
Today's News - Monday, July 30, 2012

- ArcSpace offers an eyeful of a corner in Reykjavik with a rich "mix of interpretation reflecting the different ages and histories of the former buildings."
- Wainwright waxes poetic about Heatherwick's Olympic cauldron: it's a reinvention of "the bowl-of-fire-on-a-stick," and the "most elegant and innovative design in 84-year history of this strange tradition" (we'd call it the "WOW!" heard 'round the world!).
- An in-depth look at the young British firm behind the BMW London 2012 Pavilion and its Malaysian-born co-founder.
- Wells x 2: the U.K. "cribs from Australian playbook for post-Olympics success" with hopes that designs, architects, and construction will become its biggest exports over the next decade.
- He parses the "ultimate pop-up Olympics": London's bottom line "is that it shouldn't be saddled with white elephants once the Olympic flame goes out."
- Hawthorne has some issues with the pop-up trend, from London to Pasadena: the "approach may produce ingenious pieces of architecture. But is this any way to build a city?"
- Bhatia minces no words about the state of architecture in India: the profession "has handily dismissed itself," and become "truly redundant in the scheme of things. The real work is being done by the stage-set artist."
- Davidson cheers the rebirth of the Brooklyn Navy Yard: "you can see the drift of entropy being slowly, fitfully reversed. Decay coexists with vigor...the true beauty of this historic industrial park is that it's still an industrial park."
- Kamin reflects on how "time can be an ally for preservationists...architectural attitudes can shift, transforming today's 'this has gotta go' eyesore into tomorrow's 'this must be saved' treasure."
- Hume x 2: time is certainly not on the side of Toronto's currently-shuttered Ontario Place: "Barring a sudden outbreak of enlightenment it will end up another real estate deal leading to - what else? - more condos."
- He gets an earful from Gehl Architects' Soholt: "'There seems to be a fear of taking any sort of risk or trying anything new.' No kidding."
- Hadid hopes redevelopment of South Bank will not go all "cutesy" or "repeat tragic amputations of recent decades."
- Parramatta picks team to create a unique identity for its City Ring Road.
- Doig doesn't have a lot of good things to say about the adAPT NYC initiative to develop a building of 300-square-foot studios: it's more about appealing "to the young and upwardly mobile" rather than actual affordable housing.
- Russell is rather taken by DS+R's Medical and Graduate Education building for Columbia University: "To have human interaction shape a building is an extraordinary departure from the standard considerations that affect health-care architecture."
- Cooper Carry's new tower in Arlington, VA: "what a splendid work it is. What an act of preservation, respect and sensitivity."
- Gensler's a new gate to the financial heart of Dubai, inspired by the Arc de Triomphe, is an "architectural triumph."
- A judge halts UCLA from its pending sale of the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden.
- EPA's 3rd Annual Energy Star National Building Competition: Battle of the Buildings kicks off with a record 3,200 buildings.
- One we couldn't resist: a Texas judge rules that the air we breathe is a public trust: "Is this a 'shot heard round the world' for fight against climate change?"

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Argos, Gullinsnid & Studio Granda: The Historic Corner, Reykjavik, Iceland...mix of interpretation and resolution reflecting the different ages and histories of the former buildings.

The flaming dandelion: ...Thomas Heatherwick has shown that the Olympic cauldron can be more than a bowl of fire on a stick...By radically reinventing what a big bowl of fire can be, his design stands out as the most elegant and innovative in 84-year history of this strange tradition. By Oliver Wainwright [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Winning by design: Young British firm Serie Architects, led by its Malaysian-born co-founder Christopher Lee has won a string of international design competitions, so much so that even the BMW Group, chose the firm to design the BMW London 2012 Pavilion... + Q&A with Lee - New Straits Times (Malaysia)

Britain cribs from Australian playbook for post-Olympics success: ...there's probably more Australian influence in the London Games than the English might like to admit...Olympics are about more than just sport -- "it's the biggest business networking opportunity in the world"...Within the next decade...the biggest export we should have is the combination of designs, architects, construction, as well as good events people... By Peter Wells - Australian Financial Review

London's Olympics venues: now you see them, now you don't: The ultimate pop-up Olympics . . . "embracing the temporary," as architects John Barrow and Rod Sheard call it, became the modus operandi...The bottom line for the English capital is that it shouldn't be saddled with white elephants once the Olympic flame goes out. By Peter Wells -- Populous; Zaha Hadid - Australian Financial Review

