
Today's News - Monday, July 23, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us a surprising marriage registration center in Shenzhen that offers everything but a dull, bureaucratic experience.
- It's that Stirling Prize time of year, with Hepworth Wakefield, Maggie's Cancer Centre, New Court Rothschild Bank, London Olympic Stadium, Lyric Theatre Belfast, and Sainsbury Laboratory in the running:
- Moore finds the shortlist "simple and restrained. Possibly also sober, plain and very much not iconic" that "reflects the zeitgeist of our straitened times."
- Wainwright, on the other hand, finds it a shortlist of "artificial austerity...the buildings might seem stripped back, restrained, but this is not cheap and cheerful recession chic...this is stealth wealth."
- Woodman on the shortlist for "architecture's wooden spoon," the Carbuncle Cup 2012, which "boasts two wrist-slashingly awful housing schemes."
- While we're on that side of the Big Pond, two Olympic tales we couldn't resist: the London Eye will sport a Twitter-based mood-measuring lightshow during the Games (beware the color purple).
- To help recoup some of its \$15 billion price tag, London rolls out "Remains of the Games," an online estate sale of everything used in the Olympic Village (some great buys to be had - certificate of authenticity included).
- Florida tackles the blurring of distinctions between "city" and "suburb": they "not only look and feel eerily similar, they are home to the same types of people."
- Doig delves into the up-side of "free-roaming children" as "an integral part of what makes a good city," but "anecdotes about unsupervised kids being caught in the net of paranoid parenting are as laughable as they are depressing."
- Kamin cheers a pair of new apartment towers in Chicago: "Even if they don't equal the visual poetry of Mies...the SoNo towers offer models worth emulating."
- Welton seems wowed by Graves's new museum in Singapore: what the architect calls "a sleeping giant" is "more a likely giant about to waken" (looks pretty fabulous to us, too!).
- A new community center in an at-risk suburban neighborhood of Toronto is "a lesson in doing more with less: less money, less space and less time, all of which resulted in an uplifting space."
- King on the 3 teams shortlisted to re-do San Francisco's Fort Mason historic district.
- Davidson cheers the re-do of the winning design for NYC AIDS Memorial Park: it is "far softer, more empathic and understated than the competition entry" that "captures something crucial about the intersection of public space and private reflection" + Dunlap explains how, even with community board endorsement, "there are critical steps ahead" for the memorial.
- Gibson reminds us (eloquently) of why the Pantheon takes our breath away every time we enter: it's "the greatest interior in Western architecture, one where space is nearly as palpable as the forms that contain it - what isn't there is as important as what is."
- Call for entries: Fitch Foundation Mid-Career Grants for preservation-related projects, and Richard L. Blinder Award to advance architectural preservation in the U.S.

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[Urbanus: Nanshan Marriage Registration Center, Shenzhen, China: a new architectural idea that gives an experience for life and a permanent memory of the journey of marriage to new couples.](#)

[RIBA Stirling prize shortlist revealed: Simple. Restrained. Possibly also sober, plain and very much not iconic...shortlist reflects the zeitgeist of our straitened times, with their mistrust of extravagance and waste, more than any previous. By Rowan Moore -- Populous; Rem Koolhaas/OMA \(x2\); Stanton Williams; O'Donnell + Tuomey; David Chipperfield Architects \[slide show\] - Observer \(UK\)](#)

[The Stirling prize: artificial austerity: This year's shortlist reveals a fetish for the neo-modern slickness of concrete, glass and steel -- but it is the building that pays attention to people that should win...the buildings might seem stripped back, restrained, lacking the bombastic shapemaking of former years, but this is not cheap and cheerful recession chic...this is stealth wealth. By Oliver Wainwright -- David Chipperfield Architects; OMA; Populous; O'Donnell & Tuomey; Stanton Williams - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Carbuncle Cup 2012: the shortlist: After months of public nominations, these six are one step closer to winning architecture's wooden spoon...boasts two wrist-slashingly awful housing schemes... By Ellis Woodman -- Andrew Smith Architects; Todd Architects/Civic Arts; Broadway Malyan; Anish Kapoor/Cecil Balmond; Grimshaw Architects; Idp Partnership \[images, info\] - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[How Cranky Are Londoners? With a Twitter-based mood-measuring lightshow displayed on the London Eye, we're about to find out. - The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Can't Get to Ikea? Buy Your Twin Bed From the London Olympics' Online Estate Sale: To recoup some of the \\$15 billion London will have spent on the 2012 Olympics, the city is unrolling "Remains of the Games," a massive online estate sale of all the wares used in the Olympic Village. \[links\] - Artinfo](#)

