

Today's News - Tuesday, October 8, 2013

- Vivian takes an in-depth look at London's planning policies that are transforming the skyline "without the fear of overdevelopment, loss of heritage or change so often seen in Australia" (some might want to quibble with "a popular acceptance of tall buildings").
- Grabar takes an in-depth look at how some American cities are using imaginative ideas to "turn blight into beauty. At the end of the line, they hope, is a revitalized urban landscape. It may not look much like what came before."
- Rainwater looks at how "political, economic, and design power are behind a growing rethink of urban settlements - lively spaces, ideas, and energy are elevated when design serves as the key connector."
- Hume x 2: he cheers Brookings' Bradley for telling "Torontonians that a healthy city is key to a healthy national economy," and "that, although this city has a lot going for it, it's not time for smugness just yet."
- He's not so cheered by Toronto's new chief planner's reservations about the Mirvish/Gehry triple-tower plan: "she has learned to wring her hands with the best of the doubting Torontonians," and he finds it "disturbing" that it "should be greeted with institutional skepticism and civic smallness."
- The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects lays out the integral role landscape architecture has in the mitigation of climate change.
- RPA's Shankaran explains why parklets are an "example of how planners are chipping away at old notions that streets should be primarily for cars - anecdotal evidence suggests parklets have had a positive impact on economic development."
- A master Chinese landscape architect talks about how "the beauty of classical designs casts its influence on modern architecture beyond China."
- Eyefuls of the starchitect-studded finalists' designs for the £90m LSE Global Centre for the Social Sciences.
- OMA's Shenzhen Stock Exchange: "The structure's architectural ambitions are matched by the city that built it" (alas, no pix of desks that transform into beds).
- Hosey cheers the International Living Future Institute new JUST program that lets consumers "clue into how organizations treat their workers and give back to their community."
- Taylor-Hochberg brings us 7 lessons from the 3rd International Architectural Education Summit: #2: Kids today don't know a thing about radicalism. #3: The powers that be are male, and architecture is...driven by male egos and navel-gazing."
- A Pakistani academic would like to "rip out the foundation of Western learning": "One of the worst things that a student of architecture in Pakistan can do is slavishly copy some design from the West."
- A Filipino master and his "'lonely' crusade for a truly Filipino architecture."
- Two good reasons to go/be Down Under later this week: The 2013 Melbourne Festival + Brisbane Open House includes the inaugural Art in Design exhibition.
- Call for entries: Fellowship applications to be "Principals" at the U.S. Pavilion during the 2014 Venice Biennale + Festival des Architectures Vives 2014: "Sensuality" for young architects and landscape architects.

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Reinventing the City of London: In less than a decade, London's skyline has been transformed...Philip Vivian examines the planning policies that are allowing it to happen, and considers what quality of architecture is being delivered...without the fear of overdevelopment, loss of heritage or change so often seen in Australia...There are three key ingredients: the political desire for construction, a flexible planning framework and a popular acceptance of tall buildings. -- Foster + Partners; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Renzo Piano Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners Rafael Viñoly; New London Architecture; Allies and Morrison/Woods Bagot- Australian Design Review

Abandoned homes are the future: Imaginative ideas turn blight into beauty: Countless homes remain vacant nationwide - but some cities see it as an opportunity to remake themselves...putting forth a variety of answers, from dollar homes to sprawling urban farms. At the end of the line, they hope, is a revitalized urban landscape. It may not look much like what came before. By Henry Grabar- Salon

Cities are the Innovative Labs for the Future: Political, economic, and design power are behind a growing rethink of urban settlements...lively spaces, ideas, and energy are elevated when design serves as the key connector integrating urban assets and amenities into great places. By Brooks Rainwater/American Institute of Architects/AIA -- Cities as a Lab: Designing the Innovation Economy- Metropolis Magazine

Brookings Institute's Jennifer Bradley talks cities in TO: U.S. author ["The Metro Revolution"] reminds Torontonians that a healthy city is key to a healthy national economy...made it clear that, although this city has a lot going for it, it's not time for smugness just yet. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Toronto's chief planner, Jennifer Keesmaat, challenges David Mirvish/Frank Gehry scheme: ...worryes that it's too dense, too tall and architecturally "trite"...she has learned to wring her hands with the best of the doubting Torontonians. The fear of height and density, of standing out and being bold, of duplicitous developers and lying architects...How disturbing that a scheme conceived by a proven city-builder and designed by one of the finest architects alive should be greeted with institutional skepticism and civic smallness. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Landscape Architects Take Centre Stage in Climate Crisis: There has never been a more important time to focus on the integral role landscape architects can play in adapting the built environment to prepare for the future...Australian Institute of Landscape Architects developed The Australian Landscape Principles...to direct future landscape interventions towards holistic outcomes and sustainability...- Sourceable

