

Today's News - Monday, July 15, 2013

- Davidson offers one of the most thoughtful (and poetic) pieces we've read on the history and future of NYC's waterfront: "Hurricane Sandy demonstrated that we can't get away, we can't confine it, and we can't beat it back...the only option is a cautious love."
- Capps cheers the "scaffolding creeping up" the Washington Monument "like kudzu": "Let's keep it that way - it hasn't looked so good in years."
- Roche cheers the possibility of legislation that will make open, public design competitions standard for national memorials, putting an end to "the unusual process that led to Gehry's selection" for the Eisenhower Memorial.
- High hopes x 3 in India: that the draft Chandigarh Master Plan 2031 will preserve "the city's monumental architecture, principles of town planning of sun, space, and verdure, as enunciated by Le Corbusier."
- Hariharan on "why we are happy that environment-friendly construction is being driven by the bottom line" across India.
- Siraj takes a look at "a movement to popularize cost-effective and environment-friendly construction...that also brings in elegance" - and affordability.
- A look at P.A.T.H., the Starck/Riko design series of prefab homes that have "zero-energy or even positive-energy potential" (no mention of affordability).
- STUDIO V tapped to design a \$500 million TOD for Stamford, CT.
- Moore's take on "what tech giants' buildings say about them" - from "groundscrapers" to "compound-as-kindergarten" to "not being entirely of this planet."
- Kats tries to fathom the Whitney's wish for an "aesthetically unremarkable" building "designed to be looked out of, not looked at" (and a missed opportunity).
- Cheers for the SCAPE/Rogers Marvel "plans to make Minneapolis's riverfront a sight to behold."
- Henry Ford's Highland Park complex in Detroit "is a step closer to seeing new life" as an automobile heritage welcome center.
- Glancey and Moore give Rogers the "towering genius" treatment: one "reviews a glittering career"; the other finds revelation in revisiting three houses he built in the 1960s, "when he was an ambitious but struggling architect."
- AIA National Healthcare Design Awards honor 12 projects.
- Two we couldn't resist:
- Becker brings us a "who knew?!": Chicago's newest Gehry is an iceberg of a reception desk in the landmarked Inland Steel Building: "once we get used to it, it will become one of those funky objects beloved by the Chicago public."
- NYC's newest hotspot is kept at an icy 29 degrees Fahrenheit; it'll cost you \$20 to get in to buy a drink (loaner parkas included).

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Liquid City: For 400 years, New York has embraced, spurned, ignored, harnessed, and feared the water that made its greatness possible. Now our relationship must get even more complex...This is a city built not just near the water, but over, under, and in it...Hurricane Sandy demonstrated that we can't get away, we can't confine it, and we can't beat it back. As the Bloomberg report ["A Stronger, More Resilient New York"] makes clear, the only option is a cautious love. By Justin Davidson [slide show] - New York Magazine

The Washington Monument looks broken. Let's keep it that way: ...it hasn't looked so good in years... the scaffolding creeping up the 555-foot stone obelisk like kudzu has overtaken the memorial...Lit up like a spectral tower, it has a new civic purpose...there is a casual elegance to the symbolism of a monument to national unity under construction. By Kriston Capps -- Michael Graves [video] - Washington Post

Save the Eisenhower Memorial from its commission: ...Congress has been investigating the unusual process that led to Frank Gehry's selection. The House is now considering a bill to replace that process with the public design competition standard for national memorials. That is the only proper course... By Sam Roche/Right by Ike: Project for a New Eisenhower Memorial - Washington Post

'Preserve Chandigarh's rich urban and architectural legacy': The draft Chandigarh Master Plan 2031 seeks to preserve the modern heritage and rich urban and architectural legacy of the City Beautiful...The city's monumental architecture, principles of town planning of sun, space, and verdure, as enunciated by Le Corbusier... - Times of India

Green money: Or why we are happy that environment-friendly construction is being driven by the bottom line...Even public sector companies are jumping in on the green bandwagon...In the next seven years, more than 50% of buildings in India from the corporate sector will want their buildings to be green, a significant rise from nearly zero in 2008. By Chandrashekar Hariharan/Biodiversity India Conservation Limited (BCIL) - The Hindu (India)