[Is Detroit Becoming a Suburb? ...some of the big question facing virtually all cities as they become more sought after places to live and work, attracting newer, more skilled and affluent people. The old distinctions between "city" and "suburb" do seem to be blurring...not only look and feel eerily similar, they are home to the same types of people. By Richard Florida - The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Unleash our kids: Crime is at a 40-year low, but nervous parents are limiting their kids' freedom to roam - and it hurts urban life...free-roaming children are an integral part of what makes a good city...anecdotes about unsupervised kids being caught in the net of paranoid parenting are as laughable as they are depressing... By Will Doig - Salon](#)

[A triumph of teamwork: newly-opened SoNo East apartment tower a lesson in the power, prudence of architectural collaboration: Even if they don't equal the visual poetry of Mies...the SoNo towers offer models worth emulating. By Blair Kamin -- Booth Hansen; Adam Berkelhamer; Antunovich Associates \[images\] - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Michael Graves Brands the Silk Route: The architect calls his new Maritime Experiential Museum \(MXM\) "a sleeping giant"...a punctuation mark for Singapore's status as a world-class destination, and for the \\$4 billion Resorts World Sentosa...it seems more a likely giant about to waken. By J. Michael Welton -- Ralph Appelbaum \[images\] - Huffington](#)

Post

Something in Common: Significant challenges necessitate a creative approach to McGregor Community Centre Lounge in an at-risk suburban community of Toronto...a lesson in doing more with less: less money, less space and less time, all of which resulted in an uplifting space...benefited from the Priority Neighbourhoods program... -- Bortolotto Design Architect [images]- Canadian Architect magazine

3 teams vie to re-do Fort Mason: ...will draw up competing visions for the 13-acre historic district of former military piers and warehouses...There's no guarantee any elements of the winning design will be built...all sides agree on the need to better integrate the center with its surroundings. By John King
-- West 8/Jensen Architects/Marcel Wilson/Bionic/Ila Berman; Bruner/Cott/Landworks Studio/WSP Flack + Kurtz; AMP Arquitectos/Jansana, De La Villa, De Paauw - San Francisco Chronicle

First Look at the Design for the AIDS Memorial Park: ...instead of a roofless enclosure, an unwallled canopy, instead of hard walls, a soft, green arbor...The new design is far softer, more empathic and understated than the competition entry...captures something crucial about the intersection of public space and private reflection. By Justin Davidson -- Studio a + i [image, links]- New York Magazine

Permanent AIDS Memorial in Greenwich Village Takes a Step Closer to Reality: ...a very different concept from the "Infinite Forest" design shown to the public in January...Important as the community board endorsement is, there are critical steps ahead... By David W. Dunlap -- Studio a+i [images]- New York Times

A Portal to the Heavens: Pantheon...the essence of the Roman revolution in architecture...is about more than engineering...the greatest interior in Western architecture, one where space is nearly as palpable as the forms that contain it — what isn't there is as important as what is. By Eric Gibson- Wall Street Journal

Call for entries: Fitch Foundation Mid-Career Grants for preservation-related projects, and Richard L. Blinder Award to advance architectural preservation in the U.S.; up \$15,000/each (U.S. citizens or residents); deadline: September 15- James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation

The Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence Marks 25 Years: New Director Anne-Marie Lubenau, AIA, reflects on the past, looks to the future. - ArchNewsNow

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