

Today's News - Friday, March 22, 2013

- Bernstein brings us a preservation alert: another Edw. Durell Stone faces possible (probable?) demolition (includes his '05 visit to the NYC public school for Oculus magazine).
- The AJ calls for Denise Scott Brown to be given Pritzker recognition (we second the motion!).
- An impressive AIA San Francisco panel offers insights into the challenges facing women starting their own firms ("We can't all be Zaha!").
- A most impressive shortlist to design Nobel Prize HQ in Stockholm.
- Saffron gives (mostly) thumbs-up to the new Community Legal Services building in North Philly: it "offers the hope that decay and blight are not forever."
- Pasternack revisits Ito's Kaohsiung stadium "that's secretly a solar power plant" which landed him "on the map of architectural kings."
- 87(!) buildings win the inaugural Architizer A+ Awards (needless to say winners are not listed in our headline).
- Hume hails Plensa's sculpture for the Bow Building in Calgary: "There's as much engineering in Plensa's head as there is art in Calatrava's bridge...and in each case, getting there is half the fun."
- Weekend diversions:
- Arrechea's twist on NYC architecture lands on Park Avenue (we saw them - wow! Do check out the slide show).
- Christo's colossal "Big Air Package" built inside a 1920s Gasometer in Germany is a "transcendental space. Climbing its stairs is like floating up into the interior of a surreal rain cloud."
- Lebbeus Woods' retrospective at SFMOMA gets the New Scientist treatment: his drawings "provoke an open-ended conversation about what we want our society to become" (too bad "his greatest failure" was his built project in Chengdu).
- A Shigeru Ban retrospective in Mito, Japan, "presents an opportunity for visitors to think about the role of architects in society."
- Jorge Otero Pailos' "The Ethics of Dust: Carthago Nova" at Sydney's Tin Sheds Gallery "cleans away the residues of pollution," but "also preserves it, treating it as part of the history of the buildings."
- Capps cheers "Palaces for the People" at the National Building Museum: Guastavino-designed places "still make jaws drop; this show seeks to explain how."
- Sugrue finds Binelli to be "a pessimist of the intellect but an optimist of the will" in "Detroit City Is the Place to Be," offering "an unflinching analysis of the city's problems but an intimate portrayal" of those who live there.
- Lindsay is taken by Brook's "A History of Future Cities" that "looks at the attempts of places like St. Petersburg, Dubai, Shanghai, and Mumbai to create Western-looking areas in an attempt to create a sense of modernity."
- "The Crazy Projects of the Ottoman Empire" sheds surprising light on the current building boom in Turkey's largest city.
- Heathcote finds some "surprising parallels in the contrasting styles" of Adolf Loos and "his nemesis" Josef Hoffmann.
- McDonald cheers a new book, film, and exhibition celebrating the structural engineer Peter Rice, "one of the 'bad boys' along with Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano."
- Royce finds Beck's ideas in "Principles of Ecological Landscape Design" provide "an additional layer of technical information" for landscape architects who want "to expand their role in the design process and attain truly sustaining landscapes."

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Preservation Alert: P.S. 199, by Edward Durell Stone (1963): The public school on Manhattan's Upper West Side could be facing demolition if a developer takes up New York City's offer to sell the site. By Fred A. Bernstein- ArchNewsNow

Call for Denise Scott Brown to be given Pritzker recognition: The AJ is calling for the Pritzker Prize to acknowledge Scott Brown as joint equal winner in 1991, the year her partner Robert Venturi won the award.- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Starting Your Own Architecture Firm: Challenges For Women: ...the stats are still very much stacked against women, who earn roughly 41% of the architecture degrees but make up just 17% of the ranks of principals and partners. We can't all be Zaha! -- Andrea Cochran/Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture; Marsha Maytum/Leddy Maytum Stacy; Liz Ranieri/Kuth/Ranieri Architects; Iye Haugeland/Shades of Green Landscape Architecture; Mark Cavagnero- Architizer

Architects Selected for Competition to Design Nobel Prize's New Home in Stockholm – 3XN; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; David Chipperfield; Herzog & de Meuron; Johan Celsing Arkitektkontor; Lacaton & Vassal Architectes; Lundgaard & Tranberg Arkitekter; Marcel Meili, Markus Peter Architekten; OMA; SANAA; Snøhetta; Wingårdhs arkitekter- ArchDaily

New legal offices breathe life into N. Philadelphia: In a neighborhood where...there has been no new construction in half a century, the opening of the new Community Legal Services building...offers the hope that decay and blight are not forever. By Inga Saffron -- Atkin Olshin Schade Architects [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Toyo Ito's Biggest Building: A Stadium That's Secretly a Solar Power Plant: ...his largest and most unlikely commission, designing a stadium for Kaohsiung, Taiwan's second largest city...would land him on the map of architectural kings. By Alex Pasternack [images]- Motherboard

