

## Today's News - Tuesday, June 5, 2012

- Big makeover plans for an alley in Miami's Design District that "would carve out a mini-Lincoln Road mall" (as in a luxe "pedestrian promenade").
- Richard Florida hails Miami's "bold Design District experiment" with lessons to be learned for other cities: "Another tipping point back toward urban downtowns may well be in the offing" (they don't have to be as high-end as Miami to be successful).
- Kimmelman waxes poetic about architecture(!): a shopping arcade canopy in Lower Manhattan "elevates what is really just a gap between two buildings into something almost as inspired as the nave of a great Gothic cathedral" (along with high praise for some other designs as well).
- Berger calls Port of Seattle leaders on their crocodile tears re: their concerns about the city's waterfront "war between soul and greed": they've "been a huge force for the gentrification they're decrying... let's consider the record of those pointing the finger of blame."
- A fascinating profile of Albert Speer, Jr.'s "desert dreams" for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar: he "knows all about reinventing oneself" (great slide show, too).
- The "exuberant formal massings" of Speer's "self-cooling" stadiums are "meant to convey imagery of the local culture, but they end up coming off as trivial, even banal."
- In Austin, TX, the "dream of Bilbao lives on" with Romero's iconic design for Mexic-Arte museum combined with commercial space, but "what's the worth of bombastic architecture, when cultural institutions are struggling to keep what's inside afloat?"
- A building boom in the Midwest is all about senior housing.
- A look at how Lucien Lagrange "bounced back from 'basket case'" to being busier than ever, even though he "remains at odds with Chicago's modernist architectural establishment" (a.k.a. Kamin): "the fact that people want to live in my buildings doesn't seem to matter."
- Sam Fox School announces winner of the \$50,000 2012 Steedman Fellowship (lucky Norwegian!).
- One we couldn't resist: "breathtaking" archival documentary of the building of the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Call for presentations: 2013 Environments for Aging Conference in New Orleans.
- Call for entries: Hoop Cup 2012 International Student Competition: Architecture in Transformation (the first comp we've come across hailing from China, with UIA blessing).

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Developer Craig Robins unveils project to transform Miami's Design District into upscale pedestrian promenade: A proposed \$312 million makeover would carve out a mini-Lincoln Road mall with luxury fashion shops, restaurants and public spaces...project has been hailed as a watershed in the revival of once-blighted neighborhoods in U.S. cities. -- DACRA; Duany Plater-Zyberk - Miami Herald

The Death and Life of Downtown Shopping Districts: Lessons from Miami's bold Design District experiment: It doesn't have to be as high end as it is in Miami — maybe, in fact, it shouldn't be...Another tipping point back toward urban downtowns may well be in the offing. By Richard Florida [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

A Canopy as Social Cathedral: ...a geometrically complex arcade canopy...connects the Goldman Sachs headquarters to a shopping arcade and hotel...formally elevates what is really just a gap between two buildings into something almost as inspired as the nave of a great Gothic cathedral...That's the power of architecture...kind of an inside-out High Line. By Michael Kimmelman -- Preston Scott Cohen; Rogers Marvel Architects; Ken Smith; Harry Cobb/Pei Cobb Freed & Partners; Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF) [images]- New York Times

Saving the soul of SoDo? The Port of Seattle is worried the new arena will kill off working class Seattle, but the Port's leaders have also been a huge force for the gentrification they're decrying...arena proposal represents the classic Seattle war between soul and greed...let's consider the record of those pointing the finger of blame. By Knute Berger - Crosscut (Seattle)

The Desert Dreams of Albert Speer: When Qatar presented its plans to build soccer stadiums...for the 2022 World Cup, it was ridiculed...But the architect...knows all about reinventing oneself - and came up with a grand vision for the desert kingdom...But whether his firm will ever build any of the stadiums is still an open question. -- Albert Speer & Partners [slide show]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

How to Build for the 2022 World Cup: Albert Speer, Jr. and Qatar's Dream Football City: ...has designed 8 new "self-cooling" stadiums...to be "disassembled and removed so they could later be given to poorer countries"...Their exuberant formal massings were meant to convey imagery of the local culture, but they end up coming off as trivial, even banal. -- Albert Speer & Partners; Foster + Partners [images]- Architizer

A Museum of Mexican Art, Inspired By The Aztec Calendar: Fernando Romero proposes an iconic design for Mexic-Arte...[museum] deserves credit for floating the relatively unconventional idea of a joint commercial/cultural project...But is the architecture a mismatch for the organization, and perhaps for the city? ...what's the worth of bombastic architecture, when cultural institutions are struggling to keep what's inside afloat? -- FREE [images]- Fast Company

New Toledo-area senior housing booming: Demand kept pace steady throughout Great Recession: One of the areas for growth: the Midwest...an increasing number of seniors were choosing to stay in their present states rather than relocate to the South and West. -- Architects Plus Ltd.; The Collaborative Inc.; Berardi + Associates - Toledo Blade

How Lucien Lagrange bounced back from 'basket case' to international projects: In a city grounded in "less is more" modernism, [his] influences...resonated with the "more is more" public...A star in real estate and development circles, [he] remains at odds with Chicago's modernist architectural establishment..."the fact that people want to live in my buildings doesn't seem to matter" -- VOA Associates; HKS Lucien Lagrange Studio [images]- Crain's Chicago

Sam Fox School announces winner of 2012 Steedman Fellowship: Speculative design competition "Collaborative Vision: A Center for Interdisciplinary Design Education"...\$50,000 first place award to support study and research abroad... -- Jason Mrdeza/Eggen Arkitekter (Norway) [link to info, images]- Washington University School of Architecture/Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts (St. Louis)

Breathtaking Archival Footage of Constructing the Golden Gate Bridge: Courtesy of the Prelinger Archive, a film by Bethlehem Steel celebrates how the iconic structure was built in the 1930s. - The Atlantic

Call for Presentations: 2013 Environments for Aging Conference, April 7-10, 2013, New Orleans; deadline: August 10, 2012 - The Center for Health Design

Call for entries: Hoop Cup 2012 International Student Competition: Architecture in Transformation; cash prizes; registration deadline: June 30; submissions due: October 8 - Union of International Associations (UIA) / Urban Environment Design Magazine / Tianjin University School of Architecture

The Geeky Side of Design: "Architects are often phenomenal at connecting us to the outdoors, but horrible at disconnecting us when it's necessary. And that is the fundamental problem with architecture today," says the sometimes irreverent but always straight-talking Joe Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng. By Wendy Ordemann - ArchNewsNow

INSIGHT: Let's Quiet Down: The Case for Places, Regionalism, and Sustainability: Architecture should be concerned primarily with place-making, not object-making. By Peter Gisolfi, AIA, ASLA, LEED AP - ArchNewsNow



-- Jan Kaplický/Future Systems; Andrea Morgante: Enzo Ferrari Museum, Modena, Italy  
-- Grimshaw Architects: Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science, Miami, Florida

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