

Today's News - Thursday, March 28, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: Sorry we missed yesterday's posting - we had technical difficulties with the Internet tubes. And we're making tomorrow a really good Good Friday by taking the day off...we'll be back Monday, April 1 (no fooling).

- Gilliland makes a most thoughtful argument for urban designers and landscape architects to do more than create "artful places - we need to learn how to design places, objects, and tools that foster civil society" - it's "a moral imperative."
- An urban ecologist looks to "embed scientific experiments into the design process" because "new data, new design strategies, and new forms of collaboration will all be necessary to make our landscapes more productive, our coastlines more resilient."
- With predictions that Istanbul is due for a huge earthquake one of these days soon, the government has been relocating whole neighborhoods, "but not everyone likes their new digs."
- Jaffe reports on a new report that says Denver's push for density and TODs is paying off: the city's "approach to smart growth offers a working model for other cities to emulate."
- Giovannini finds Wolf Prix's Dalian International Conference Center has "an iconic presence" that neighboring towers don't; the bigger picture: in China, "architects are being imported like Ferraris as the new status symbols of cities emerging on the world stage."
- Hoss sees an "extraordinary opportunity to create a new landmark" in Washington, DC, but "we'll need to brush the cobwebs off our collective imagination. The biggest barrier to good design these days is a professional conservatism."
- Lewis, meanwhile, finds DC's new Canal Park "probably among the nation's most unique and environmentally sustainable urban parks - it breaks new ground on historic old ground."
- Pogrebin reports that plans have changed - yet again - for the long-planned, Gehry-designed cultural center at Ground Zero (not all are convinced).
- Jacobs spends some quality time delving into Liu and Idenburg's business and design style that has SO-IL "on the verge of landing high-profile, big-budget projects" with the "ability to make artistic architecture, without being utterly impractical about it."
- A conversation with critic and photographer (and one of our faves) Bey re: "the role that photography can serve in the preservation movement."
- Canada picks its teams for the 2014 Venice Biennale.
- The 2013 OAA Design Excellence Award winners announced - now it's time to vote for the People's Choice Awards.
- Dobrzynski has high hopes for Pacific Standard Time 2.0, launching Monday (it will be smaller this time around): "The question is whether this is enough to keep the brand not only alive but also sexy."
- In the "Designs of the Year" exhibition, "Gov.uk rubs shoulders with the Shard. Ambition, innovation, and a bit of pizzazz tend to win."
- A "strange sense of anarchy lurks" in Kim Adams' miniature worlds at the Art Gallery of Ontario: "intimations of apocalypses can be found in this orderly cosmos."
- Florida has a fascinating Q&A with Warner and Whittemore re: their new book, "American Urban Form," and "why our cities look and work the way they do."
- "The Crazy Projects of the Ottoman Empire" sheds surprising light on the current building boom in Istanbul.
- O'Sullivan cheers the 150th anniversary of the London Tube and its "cultural moment," with 12 new books on its relevance.
- A new novel stars "a promising architect whose creativity is also the source of her angst" (she sounds totally neurotic!).

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Building Resilience: Social infrastructure is key to building infrastructure: While I love and value aesthetics and believe fervently that beauty matters, our work as urban designers and landscape architects is more than a matter of creating artful places...we need to learn how to design places, objects, and tools that foster civil society...I would call that a moral imperative. By Cinda Gilliland/SWA Group- Metropolis Magazine

Experimental Landscapes: Urban ecologist Alexander Felson proposes a new kind of ecological practice...embeds scientific experiments into the design process...Designed Experiments...New data, new design strategies, and new forms of collaboration will all be necessary to make our landscapes more productive, our coastlines more resilient... [images]- Urban Omnibus

Preparing for Earthquakes, Istanbul Rattles Its Apartment Dwellers: To avoid crumbling buildings in the event of a catastrophe, Turkey is relocating its citizens - but not everyone likes their new digs...scientists predict that a huge earthquake will hit Istanbul...perhaps destroying two million of the city's three million apartments. - The Atlantic

After Decades of Sprawl, Density Comes to Denver: The city's push for transit-oriented development [TOD] has paid off, according to a new report...still has some ways to go...Still the city's approach to smart growth, anchored by FasTracks, offers a working model for other cities to emulate. By Eric Jaffe- The Atlantic Cities

Dalian International Conference Center: District...brings parametric design to the shore of Korea Bay...politicians have enlisted architecture as a tool of both economic progress and civic branding. Architects are being imported like Ferraris as the new status symbols of cities emerging on the world stage. By Joseph Giovannini -- Coop Himmelb(l)au [slide show]- Architect Magazine

