

Today's News - Wednesday, November 28, 2012

- Ulam minces no words re: starchitects vs. the 99% - via the Biennale: "Common Ground' is not going to change the status quo. Rather, it is an act of hypocrisy that starchitects who spend their lives working for the 1% are spending their summer vacations blurring the lines between themselves and the 99%."
- Conway considers the evolution of post-recession Dublin: it "has become the center of a new kind of rebirth, with determined residents transforming it into a model of creativity and livability" (great links).
- Capps can't find a lot to like about DS+R's Hirshhorn Bubble: it "represents a new - and misguided - attempt to get into the spectacle game," but "it is neither cost nor mission efficient" (despite its "neat-o factor").
- Green agrees re: "Koshalek's architectural folly" that "has nothing to do with art."
- A look at what's in, and what's now out in revised design for Maltzan's St. Petersburg Pier "Lens."
- Chaban's (amusing) report on two plans to transform Manhattan's Park Avenue into a "High Line for the East Side" (one "queen of the social circuit" fears "they'll be camping out, like at Zuccotti Park") + Slide show of the SHoP and SOM proposals.
- San Diego's historic Horton Plaza is in for a major facelift and expansion.
- Szenasy celebrates Daniel Patrick Moynihan's "faith in beautifully designed civic spaces and buildings"; and make time to watch GSA's short film, "Democratic By Design."
- Clemence cheers Hadid's Broad Art Museum at MSU, "a cultural structure that at the same time anchors and thrusts forward the community it was designed to serve" (with his own most exquisite photos).
- Patkau Architects tapped to design the Audain Art Museum in Whistler, BC: "the local landscape and natural surroundings" will "inform and inspire the design."
- Next up for the High Line: a biophilic office building by COOKFOX (formerly Cook+Fox), "its next version of the sustainable workplace" (with its own rooftop High Line).
- Lubell reports on the end of a "bitter battle" over the design of a complex opposite Neutra's famed Strathmore Apartments in L.A., with Lorcan O'Herlihy's "riff on history" apparently winning the day.
- More and more local councils in Australia are using "conditional permits" on large inner-city projects, "mandating architects' ongoing involvement" to avoid the old bait-and-switch.
- Carnegie Mellon and Clemson University take top prize in the Sustainable Laboratory Student Design Competition (great presentations).
- Call for entries/presentations for the 2013 Healthcare Design Conference next November.

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Architecture for the other 99%: So long, Frank Gehry. The design world turns on 'starchitecture' and its excesses: ...has pushed some leading architects to examine their responsibility for the current state of affairs..."Common Ground" is not going to change the status quo. Rather, it is an act of hypocrisy that starchitects who spend their lives working for the one percent are spending their summer vacations blurring the lines between themselves and the 99 percent. By Alex Ulam -- 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale; Tod Williams; Peter Zumthor; Brad Cloepfil; Mack Scogin Merrill Elam; David Chipperfield; Norman Foster; Bernard Tschumi; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Zaha Hadid; Michael Kimmelman; Herzog & de Meuron; Anupama Kundoo [links]- Maclean's (Canada)

The Ongoing Evolution of Post-Recession Dublin: The economic crisis decimated the Irish capital...a new kind of city is emerging...has become the center of a new kind of rebirth, with determined residents transforming it into a model of creativity and livability...the collapse has provided a sort of creative jolt...opening the door for creativity in practically every discipline. By Richard Conway -- Mahoney Architects; Patrick McCabe/REDScape; Frank McDonald; Reinventing Dublin [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

The Hirshhorn Bubble Exposes the Problem with Event Art: ...represents a new—and misguided—attempt to get into the spectacle game...Richard Koshalek's plan was to put the Hirshhorn pavilion in a class with the Aspen Ideas Festival or TED Talks...While the neat-o factor for the Bubble is substantial, it is neither cost nor mission efficient. By Kriston Capps -- HWKN; Diller Scofidio + Renfro- The New Republic

