

Today's News - Tuesday, August 27, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of everything from a pavilion for an ancient monument in Spain, to SANAA, OMA, Souto de Moura, and more.
- Avent narrates a terrific video about "how cities grow, slump and recover" (vintage footage is fab).
- Q&A with Dubbeldam re: the My Ideal City project to restructure downtown Bogotá "from the roots up."
- Two young architects offer "highly specific ideas for how policymakers could divide Jerusalem between Israel and Palestine without doing permanent damage to the delicate urban fabric of the city."
- Russell reviews current Hudson Yards plans with hopes that the designs "are further refined to let sun, shadow and the tantalizing river view dance among the towers" that "would make a surprising, gorgeous contrast with Manhattan's dour grid."
- Bradley concurs with Saffron's "distaste for the tacky" new Home2Suites hotel in Philly, but says the bigger issue is all those public subsidies.
- Lewis cheers plans for a Fort Totten makeover that could demonstrate "how constructive urbanization can positively enhance rather than adversely affect existing, low-density residential neighborhoods."
- Heathcote cheers a trend among young architects "frustrated by a lack of opportunity to build" who are building their own designs: "The result has been an explosion of DIY design - and often quite brilliant invention."
- Hurley looks at a RIBA campaign urging larger homes: "A policy proposal to make houses bigger? Backed by architects? To an American, it seems almost inconceivable."
- King is glad to see a revised design for the Apple Store on San Francisco's Union Square that now preserves Asawa's fountain, though for planners, "the satisfaction is more about the building architecture than the nearby art."
- Pelli tapped "to bring both big-name cachet and airport design expertise" to the design team working on the Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans.
- Kimmelman gives two (if not more!) thumbs-up to new HQ for a Tuscan vintner that "doesn't just occupy the landscape, it becomes the landscape."
- As Ma Yansong takes "the West by storm, no one can accuse him of playing it safe"; though now "an icon for architecture students and studios across China," he's still "considered something of a rebel."
- Though LTL's new dorm for the deaf at Gallaudet University may look "utterly familiar," it is "not familiar in the sense of boring."
- Judge approves demolition of Foster's half-built Harmon tower in Las Vegas - "100% of the elements tested contained at least one defect" (and demolition could take a year).
- Asmara, Eritrea's "legacy of its Italian colonial past, when architects were given free rein for structures judged too avant-garde back home," is under threat.
- Williams is cheered to see that graphite seems to be "the new black," though "I am sad to say that I am highly suspicious of the rediscovery, promotion and lauding of hand-drawing - we are in danger of losing the very thing that I enjoy about it: its innocence."
- Hawthorne is amused by "a tiny monochromatic skyline" that "has been growing in my kitchen" courtesy of Lego's Architecture Studio: "This is a decidedly Corbusian color scheme; as my 9-year-old put it: 'If that was hot pink, it wouldn't look modern.'"
- Call for entries: Light+Building call for projects for Luminaire 2014 - Biennale of Lighting Culture.

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-- Estudi D'arquitectura Toni Gironès: Transmission Space for Megalithic Dolmen of Séro, Artesa de Segre, Spain
-- "Eastern Promises: Contemporary Architecture and Spatial Practices in East Asia": shows us why architecturally interested heads should turn toward East Asia in the coming years; MAK Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art, Vienna
-- OMA is Rem Koolhaas. Rem Koolhaas is OMA...one should not make the mistake of equating the two.
-- SANAA: 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
-- Eduardo Souto de Moura: Viana do Castelo Multipurpose Pavilion, Viana do Castelo, Portugal - ArcSpace

Wonderful congestion: How cities grow, slump and recover: Commuters and economists see cities differently. That so many people would squeeze into small, expensive spaces might seem odd, but it is a behaviour that encourages productivity...cities are not going to go away (unless we invent teleportation). By Ryan Avent [video - great vintage film clips!]- The Economist (UK)

Winka Dubbeldam: Why Cities Need To Be Developed From The Bottom Up: 'My Ideal City' is a project fueled by PSFK and directed by city planner Gary Hack and Winka Dubbeldam, that aims to restructure downtown of Colombian city of Bogotá from the roots up...to give an average citizen a say in how his or her urban environment is redesigned. -- Archi-tectonics; Rodrigo Nino/Prodigy - PSFK.com

Can Architecture Help Solve the Israeli-Palestinian Dispute? The key to bringing these nations together in peace may be to first think of the territories as moveable pieces...using a puzzle-like map to get Israelis to think about how a peace plan might look...highly specific ideas for how policymakers could divide Jerusalem between Israel and Palestine without doing permanent damage to the delicate urban fabric of the city. By Yochi Dreazen -- Yehuda Greenfield-Gilat/Karen Lee Bar-Sinai/Aya Shapira/Saya/Studio Aya [images]- Smithsonian magazine

Hudson Yards Offers Hot Market Banal Towers, Curvy Condos: If the designs are further refined to let sun, shadow and the tantalizing river view dance among the towers, Hudson Yards would make a surprising, gorgeous contrast with Manhattan's dour grid. By James S. Russell -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Elkus Manfredi; David Childs/Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Rockwell Group; Nelson Byrd Woltz [images]- Bloomberg News

