

Today's News - Tuesday, January 22, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for late posting today (and no post yesterday)...power has been sparse (ironically, to install a generator!).

- ArcSpace brings us eye-fuls of BIG's big project in Coconut Grove, Kuma's experimental house in Japan, and a new urban resort in Ljubljana's historic center (lots of interesting archeological finds included).
- Now for some post-inaugural buzz: Levinson takes a long (and most thoughtful) look at the connections between climate change, public works, urban design, campaign finance, and a ramped up political agenda for design (with "Rising Currents" thrown in for good measure).
- Phil Bernstein explains how "design and economics are wholly intertwined" (with kudos to NYC's Archtober and Beijing Design Week).
- AIA chief economist Baker looks at what Obama's reelection means for the construction industry (it could go either way).
- Lubell reports that Yamasaki's midcentury Century Plaza Hotel in L.A. won't, as many feared, be biting the dust any time soon.
- Menking cheers "a positive - if tentative step - towards preservation" of Johansen's Mummies Theater in Oklahoma City.
- Friedberg's Peavey Plaza in Minneapolis is now listed on National Register of Historic Places: "a moral victory" for preservations, but litigation will continue.
- Rochon has nothing but raves for Thunder Bay's revitalized waterfront, especially with a project that declares "aboriginal culture matters...finally expressed in a beautiful narrative."
- Filler fixes on Snøhetta's "unquestionably gifted team" - but suggests they should realize that "in the rough-and-tumble world of architecture there can be such a thing as being too nice for your own good."
- McAslan wins competition to revamp Glasgow's George Square - only to find out the project has been "scrapped."
- Litt learns about four designs vying to be Kent State's new College of Architecture and Environmental Design.
- Wainwright has high hopes for Bristol's architect/mayor Ferguson, who has big plans for his city to be a "laboratory for change - I'm going to be intolerant of bad architecture."
- Kolson Hurley reports on University of Minnesota's new program to put architecture students on the road to licensure in about half the time it takes now.
- BMW Guggenheim Lab announces winners of its Mumbai Urban Design Competition.
- Hadid heads to DLD 2013, and takes home the Aenne Burda Award for Creative Leadership, which honors women of outstanding entrepreneurial and creative achievement.
- Two we couldn't resist: Wainwright's ode to Formica on its 100th anniversary: "The brave new seamless surface of the future is officially an antique" (great slide show) + An eye-ful of Niemeyer's rarely seen Communist Party HQ in Paris.

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-- BIG/Bjarke Ingles Group: The Grove at Grand Bay, Coconut Grove, Florida
-- Kengo Kuma & Associates: Mjeme Experimental House, Hokkaido, Japan
-- Sadar Vuga Arhitekti: Vander Urbani Resort, Ljubljana, Slovenia

[After the Storm: Climate Change and Public Works: ...the relationship between climate change and urban design...is increasingly well understood...Given the "new math" of global warming and the "new price" of U.S. politics, what then can the design disciplines do? ...one answer is to redouble the efforts already underway... By Nancy Levinson \[links\]- Places Journal](#)

[Comment> Architecture and design: matters of the economy: While the worlds of economic policy and design are often at odds, last year's "Archtober" in New York and "Beijing Design Week"...are encouraging signs that the distance between these ideas is rightly closing. Design and economics are, in fact, wholly intertwined. By Phil Bernstein/Autodesk- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Balancing Act: What does Obama's reelection mean for the construction industry? The construction outlook looks very promising for 2013...However, there is more than the normal amount of uncertainty in terms of federal policy that will greatly influence this outlook. By Kermit Baker- Architect Magazine](#)