Put a fork in the Hirshhorn's Bubble?...Richard Koshalek's architectural folly...has nothing to do with art and I have this wacky idea that an art museum should be about art...many Hirshhorn staffers are frustrated by how much time and effort the long-shot project is taking, and that it detracts from the museum's core activities... By Tyler Green -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- Artinfo

New St. Pete Pier The Lens: Changes coming for new St. Petersburg Pier design: Some new elements have been added, while others - including a signature of the design - have been eliminated...Here's what's in and what's out in the latest plans... -- Michael Maltzan Architecture [slide show]- WTSP-TV News 10 (Tampa Bay, Florida)

Pedestrians at the Gates: Pathway Plan for Park Avenue Could Turn Class Into Mass: ...a clever group of planners and activists would like to transform the street into a world-class gathering place rather than a mere thoroughfare..."It's the silliest thing I've ever heard. Soon they'll be camping out, like at Zuccotti Park." By Matt Chaban -- Vishaan Chakrabarti/SHoP Architects; Roger Duffy/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- New York Observer

A High Line for the East Side: Strolling the Park Avenue Promenade: ...a look at two proposals to widen the Park Avenue median...Part High Line, part art walk, the hope is it would create an entirely new destination on the East Side of Manhattan... By Matt Chaban -- SHoP Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [slide show essay]- New York Observer

Horton park expansion to begin with boom: The \$14.7 million enlargement of historic Horton Plaza first requires demolition of Robinson's-May department store building. By Roger Showley -- Irving J. Gill (1910); Walker Macy [images]- San Diego Union-Tribune

Excellence in Public Architecture: Celebrating one man's faith in beautifully designed civic spaces and buildings: Daniel Patrick Moynihan's modest, one page document set forth the Guiding Principles of design excellence in the public realm; its words still ring true...A short film, "Democratic By Design," was produced by the General Services Administration (GSA)...Guidelines are recited by some of our best-known architects... By Susan S. Szenasy [images, video]- Metropolis Magazine

The East Lansing Effect: Zaha Hadid's Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University gives the college town a cultural connection...a cultural structure that at the same time anchors and thrusts forward the community it was designed to serve. By Paul Clemence [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Vancouver Architect Duo Set to Deliver the Audain Art Museum in Whistler: ...have yet to confirm a final vision for the site...the local landscape and natural surroundings are expected to inform and inspire the museum's design. -- Patkau Architects- DesignBuild Source (Canada)

Unveiled> 510 West 22nd Street: COOKFOX Architects designs a biophilic office building along the High Line that looks to connect with nature...its next version of the sustainable workplace...will seek a LEED Platinum rating... [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Neutra's Neighbor: Westwood Design Review Board approves design for new complex across from Richard Neutra's famed Strathmore Apartments in Los Angeles: The bitter battle...appears to have been finally resolved...shifting volumes and their close connection to the landscape reference the Neutra building itself. "We were trying to riff on history"... By Sam Lubell -- Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects (LOHA) [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

More councils require keeping architects for length of projects: ...increasingly using "conditional permits" on larger, more complex inner-city buildings...mandating architects' ongoing involvement...There were plenty of examples of the built outcome being significantly inferior to the design specified on the original planning permit... - Brisbane Times (Australia)

2011-12 Sustainable Laboratory Student Design Competition: The jury selected two winners and three honorable mentions. Modular Sustainability: Gary P. Moshier/Dan Addis/John Kim/Jensen Ying/Carnegie Mellon University; MR + EC: Ulrike Heine/Caitlin Ranson/Dianah Katzenberger/School: Clemson University [images, info] - Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) / International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories

Call for entries/Call for Presentations: 2013 HEALTHCARE DESIGN Conference, November 16-19, 2013; submission deadline: January 25, 2013 - Center for Health Design



Zaha Hadid Architects: Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

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