Today's News - Wednesday, April 25, 2012

- The AlA, ASLA, APA, and others have high hopes the new National Academy of Environmental Design will "improve the visibility of the professions among policymakers," and "help bolster 'evidence-based practice' among more designers."
- On a not-so-high note, the U.K.'s Architecture Centre Network is ending its 11-year run with hopes its 19 architecture center members will "still have an influence on local design."
- The winer of the MIPIM's regeneration and master plan award talks about his urban transformation project in Istanbul and "the struggle of Turks with skyscrapers."
- A crime-riddled, impoverished Cape Town settlement is using architecture and landscape architecture to create safer, more positive environments the "project is a welcome reminder that it's never too late to have hope in the power of design."
- Lange ponders new plans for NYC's South Street Seaport: "if the criterion for demolition in a historic district is a new building of equal significance, I do not think the new Pier 17 rises to that level (And what's wrong with a little color?)."
- · L.A.'s MyFigueroa project is back on track 'to pave the way for the city's most innovative pedestrian and bicycle environments."
- · Meanwhile, the city's semi-annual CicLAvia "is prompting Angelinos to alter their mental maps and reimagine the urban future."
- · Corner wows them in Seattle, talking about design, his post-High Line life, and how "a landscape is always doing something before you get there."
- Rose reflects on the Cutty Sark museum (a "bizarre hybrid" of ship and building but he likes it), opening today, and the "whole fleet" of ship museums that have been "launched of late."
- Baillieu minces no words about what she thinks: the Cutty Sark "was famous for many things and one of them was she never sank. After her re-launch today some might ask if this wouldn't have been a nobler end."
- King cheers the debate about Foster + Partners' Apple HQ in the new issue of Clog magazine: "Snark, satire, adulation embrace or scorn; choose your position."
- · WAF 2012 heads to Safdie's Marina Bay Sands in Singapore in October.
- Heathcote weighs in on the Design Museum's Design of the Year picks: "there were a few disappointing omissions" and "a sense that these awards reward the
 obvious...each self-conscious symbols of the spectacular" (but he still has nice things to say).
- · Architecture Canada | RAIC names Lateral Office's Lola Sheppard as 2012 Young Architect Award recipient.
- Keep an eye out for "10 Buildings that Changed America," a new PBS series coming in 2013.
- · Call for entries/proposals to temporarily transform on-street parking spaces in Mississauga for Park(ing) Day and Culture Days 2012 in September.

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The Case for a National Academy of Environmental Design: ...for planners, landscape architects, architects, industrial and interior designers, and construction professionals...A robust NAED would help improve the visibility of the professions...among policymakers...would help bolster "evidence-based practice" among more designers... [links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Architecture Centre Network tells local groups to get organised: Network to shut after 11 years in June: The doomed ACN said it is holding a series of meetings...with the 19 architecture centres it represents in order to make sure they still have an influence on local design...."It's about seeing how they can all work together."- BD/Building Design (UK)

Urban transformation: restoring 'factory defaults': Areas that feature historical structures are the main focus of urban transformation projects, a very popular issue nowadays in Turkey...criticized on the grounds that they deface the historic atmosphere of the city; however, city officials say that they are sensitive to this issue..."the struggle of Turks with skyscrapers"... -- Gökhan Avcioglu/GAD (Global Architectural Development)-Today's Zaman (Turkey)

A New Town for Khayelitsha: ...a Cape Town settlement where only 52% of residents are "economically active"...new landscape architecture and architecture were used to create safer, more positive environments...project is a welcome reminder that it's never too late to have hope in the power of design. -- Tarna Klitzner [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Fixing South Street Seaport: Is New Architecture Enough? ...if the criterion for demolition in a historic district is a new building of equal significance, I do not think the new Pier 17 rises to that level...Pasquarelli is too glibly dismissive of both Pier 17's flourishes (doesn't he realize postmodernism is back? And what's wrong with a little color?)... By Alexandra Lange -- Gregg Pasquarelli/SHoP Architects; Ben Thompson Associates [images, links]- Design Observer

