

Today's News - Wednesday, October 3, 2012

- Belogolovsky's ode to Seidler - his convictions and vision - on the eve of the opening of a new traveling exhibition celebrating the Australian master's 90th anniversary.
- Good news on the preservation front: Gehry on board to master plan re-use of Miami's iconic Bacardi Tower and Museum as new home for the National YoungArts Foundation.
- Kimmelman weighs in on some not-so-good news on the preservation front, re: an FLW "masterwork" now in "a fight for its life" in Phoenix: "steps should have been taken long ago" (possible demolition on Thursday?!?).
- More on efforts to save Peavey Plaza, the "heart" of Minneapolis: "Defying logic, the city has refused to consider Friedberg's updates" that "would cost less than Oslund's to install."
- Foster beats out fellow starchitects for Manhattan's next icon: 425 Park Avenue.
- Goldberger's take on Brooklyn's new Barclays Center: "It isn't the extraordinary place the Gehry arena would have been, but it's a decent and at times strong building" (with a few shortcomings).
- Litt looks forward to the opening this weekend of Moussavi's MOCA in Cleveland, "a seductively mysterious four-story gemstone" that "symbolizes the view that the arts are a critical investment in a city on the mend."
- A luscious eyeful of Piano's Astrup Fearnley Museum in Oslo, "located in what promises to become the city's hippest neighborhood."
- Rybczynski ruminates on Safdie, a "humble architect" whose Crystal Bridges Museum "illustrates why he no longer needs to prove himself."
- Pedersen offers a lively Q&A with Hosey, RTKL's new chief sustainability officer, about his new job, the future of sustainable architecture, and his first impressions of China.
- Rose is more than riled about the U.K. education secretary's "war on architecture": along with banning curves in new school designs, "perhaps color should go too. Who needs it, after all?"
- RIBA is no less irritated with the "government's 'inflexible' school templates, claiming they will 'deprive' students and teachers of quality learning environments" - and offers "a series of recommendations to improve" them.
- Four reasons why business should embrace more activism.
- The APA announces its list of 2012 Great Places in America and what makes them great (some surprises!).
- The USGBC opens the 5th LEED v4 public comment period.
- Deadline reminders: Call for entries: Future Prentice: 2012 Chicago Prize Competition + 60th Annual P/A Awards for unbuilt projects + MIPIM Architectural Review Future Projects Awards 2013 for unbuilt or incomplete projects.

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"Harry Seidler: Architecture, Art and Collaborative Design": A new traveling exhibition celebrates the 90th anniversary of the birth of Harry Seidler, the leading Australian architect of the 20th century who followed his convictions and vision. By Vladimir Belogolovsky [images] - ArchNewsNow.com

National YoungArts Foundation to move into Miami's Bacardi Tower and Museum: ...has purchased the famous complex in Miami, with plans to create — with Frank Gehry's help — a new center of arts activity. -- Enrique Gutiérrez (1963); Ignacio Carrera-Justiz (1975) [images] - Miami Herald

Frank Lloyd Wright Masterwork Is Seen in a New Light: A Fight for Its Life: ...home for his son David, in Phoenix, is in danger of being demolished by developers...The prospect...has suddenly galvanized preservationists, as these crises often belatedly do...In retrospect, steps should have been taken long ago...But what's now a cliffhanger is also a no-brainer. By Michael Kimmelman [slide show] - New York Times

Preservation Pulpit: The Heart of Minneapolis: Peavey Plaza, an icon of modern American landscape architecture, is worth saving...Friedberg developed a concept that retains all of the plaza's best features while also updating elements that are essential today...Defying logic, the city has refused to consider his updates...would cost less than Oslund's to install. -- M. Paul Friedberg -- M. Paul Friedberg (1973); Tom Oslund/oslund.and.assoc.; The Cultural Landscape Foundation- MODERN magazine