Simple and affordable: A movement to popularize cost-effective and environment-friendly construction has evolved into a new habitat technology that also brings in elegance. M. A. Siraj takes a look. -- Nirmithi National Institute of Habitat Management (NIHAM); Laurie Baker - The Hindu (India)

Unveiled> Philippe Starck and Riko Design Series of Pre-Fab Homes: Stemming from a drive to develop industrially manufactured homes that fulfill housing needs across the globe, the pair created P.A.T.H. (Prefabricated Accessible Technological Homes). [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Developer Named For \$500 Million Stamford Transportation Center: ...a massive transit-oriented development project..."It's going to be a 24-7 work-play area"... -- STUDIO V Architecture [image] - Stamford Daily Voice (Connecticut)

Architecture: what tech giants' buildings say about them: Google proposes a relatively sober 'groundscraper' [in London] while Apple's California design has something cultish about it: ...choices are revealing about corporate personalities...Most popular...is the compound-as-kindergarten approach...Facebook asked Frank Gehry to make a building..."more anonymous", an unusual request for an architect not known for his quietness. By Rowan Moore -- Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM); Foster + Partners [images] - Observer (UK)

The New Downtown Whitney Building is "Not About Architecture": Piano is giving the museum a building that is not bad so much as it is aesthetically unremarkable, because this is precisely what the Whitney wants...a building that is "better from the inside than the outside"...designed to be looked out of, not looked at. By Anna Kats -- Renzo Piano Building Workshop; Cooper, Robertson & Partners - Artinfo

Water Works: Big plans to make Minneapolis' riverfront a sight to behold: ...RiverFirst, a 20-year multi-agency plan for the Mississippi...hit another mark along the way along its Pilgrim's Progress path to becoming reality...And the team members are impressive..."They did incredibly thoughtful research." By Marlys Harris -- SCAPE/Kate Orff; Rogers Marvel; James Lima; SRF Consulting - MinnPost (Minneapolis)

Woodward Avenue Action Association closer to creating auto attraction at Ford's historic Highland Park plant: ...complex where Henry Ford's moving assembly line was born is a step closer to seeing new life...development of an automobile heritage welcome center... - Crain's Detroit Business

Towering genius: Richard Rogers at 80: [His] buildings may divide opinion but there is no disputing that he is one

of the most influential architects of our time. On the eve of an exhibition ["Richard Rogers RA: Inside Out"] celebrating 50 years of his radical designs, Jonathan Glancey reviews a glittering career. -- Team Four/Norman Foster/Su Rogers/Wendy Cheeseman; Renzo Piano; Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners - Telegraph (UK)

Richard Rogers: the man who taught us to love colour: As the architect turns 80 and the Royal Academy dedicates a show to his work, we revisit three of the highly original houses he built in the 1960s as his career was just beginning...It is revealing to travel back a half-century, before he won a peerage, a knighthood and a Pritzker, to a time when he was an ambitious but struggling architect... By Rowan Moore -- Team 4; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners [slide show] - Observer (UK)

AIA National Healthcare Design Awards: AIA Selects 12 Projects for National Healthcare Design Awards -- Michael W. Folonis Architects; Mahlum; Stanley Beaman & Sears; ZGF Architects; Tsoi/Kobus & Associates; CO Architects; RTKL Associates; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)/ICME/Tilke (ITS); Payette; Lennon Associates; Cannon Design; HDR Architecture [images, links] - ArchDaily

Icehedge? Chicago has a new Frank Gehry, and it's Like Nothing You've Seen: ...Inland Steel Building reception desk is an intriguing work...it's also a subtly subversive one, providing a small explosion of the 21st century into the late 1950's vision of Netsch, Graham and Lippold...once we get used to it, it will become one of those funky objects beloved by the Chicago public. By Lynn Becker [images] - ArchitectureChicago Plus

A really cool Vegas bar opens in midtown: The Hilton's new Minus5 is made of about 600 ice blocks: The temperature in the bar is a constant 29 degrees Fahrenheit, and customers are given parkas...Now customers will have a place to cool their heels if they are annoyed about the no-room-service policy. - Crain's New York Business

A Conversation with Gordon Young, Author of "Teardown: Memoir of a Vanishing City": Place is not always the result of the work of well-intended design professionals. By Kenneth Caldwell [images] - ArchNewsNow

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