

Today's News - Monday, June 11, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of H&deM's (amazing) Museum der Kulturen in Basel, and Snøhetta's arts center in Bowling Green, Ohio.
- ArchiAfrika Educational Network launches with 14 architecture schools across the continent signed on with the goal of "putting African architecture on the world map."
- Menil Collection makes "a surprising choice" to design its new drawing institute: L.A. architects "best known for projects that are drop-dead glamorous - and vastly different from the Menil Collection's famously serene" campus.
- Kennicott reports that an Eisenhower Memorial design hearing is delayed so the Secretary of the Interior can "meet with key figures in the design controversy" - though when and who would be invited is yet to be determined.
- Heathcote takes stock of the boom in building sky-high residential towers across the globe: "9/11 could have killed the high rise for ever. But, instead, the skyscraper roared back as the default setting for luxury living."
- Included in the mix is KPF's Seoul skyscraper sporting a cantilevered pool, which Medina considers "blatantly opportunistic, positioned as a selling point and a highly exclusive platform for the wealthiest of buyers" instead of a "natural outgrowth" of the design (we'd like to take a dip anyway!).
- Perhaps it's time to revisit Claude Prouvé's now-demolished experimental apartment building made of prefabricated modules.
- Walljasper on the "new stories to tell" that fly in the face of "declining, desperate Detroit" news: the city "has become a magnet for ambitious young professionals" in the Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program.
- A overview of some of Detroit's revitalization efforts that "offer glimpses of Motor City future" as they start to "bubble to the surface: "There's things being done here that are maybe impossible in other places" (and thanks to an ANN reader who called our attention to the Dequindre Cut, a new greenway born from a defunct, below-grade rail line - not everything has to be a High Line).
- Hume gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Ryerson University's newest addition: a remade warehouse that "fills space effortlessly, even elegantly, notwithstanding this sense of restraint," but "as handsome as the architecture is, it feels strangely unfinished."
- An in-depth - and totally engrossing (even to us not-sports-fans types) - behind-the-scenes look at the competition between two of the four finalists shortlisted for the University of Illinois' \$100 million-plus renovation of its basketball arena (in the end, there could be only one).
- A new animal shelter in Los Angeles "will challenge the outdated perception of the animal shelter as dismal dog pound" - geared to be a pleasant shopping experience.
- ICAA's Gunther examines Mormon architecture as a "2012 campaign guidepost" (comments section worth a gander, too).
- Rose's review of the week gives us a long (and totally unexpected) lesson re: Ray Bradbury influence on some key urban trends (Disney and Jerde consulted him - who knew?!?!?), Piano's "shardier Shard" slated for Seoul, and a lot more.
- FLW's 145th birthday was last Friday (what? No Google doodle?!?!): Byrnes looks back at why the master hated cities, "which might explain why Americans love him" (great pix, links, and a video).

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-- Herzog & de Meuron: Museum der Kulturen, Basel, Switzerland
-- Snøhetta: Wolfe Center for the Arts, Bowling Green, Ohio

Network for African Architecture schools launched in Accra: ArchiAfrika Educational Network (AAEN)...a partnership between 14 architecture schools across Africa...aimed at putting African architecture on the world map. -- Aga Khan Award for Architecture; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST); National Organisation of Minority Architects (NOMA) - myjoyonline.com (Ghana)

Glam L.A. architects tapped for Menil Drawing Institute: ...a surprising choice to design...the first major building...since 1995. Johnston Marklee...is best known for projects that are drop-dead glamorous - and vastly different from the Menil Collection's famously serene main building, galleries and grounds. -- Tatiana Bilbao; SANAA; David Chipperfield - Houston Chronicle

Eisenhower Memorial Commission delays design hearing: ...Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar requested to view models of the memorial and meet with key figures in the design controversy...Unclear is when such a meeting might take place and who would be invited. By Philip Kennicott -- Frank Gehry - Washington Post

High society: From London's Shard to the Shanghai Tower, skyscrapers are shooting up -- with apartments on their highest floors...9/11 could have killed the high rise for ever. But, instead, the skyscraper roared back as the default setting for luxury living. By Edwin Heathcote -- Renzo Piano; John Seifert/Richard Seifert (1966); Christian de Portzamparc; Robert A.M. Stern; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Pei Cobb Freed & Partners; Studio Gang Architects - Financial Times (UK)

Kohn Pedersen Fox New Seoul Skyscraper Will Sport Striking Cantilevered Pool: ..."Block H", for Seoul's planned Yongsan International Business District...is not the "natural outgrowth" it is presented as. Instead, it's blatantly opportunistic, positioned as a selling point and a highly exclusive platform for the wealthiest of buyers. By Samuel Medina [images]- Architizer

Claude Prouvé's recently demolished Experimental Building of SIRH: ...an important 1970s building that symbolized the experimental nature of industrialized housing...created by 60 prefabricated modules that served as a prototype for the SIRH Process... -- Jean Prouvé; Recherche et de Réalisation de l'Habitat [images]- ArchDaily

Detroit Fellows — Young Professionals Moving to Detroit: Declining, desperate Detroit is old news...But there are new stories to tell...Which doesn't mean the old stories are all wrong — just that they're not the whole story anymore...[the city] has become a magnet for ambitious young people...exemplified by the Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program (DRFP)... By Jay Walljasper - Citewire

Scattered Detroit revitalization efforts offer glimpses of Motor City future: ...starting to bubble to the surface, driven by urban innovators literally carving success stories one by one from the guts of abandoned buildings..."There's things being done here that are maybe impossible in other places." - Michigan Live

Ryerson Image Centre a nice addition to downtown campus: ...a remade warehouse...fills space effortlessly, even elegantly, notwithstanding this sense of restraint...As handsome as the architecture is, it feels strangely unfinished. By Christopher Hume -- Diamond Schmitt Architects - Toronto Star

KC architecture firms in an arena showdown: ...University of Illinois' \$100 million-plus renovation of its basketball arena, Assembly Hall in Champaign... -- AECOM; Populous; Cannon Design; BLDD; HOK Sports; Ellerbe Becket; 360 Architecture; Max Abramovitz (1963) [images]- Kansas City Star Magazine

An L.A. shelter animals can live with: ...South Los Angeles Animal Care Center...will challenge the outdated perception of the

[animal shelter as dismal dog pound...a welcoming presence in a light industrial zone... -- Rania Alomar/RA-DA \[image\]](#)- Los Angeles Times

[The Architecture of Mormonism: A 2012 Campaign Guidepost: With a presidential campaign reaching fever pitch...a glimpse into the credo that has done much to shape \[Mitt Romney's\] character and attendant guiding principles.](#) By Paul Gunther/Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA)- [Huffington Post](#)

[Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Ray Bradbury...was also an architectural 'imagineer' who influenced some key urban trends. Plus, a shardier Shard \[in Yongsan district, Seoul, South Korea\] and Shakespeare's Curtain theatre...another, very different haven for big name architects added a few more this week: Maggie's Centres.](#) By Steve Rose -- Jon Jerde; Renzo Piano; Daniel Libeskind; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; MVRDV; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Murphy/Jahn; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); Dominique Perrault; Norman Foster; Steven Holl [images, links]- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Frank Lloyd Wright Hated Cities, Which Might Explain Why Americans Love Him: On his 145th birthday, a look back at Wright's legacy.](#) By Mark Byrnes [images, video]- [The Atlantic Cities](#)

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