

Today's News - Monday, April 29, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us COBE + Transform's library in Copenhagen, and a field trip to Portugal, "one of the few countries where you can actually see the political development manifest itself in the architecture."
- Kimmelman in Cairo finds a few "progressive" and "forward-thinking" young architects and planners who "view the neighborhoods not as endless slums but complex cities in themselves."
- Cobbett says the best way for cities to get rid of slums is "by getting behind the people who live in them. Slums disappear not through being removed, but by being transformed."
- Williams and Arup's Twinn debate sustainability and growth in China.
- Sorkin, in his first outing as The Nation's newly-minted architecture columnist, minces no words re: how the National Library of Israel competition and its winner "have been sabotaged by the bad faith of its sponsors" (a depressing, dispiriting - but riveting - tale).
- Meanwhile, the powers-that-be just announced they've selected H&deM to design the National Library of Israel.
- Is RIBA doing enough for small practices? Yes, says Nogueira; No, says Tozer.
- A 29-storey tower by Chipperfield could threaten UNESCO World Heritage Site status for London's Southbank.
- Bernstein has "a perfect solution" to the Gehry-designed Eisenhower Memorial controversy: "Don't build an Eisenhower memorial at all" (makes perfect sense to us).
- Rybczynski spends some serious time in Seattle's Central Library and City Hall, which "represent two different faces of Modernism": the library may have "gotten all the hype", but the "quiet, contemporary building...may prove to have the more lasting legacy" (hats off to "slow architecture").
- Heathcote pays eloquent tribute to Mather: he "was a very different character" from his big-name contemporaries, "yet he made a real impact on his adopted homeland's way of building" - he "stuck to his version of an elegant, minimal modernism."
- Campagna cheers on the greening of old buildings: "The methodologies used to rehabilitate buildings are just sound, commonsense approaches."
- Detroit readies for a preview of a 36-room hotel made of shipping containers - with big civic ambitions.
- The Harpa concert hall in Reykjavik wins European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award 2013, and Madrid's Nave de Música Matadero wins its designers the Emerging Architect Special Mention.
- Eyefuls of AIA San Francisco Design Award winners.
- Call for entries (and lots of 'em!): Building Trust International PLAYscapes! - turn a neglected forgotten part of your city into a playscape + RIBA Journal International Eye Line Competition + "Your World, Reimagined: A Global Design Competition" + 2013 Owings Award for Environmental Excellence + 2013 Benjamin Moore HUE Awards.

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-- COBE + Transform: BIBLIOTEKET / THE LIBRARY, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Braga, Porto, Cascais, Marco de Canavezes, Lisbon: Portugal is one of the few countries where you can actually see the political development manifest itself in the architecture. -- Alvaro Siza Veira; Eduardo Souto de Moura

Who Rules the Street in Cairo? The Residents Who Build It: Egyptians...must determine for themselves what their capital should look like: politically, socially and architecturally...Progressive young architects and planners may be needed here...These forward-thinking Egyptians view the neighborhoods not as endless slums but complex cities in themselves. By Michael Kimmelman -- Omar Nagati; May al-Ibrashi - New York Times

How Cities Can Get Rid of Slums By Supporting Them: ...cities can eliminate slums by getting behind the people who live in them...Slums disappear not through being removed, but by being transformed. By William Cobbett/Cities Alliance - Next City (formerly Next American City)

Dear Chris...: ...a series of letters between Chris Twinn, Arup Fellow & Senior Sustainability Consultant in Shanghai, and Austin Williams after the publication of Williams' article "Feats of urbanization are a marvel, but some planning lessons need to be learned" in China Daily.- Future Cities Project (U.K.)