New Philly Hotel Gets Both Economic Development and Design Wrong: Philadelphia has a brand new ugly hotel downtown. The Inquirer's architecture critic is not happy. Taxpaying citizens should be unhappy with the economic development model employed...look past Inga Saffron's distaste for the tacky [Home2Suites], and you'll see a bigger issue: All those public subsidies. By Bill Bradley - Next City (formerly Next American City)

Fort Totten site in for major makeover: Project will benefit not only apartment tenants, but residents of surrounding community... demonstrating how constructive urbanization can positively enhance rather than adversely affect existing, low-density residential neighborhoods. By Roger K. Lewis -- Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn Architects/EE&K a Perkins Eastman company; Wiencek + Associates Architects; Shalom Baranes Associates; Parker Rodriguez - Washington Post

Architects who improvise and innovate: A trend among young architects to take matters into their own hands: ...architects frustrated by a lack of opportunity to build...have formed multidisciplinary practices to build their designs themselves. The result has been an explosion of DIY design...and often quite brilliant invention. By Edwin Heathcote -- Imre Makovecz; Rural Studio/Samuel Mockbee/Andrew Freear; Practice Architecture; Assemble; Gruppe/Richard Wentworth; Kristoffer Tejlgaard/Benny Jepsen; Ciguë [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Royal Institute of British Architects Urges Larger Homes: As U.S. housing starts trending tiny, architects across the pond are looking to upsize...RIBA is now asking Parliament to adopt national minimum standards for space and light...HomeWise ("Fight for Space+Light")...A policy proposal to make houses bigger? Backed by architects? To an American, it seems almost inconceivable. By Amanda Kolson Hurley [images, video]- Architect Magazine

Apple Store's new design preserves fountain: Ruth Asawa fans can rest easy - the artist's beloved bronze fountain near Union Square is staying pretty much right where it is...For planners, though, the satisfaction is more about the building

[architecture than the nearby art. By John King -- Foster + Partners \[images\]- San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Architecture star Cesar Pelli joins Louis Armstrong International Airport design team: ...an ideal choice to bring both big-name cachet and airport design expertise to the ambitious endeavor. -- Pelli Clarke Pelli; Manning Architects; Hewitt Washington Architects - The Times-Picayune \(New Orleans\)](#)

[Vines and Vintner Beautify a Tuscan Hill: The new headquarters for Antinori winemakers in Tuscany, designed by Archea architects, doesn't just occupy the landscape, it becomes the landscape...it is purpose-built nature on a very large scale — and a factory. But it makes peace with its surroundings. And adds a landmark to them. By Michael Kimmelman \[images\]- New York Times](#)

[Made in China: The Green Futurism of Ma Yansong: ...has taken the West by storm with his organic, futuristic creations...no one can accuse him of playing it safe...His experimental designs and advances in Europe and North America have...helped propel his transformation into an icon for architecture students and studios across China. Yet with all his accolades, he is also considered something of a rebel. By Kevin Holden Platt -- MAD Architects \[slide show\]- Der Spiegel \(Germany\)](#)

[The Radical Challenge of Building a Dorm for the Deaf: The first thing you notice when walking into Gallaudet University's newest residence hall is how utterly familiar it looks...not familiar in the sense of boring...built with a series of subtle and thoughtful design choices that use the principles of DeafSpace. -- LTL Architects; Hansel Bauman \[images\]- Wired](#)

[Judge OKs demolition of half-built CityCenter Harmon Hotel tower: ...MGM Resorts International...said it might take up to a year to complete demolition...testing showed "widespread, diverse structural defects..."...more than 7,000 defects were observed...100% of the elements tested contained at least one defect...Almost all elements contained multiple diverse defects. -- Foster + Partners; Tutor Perini Building Co. - Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)

[Eritrea's unique architecture under threat: Asmara boasts buildings unlike anywhere else in Africa, a legacy of its Italian colonial past, when architects were given free rein for structures judged too avant-garde back home...while many of the buildings survived a decades-long liberation war from Ethiopia...preservation and restoration projects have been hampered...- Arab News](#)

[Off Piste -- Drawing inspiration: Austin Williams on the possibilities and limitations of 'taking a line for a walk': ...while it appears that drawing is being rediscovered for its innocent pleasures, I am sad to say that I am highly suspicious of the rediscovery, promotion and lauding of hand-drawing that has emerged...we are in danger of losing the very thing that I enjoy about hand-drawing: its innocence. -- Norman Weinstein; Maggie Flickinger; Alan Dunlop- Times Higher Education \(UK\)](#)

[Lego introduces a monochromatic, forgiving architecture set: Because the Architecture Studio includes bricks in just two shades...the buildings we've created all seem to be related, at least distantly, to modern architecture. This is a decidedly Corbusian color scheme; as my 9-year-old put it..."If that was hot pink, it wouldn't look modern." By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Call for entries: Light+Building Call for projects: Luminale 2014 -- Biennale of Lighting Culture, Frankfurt am Main, March 30 - April 4, 2014; pre-registration deadline: September 15- Light+Building](#)

[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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