiors are posh and predictable...One hopes that the students...will mess things up a little...It's blandly handsome in its stiff-shirted, slightly overfed way...It's a good building. By Robert Campbell [images]- Boston Globe

Safdie building will bring new sophistication to East Bayfront: The \$200-million Monde...is the architect's first foray into the coveted Toronto residential market...when intelligent rigour is applied to a promising design, architecture sparkles not only for the people who live inside but also for the public walking by. By Lisa Rochon -- Moshe Safdie; Janet Rosenberg [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

New on the National Mall: A Fitting Monument to Peacemaking: ...new headquarters of the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP)...a rags-to-riches story...open, light-filled design befits an organization dedicated to the better angels of our nature...has the grandeur of a typical D.C. landmark but exhibits an airiness unusual in the stone slabs of the city's monuments. By Katherine Gustafson- Huffington Post

Triple-tower approved on Gold Coast: DBI Design and Oppenheim Architecture+Design: A \$950m triple-tower resort with 45 levels named the Jewel has been given the green light at Surfers Paradise on Queensland's Gold Coast. -- DBI Design; Chad Oppenheim [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Economy and Technology Steering Winners of Cooper Hewitt's National Design Awards: As we approach the end of 2011, more and more attention will be applied towards answering the profound question: why is this year different than any other year (or why was it the same)? ...Architecture Research Office (ARO) and Gustafson Guthrie Nichol (GGN) on this matter. By Jacob Slevin [slide show]- Huffington Post

The Designer Who Makes Buildings: He makes pavilions from seeds and breathes life into buses. Bryan Appleyard meets Thomas Heatherwick, whose quirky style points to a new kind of architecture...clearly a tough, strategic thinker, not the old modernist hero-architect hiding behind a mask of whimsy. -- Heatherwick Studio [images]- The Economist / Intelligent Life (UK)

Tina di Carlo, ASAP: A new model for collecting and chronicling architectural acts, the Archive of Spatial Aesthetics and Praxis launches on December 12 in New York...collects objects, texts and ephemera and digital media. -- Danielle Rago; Jerszy Seymour; Alex Schweder La; Bjarke Ingels [images]- Domus

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