Foster + Partners Wins 425 Park Avenue Sweepstakes, Creating New Midtown Landmark: ...beat out fellow starchitects Rem Koolhaas, Zaha Hadid and Richard Rogers...it looks somewhat like a midcentury office tower...except that it has been judo-chopped in two spots...not only breaks up the scale of what would likely be a massive building but also creates two terraces... By Matt Chaban [image] - New York Observer

Jay-Z and the Brooklyn Nets Are Exciting and All, But Is the New Barclays Center Any Good as a Building? It isn't the extraordinary place the Gehry arena would have been, but it's a decent and at times strong building...It falls short in a couple of key ways...and you can't talk about its context without talking about Atlantic Yards...the arena we see now, sitting by itself...is not what we will see for very long. By Paul Goldberger -- Gregg Pasquarelli/SHoP Architects; Ellerbe Becket/AECOM- Vanity Fair

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland readies new building for public debut: ...a seductively mysterious four-story gemstone sheathed in reflective panels of black stainless steel...the new MOCA symbolizes the view that the arts are a critical investment in a city on the mend... By Steven Litt -- Farshid Moussavi- Cleveland Plain Dealer

A Grand Opening For Oslo's Astrup Fearnley Museum By Renzo Piano: The modern art museum is located in what promises to become the city's hippest neighborhood, Tjuvholmen, a former shipyard and mechanical industry area. [images] - Architizer

A Humble Architect: Moshe Safdie has designed buildings around the world for almost 50 years but doesn't have an identifiable style. His latest work, an Arkansas art museum [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art] funded by Walmart heiress Alice Walton, illustrates why it doesn't matter...he no longer needs to prove himself... By Witold Rybczynski- The Walrus (Canada)

Q&A: Lance Hosey: ...author of a new book, "The Shape of Green: Aesthetics, Ecology, and Design"...chief sustainability officer at RTKL...about his new job, the future of sustainable architecture, and his first impressions of China. By Martin C. Pedersen- Metropolis Magazine

Michael Gove's war on architecture: curves fail the test: A clampdown on so-called architectural extravagance means British schools will no longer feature anything other than straight lines. Why is the joy of curves lost on our education secretary? Perhaps colour should go too. Who needs it, after all? By Steve Rose -- Frank Gehry; Antoni Gaudi; Buckminster Fuller; Le Corbusier; Christopher Wren; Zaha Hadid; Richard Rogers; Will Alsop; Norman Foster; David Chipperfield; Oscar Niemeyer- Guardian (UK)

RIBA hits out at government's 'inflexible' school templates: ...has blasted the government's plans for a fresh wave of standardised schools, claiming they will 'deprive' students and teachers of quality learning environments...'far too restrictive with too much focus on short term savings'...raised five key concerns...and announced a series of recommendations to improve the templates. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Why business needs more activism: Four reasons why business should embrace more aggressive activist campaigns in the years to come: A GlobeScan/SustainAbility Survey on Activism...found that the majority of sustainability experts are convinced that NGOs can be more effective on sustainable development by collaborating with — rather than by confronting — business. - GreenBiz.com

2012 Great Places in America: You know them when you see them — but how do they become great? All the decisions we make influence the quality of our neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces. [slide show]- American Planning Association (APA)

Fifth LEED v4 Public Comment Period Now Open: The USGBC will accept comments on proposed changes until Dec. 10. - Architect Magazine

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: Future Prentice: 2012 Chicago Prize Competition: international ideas competition - envision what Bertrand Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital could become; cash prizes; deadline: October 15- Chicago Architectural Club / AIA Chicago

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: 60th Annual P/A Awards for unbuilt projects demonstrating overall design excellence and innovation; open to architects and other design professionals practicing in the United States, Canada, or Mexico; deadline: October 26- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: MIPIM Architectural Review Future Projects Awards 2013 for unbuilt or incomplete projects across 12 categories; deadline: November 16- Architectural Review (UK)



-- Rudy Ricciotti & Mario Bellini: Department of Islamic Arts, Louvre Museum, Paris, France

-- Book: "Mobile Architecture: Construction and Design Manual" by Kim Seonwook & Pyo Miyoung

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