

Today's News - Tuesday, January 15, 2013

- Mattern turns the pages of the fascinating history and challenging future of South Korea's Paju Bookcity: "this is the industrial park remade."
- A look at Lexington, KY's high hopes to uncover a stream buried for 100 years and use it as "an organizing armature of public space to guide future development."
- Benfield cheers Chapin's Pettaway Pocket Neighborhood project in Little Rock, AK, that takes "resources typically found in individual private lots and pooled them to create a true public realm, something notoriously lacking in modern American residential subdivisions."
- Heathcote is heartened by the Design Museum's Design of the Year shortlist: the "global financial crisis does not seem to have affected the quality or ingenuity of the entries - in fact, quite the opposite."
- A fab travel guide for anyone in or going to France: "5 spectacular architectural additions to the French cultural scene."
- The architect of the Sydney Convention Centre, who "will likely outlive one of his greatest works," speaks out for the first time: demolition is "rather stupid" - Australia hasn't "grown up, we haven't developed any good manners and we don't protect and look after our good things."
- An eyeful of Times Square's Valentine by Situ Studio will be made of Hurricane Sandy debris: visitors will stand within a literal and figurative "heart of New York City" (we can't wait!).
- Brady blasts the Olympic gag: "Our architects should be out there talking about their work."
- Ulrich makes the case for architecture's power to reduce violence in psychiatric care facilities - and beyond: "it's time we put our growing understanding about stress-reducing design into architectural practice."
- Betsy basks in a "hidden" California park by Noguchi: "I know of no other three-dimensional, inhabitable construction that makes a larger landscape so immediate, so habitable, and so easy to understand."
- Lamb Hart's A New Humanism: Part 6: "there seems to be that underlying predilection to find the excitement, the pleasure of adventure, making it as safe as 'possible,' but taking the risk."
- Call for entries: World Design Capital 2014 designation.

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Paju Bookcity: The Next Chapter: ...if [it] is not the fairy tale I envisioned, it is a kind of Cinderella story: this is the industrial park remade...follows an "urban wetlands" master plan and features serious architecture...seeking to reinvent Korean publishing, architecture and urban planning... By Shannon Mattern -- Seung H-Sang/IROJE architects & planners; Florian Beigel/Philip Christou/Architecture Research Unit; Kim Young-joon/YO2; Min Hyun-sik; Kim Jong-kyu/Maru; Alvaro Siza; Carlos Castanheira; Jun Sung-kim; iArc Architects [images, links]- Places Journal

Silent Creek: Lexington, Kentucky invites firms to decide how to uncover a stream buried for 100 years...An invited competition...reimagining Town Branch Creek now running beneath city streets as...an organizing armature of public space to guide future development... -- Gary Bates/Space Group; Michael Speaks; Deborah Berke Partners; Studio Gang; EOP Architects; Civitas; Coen+Partners; Inside Outside; Julien De Smedt Architects; SCAPE / Landscape Architecture [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

The Case for Shared Green Spaces: Little Rock's Pettaway Pocket Neighborhood strengthens the area and protects the environment...took resources typically found in individual private lots and pooled them to create a true public realm, something notoriously lacking in modern American residential subdivisions. By Kaid Benfield/Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) -- Ross Chapin Architects [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

Shortlist balances form against function: ...Design Museum's Design of the Year awards throws up an almost ridiculously diverse list of designs...The awards...were founded in 2008, coinciding with the global financial crisis. Yet that does not seem to have affected the quality or ingenuity of the entries - in fact, quite the opposite...newer concern with life-changing products and social value is hugely welcome... By Edwin Heathcote -- Thomas Heatherwick/Heatherwick Studio; Renzo Piano; Fiona Banner/David Kohn Architects; Studio Egret West; Lacaton and Vassal- Financial Times (UK)

5 Spectacular Architectural Additions to the French Cultural Scene -- Reichen & Robert & Associés; Odile Decq Benoît Cornette; Kenga Kuma; Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA; Rudy Ricciotti/Mario Bellini [slide show]- Artinfo France

Architect lashes out at 'stupid' demolition: ...John Andrews will likely outlive one of his greatest works...has spoken out for the first time on a plan to demolish the Sydney Convention Centre at Darling Harbour...joins Philip Cox, who designed the adjoining exhibition centre, in lambasting plans to destroy the buildings rather than incorporate them into the new design.- Sydney Morning Herald

Heartwalk: Situ Studio's 2013 Times Square Valentine Heart Boardwalk Will Be Made of Hurricane Sandy Debris: ...invite visitors to stand within a literal and figurative "heart of New York City." -- Times Square Alliance; Design Trust for Public Space [images]- Inhabitat

RIBA boss slams ministers over failure to lift Olympic gag: Angela Brady calls on government to "act on its promise" and relax Olympic marketing restrictions..."This is a huge disappointment for the creative professionals who delivered the London 2012 Games...why are we still waiting? Our architects should be out there talking about their work."- Building (UK)

Op-Ed: Designing for Calm: The right architecture can reduce violence — even in psychiatric wards: Currently, questions about design at psychiatric care facilities are viewed through the prism of security...But architecture can — and should — play a much larger role in patient safety and care...it's time we put our growing understanding about stress-reducing design into architectural practice. By Roger S. Ulrich- New York Times

California Dreaming: Isamu Noguchi's Hidden Park: I know of no other three-dimensional, inhabitable construction...that makes a larger landscape so immediate, so habitable, and so easy to understand. California Scenario (1980) is a whole state made present and tactile...it might not keep the rain or the sun out, but it does make you at home... By Aaron Betsy [slide show]- Architect Magazine

A New Humanism: Part 6: Paying attention to our abiding search for refuge and prospect: ...there seems to be that underlying predilection to find the excitement, the pleasure of adventure, making it as safe as "possible," but taking the risk. By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler- Metropolis Magazine

Call for entries: Call for applications for World Design Capital 2014 designation; deadline: April 30- International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid)

- OMA: CCTV Headquarters, Beijing, China
- "Torre David: Informal Vertical Communities" by Alfredo Brillembourg & Hubert Klumpner
- "Invisible Cities" at MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts- ArcSpace

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