The Trials of Rafi Segal: In Israel, the National Library of Israel competition and its winner have been sabotaged by the bad faith of its sponsors...The newly configured arrangement...cannot by any stretch be legitimately described as a competition, and it will also ensure that youthful or non-mainstream designers do not participate. By Michael Sorkin -- Bing Wang; Preston Scott Cohen - The Nation

Herzog & de Meuron, 2001 Pritzker Prize Laureates, Selected to Design the National Library of Israel: ...[after] interviewing six architecture firms... -- Ammar Curiel; Frank Gehry; Kimmel Eshkolot, Kolker Kolker Epstein; Renzo Piano - National Library of Israel

Is the RIBA doing enough for small practices? A coherent voice for firms of all sizes, or not giving the underdogs the help they need? Yes: Manuel Nogueira/And Architects; No: Luke Tozer/Pitman Tozer Architects - BD/Building Design (UK)

London Southbank plans threaten Unesco World Heritage Site status: Government ministers at loggerheads after public enquiry refused for 29-storey tower designed by David Chipperfield..."Experts will be assessing the potential impact of Elizabeth House..." [images] - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Shelve the controversial Eisenhower memorial: As an architecture critic, I have wavered: While I applaud Gehry's design, I question the wisdom of building a memorial that offends the Eisenhower family. But there is a perfect solution to the problem: Don't build an Eisenhower memorial at all. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Frank Gehry - Washington Post

Overexposed: Rem's Seattle library has gotten all the hype. But a quiet, contemporary building just down the street may prove to have the more lasting legacy...the library and City Hall represent two different faces of Modernism...In a culture that is intrigued by novelty and glamour, it is perhaps inevitable that chic would trump craft...I wouldn't discount the staying power of well-made old shoes. By Witold Rybczynski -- Rem Koolhaas/Joshua Prince-Ramus/OMA/LMN Architects; Peter Q.

[Bohlin/Bohlin Cywinski Jackson/Bassetti Architects \[slide show\]](#) - Architect Magazine

[Rick Mather, architect: A contemporary of the big names who dominated the scene from the 1970s onwards – Lords Foster and Rogers, Sirs Terry Farrell and Nick Grimshaw – Mather...was a very different character. Yet he made a real impact on his adopted homeland's way of building...stuck to his version of an elegant, minimal modernism.](#) By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

[How Old Buildings Take the LEED on Green: There are so many misunderstandings and misconceptions about greening previously constructed buildings...The methodologies used to rehabilitate buildings are just sound, commonsense approaches...while respecting character-defining elements.](#) By Barbara A. Campagna - UBM's Future Cities

[Thinking in the box: Hotel would use shipping containers: ...36-room hotel would be made from heavy-gauge steel cargo shipping containers...will include communal gathering spaces intended to draw in the public...the industrial architecture, along with a planned focus on connecting guests with Detroiters...will attract travelers looking for a unique experience. -- Detroit Collision Works; Detroit Collaborative Design Center; KOOP Architecture + Media \[image\]](#) - Crain's Detroit Business

[Harpa in Reykjavik wins European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture - Mies van der Rohe Award 2013: Nave de Música Matadero \(Red Bull Music Academy\) from Madrid...2013 EU Prize for contemporary architecture and the Emerging Architect Special Mention. -- Henning Larsen Architects/Batterið Architects/Studio Olafur Eliasson; María Langarita/Víctor Navarro \[images\]](#) - European Commission / Mies van der Rohe Foundation

[AIA SF 2013 Design Award Winners -- HMC Architects; Mark Cavagnero Associates; IwamotoScott Architecture; M+J Day; EHDD; Architectural Resources Group \(ARG\); Gelfand Partners Architects; Matt Adams; etc. \[images, info\]](#) - AIA San Francisco

[Call for entries: PLAYscapes! open International competition: turn a neglected forgotten part of your city into a playscape; registration deadline: July 1 \(submission deadline: July 29\)](#) - Building Trust International (UK)

[Call for entries: Depicting Architecture: RIBA Journal International Eye Line Competition for the best representations of a building design or concept through visual means \(two-dimensional only\); deadline: June 7](#) - RIBA Journal (UK)

[Call for entries: "Your World, Reimagined: A Global Design Competition" \(professional and student\): tackle an old, dilapidated, or run-down locale and redesign it for a new, improved use; cash prizes; deadline: August 16](#) - Nemetschek Vectorworks

[Call for entries: 2013 Owings Award for Environmental Excellence; registration deadline: June 24 \(submission deadline: July 8\)](#) - California Architectural Foundation

[Call for entries: 2013 Benjamin Moore HUE Awards; no fee; cash prizes; deadline: July 12](#) - Benjamin Moore

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