

## Today's News - Wednesday, August 21, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us "Bike Town Tokyo," an "inspiring collection of bicycle facts, ideas and suggestions to create bicycle friendly cities"; Stamer's photography lets spaces "unfold in a rarely seen playful manner"; Ghent Market Hall in Belgium; and Brooklyn's Wythe Hotel.
- Folger offers one of the best in-depth reports we've seen re: what we're facing with rising seas - as coastlines flood, what will we protect and what will we abandon?
- Danley cheers the inspiring stories of Detroit's DIY citizen activism, but it "can't happen in a vacuum."
- Perhaps Detroit can learn from Chattanooga, "once the dirtiest place in America," and how it turned itself around: "the river made downtown Chattanooga hip" - because of nonprofits, politicians, and private citizens.
- Killick offers some caveats re: how Christchurch expands: "We can still have a polycentric city," but more is needed than just a "let-the-market-decide approach. Getting locked into small-town mentality is a danger."
- After all the hoopla and high hopes, Lexington, KY, is suffering "CentrePointe fatigue" as the "design goes from bad to great to blah."
- Wainwright weighs in on how China's "rooftops are now fertile ground for a new kind of aerial urbanism" (great pix).
- Gehry's LVMH Museum in Paris is "flamboyant, over-engineered, and a cultural icon in the making" that "ultimately, the French will grow to love" (lots of pix).
- Eyefuls of KPF's "high-octane makeover" of the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.
- Norten's Mexican Museum in San Francisco is getting closer to being a reality (oh, those pesky NIMBYs).
- Safdie's "mega-expansion" of Singapore's already stunning Changi Airport will be a "mixed-use architectural looker. All the other airports might as well give up now. Being stuck in transit can't possibly get any better than this" (waterfall included).
- TPL picks team for the planned QueensWay elevated park replacing abandoned railroad tracks (please "don't call it a High Line").
- Szenasy x 2 Q&As: landscape architects Mathews and Nielsen talk about the evolution of their profession and designing for the public realm.
- She queries Calori on the "little-understood design specialty, environmental graphic design" (full disclosure: C&VE is responsible for ANN's fab look, too!).
- An in-depth look at "the power of architecture over the human mind" - especially when it comes to "security housing units" (otherwise known as solitary confinement): "architects have a unique stake - an official condemnation could create a thorn in the side of the prison industry - or at least curb the design of 'excessively harsh prisons.'"
- Lubin makes an argument for why Corbu might not have been wrong in wanting to demolish downtown Paris: he "wanted to replace this urban blight with something incredible" (never mind the local "troglodytes" being relocated to the city's periphery) + Another look at the "rampant development" just beyond Chandigarh's city limits that "threatens to overwhelm Corbu's vision for the carefully planned city."
- It seems "fitting that two teams from the Asia-Pacific reigned in the first Solar Decathlon ever held in Asia."
- Eyefuls of the "six buildings that are one step closer to winning architecture's wooden spoon," the 2013 Carbuncle Cup (egads!!!).
- Help wanted: Cooper Union is looking for a dean for its Chanin School of Architecture.

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- "Bike Town Tokyo": Yoshiharu Tsukamoto of Atelier Bow Wow and Danish architect René Kural present an inspiring collection of bicycle facts, ideas and suggestions to create bicycle friendly cities.
- Laura Stamer - STAMERS KONTOR: Her focus is to show the tacility of the architecture and its spaces letting them unfold in a rarely seen playful manner.
- Robbrecht en Daem architecten & Marie-José Van Hee architecten: Ghent Market Hall, Belgium.
- Morris Adjmi Architects: Wythe Hotel, Brooklyn, New York - ArcSpace

Rising Seas: As the planet warms, the sea rises. Coastlines flood. What will we protect? What will we abandon? How will we face the danger of rising seas? "How do you get people to realize that Miami—or London—will not always be there?" By Tim Folger - National Geographic

Detroiters Have Stepped Up, But DIY Can't Fully Replace a Functional City Government: Like New Orleanians in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and New Yorkers after Sandy, the people of crisis-mode Detroit are stepping up...While it's inspiring to see stories of citizen activism taking center...Citizen activism can't happen in a vacuum... By Dr. Stephen Danley/RutgersUniversity-Camden. - Next City (formerly Next American City)

Chattanooga's Makeover Secret: A River Runs Through It: Once the dirtiest place in America, the city turned itself around by developing a scenic riverfront...the river made downtown Chattanooga hip...Over the last 20 years...nonprofits, politicians, and private citizens have made it more appealing... By Nancy Cook [images]- The Atlantic / National Journal

How should Christchurch expand? The Green Frame is probably the best plan, but it is not the only one...We can still have a polycentric city, with mixed-use areas...not just conventional subdivisions. However, long-term growth needs a vision and a plan, not just laissez faire or a business-as-usual, let-the-market-decide approach. Getting locked into small-town mentality is a danger. By David Killick - The Press (New Zealand)

CentrePointe fatigue sets in; design goes from bad to great to blah: ...plans for the \$393 million hotel-office-apartment-retail complex have gone from awful to great...and now they seem to have taken a turn toward mediocrity... "It's not bad. It's just not really good. It's a missed opportunity." By Tom Eblen -- Michael Speaks; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; CMMI; EOP Architects - Lexington Herald-Leader (Kentucky)

