

Today's News - Wednesday, November 14, 2012

- McEwen ponders post-Sandy: "perhaps New Yorkers and the rest of the country are ready to talk honestly and admit that sandbags in urban flood-zones are just not good enough."
- Meanwhile, an in-depth (and engrossing) look at how NYC's art community "is digging out, drying off, counting its losses, helping its neighbors"; MoMA's "Rising Currents" is receiving renewed attention, with Bergdoll wanting to do more than just another panel discussion: "I'm trying to figure out what that is."
- Binger returns from the Biennale's "Common Ground" with a most thoughtful take "on the urgent need to create a new common edge of forward looking ideology and civic responsibility."
- McDonald delves into what Dublin needs to truly be "a well-functioning capital city - but suburban sprawl, poor transport and weak administration are dragging the city down" (at least it hasn't turned into "something like Pittsburgh").
- Moore has mixed feelings about plans for London's Nine Elms neighborhood: "The engagement of eminent architects will probably lead to some sort of stylishness but it is not leading to much increase in urban intelligence."
- 500 meters of industrial railway track will be Sydney's version of New York's High Line, a.k.a. The Goods Line.
- Detroit's newest attraction soon to open: "Urban Put-Put": a miniature golf course designed by architecture and graphic design students using a salvaged car wreck, burned-out house, an abandoned toilet, and bikes (with nary a windmill in sight).
- Barnett sizes up a number of Ivy League campus expansion plans: could they soon be outdated with the expansion of new online capabilities? No.
- Mayne "downplays the role of aesthetics" with his building for the Cornell NYC Tech on Roosevelt Island; he's more "interested in a new paradigm that combines architecture and planning in a hybrid space."
- Wainwright tours the Royal College of Art's "swanky arts factory": after some "teething problems have been mostly rectified, the occasional clunks and contradictions of this intriguing hybrid building" make it "a messy powerhouse of creativity."
- Eye candy for the day: 10 university buildings "that actually make you want to go to class."
- A great round-up of new home trends: Living Architecture; building for rising sea levels; off-grid; bamboo; etc.
- Chaban on Foster's first U.S. apartment building: it "seems to strike the proper balance of brash understatement."
- Lackmeyer looks into Oklahoma City's plans to move ahead with a new convention center: relying on some questionable data, it might not be such a good idea.
- Chan offers a most eloquent explanation of "why the unbuilt visions of Lebbeus Woods matter."
- Re: Niemeyer: Don't believe the rumors! "Risk of death? In no time was it considered."
- Mystery buyer of Wright's Phoenix house drops out, and it's back on the market for the same \$2.38 million.
- Want an FLW but don't like the desert: "Only 50 miles away from Manhattan - or a mere 15 minute luxury helicopter ride" is his Petra Island house - for sale for a mere \$20 million.

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Don't Rebuild: Redesign: ...perhaps New Yorkers and the rest of the country are ready to talk honestly and admit that sandbags in urban flood-zones are just not good enough...Perhaps there is no outrage, because people do not know that with planning and investment...in the landscape and land-use of the city, itself - this horrific damage could have been largely avoided. By Mitch McEwen/A. Conglomerate- Huffington Post

A Climate Change in the Art World? The art community is digging out, drying off, counting its losses, helping its neighbors-- and starting to prepare for the hurricanes of the future..."Rising Currents" is receiving renewed attention in the wake of Sandy..."I don't want to have yet another panel discussion," Barry Bergdoll says. "I want something that takes it to yet another level of effectiveness. I'm trying to figure out what that is." MoMA PS 1; Architecture Research Office (ARO); Walter Meyer/Local Office Landscape & Urban Design [images, links]- ARTnews

Moving Design Thinking to Higher Ground: A trip to the Biennale evokes thoughts on the urgent need to find a common edge: ...important insights into how architects and designers see their roles...would be most effective if these seemingly divergent groups...were working together...to create a new common edge of forward looking ideology and civic responsibility. By Steven Binger/Concordia -- Norman Foster and filmmaker/Carlos Carcas; Lucio Costa; Marcio Kogan/Studio MK27 [images]- Metropolis Magazine

How to build a better Dublin: Ireland needs a well-functioning capital city, but suburban sprawl, poor transport and weak administration are dragging Dublin down...there hasn't been much sign of smartness on the ground...we can be thankful that the swagger of the boom years has gone. Chastened by the bust...We've also managed to maintain much of the city's fabric and prevent it turning into something like Pittsburgh... By Frank McDonald- Irish Times

Utopia-on-Thames? Nine Elms on the South Bank, London: It's the biggest transformation London has seen for years. But the masterplan won't work unless all parties co-operate...There are intentions to do better...a sketch of what a good piece of city might be, generic in its detail...The engagement of eminent architects will probably lead to crisper details and some sort of stylishness but it is not leading to much increase in urban intelligence. By Rowan Moore -- Terry Farrell; Foster + Partners; Rogers Stirk Harbour; Camlins; KPF; Rolfe Judd [image]- Observer (UK)

