

Today's News - Friday, September 6, 2013

- Taylor offers a number of reasons to head to the Monterey Design Conference (aside from getting to hang out in the Julia Morgan-designed Asilomar Conference Grounds and stroll the Pacific beach).
- Viñoly speaks out about who's to blame for the Walkie Talkie "death ray": too many consultants: "Architects aren't architects anymore. It's the fault of the architectural discipline [in the U.K.] which has cast itself into a completely secondary thing" (catty comments abound).
- Saffron reports on the rejection of a second 9/11 memorial proposal for Philly: "the Philadelphia Art Commission hated its design - a cartoonish, half-scale Liberty Bell strung between nine-foot replicas of the Twin Towers" (the "designer" and mayor are none too pleased).
- Similar to New Orleans and Chicago, "repatriates and newcomers" are revitalizing Detroit because they "find charm where others lament what used to be there" (a Korean parable included).
- Architects rally around Rudolph's Orange County Government Center: "How lucky you are to have this masterpiece," says Giovannini.
- Holt has a fascinating Q&A with philosopher Benjamin re: the conflict between preservation and sustainability: "Sustainability should no longer be limited to concerns that are strictly environmental. There needs to be an understanding of 'cultural sustainability.'"
- Jacobs has a "revelatory" journey on New Jersey's Passaic River, discovering that Newark is (finally) "reconnecting with its long-abused waterfront" - the city "could stop being a 'non-place' and start becoming a destination."
- Bernstein finds much the same happening on NYC's Queens waterfront that "has shed its identity crisis" with the opening of Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park.
- King cheers the opening of San Francisco's new Bay Bridge eastern span that only took about 20 years; called "elegant" and "dynamic" by some, is it "a 'cubic zirconia' rather than a jewel - it's time for the Bay Area to make its judgment."
- Call for entries: RFQ for a new Vancouver Art Gallery + 61st Annual P/A Awards + 2014 NAHBGreen Awards: Greening the American Dream.
- Weekend diversions:
- Horton hails "A New Sculpturalism" as "the most ecstatic tribal dance around the bonfire of contemporary Los Angeles architecture to have been staged in recent memory" (whatever it's actually called).
- Lubell, meanwhile, says the "mutated show reveals some incredibly beautiful work" while the L.A. architecture community's "biggest fear is being labeled," but it's time to get over it or "they will be labeled the worst thing of all: nothing."
- Two good reasons to be in San Francisco (three counting the new bridge): the 10th annual Architecture and the City festival includes "Unbuilt San Francisco" shows in five venues, where "a plot to seed Treasure Island with water-bladdered 'jellyfish houses' is one of the least bizarre proposals" (great pix!).
- Also in SF: Jarman's stunning photos in "American Beauty: The Opulent Pre-Depression Architecture of Detroit" could "stand as a goodbye to a glory forever passed or an inspiration for what the city could be again" (amazing pix!).
- Baird gives lots of thumbs-ups to Filler's "Makers of Modern Architecture (Volume II)": he "can now lay claim to the mantle of the late Ada Louise Huxtable."
- A must-read excerpt from May Joseph's "Fluid New York" that "puts our ecologically vulnerable city's relationship to water into historic context - and how other places are dealing with the same problems."
- Goodyear has a good word for Campo's "The Accidental Playground": a "deeply thoughtful, intensely observed, and challenging book...posing questions that are applicable to cities everywhere."

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Monterey Design Conference: 1 Mile of Beach. 3 Days. 20 Speakers. 50 Hours. 100s of Conversations. 1,000s of Ideas: The Julia Morgan-designed Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, CA, will be abuzz at the biennial event September 27-29, 2013. By Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA- ArchNewsNow

Rafael Vinoly: 'Superabundance of consultants' to blame for 'death ray': Walkie Scorchie architect finally speaks out about mistakes: ...blamed the wider state of the architectural profession in the UK for handing over control of projects. "Architects aren't architects anymore...It's the fault of the architectural discipline which has cast itself into a completely secondary thing." - BD/Building Design (UK)

In defeat for Nutter, 9/11 memorial rejected: Jeffrey Little...sketched a design on a napkin and showed it to his friends. They all liked it...offered Little a prominent corner of historic Franklin Square...But the Philadelphia Art Commission hated its design - a cartoonish, half-scale Liberty Bell strung between nine-foot replicas of the Twin Towers - and...finally rejected it. By Inga Saffron [image]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Vagabonds Will Revitalize Detroit: Plus: A Korean parable and Saskia Sassen on the differences between Chicago and the Motor City: Outsiders, not locals, revitalized New Orleans...the Rust Belt...experiences a profound lack of awareness of its own cultural richness. Thus, the rushing in of Rust Belt Chic to fill that void. Repatriates and newcomers find charm where others lament what used to be there. By Jim Russell [links]- Pacific Standard

Architects: Save the treasure in your midst Experts say Orange County Government Center, a world monument, is a 'victim of a sustained act of vandalism': "How lucky you are to have this masterpiece. It was the best of its time." -- Paul Rudolph (1967); Sam Liebman; Joseph Giovannini; Harvey Berg; DesignLAB Architects; Frank Sanchis/World Monuments Fund/WMF- The Chronicle (Orange County, NY)