Turning Parking Into Parklets: Urban citizens get a break in tiny public parks: Along with public plazas...and bike lanes, parklets are another example of how planners are chipping away at old notions that streets should be primarily for cars...anecdotal evidence suggests parklets have had a positive impact on economic development... By Janani Shankaran/Regional Plan Association (RPA) [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Gardens put history and culture in perspective: The beauty of classical designs casts its influence on modern architecture beyond China...These are not just gardens and buildings. They carry the city and even the country's culture, history and memory, which will disappear if we don't pay attention." -- I.M. Pei; Liu Shaozong; Wang Jintao- Xinhua News (China)

Finalists' designs revealed in £90m LSE contest: ...to design the London School of Economics' new Global Centre for the Social Sciences...The proposals...on anonymous exhibition in the LSE's library. -- Grafton Architects; Heneghan Peng; Hopkins Architects; OMA; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Inside Shenzhen's New Stock Exchange: From manager desks that transform into beds to suites with showers for officials...The structure's architectural ambitions are matched by the city that built it. -- Rem Koolhaas/David Gianotten/OMA [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

Material Justice: The making of buildings can be a powerful force to promote social equity and fair trade: International Living Future Institute (ILFI)...announced a new program - JUST...lets consumers "clue into how organizations treat their workers and give back to their community"...This is long overdue. By Lance Hosey/RTKL- Huffington Post

7 Lessons from the 3rd International Architectural Education Summit: Co-hosted by UCLA's Department of Architecture and Urban Design, and IE School of Architecture in Madrid...#1: The relevancy of the "Architect" is fleeting. #2: Kids today don't know a thing about radicalism. #3: The powers that be are male, and architecture is a gender-divisive practice...driven by male egos and navel-gazing. By Amelia Taylor-Hochberg- Archinect

Rip out the foundation of Western learning to build better in Pakistan: academic: "We pick up good examples and present it to the students here so that they learn how building, design principles have evolved over time"...The only problem is that there is a certain tendency...to find quick solutions...and call the end-product "inspired" by the original. "But it is more of a pastiche"... -- Fazal Noor- Express Tribune (Pakistan)

Francisco Mañosa's 'lonely' crusade for a truly Filipino architecture: Called the most outspoken champion of indigenous Filipino architecture, he has been pushing for years to the international scene what is known as Contemporary Tropical Filipino Architecture. -- Juan Nakpil; Pablo Antonio; Leandro Locsin; Idefonso Santos- Philippine Daily Inquirer

2013 Melbourne Festival October 11-27: Alice Rawsthorn, Tacita Dean, Pedro Reyes and Living Architectures headline the visual arts program at venues across the city...filmmakers Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine will present Living Architectures...seven films depicts a spontaneous portrait of contemporary architecture, honing in on the everyday users of buildings.- Australian Design Review

Brisbane Open House to showcase 71 architectural jewels for free: October 12-13...inaugural Art in Design exhibition will profile the works of 11 leading Queensland designers, architects, landscape architects and artists at the Australian Institute of Architects' Brisbane office. [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Call for entries/Call for Fellowship Applications: OfficeUS is seeking five fellows to be "Principals" at the U.S. Pavilion during the 2014 Venice Biennale; applicants must have a professional degree or equivalent in Architecture, Landscape Architecture or Urban Design, and have graduated in the last 15 years; \$15,000 stipend; deadline: December 2- Storefront for Art and Architecture

Call for entries: Festival des Architectures Vives 2014: "Sensuality": FAV Montpellier and FAV La Grande Motte for young architects and landscape architects; cash prizes; deadline: December 4 [in French & English]- Festival des Architectures Vives (FAV)



-- OMA: Educatorium (1997), Utrecht, The Netherlands
-- Alsop Architects: founded by William Allen Alsop - also known as British architecture's enfant terrible...dedicated to modernist ideals and a high degree of user engagement.
-- Dominique Perrault: Fukoku Tower (2010), Osaka, Japan

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