Aspect Studios designs New York style highline for Sydney: ...500 metres of industrial railway track ...Ultimo Pedestrian Network, now known as UPN - The Goods Line..."Sydney's version of the New York High Line." -- Choi Ropiha Figuera [images, video]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Miniature Golf, With A Detroit Twist, Coming To Corktown: But don't expect the giant plastic animals or windmills that are part of most American putt-putt courses...you shoot the ball through a salvaged car wreck, burned-out house and abandoned toilet...all being putt together by graphic design and architecture students from a Lawrence Tech University sculpture class. "Urban Put-Put"... [images, links]- Deadline Detroit

Expanding Universities: Plans proceed apace at Harvard, Columbia, Penn, Yale, and Princeton: Because of new online capabilities, could the expansion of the physical campus at these elite institutions soon be outdated? By Robert Barnett -- Cooper, Robertson & Partners; Gehry Partners; Olin Partnership; Behnisch Architekten; Renzo Piano; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Sasaki Associates; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Weiss/Manfredi; KieranTimberlake; Pfeiffer Partners; Forum Architects; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Beyer Blinder Belle; Steven Holl Architects; Rick Joy Architects- Architectural Record

For Roosevelt Island Campus, Thom Mayne Puts Function First: ...academic building will set the tone for the rest of the Cornell NYC Tech campus...he is seeing a shift in campus architecture...downplays the role of aesthetics...is interested in a new paradigm that combines architecture and planning in a hybrid space... -- Morphosis; Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images, links]- Next American City

Inside the Royal College of Art's 'swanky arts factory': ...its new campus in Battersea paints a vivid portrait of an institution in flux...The occasional clunks and contradictions of this intriguing hybrid building aptly reflect the internal struggles...a messy powerhouse of creativity, under constant pressure to be tamed...As a physical representation of an institution grappling with these issues, the RCA's Dyson building could not be more accurate. By Oliver Wainwright -- HT Cadbury-Brown (1961); Haworth Tompkins architects [images]- Guardian (UK)

Top 10: University Buildings That Actually Make You Want To Go To Class -- Alejandro Aravena; Mecanoo Architecten; Yazdani Studio/Cannon Design; Adjaye Associates; Vert Architects; Ennead Architects; OMA; Morphosis; Grafton Architects; Louis Kahn [slide show] - Architizer

From the home front: Living Architecture's unusual homes; building for rising sea levels; off-grid; bamboo -- Alain de Botton; Koen Olthuis/Waterstudio.NL; etc. [images, links] - The Oregonian

Presenting the Next 15 CPW: Zeckendorfs Unveil 50 UN Plaza, Norman Foster's First U.S. Apartment Building: Those Zeckendorfs sure do love their starchitects...More demure than buildings like Hearst or the so-called Gerkin in London, [it] seems to strike the proper balance of brash understatement... By Matt Chaban -- Foster + Partners [image] - New York Observer

Plans move ahead for convention center, hotel despite collapse in national market: At convention centers across the country, a fierce competition is taking place that pits what industry observers say is an oversupply of meeting space against shrinking demand..."not have any publicly available study on convention center economics or a needs assessment is not acceptable"...in some cities, civic leaders are quietly contemplating whether to exit the business all together. By Steve Lackmeyer - The Oklahoman

Why the Unbuilt Visions of Lebbeus Woods Matter: His visions of violently ruptured buildings and landscapes, stitched together with profane steel interventions that flout the laws of physics, are considered some of the most radical works of experimental architecture in the 1980s and 90s...consistently chose to depict fragmented dystopias rather than propose utopian solutions. By Kelly Chan -- Steven Holl; Zaha Hadid; Douglas Murphy; Daniel Libeskind [slide show] - Artinfo

Oscar Niemeyer in Full Recovery: Don't believe the rumors! "Risk of death? In no time was it considered." - ArchDaily

Buyer drops bid to purchase Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home: ...mystery buyer of the David and Gladys Wright house in Phoenix has abruptly dropped out of the deal...back on the market again for the same amount of \$2.38 million...now in a rush to find another buyer for the house...by Dec. 4 in order to get ahead of Phoenix City Council's vote the next day to designate the Wright home as historic. - Phoenix Business Journal

Private Frank Lloyd Wright-Designed Island Hits The Market Just In Time For The Holidays: Only 50 miles away from Manhattan — or a mere 15 minute luxury helicopter ride — Petra Island highlights Wright's signature melding of modern design with nature. [images] - Architizer



- OMGEVING: Boekenberg Park, Deurne, Belgium
- schmidt hammer lassen: New Library, University of Aberdeen, Scotland
- Steven Holl Architects: Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland

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