Interview: Andrew Benjamin: Michael Holt speaks to the philosopher about the conflict between preservation and sustainability..."Sustainability should no longer be limited to concerns that are strictly environmental. There needs to be an understanding of 'cultural sustainability.'" - Australian Design Review

Nature: Newark Style: This gritty industrial city is reconnecting with its long-abused waterfront: My scenic voyage up New Jersey's Passaic River...is revelatory...shunned since it became a dumping ground for industrial effluvia back in the 19th century, is not a wasteland, but a real river...Newark could stop being a "non-place" and start becoming a destination. By Karrie Jacobs -- Damon Rich; Lee Weintraub Landscape Architecture- Metropolis Magazine

Hunter's Point South Park Heralds New Era for Queens Waterfront: The 30-acre swath...where the East River meets Newtown Creek, has shed its identity crisis. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Thomas Balsley Associates; Weiss/Manfredi; SHoP Architects; Ismael Leyva Architects; FXFOWLE [slide show]- Architectural Record

New Bay Bridge design debuts after years of strife: ...the architects and engineers who selected the unusual suspension bridge design way back in 1998...are confident that the result will prove worth the wait...being called "elegant" and "dynamic" - and other things. One official deemed the design "cubic zirconia" rather than a jewel...it's time for the Bay Area to make its judgment. By John King -- Donald MacDonald; Weidlinger Associates - San Francisco Chronicle

Call for entries/Request for Qualifications/RFQ (international): Vancouver Art Gallery is seeking a Design Architect; deadline: October 4- Vancouver Art Gallery

Call for entries: 61st Annual P/A Awards: recognize unbuilt projects demonstrating overall design excellence and innovation; deadline: October 17- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: 2014 NAHBGreen Awards: Greening the American Dream; open to both NAHB members and non-NAHB members; deadline: October 15- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)

Advanced Uncertainty: "A New Sculpturalism: Contemporary Architecture from Southern California"...has been critiqued for being a bunch of models and drawings in a big room. But so what? The work stands up...the most ecstatic tribal dance around the bonfire of contemporary Los Angeles architecture to have been staged in recent memory. By Guy Horton -- Frank Gehry; Christopher Mount; Thom Mayne; Michael Rotondi; Neil Denari; Hagy Belzberg; Alexis Rochas; Tom Wiscombe; etc. [images]- [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

Editorial> As Rome Burned: In the wake of MOCA's New Sculpturalism show, Sam Lubell looks to the future of Los Angeles architecture: ...mutated show reveals some incredibly beautiful work...But the drama surrounding it...reveals that, somehow, the Los Angeles architecture community's biggest fear is being labeled...should allow themselves to be called anything...If they try to control that discourse too much then they will be labeled the worst thing of all: nothing.- [The Architect's Newspaper](#)

The Wacky Skyline of an Alternative-Universe: "Unbuilt San Francisco" envisions the Bay Bridge as a massive vertical farm and Treasure Island seeded with water-purifying "jellyfish houses"...on display at the 10th annual Architecture and the City festival...at five venues around the Bay. -- AIA San Francisco; Center for Architecture + Design; Environmental Design Archives at UC Berkeley; California Historical Society; SPUR; San Francisco Public Library; Marc L'Italien; Kuth Ranieri Architects; Taller David Dana Arquitectura; Future Cities Lab; IwamotoScott Architecture; Donald MacDonald Architects; Charles F. Bloszies; Vincent G. Raney [images]- [The Atlantic Cities](#)

Can Detroit's Architectural Past Inspire It to Claw Back to Greatness? "American Beauty: The Opulent Pre-Depression Architecture of Detroit": Whether Philip Jarman's photos stand as a goodbye to a glory forever passed or an inspiration for what the city could be again, is a matter of perspective; at the Meridian Gallery, San Francisco -- Albert Kahn; Sidney Rose Badgley; Graham, Burnham & Co.; Wirt C Roland, Smith Group; Van Leyen, Schilling & Keough; Bonnah & Chaffee; V.J. Waiver; Louis Kamper [slide show]- [Wired](#)

A Voice for Here and Now: "Makers of Modern Architecture (Volume II): From Le Corbusier to Rem Koolhaas": Martin Filler can claim to have launched the new tone, and a new social orientation to architectural design...he can now lay claim to the mantle of the late Ada Louise Huxtable, the most admired critic of recent times. By George Baird - [Architectural Record](#)

After Hurricane Sandy: New book points to New York City's enormous water resources and lack of political will to tap it..."Fluid New York: Cosmopolitan Urbanism and the Green Imagination" by May Joseph puts our ecologically vulnerable city's relationship to water into historic context...and how other places are dealing with the same problems that confront us. [excerpt]- [Metropolis Magazine](#)

"The Accidental Playground" by Daniel Campo: Why What We Need in Our Parks Is More Freedom: It was paved in broken concrete, overgrown with weeds, and strewn with broken glass. In other words, it was the perfect urban recreation space...a deeply thoughtful, intensely observed, and challenging book...posing questions that are applicable to cities everywhere. By Sarah Goodyear [images]- [The Atlantic Cities](#)



- Fine art architectural photography, by Pygmalion Karatzas
- Jensen & Skodvin Arkitektkontor: Mortensrud Church, Oslo, Norway
- SANAA designs highly aesthetic and experimental buildings...
- Álvaro Siza: Porto School of Architecture, Porto, Portugal

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