

Today's News - Friday, October 12, 2012

- Davidson offers an "exclusive look at a private city within the city": "Hudson Yards is handsome, ambitious, and potentially full of life. Should we care that it's also a giant slab of private property?"
- Kimmelman likes what he sees in two of David Baker's housing projects in San Fran and Oakland that "have created ripples of change in their communities," and "represent what I think is a shift of priorities in the architectural profession."
- A new community housing project in a Melbourne suburb "does not fit the typical social-housing model."
- Meanwhile, a soaring Tower Melbourne will be either "a city-defining project and an iconic landmark" or a "blight" - depending on who you talk to.
- Behre hopes Clemson University's second try for a new architecture center will make it past the NIMBYs this time: the university "has done much to address neighborhood concerns that helped derail its earlier architecture center plan."
- Maki to make his first mark in the U.K. with a Muslim cultural center and university for the Aga Khan.
- Chan reports that architecture buffs are "doing Home Alone-style, double-cheek face slaps at the idea" of a proposal to paint a mural on Philadelphia's PSFS Building.
- Waterstudio has plans to build a new floating neighborhood with 1,200 homes: building "for the rich helps to refine a technology that can in turn be used to benefit the poor."
- Seattle's Floating Bridge competition winner would give new life to the old SR 520 bridge pontoons as a community park and a floating wetland + Eyefuls of the other winners.
- Former RMJM colleagues set up Kettle Collective, "a new Scottish-based venture with global ambitions."
- Weekend diversions:
- Q&A with Nahmias, one of the filmmakers behind "Unfinished Spaces" documentary about the Cuban National Art School project, re: the origins of the project and the rumors of Norman Foster's involvement (premieres tonight on PBS).
- Carnegie Museum of Art's "White Cube, Green Maze " highlights "a new trend in museum design - away from Bilbao-esque icons" that could be "a model for less well-funded institutions" (great slide show).
- Moore has a most interesting conversation with Brodsky as "Russia's greatest living architect " prepares for his first London show: "It's refreshing to hear an architect admit that he might make mistakes - but then he is not a normal architect" (great slide show, too).
- Hadid's "Pleated Shell Structures" opens today at SCI-Arc Gallery (a rather archi-babble-filled description, but looks interesting).
- "Buildings That Heal" at Drury University showcases architects who have "made a big difference in the lives of many, rather than addressing the needs of the few."
- Schumacher manages to avoid a hernia carrying the latest 18-pound Phaidon Atlas home: it's "a weighty book indeed" - on many levels.
- Lanks weighs in on "Frank Lloyd Wright: Art Collector": apparently "he didn't have great taste" (lots of pix).
- Walter offers a round-up of children's books on the built environment even grownups can enjoy.
- One we couldn't resist: Vanderbilt's most amusing take Corbu's Villa Savoye joining the Lego Architecture Series.

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From 0 to 12 Million Square Feet: In a few weeks, construction begins on New York's largest development ever. Hudson Yards is handsome, ambitious, and potentially full of life. Should we care that it's also a giant slab of private property? An exclusive look at a private city within the city. By Justin Davidson -- William Pedersen/Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Elizabeth Diller/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; David Rockwell/Rockwell, Group; Howard Elkus/Elkus Manfredi; Thomas Woltz/Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects [slide show]- New York Magazine

Design as Balm for a Community's Soul: Tassafaronga Village, a mixed-income development in Oakland, Calif., and the Richardson Apartments for the formerly homeless in San Francisco have created ripples of change in their communities...projects that represent what I think is a shift of priorities in the architectural profession. By Michael Kimmelman -- David Baker + Partners [images]- New York Times

Community housing brings colour to town: Pearcedale Community House in Broadmeadows does not fit the typical social-housing model..."We wanted the apartments to have a civic presence...but we also wanted to provide homes which residents had a strong connection to, a home for some people who never had a home before"... -- Carabott Holt Turcinov Architects [image]- Sydney Morning Herald

The new tower that has tensions rising: Tower Melbourne's developers believe the "super high-rise" will be a city-defining project and an iconic landmark. But the building...also has strident critics, with one senior Melbourne councillor labelling it a "blight"..."This is where Melbourne comes of age." -- Callum Fraser/Elenberg Fraser [images, video]- Sydney Morning Herald

New Clemson University architecture center design sure to stir the pot: Whether it gets built will depend on how many stomachs it turns as well...Clemson has done much to address neighborhood concerns that helped derail its earlier architecture center plan...it shouldn't be rejected because the city isn't ready for something new. By Robert Behre -- Brad Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture; E.E. Fava; Kennedy & Violich; David M. Schwarz [image]- Charleston Post and Courier (South Carolina)