Figueroa Comeback: Los Angeles finds a way to make corridor plan happen...One of LA's most important urban projects is back on track after the dissolution of California redevelopment funding almost shut it down for good...MyFigueroa project had tried...to pave the way for the city's most innovative pedestrian and bicycle environments... -- Melendrez Design Partners [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

CicLAvia: Reimagining the Streets of Los Angeles: Aaron Paley and Amanda Berman argue that the semi-annual CicLAvia — which bans car traffic from parts of Los Angeles — is prompting Angelenos to alter their mental maps and reimagine the urban future. [images, links]- Places Journal

James Corner on Design, Scale, and Post-High Line Life: ...has found parallels between ecological process and infrastructure...a landscape is always doing something before you get there...you can't hope to impose major changes without seeing environmental responses. You're tinkering with an engine you can't shut off. -- James Corner Field Operations; Seattle Architecture Foundation [images, links]-The SunBreak (Seattle)

The Cutty Sark: hoist the main sail! ...if we can't build new ships any more, we can at least build museums to old ones. And a whole fleet of them has been launched of late...glass bubble doesn't particularly evoke water...gives the impression that the ship has been converted into a hovercraft. It's no longer a ship, nor quite a building, but some bizarre hybrid of the two. By Steve Rose -- Grimshaw Architects; Wilkinson Eyre [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

The Cutty Sark restoration raises questions about authenticity: Greenwich's famous tea clipper divides opinion...Julian Harrap accused the Trust of disneyfying the experience...Good on Harrap...was famous for many things and one of them was she never sank. After her re-launch today some might ask if this wouldn't have been a nobler end. By Amanda Baillieu --Grimshaw Architects [images, links]-BD/Building Design (UK)

Clog magazine debates new Apple building's design: Detached mega-structures aren't my idea of utopia, but the shimmering purity has a one-off appeal. That puts me in the minority among architecture critics...Snark, satire, adulation embrace or scorn; choose your position... By John King -- Christopher Hawthorne; Norman Fosster; Joshua Prince-Ramus; Louise Mozingo; Michael Kubo/pinkcomma Gallery-San Francisco Chronicle

World Architecture Festival 2012 to be held in Singapore: WAF will return for its fifth year, this time in a new destination...the Marina Bay Sands resort (below), designed by Moshe Safdie, October 3-5- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Olympic torch named Design Museum's Design of the Year: Hopkins Architects won for its elegant design for the Velodrome...taut and skilfully engineered...there were a few disappointing omissions...a sense that these awards reward the

obvious...each self-conscious symbols of the spectacular...It is also an outrageously Anglocentric list, either demonstrating the dominance of British design or a certain myopia in the shortlist. By Edwin Heathcote -- Barber Osgerby; Manifesto Architecture- Financial Times (UK)

Architecture Canada | RAIC announces Lola Sheppard as 2012 Young Architect Award recipient: ... "a talented architect, design leader, and influential educator whose work is contributing to larger societal concerns, going well beyond the bounds of traditional architectural practice." -- Lateral Office; InfraNet Lab- Canadian Architect

New PBS TV Special to Explore "10 Buildings that Changed America": coming in 2013...hosted by Geoffrey Baer...a production of WTTW Chicago produced in partnership with the Society of Architectural Historians. -- Thomas Jefferson; H.H. Richardson; Louis Sullivan; Frank Lloyd Wright; Albert Kahn; Victor Gruen; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Eero Saarinen; Robert Venturi; Frank Gehry-WTTW Chicago / PBS

Call for entries/Call for Proposals: The Port Credit BIA is seeking artists, art groups, architects, designers and/or engineers to submit proposals to temporarily transform an on-street parking space in the Mississauga neighbourhood of Port Credit...as part of the international event Park(ing) Day (September 21) and Culture Days 2012 (September 28-30); deadline: June 4- Canadian Architect

Rudolph Redux: The UMass Dartmouth Library Renovation/Addition by designLAB architects: A current project slated for completion this fall offers food for thought for the future of Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center.- ArchNewsNow

- -- Gehry Partners, LLP: Opus Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
- -- BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group: Beach and Howe St., Vancouver, Canada

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