Rooftop cities: Beijing's mountain penthouse reveals a new building boom: From rockeries on tower blocks to whole suburban streets on shopping malls, China's rooftops are now fertile ground for a new kind of aerial urbanism. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Frank Gehry's LVMH Museum Is Flamboyant, Over-Engineered, And A Cultural Icon In The Making: ...ultimately, the French will grow to love [the Louis Vuitton Foundation for Creation]...Is it attention-grabbing, flamboyant, and over-engineered? Of course: It's by Frank...like the Bilbao Guggenheim, this structure is a cathedral to art, fashion, and design, and is rightly unapologetic in its celebration of this fact. [images]- Architizer

Need for Speed: Petersen Automotive Museum reveals high-octane makeover in Los Angeles: The ribboned, LED-illuminated, stainless-steel facade treatment...is indeed radically transformative. It would turn the near-windowless former department store...into a larger-than-life statement... -- Welton Becket (1962); Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF) [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Mexican Museum's new home closer to reality: The wait to integrate the museum into the first four floors of a Millennium Partners luxury high-rise may finally be ending - in about five more years...one major obstacle remains: a handful of residents of the nearby Four Seasons tower object to the size of the proposed newcomer. By Kenneth Baker -- Handel Architects; Ricardo Legorreta; Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos - San Francisco Chronicle

World's best airport plans to get even better: Singapore announces mega expansion plans for Changi Airport to increase passenger capacity - and enjoyment: Code-named "Project Jewel"...mixed-use architectural looker...All the other airports might as well give up now. Being stuck in transit can't possibly get any better than this. -- Moshe Safdie [image]- CNN International

Don't Call It A High Line: Planning and design team for QueensWay elevated park announced...hotly debated and potentially transformative linear park proposal replacing abandoned railroad tracks...The skyrocketing real estate value surrounding Manhattan's famed elevated park is not the anticipated outcome of a park in Queens. -- Claire Weisz/WXY architecture + urban design; Susannah Drake/dlandstudio; Trust for Public Land (TPL)- [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

Q&A: Kim Mathews and Signe Nielsen: Landscape architects working in the public realm connect the asphalt jungle to nature...talk about the evolution of their profession...their research-informed work, as well as the new appreciation of design in the public realm. By Susan S. Szenasy -- [Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects \[images\]](#)- [Metropolis Magazine](#)

Q&A: Chris Calori: ...touches on a little-understood design specialty, environmental graphic design. A relatively new profession, EGD has evolved through the efforts of design thinkers like Chris...She is proud to call her profession "pretty egalitarian"... By Susan S. Szenasy -- [Calori & Vanden-Eynden Design Consultants \[images\]](#)- [Metropolis Magazine](#)

Punishment by Design: The Power of Architecture Over the Human Mind: ...architects have a unique stake in social issues that intersect with the built environment...an official condemnation could create a thorn in the side of the prison industry — or at least curb the design of "excessively harsh prisons." -- [Raphael Sperry/Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility \(ADPSR\)](#)- [SF Weekly \(San Francisco\)](#)

Why Le Corbusier Wanted To Demolish Downtown Paris: ...let's take a moment to appreciate how cool Le Corbusier's Plan Voisin would have been. To start, demolishing central Paris made a lot of sense in the 1920s...250 out of 276 houses were marked uninhabitable due to tuberculosis contamination...[He] wanted to replace this urban blight with something incredible. By [Gus Lubin \[images\]](#)- [Business Insider](#)

Will Le Corbusier's Chandigarh Fall To Ruin? Rampant development just beyond city limits threatens to overwhelm Le Corbusier's vision for the carefully planned city...The buildings and monuments of the Capital Complex have fallen into disrepair...If it wants to save Chandigarh, the government must somehow balance development pressures with preservation. -- [MN Sharma](#)- [Architizer](#)

Winners Announced in China's First-Ever Solar Decathlon: Perhaps it is fitting that two teams from the Asia-Pacific reigned in the first Solar Decathlon ever held in Asia. The University of Wollongong from Australia and the South China University of Technology came first and second...Chalmers University of Technology from Sweden received third place. [\[images\]](#)- [Architectural Record](#)

Carbuncle Cup 2013 shortlist revealed: The six buildings that are one step closer to winning architecture's wooden spoon. The winner will be announced on August 30. -- [Frankham Consultancy Group](#); [Stephen George & Partners](#); [Stock Woolstencroft](#); [Smeeden Foreman Architects](#); [K2 Architects](#); [Hamiltons Architects \(now Flanagan Lawrence\)](#) [\[links to images, info\]](#)- [BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

Call for entries/nominations: [Dean, The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture](#), [The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art](#); deadline: [November 15](#)- [Cooper Union](#)

Architects EAT Melbourne: How things are panning out on Melbourne's burgeoning skyline is questionable. But in the shadow of those weird towers, firms like Architects EAT are doing work that is subtle, refined, location-appropriate, and very beautiful. By [Jonathan Lerner \[images\]](#)- [ArchNewsNow](#)

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