

Today's News - Wednesday, August 8, 2012

- A great round-up of coverage of Christchurch CBD rebuilding plans - thumbs-up's and thumbs-down's included.
- A thoughtful (and amusing) comparison of London Olympics opening and the Christchurch Plan, both "conceived by the experts, working in splendid isolation, drawing lines on a map, defining use and controlling space in a cone of brilliance untouched by common folk."
- Iovine weighs in on the Bloomberg administration's "entrepreneurial spirit in remaking New York City," but as it "starts its ride into the sunset...the architecture and urban planning communities are concerned" about what will follow.
- The benefits and drawbacks of NYC and San Francisco plans to develop "micro-apartments," but might "the restrictions overshadow innovation"?
- Q&A with a Russian architect about why no one seems to want the now-vacant job as Moscow's principal architect.
- Baillieu berates Brady for not taking stronger action against the Olympics' "ludicrous" marketing ban when it's probably illegal.
- Rosenthal's breathless take on the Shard: it is "simply London's most magnificent building since St Paul's Cathedral" - and that's just for starters (followed by almost 200 comments!).
- DreamWorks has a \$3 billion dream for downtown Shanghai.
- Signorelli and Salingaros offer a singular take on the "tyranny of Modernism."
- The fate of Johansen's Brutalist Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore is still stirring controversy among backers and detractors - it could still be designated a landmark, "but neither side thinks that is likely."
- An architect poses the question: "When does inspiration violate copyright? There is a fine line between learning and copying."
- Chicago's IIT names Dutch architect and educator Wiel Arets as dean of its College of Architecture.
- Eyefuls of the ONE Prize 2012: From Blight to Might finalists + the Landscape, Architecture & Wine student competition winners.
- Call for entries: RFP to develop 25.5-acre property in Ithaca, NY + Battery Conservancy Americas Design Competition: Draw Up a Chair (for NYC's Battery Park) + 2012 Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence.

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Christchurch CBD rebuild blueprint unveiled: Prime Minister John Key says the new and innovative central city design...is an exciting next step in the rebuild and recovery of New Zealand's second-largest city. [\[links\]](#)- Scoop (New Zealand)

Tale of two cities where opportunities were lost: Plans are for planners and planners are very nice folk, but irredeemably beige...Christchurch Plan is the planner's version of...a perfect 21st-century iteration of Cadbury's old garden city. All conceived, like the London Olympics opening, by the experts, working in splendid isolation, drawing lines on a map, defining use and controlling space in a cone of brilliance untouched by common folk. By Jim Hopkins- New Zealand Herald

Editorial> Carpe Diem & Then What: ...the Bloomberg administration's entrepreneurial spirit in remaking New York City...This is a responsive administration...Identify it; Do it...starts its ride into the sunset, it is no surprise that the architecture and urban planning communities are concerned. By Julie V. Iovine- The Architect's Newspaper

Proposals About New Microapartments Highlight Benefits and Drawbacks: ...New York and San Francisco have been playing with the concept of permitting very small "micro-apartments" to alleviate high rents...Overall, the restrictions overshadow innovation. -- adAPT NYC [\[images, links\]](#)- The Architect's Newspaper

Moscow under construction with new architect: ...city architect, Alexander Kuzmin, resigned...after 16 years in the position. [Q&A with] Russian architect Oleg Shapiro about the situation and the challenges...replacement will face. Why did such a prestigious position as that of the city's principal architect become so unpopular that nobody wants to take it? -- Wowhaus Architectural Bureau- Russia Beyond The Headlines

Angela Brady's Olympic protest is far too little too late: Locog's ban on marketing may be ludicrous...It's illogical that Hopkins could enter the velodrome for an RIBA award while Penoyre & Prasad, which designed the health centre in the Athletes' Village, could not...Former RIBA president Owen Luder says the ban is illegal. It probably is, so why won't the RIBA sue? By Amanda Baillieu [\[link to "Roll of honour: The Olympics, architect by architect"\]](#)- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Shard is a St Paul's Cathedral for our time: Who cares who built it or why? The Shard is simply London's most magnificent building since Wren's masterpiece...something that is genuinely magnificent to look at...a masterpiece of visual design by one of the great living architects, Renzo Piano. By Norman Rosenthal [\[links\]](#)- Guardian (UK)

Panda Chases Mouse: DreamWorks Finalizes Studio, Unveils \$3 Billion Entertainment Complex In China: ...district in downtown Shanghai...will boast the world's largest IMAX screen, multiple waterfront hotels, shopping areas, galleries and studios. -- Benjamin Wood/Studio Shanghai- Forbes

The Tyranny of Artistic Modernism: The modernist aesthetic...takes a variety of forms...in architecture, a lack of scale and ornamentation combined with the overwhelming deployment of materials...Buildings that conform to the brutal codes of modernism and its derivatives are the ones that get built...what now drives the construction of...anti-architecture more than anything else is simply the lust for financial gain. By Mark Anthony Signorelli and Nikos A. Salingaros- New English Review

Plans for Mechanic Theatre site stir controversy: 1960s 'Brutalist' building, empty for years, elicits strong feelings from backers and detractors...One of the few moves that could save it would be City Council approval of landmark designation for the theater, but neither side thinks that is likely. -- John Johansen; Shalom Baranes Associates - Baltimore Sun

When does inspiration violate copyright? The Apple v. Samsung case made me realize just how much designers depend on the successful ideas of others. There is a fine line between learning and copying. By David Shaffer/ZGF Architects - Daily Journal of Commerce (Oregon)

Dutch architect and educator is IIT's [Illinois Institute of Technology] next architecture dean: Wiel Arets...currently a professor of building, planning and design at the Berlin University for the Arts, replaces Donna Robertson. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Finalists in ONE Prize 2012: From Blight to Might - 3rd Annual International Design Competition that promotes the transformation of cities with innovation [\[images\]](#)- Terreform ONE

Landscape, Architecture & Wine student competition winners announced [\[links to images, info\]](#)- Arquideas (Spain)

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP to develop 25.5-acre property in the Town of Ithaca, NY...part of a U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency Climate Showcase Communities (CSC) project; deadline: October 9- Tompkins County, New York

Call for entries: The Battery Conservancy Americas Design Competition: Draw Up a Chair: design iconic moveable outdoor seating for Battery Park at the tip of Manhattan; open to professionals and students from U.S., Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean; cash prize + fabrication; deadline: earlybird registration deadline (save \$): September 30; submission deadline: October 30- The Battery Conservancy

Call for entries: 2012 Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence; open to all architects registered in Canada, Canadian architectural graduates, and foreign architects partnered with a Canadian-registered architect; deadline: September 13- Canadian Architect



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-- Aedas: West Kowloon Terminus, Hong Kong

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