Pop-up pangs: From London Olympics to Pasadena, temporary architecture takes hold: ...expedient architecture...reflects economic reality, but cities must ponder the long-term effects of a pop-up aesthetic...approach may produce ingenious pieces of architecture. But is this any way to build a city? By Christopher Hawthorne -- Zaha Hadid; Populous/Peter Cook; AECOM; Wilkinson Eyre Architects; Albert Group Architects; Fentress Architects; Christian de Portzamparc; Renzo Piano; Zoltan Pali; Offenhauser/Mekeel Architects; Daniel Busbin Landscape Architecture; Rios Clementi Hale Studios; Hodgetts + Fung [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

No place for architecture in our cities: In the current search for a suitable livable Indian city, the profession of architecture has handily dismissed itself. Today the architect and planner are truly redundant in the scheme of things. The real work is being done by the stage-set artist... By Gautam Bhatia - India Today

Preserving the Brooklyn Navy Yard Isn't Just About Restoring the Buildings: ...you can see the drift of entropy being slowly, fitfully reversed. Decay coexists with vigor...the true beauty of this historic industrial park is that it's still an industrial park...the Yard is evolving into a center of environment-oriented innovation. By Justin Davidson - New York Magazine

Time can be an ally for preservationists: Riding to the rescue of Chicago Athletic Association building and old Prentice hospital? ...over time, architectural attitudes can shift, transforming today's "this has gotta go" eyesore into tomorrow's "this must be saved" treasure. By Blair Kamin -- Henry Ives Cobb; Bertrand Goldberg; Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture - Chicago Tribune

John Tory report on Ontario Place too sensible to be implemented: At a time of civic poverty, it is unlikely to end up the mixed-use urban neighbourhood envisioned...Barring a sudden outbreak of enlightenment...will end up another real estate deal leading to — what else? — more condos. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Toronto has yet to realize its urban potential: First the good news: "Toronto's streetscape...is not as bad as you see in American cities." Now the bad news: "There seems to be a fear of taking any sort of risk or trying anything new. I see similar things in other cities, but there are a lot of internal problems in this city." No kidding. By Christopher Hume -- Helle Soholt/Gehl Architects - Toronto Star

Zaha Hadid warns against "cutesy" South Bank redevelopment: ...also blasts planners for doing 'enormous damage' to City of London...Any alterations must remain true to Archigram's original intention and not repeat tragic amputations of recent decades, she said. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Design team selected to create unique identity for Parramatta City Ring Road -- Terroir; Richard Goodwin; Aspect Studios; u-lab - Architecture & Design (Australia)

New York only wants investment bankers: Subsidized tiny studios are NYC's latest effort to appeal to the young and upwardly mobile...there's nothing inherently wrong with 300 square feet of space, as long as you can scramble up the economic ladder quickly enough to move into something bigger...That's really the whole point. By Will Doig -- adAPT NYC Competition [links] - Salon

Columbia Students Dissect Robots in Campus Cliffhanger: Columbia University Medical Center's planned Medical and Graduate Education building...the structure appears to have disrobed. That be-bopping southern edge is called the Study Cascade...To have human interaction shape a building is an extraordinary departure from the standard considerations that affect health-care architecture... By James S. Russell -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro [images] - Bloomberg News

Cooper Carry blows away 800 Glebe Road, adds stunning new building: It is finished...and oh what a splendid work it is...What an act of preservation, respect and sensitivity. By James George [slide show] - Arlington Examiner (Virginia)

Architectural triumph of DIFC's open-gate policy: Inspired by the Arc de Triomphe...in the financial heart of Dubai...dubbed The Gate...at the entrance to the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), also includes a number of design details taken from its local context. -- Gensler; Hopkins Architects [slide show] - The National (UAE)

L.A. Judge Halts Pending Sale Of Hannah Carter Japanese Garden: ...injunction enjoins the Regents from selling the parcel they contractually agreed to "maintain in perpetuity" in 1982...1.5-acre Garden has been at the forefront of controversy since UCLA undertook efforts to sell the Zen-like retreat... - Beverly Hills Courier (California)

EPA Kicks Off Third Annual Energy Star National Building Competition: Battle of the Buildings with a record 3,200 buildings across the country going head to head to improve energy efficiency, lower utility costs and protect health and the environment. [link to competitors list, images] - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Texas Judge Rules 'The Sky Belongs To Everyone': Is this a "shot heard round the world" for fight against climate change? "Texas judge rules atmosphere, air is a public trust"...A tiny breakthrough but with big potential consequences. - CommonDreams.org

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