Announcing The Winners Of The First Architizer A+ Awards! 87 buildings won the Jury and Popular votes for each of the Award's 52 Typology and Plus categories. [images]- Architizer

Jaume Plensa helps Calgary come of age: The unveiling of a new public sculpture...a clear sign of that city's urban transformation..."Wonderland" is one of those artworks whose utter directness belies its subtle complexity, not to mention its outlandishness...There's as much engineering in Plensa's head as there is art in Calatrava's bridge. Both are the means as well as the end, and in each case, getting there is half the fun. By Christopher Hume [image]- Toronto Star

Sculptor Alexandre Arrechea's Twist on NYC Architecture Lands on Midtown Medians: ...playful interpretations of Manhattan's most iconic architecture — are taking over Park Avenue between 54th and 67th streets through June 9. [slide show]- Artinfo

Transcendental Space: Christo's Colossal Project in Germany: "Big Air Package"...billed as the largest inflatable construction of all time. Climbing its stairs is like floating up into the interior of a surreal rain cloud..Built in the 1920s, the Gasometer on the Rhine-Herne Canal in Oberhausen..is one of the country's most astonishing industrial monuments...it has never been used to its full potential - until now. [images]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

Architecture between fiction and reality: Lebbeus Woods devoted most of his life to creating architectural fantasies, the T-square equivalent of science fiction...retrospective at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art shows how much can be accomplished with nothing more than pen and paper...his greatest failure was a project...designed at the invitation of Steven Holl...in Chengdu, China...Aesthetically it looks like classic Woods...but the context makes it meaningless....- New Scientist

Shigeru Ban's design sees solutions everywhere: For people who have been affected by disasters in Japan and overseas, his style has a special relevance..."Shigeru Ban: Architecture and Humanitarian Activities" at Art Tower Mito in Ibaraki Prefecture, presents an opportunity for visitors to think about the role of architects in society.- Daily Yomiuri (Japan)

"Dirt, Dust & Ruins" at Sydney's Tin Sheds Gallery: Jorge Otero Pailos is an architect, historian and preservationist. As he cleans away the residues of pollution in his work, he also preserves it, treating it as part of the history of the buildings. "The

[Ethics of Dust: Carthago Nova](#)" - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

"Palaces for the People: Guastavino and America's Great Public Spaces" at National Building Museum: Rafael Guastavino Sr.-designed places that still make jaws drop; this show seeks to explain how. By Kriston Capps - Washington City Paper (Washington, DC)

Notown: Good news: A few hipsters are rediscovering Detroit. Bad news: everything else. "Detroit City Is the Place to Be"...Mark Binelli is a pessimist of the intellect but an optimist of the will. He offers an unflinching analysis of the city's problems but an intimate portrayal of those longtime Detroiters and newcomers alike who are trapped in the city's present while reimagining its possible (and impossible) futures. By Thomas J. Sugrue- Democracy Journal

The Rise Of The Instant Metropolis: "A History of Future Cities" by Daniel Brook looks at the attempts of places like St. Petersburg, Dubai, Shanghai, and Mumbai to create Western-looking areas in an attempt to create a sense of modernity...To whatever extent they've succeeded, they point the way forward for the next urban billion. By Greg Lindsay [images]- Fast Company

'A chess game in space': Surprising parallels can be found in the contrasting styles of Adolf Loos and Josef Hoffmann...In some ways, Loos's own Villa Müller...has some surprising parallels with his nemesis's Brussels palace [Palais Stoclet]. In other ways it is its diametric opposite. [from "The Meaning of Home"] By Edwin Heathcote [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Best of a "Bad Boy" Engineer: 20 years after his death, a new book, film and exhibition celebrate the work of...structural engineer Peter Rice, who was one of the designers of, among other iconic buildings, the Pompidou Centre in Paris...Rice was one of the "bad boys", along with Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano..."Traces of Peter Rice"... By Frank McDonald -- Arup; RFR- Irish Times

The Goal: Truly Sustaining Landscapes: "Principles of Ecological Landscape Design" by Travis Beck...offers a daunting proposition...If landscape architects are to expand their role in the design process...he ideas in [the book] provide an additional layer of technical information to help us achieve those goals. By James Royce/Studio2112 Landscape Architecture- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)



-- Workshop: "Form as (Dynamic) Unknown: Toward an Interactive + Smart Architecture," AA Rome Visiting School, Rome, May 9-19, 2013
-- Image Library: Michael Graves: Miramar Resort Hotel, El Gouna, Egypt

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