Op-Ed: FBI's J. Edgar Hoover Building — A bold challenge for the development community: ...the District's most universally reviled landmark...an extraordinary opportunity...to create a new landmark...we'll need to brush the cobwebs off our collective imagination. The biggest barrier to good design these days [is] a professional conservatism... By Gregory Hoss/David M. Schwarz Architects -- Charles F. Murphy (1975)- Washington Post

Canal Park's many creative ideas: ...probably among the nation's most unique and environmentally sustainable urban parks, one worth a visit...breaks new ground on historic old ground. By Roger K. Lewis -- OLIN; STUDIOS Architecture- Washington Post

Plans for Ground Zero Arts Hub Shift Again: Instead of having one anchor, a performing arts center in Lower Manhattan is to be a multidisciplinary space...some arts executives question the need for yet another multidisciplinary stage and its prospects for sustainability. By Robin Pogrebin -- Frank Gehry- New York Times

The Art of Business: Jing Liu and Florian Idenburg founded SO-IL to be streamlined and selective—a strategy that has them on the verge of landing high-profile, big-budget projects...it's this ability to make artistic architecture, without being utterly impractical about it, that sets it apart. By Karrie Jacobs - Architect Magazine

Lunch Talks @ CAF: Why photograph modern architecture? Lee Bey, WBEZ architecture critic and photographer, explains the role that photography can serve in the preservation movement... [video]- Chicago Architecture Foundation

Arctic Adaptations: Nunavut at 15 selected to represent Canada at the 2014 Venice Biennale in Architecture: ...organized and curated by Lateral Office...Five design teams will work in collaboration with five Nunavut-based organizations. Each team will be made up of a Canadian school of architecture and a Canadian architecture office... -- Fournier Gersovitz Moss Drolet Architectes Associés; Kobayashi + Zedda Architects; Lateral Office; Pin/Taylor Architects; Stantec- Canadian Architect

2013 People's Choice Awards: A Jury selected 15 projects to receive the OAA Design Excellence Award and now it's your turn to vote for a winner. -- Zeidler Partnership Architects/Moore Architects/M. Brestovsky Architects & Urban Design; Drew Mandel Architects; Diamond Schmitt; Provencer Roy + Associés Architectes; MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects; Stantec Architecture/E.R.A. Architects; Taylor Smyth Architects; Belzberg Architects; DAOUST LESTAGE; KPMB Architects; Saucier + Perrotte Architectes/Hughes Condon Marler Architects; etc. [images]- Ontario Association of Architects (OAA)

Pacific Standard Time 2.0: "Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture in L.A.": Not wanting that brand to die, the Getty [said] that version 2.0 would be smaller...The question is whether this is enough to keep the brand not only alive but also sexy...We won't know until we see the contents of the exhibitions. By Judith H. Dobrzynski [links]- ArtsJournal

Designs of the Year exhibition: Gov.uk rubs shoulders with the Shard: ..an industry measuring stick for where design stands now. Ambition, innovation, and a bit of pizzazz tend to win...in an unexpected gesture of art-political solidarity, the jury gave a nod to the new government services and information website... -- Heatherwick Studio; rAndom International; David Kohn Architects/Fiona Banner; Renzo Piano; etc. - New Statesman (UK)

A strange sense of anarchy lurks in artist Kim Adams' miniature worlds: "Kim Adams: Recent Works" at the Art Gallery of Ontario...intimations of apocalypses can be found in this orderly cosmos. A zebra grazes amid the cows. Timelines are scrambled... - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Why Our Cities Look and Work the Way They Do: Q&A with Sam Bass Warner and Andrew Whittemore on their new book, "American Urban Form." By Richard Florida- The Atlantic Cities

The Istanbul That Might Have Been, and Might Still Be: ...historian Turan Sahin's "The Crazy Projects of the Ottoman Empire"...A book of unbuilt Ottoman-era architectural and engineering plans sheds surprising light on the current building boom in Turkey's largest city. - The Atlantic Cities

The London Tube's Cultural Moment: The arts have tended to ignore the Tube as a source of inspiration, but with the 150th anniversary of the system, we get 12 new books on its relevance...each one explicitly connected to a different line of the system. By Feargus O'Sullivan [images, links]- The Atlantic Cities

Sleepless in Seattle: With her novel, 'Where'd You Go, Bernadette,' Maria Semple introduces a promising architect whose creativity is also the source of her angst. - Architect Magazine

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



-- Image Library: Gehry Partners: Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, California
-- "Richard Meier. Architecture and Design": Fondazione Bisazza, Montecchio Maggiore, Italy, May 08 - July 28, 2013

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