Aga Khan has designs on King's Cross: Fumihiko Maki is to design a Muslim cultural centre and university on the 67-acre King's Cross development...will be the first UK project for the Japanese architect...- Evening Standard (UK)

Petition to Paint Mural on Philadelphia's PSFS Building Horrifies Architecture Fans : ...petitioning for a city-sanctioned mural on the facade of the PSFS Building had architecture fans doing Home Alone-style, double-cheek face slaps at the idea... By Kelly Chan- Artinfo

Dutch architect dreams of future floating cities: ...started making connections between the principles of a floating house, and the battle the Dutch have been waging against the sea...for 500 years...laying plans to start building an entirely new floating neighbourhood with 1,200 homes. -- Koen Olthuis/Waterstudio [image]- Reuters

What's next for old SR 520 bridge pontoons? The Duwamish River, best known for decades of pollution and superfund status, may see new life through the old 520. For a couple of Seattle architects the 33 leftover pontoons...Each pontoon amounts to 10 million pounds of concrete. You can't put that in a landfill - but you can put them in the river to support Nicole Lew and David Dahl's South Park Food Bridge...a community park on one side, a floating wetland on the other. [video]- KING 5 News (Seattle)

Transforming Seattle's 520 Floating Bridge Competition Winners: RETHINK REUSE recently announced the winning entries in their Transforming Seattle's 520 Floating Bridge 2012 International Design Ideas Competition. [images]- ArchDaily

Tony Kettle to head new Scottish-based architectural and design collective: ...has teamed up with two former colleagues at RMJM in a new Scottish-based venture with global ambitions...will be joined by Colin Bone and David Tripney to form Kettle Collective.- The Scotsman (UK)

"Unfinished Spaces" premieres tonight on PBS: ...documentary about the ambitious Cuban National Art School project...Q&A with Alysa Nahmias, one of the filmmakers (and architect), to get a little more information about the origins of the project, some thoughts of on the reaction to the film, and the rumors of Norman Foster's involvement with the school of ballet building. [images]- Archinect

Art and Landscape Intersect in Pittsburgh: The Carnegie Museum of Art's "White Cube, Green Maze: New Art Landscapes" highlights a more democratic and dispersed model of museum-making...a new trend in museum design—away from Bilbao-esque icons...a model for less well-funded institutions. -- Tadao Ando; SANAA; Ryo Abe; TOA (Taller de Operaciones Ambientales); Johnston Marklee; Raimund Abraham; Álvaro Siza; Weiss/Manfredi; Arquitectos Asociados [slide show]- Architectural Record

"White Room/Black Room": Alexander Brodsky, hailed as Russia's greatest living architect, has a rare passion for physicality – and impermanence: It's refreshing to hear an architect admit that he might make mistakes...but then he is not a normal architect. By Rowan Moore [slide show]- Observer (UK)

Zaha Hadid Architects "Pleated Shell Structures" at SCI-Arc Gallery opens October 12: This short term research-prototype posits itself within the argument for parametric design research... Patrik Schumacher; Eric Owen Moss discuss the exhibition[image]- Southern California Institute of Architecture/SCI-Arc

The power of architecture: "Buildings That Heal," an exhibit...at Drury University's Hammons School of Architecture..."these architects (have) made a big difference in the lives of many, rather than addressing the needs of the few." -- MASS Design Group - Springfield News-Leader (Missouri)

An Atlas of Architecture: At more than 18 pounds...a weighty book indeed...The "20th Century World Architecture: The Phaidon Atlas"...If I have any complaint...it is related to size, both large and small. The oversized book is quite a commitment...Ironically, the type is particularly tiny for such a hefty tome... By Mary Louise Schumacher - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Prints Offer A Glimpse Into Frank Lloyd Wright's Private World: While on a European trip with his mistress, the American master assembled a collection of Secessionist prints. Even more surprising, he didn't have great taste..."Frank Lloyd Wright: Art Collector" by Anthony Alofsin... By Belinda Lanks [slide show]- Fast Company

Children's Books on the Built Environment: Seeding future designers and planners. By Amanda Walter -- Michael J. Crosbie; David Macaulay; Andrea Beaty; Virginia Burton; etc. - Metropolis Magazine

Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye is the Newest Addition to Lego's Architecture Series: ...one of the myriad joys of the series is that it gets us back to some original founding ideal of modernism, where perfect theories come into perfect play with a perfectly engineered snap, without any intrusion from clients... By Tom Vanderbilt -- Mies van der Rohe; Jørn Utzon; Frank Lloyd Wright; Buckminster Fuller; Moshe Safdie; BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; Michael Hepp [images]- Architectural Digest



-- Bentheim Crouwel Architekten: New Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
-- Richard Meier & Partners: OCT Clubhouse, Shenzhen, China

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