[Developer Gone Good? Century Plaza Towers Get Approval: ...developer threatened to tear down Minoru Yamasaki's curving midcentury Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel to make way for the project. But a parade of preservationists...stood in their way. The result: a compromise... By Sam Lubell -- Marmol Radziner, Pei Cobb Freed, Rios Clementi Hale, Gensler \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[John Johansen's Mummies Theater May Not Be Doomed After All: There is some good news coming out of Oklahoma City...taken a positive—if tentative step—towards preservation...voted unanimously to forward the building to the National Park Service for designation as a national monument...would not in itself offer protection...but would be a sign that it has value and merit. By William Menking \[images\]- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Peavey Plaza is listed on National Register of Historic Places: Groups suing Minneapolis over demolition claimed a moral victory...\[but\] the announcement "shouldn't affect the \[current\] plans at all. It already went through the local review process. This just brings more attention to the space"...pending litigation comes Feb. 5... -- M. Paul Friedberg \(1975\); Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation- Minneapolis Star Tribune](#)

[Thunder Bay's revitalized waterfront: A declaration that aboriginal culture matters: Buried for too long, the influence of native design...has been finally expressed in a beautiful narrative...As part of a transformed, publicly accessible waterfront...Ryan Gorrie...has worked poetry with traditional bentwood...to craft a lyrical vessel \["Gathering Circle"\] that is open to the city and the waters beyond. By Lisa Rochon -- BLDG/spmb architects; Brook McIlroy \[image\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[The Risk of Being Too Nice: Perhaps only a post-industrial social democracy as progressive as Norway...could have produced an architectural office such as Snøhetta...if \[it\] is to advance into the very forefront of the profession, its unquestionably gifted team members must realize that...in the rough-and-tumble world of architecture there can be such a thing as being too nice for your own good. By Martin Filler -- Craig Dykers; Kjetil Trædal Thorsen- New York Review of Books](#)

[John McAslan & Partners wins George Square prize - then contest is scrapped: ...the latest in a line of failed attempts to revamp the square...Glasgow "council should look at reimbursing all of the shortlisted practices...Architects, who entered in good faith, should not suffer because of political failures"..."it is an embarrassment and a sad day for the city. I say that as a Glaswegian and architect." -- Peter Wilson/Wood Studio; Alan Dunlop \[images\]- The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Four teams unveil concepts in competition to design \\$40 million architecture school at Kent State University: ...the new KSU](#)

College of Architecture and Environmental Design. By Steven Litt -- Bialosky + Partners Architects/Architecture Research Office (ARO); Weiss/Manfredi/Richard L. Bowen + Associates; The Collaborative/Miller Hull Partnership; Westlake Reed Leskosky [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Bristol's architect mayor wants the city to be a 'laboratory for change': George Ferguson announces plans for...a Barcelona-style boulevard and a 12,000-seat arena...a "one-man regeneration machine" and a "model for architects to be more entrepreneurial"... "I'm going to be intolerant of bad architecture"... By Oliver Wainwright -- Ferguson Mann; Jan Gehl; David Mackay- Guardian (UK)

Seven Is Enough: It takes an advanced degree and 8.5 years of internship on average to get licensed. A group of professors, spearheaded by Renée Cheng, thinks it can all be done in seven years...University of Minnesota Masters of Science in Architecture - Research Practices (MS-RP). By Amanda Kolson Hurley- Architect Magazine

Winners Announced in Mumbai Urban Design Competition: The BMW Guggenheim Lab hosted a competition to redesign one of the city's most viscid intersections. -- David van der Leer; Atelier Bow-Wow; SDM Architects; Radhika Mathur; Sweta Parab/Hrishikesh More/ Mayuri Sisodia/Kalpit Ashar; etc. [slide show]- Architectural Record

DLD 2013 (Digital-Life-Design): Aenne Burda Award for Creative Leadership goes to architect: Zaha Hadid, renowned for her distinctly futuristic designs, urges Europe to 'go a bit wild' with its buildings - Guardian (UK)

Shiny, happy households: Formica turns 100: the wipe-clean wonder surface that conquered the world...Oliver Wainwright would like a finish in Skylark, Spindrift or Milano, please...The brave new seamless surface of the future is officially an antique. - Guardian (UK)

Celebrating Oscar Niemeyer at the Siege du Parti Communiste: To celebrate [his] life...the doors of the French Communist party HQ were opened to the public...it was possible to visit the most interesting parts of the building. [images]- Invisible Paris

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