

Today's News - Tuesday, May 8, 2012

- An architect's call for "design entrepreneurs": "Design for the public good is expanding and coalescing as a movement and a viable, necessary practice."
- Moore minces no words about what he thinks of Liverpool Waters plan: it's "a wannabe Dubai, or a Shanghai-lite, plonked carelessly next to the historic buildings" that will destroy the city's historic character (and possibly lose its UENESCO Historic Site status).
- Hatherley contends cities would be "better off listening to the occupiers than developers" for ideas to fill in the empty spaces left by stalled/failed projects: the "failure of imagination is mind-boggling," and the "contrast with the instant universities, health centers and libraries of the Occupy movements is telling."
- Australian architects and the Green Building Council are concerned that the planned Tax Breaks for Green Buildings program may be postponed (again) - or be scrapped entirely.
- Rose offers a slide show essay of Ai Weiwei and H&deMs Serpentine Pavilion - "an underground maze of contoured cork, hidden under a watery roof."
- Iovine brings us an eyeful of Moussavi's MOCA Cleveland (lots of blue involved).
- Paletta cheers Brutalism's "narrow victory" in Orange County and gives us a look at some other county office buildings that should give us pause: "In recent years, civic architecture has relentlessly inclined towards mediocrity or worse" (with pix to prove it!).
- NBBJ's Gates Foundation HQ in Seattle "reveals the true planning, strategy, workplace design, and organization for the foundation" (looks like a great place to work!).
- The Jamaica Institute of Architects honors its contribution "to nation building, as Jamaica celebrates its 50th anniversary of Independence."
- Doris Duke's once famed (and "gilded") estate in New Jersey is now a public park "with a specific mission: Teach visitors to be good environmental stewards."
- Niemeyer is in stable condition after being hospitalized last week suffering from pneumonia and dehydration; we wish him a speedy recovery.
- Syracuse University School of Architecture dean Mark Robbins heads to Manhattan to head up the International Center of Photography (he'll be a hard act to follow!).
- Kamin heads to Harvard on a Nieman Fellowship (bravo!) with plans to "return to my job refreshed and refocused...and, in the process, to demonstrate anew why newspapers should cover this inescapable art" (called architecture).
- A good reason to be in NYC next week: the 24th annual International Contemporary Furniture Fair and NY Design Week 2012 will be in full swing.
- One we couldn't resist: 30 totally amazing bookshelves.
- Call for entries: 2012 LAGI International Design Competition for High School Students: proposals for a pragmatic art installation for Freshkills Park, Staten Island, NYC (deadline reminder for professionals as well).

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A Call for Design Entrepreneurs: "Think Big. Act Small. Move Fast"......if we were to think more naively, more optimistically, what we might expect from our cities? What we might expect from designers? And what we as designers might expect from our work? Design for the public good...is expanding and coalescing as a movement and a viable, necessary practice. By Laura Crescimano -- John Cary/PublicInterestDesign.org; MASS Design Group; IDEO.org; Public Architecture; Architecture for Humanity; Rebar; SEED Network for Social, Economic, Environmental Design [images, links]- San Francisco Chronicle

Liverpool Waters: If it goes ahead, the multibillion-pound scheme will destroy the city's historic character...at the scale of Canary Wharf...a wannabe Dubai, or a Shanghai-lite, plonked carelessly next to the historic buildings...there is little pride in these knock-offs of other cities. By Rowan Moore -- Chapman Taylor- Observer (UK)

Regeneration: the holes in Britain's cities need imagination to fill them: ...councils seeking fresh ideas are better off listening to the occupiers than developers...The failure of imagination is mind-boggling...architects and thinktanks give us "pop-ups", boutique shopping, happenings and art "follies" to hide the holes. The contrast with the instant universities, health centres and libraries of the Occupy movements is telling. By Owen Hatherley- Guardian (UK)

No Tax Breaks for Green Buildings? Questions asked by Australian Institute of Architects and the Green Building Council: ...prompting concern in the industry that the scheme will be postponed or dropped...scrapping the promised \$1 billion program would prevent Australia from picking the "lowest of the low hanging fruit"...- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Serpentine pavilion goes underground with Ai Weiwei and Herzog & de Meuron: ...will take visitors below the lawn of the London gallery into an underground maze of contoured cork, hidden under a watery roof. By Steve Rose [slide show essay]- Guardian (UK)

MOCA Cleveland and the Big Blue Yonder: Though the project never stalled in 2008, the architects were asked to shave off some 10% of costs..."My respect for what architects can pull off when called upon, expanded exponentially. I think restrictions actually made it better." By Julie V. Iovine -- Foreign Office Architects/FOA; Farshid Moussavi Architecture; Westlake Reed Leskosky; James Corner Field Operations [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Saving Rudolph in Goshen: A narrow victory for Brutalism...as the Orange County Legislature rejected a proposal to demolish the Paul Rudolph-designed Orange County Government Center...Have any of the disgruntled --those who called it "ugly," "a monstrosity," and "so out of place"--seen the county office buildings we have put up lately?...In recent years, civic architecture has relentlessly inclined towards mediocrity or worse. By Anthony Paletta [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Workplace Makeover: NBBJ's Gates Foundation in Seattle enlivens surroundings to inspire workers...reveals the true planning, strategy, workplace design, and organization for the foundation. -- Olson Kundig Architects; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Architects designing Jamaica's future: ...Jamaica Institute of Architects...is proud of its contribution to nation building, as Jamaica celebrates its 50th anniversary of Independence...The list of past presidents of the JIA since 1962, reads like a who's who of the industry... -- Christopher Whyms-Stone/cornerstone.design; Rivi Gardner & Associates; Ann Hodges; Michael Gyles Associates- The Gleaner (Jamaica)

An Oasis, Once Gilded, Now Greened: Duke Farms, a 2,740-acre estate in Hillsborough, N.J., has had a \$45 million face-lift...turned into a public park with a specific mission: Teach visitors to be good environmental stewards. [slide show]- New York Times

Oscar Niemeyer, 104, improving in hospital: ...still being given intravenous antibiotics and serum after he was hospitalized Wednesday suffering from pneumonia and dehydration...Oscar Niemeyer Foundation...opted to hospitalize the architect to "avoid any complications"...- AFP

Syracuse University School of Architecture dean to leave: Mark Robbins has been named executive director of the International Center of Photography in New York City. - The Post-Standard (Syracuse, NY)

Chicago Tribune's Blair Kamin sketches plans for Nieman Fellowship: "My aspirations for the fellowship are straightforward: To return to my job refreshed and refocused...and, in the process, to demonstrate anew why newspapers should cover this inescapable art." - Time Out Chicago

2012 ICFF / 24th annual International Contemporary Furniture Fair: ...the newest frontier of what's best and what's next in design; May 19-22, Javits Convention Center, New York City- ICFF/International Contemporary Furniture Fair

[NY Design Week 2012- Core77](#)

[30 Gorgeous and Innovative Bookshelves \[images\]- Flavorwire](#)

[Call for entries: 2012 LAGI International Design Competition for High School Students: proposals for a pragmatic art installation for Freshkills Park, Staten Island, New York City; cash prize; deadline: July 1- Land Art Generator Initiative \(LAGI\)](#)

[Imperfect Health: Probing the Porous Interface between Architecture and Health: A new book and website linked to the recent Canadian Centre for Architecture exhibition "Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture" offer a healthy tonic countering academically anemic architectural education. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow](#)



[Steven Holl Architects: Institute for Contemporary Art \(ICA\), Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia](#)

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