
Today's News - Tuesday, July 31, 2012

- Doig doesn't dig Forbes America's Coolest Cities list: "filing places under "cool" or "not cool" misses a lot of the nuance that makes cities work."
- Coolican has a cool take on why Las Vegas is "a dazzling, dizzying metaphor for our collapse - and, just maybe, the way forward...a model for post-industrial American cities."
- A look at why "the love affair with the automobile is turning chilly" among millennials, and how this "mindset shift is affecting city planning and local businesses."
- Lackmeyer is keeping his eye on the "battle-lines being drawn as highway engineers meet "a buzz-saw of criticism" over plans for a new boulevard in Oklahoma City that could kill development and "recreate the old highway barriers that blighted the area a half-century ago."
- Hinshaw hails new CityTarget in "a tawdry part" of downtown Seattle: "the impact is likely to be nothing less than stunning."
- Goldswain finds a project in Perth combines "domestic and institutional qualities in a new kind of public project...a reminder of architecture's place in the hierarchy of cause and effect of urban redevelopment" (great slide show).
- A planned mega-project atop DC's Union Station rail yards will close the "gash in the urban fabric"; its "most benevolent" element - a "High Line-esque gesture."
- An eyeful of Make's Weihai Pavilion in China - a sales center for "a huge new residential development built on reclaimed land in the Yellow Sea."
- All Aboard Florida picks SOM and Zyscovich to plan four stations and TODs between Miami and Orlando.
- Whelan looks at the challenges of designing a hotel/condo combo in Brooklyn Bridge Park (kudos and quibbles included).
- Kamin reports that the "'parklet' wave is about to hit Chicago" (though locally dubbed "people spots").
- Original material vs. original appearance is the preservationist's dilemma when it comes to renewing mid-20th century buildings.
- A good reason to head to Cape Town in September: the impressive line-up for "Rescripting Architecture," the Architecture ZA 2012 Biennial Festival.
- One we couldn't resist: an artist's trompe-l'oeil offers "a voyeuristic portrait of life inside a building" before the Christchurch earthquake.
- Call for entries: 2013 TED Prize (now \$1 million!).

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[Houston is not cool: Let's stop making lists of "cool cities." They use the same boring criteria, and no one wants to live in them...filing places under "cool" or "not cool" misses a lot of the nuance that makes cities work. By Will Doig - Salon](#)

[The Hangover: How Las Vegas Explains the Past and Future of the Economy: The first American city of the new century is a dazzling, dizzying metaphor for our collapse -- hyperconstruction! preposterous gambles! concerted recklessness! -- and, just maybe, the way forward...a model for post-industrial American cities. By J. Patrick Coolican - The Atlantic](#)

[The young and the carless: Among millennials, the love affair with the automobile is turning chilly...This mindset shift is affecting city planning and local businesses. - Crain's Chicago Business](#)

[Boulevard fight represents divide between traditional road design, modern urban planning: ...state highway engineers...encountering a buzz-saw of criticism that the road will kill development...and will recreate the old highway barriers that blighted the area a half-century ago. By Steve Lackmeyer - The Oklahoman](#)

[On Target: a dramatic turnaround for a tawdry part of downtown Seattle: With the opening of City Target on Second Avenue, we have a clear sign of how retailers are shaping strategies for the new urban residents...the impact on this part of downtown is likely to be nothing less than stunning. By Mark Hinshaw - Crosscut \(Seattle\)](#)

[Socially minded: Foundation Housing and Women's Health and Family Services buildings in Perth combine domestic and institutional qualities in a new kind of public project...a reminder of architecture's place in the hierarchy of cause and effect of urban redevelopment. By Philip Goldswain -- CODA Studio \[images\] - ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

[Cap-ital Improvements: D.C. mega-project atop Union Station rail yards will connect divided neighborhoods: "The gash in the urban fabric will be closed"...similar in scope, if not scale, to New York City's Hudson Yards...perhaps the most benevolent aspect of the plan...High Line-esque gesture incorporates an existing city greenway, bike path, and pedestrian walkway. -- Shalom Baranes Associates; Parsons Brinckerhoff; HOK \[images\] - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Make Architects unveils Chinese debut: Ken Shuttleworth's practice...released these images of its first completed building in mainland China - a sales centre and exhibition pavilion in Weihai...seafront building...'information hub for potential customers' of a huge new residential development built on reclaimed land in the Yellow Sea. \[images\] - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[All Aboard Florida Selects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\) and Zyscovich Architects as Station Planners: ...to develop the initial concepts for its four stations and associated transit-oriented developments \("TODs"\) in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Orlando. - Wall Street Journal](#)

[Stepping It Up in the Park: When is a hotel not just a regular hotel and when is a condo building not just an ordinary condo building? For Jonathan Marvel...the answer is easy: When it is in a park...since the buildings are to be situated inside Brooklyn Bridge Park, they can't be just another part of the urban fabric—they have to be something more. By Robbie Whelan -- Rogers Marvel Architects; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates - Wall Street Journal](#)

[The 'parklet' wave is about to hit Chicago: In San Francisco, they're called "parklets." In Chicago, the name is "people spots." Whatever term you use, these miniature parks and plazas are about to get a trial run here. By Blair Kamin -- Matt Nardella/moss design - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Icon or Eyesore? Part 3: The Preservationist Perspective: The owners and occupants of Brutalist buildings are caught in the dilemma created by the original material vs original appearance debate...the balance is likely to shift toward replacement as more mid-20th century buildings reach the need for renewal. By Henry Moss/Bruner/Cott -- Josep Lluís Sert \[images\] - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Top international architects heading to the Mother City: ...will join a host of innovative South African architects as speakers at "Rescripting Architecture" the Architecture ZA 2012 Biennial Festival at Cape Town City Hall, September 13 -16. -- David Adjaye; Yoshiharu Tsukamoto/Momoyo Kajima/Atelier Bow-Wow; Tatiana Bilbao; South African Institute of Architects \(SAIA\); Cape Town Institute for Architecture; Rahul Mehrotra; Ora Joubert; Andrew Makin/OMM Design Workshop; Thorsten Deckler/26'10 Architects - SA Commercial Prop News \(South Africa\)](#)

Trompe-l'oeil of the Day: Inside a Building Destroyed by an Earthquake: At a collapsed building in Christchurch, New Zealand, artist Mike Hewson's eerie installation is a...vision of the past..."Homage to Lost Spaces"...a voyeuristic portrait of life inside the building as it was lived before the earthquake. [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

Call for entries: Nominations for 2013 TED Prize: amount awarded is now \$1 million - granted to an inspiring wish proposed by an extraordinary individual; deadline: August 31 - TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design)



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

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