

Today's News - Friday, October 11, 2013

- Weinstein wonders whether Rybczynski's "How Architecture Works" presents a "traditional definition of architecture's past" that "might be passé" (even though it "might be his most urbanely written and sensibly organized" tome).
- Brookings' Katz and Bradley make the case that an Innovation District could "supercharge" Philadelphia's economy by providing "what talented workers increasingly want in the places they live and work: livability, walkability, and transit connectivity."
- A battle brews over plans to expand Richard Murphy's 1993 landmark Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh: plans to change "one of Scotland's most significant contemporary buildings have been denounced as 'disgraceful.'"
- Grant and Hobbs offer two different perspectives on a new, award-winning prison in Australia that "allows Indigenous prisoners to maintain their connection to country."
- Rosenbaum reports on the Guggenheim's modified Helsinki proposal, and "the pressing imperative to get it right this time."
- Zeiger gives thumbs-up to Brooks + Scarpa's oh-so-green Metalsa Center for Manufacturing Innovation in Monterrey, Mexico, "for the maker of a product not often in the spotlight: the car chassis" (great pix).
- Stein checks in with Tsao and McKown re: how and why they are "designing new communities in China that stand in stark opposition to the monolithic cities that seem to sprout up across the country overnight."
- Danes win the bid to design Southbank Centre's new (and still controversial) skate park under the Hungerford Bridge.
- A young Chilean firm wins the bid to design an addition to Chile's Museo Histórico Nacional (pix prove why!).
- One we couldn't resist: Hosey offers a hilarious take on why "The Fountainhead" is still "the perfect representation of everything that's wrong with architects" today: "The price of genius? Wet furniture."
- Weekend diversions:
 - A fab time to be in NYC: 5th Annual NYC Architecture & Design Film Festival.
 - A new video "traces the 60-year diaspora of Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret's Chandigarh furniture" that is "a surprisingly emotional, funny, and all-around majestic viewing experience."
 - "Participatory City: 100 Urban Trends from the BMW Guggenheim Lab" opens today at - guess where.
 - MAD's "Out of Hand: Materializing the Postdigital" explores the impact of computer-assisted methods of production on contemporary architecture and more.
 - "3 in 1" at the Art Institute of Chicago includes Greg Lynn exploring "how computer programming can act as a mode of creative expression."
 - Rattenbury takes us through Elmgreen & Dragset's "Tomorrow" at the V&A that turns five galleries into the house of a fictional architect facing bankruptcy: "the grand narrative is undermined by the unconvincing detail" (the show might be a bit "un-architecty" - but great slide show).
 - Jarman's "American Beauty: The Opulent Pre-Depression Architecture of Detroit," on view in San Francisco, is "a stirring exhibition" and "an inherently moving testament to a vanishing city that flew too close to the sun."
 - Welton is wowed by "Porsche by Design: Seducing Speed" at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh includes Steve McQueen's Speedster and Janis Joplin's psychedelia-inspired 356C (we couldn't resist the fab slide show!).
 - Pedersen's Q&A with Washburn re: "The Nature of Urban Design: A New York Perspective on Resilience": he "has accomplished, if not quite the impossible, then certainly the daunting: he's written a concise and accessible treatise on urban planning, blissfully free of jargon."
 - A passage from Washburn's tome re: why he rode out Hurricane Sandy in his home in Red Hook despite evacuation orders - "he had good reason; NYC's chief urban designer "recounts his experience during the storm and the hugely complicated - and ongoing - municipal recovery and response (a great read!).
 - Miller cheers "master critic" Rybczynski's "irreverent guide to the greatest buildings of the past and present" - one "couldn't find a better guide to this enigmatic terrain than "How Architecture Works: A Humanist's Toolkit."
 - A lot of famous folks write love letters to their favorite parks in "City Parks: Public Places, Private Thoughts": the "lushness and depth of Oberto Gili's photographs are matched by the quality of the words" (definitely take a look!).
 - Lange cheers Major's "Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer: A Landscape Critic in the Gilded Age," a "critical biography" that "firmly establishes Van Rensselaer as a key player in the rise of mainstream criticism."

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter [click here](#)

Op-Ed: Which "Past" Should Architects Embrace and Why? Posing Alternatives to Architectural Nostalgia: Witold Rybczynski's "How Architecture Works: A Humanist's Toolkit" might be his most urbanely written and sensibly organized - but his traditional definition of architecture's past might be passé. By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

A call for innovation: Philadelphia could supercharge its economy by growing a globally significant Innovation District...has an underappreciated advantage - not just a wealth of advanced research institutions and consortia, but also their proximity to each other...These districts also provide what talented workers increasingly want in the places they live and work: livability, walkability, and transit connectivity...Momentum is already under way. By Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley/Brookings Institution - Philadelphia Inquirer

Row explodes over £6m plans for Edinburgh gallery: Architects slam lack of consultation over plans to expand Richard Murphy's 1993 landmark Fruitmarket building: Plans to redevelop one of Scotland's most significant contemporary buildings have been denounced as "disgraceful"... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Connection to country: West Kimberley Regional Prison: ...a custodial environment that allows Indigenous prisoners to maintain their connection to country. Dr Elizabeth Grant and Peter Hobbs present two different perspectives on this unique correctional facility. -- TAG Architects; Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects [images] - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Guggenheim's Modified Helsinki Proposal Reduces Costs, Keeps \$30-Million Licensing Fee: ...given the amount of time, thought and energy that it has now devoted to this proposal, and the pressing imperative to get it right this time...the Guggenheim can be expected to do everything in its power to make this one work, for the benefit of both sides. By Lee Rosenbaum - ArtsJournal

Metalsa Center for Manufacturing Innovation: By blending the natural with the industrial, Los Angeles-based Brooks + Scarpa Architects has created a 102,000-square-foot complex in Monterrey, Mexico, for the maker of a product not often in the spotlight: the car chassis...The sustainable focus...resulted in LEED Platinum certification. By Mimi Zeiger [images] - Architect Magazine

Calvin Tsao and Zack McKown Bring New Eco-Friendly Designs to China: The architects are confronting the way cities are built in China, one community at a time...designing new communities that stand in stark opposition to the monolithic cities that seem to sprout up across the country overnight. By Karen Stein -- Octave; Tsao & McKown Architects [images] - Wall Street Journal

Danish practice wins contest for new £1m Southbank skatepark: SNE Architects will design the new £1 million skatepark under Hungerford Bridge as part of controversial plans to overhaul the Southbank Centre. [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Young architects design historic addition to Chile's Museo Histórico Nacional: "A Hall Between Two

Courtyards," which will house some of the country's most treasured heirlooms, emphasize open space. -- Aguilo + Pedraza arquitectos [images]- The Santiago Times (Chile)

The Fountainhead All Over Again: Ayn Rand's novel remains the perfect representation of everything that's wrong with architects...here's a look at how it continues to characterize the most celebrated designers...The price of genius? Wet furniture...The F*heads seem to believe that the only relevant measure of their work is whether they like it... By Lance Hosey -- Rafael Viñoly; Jean Nouvel; Rem Koolhaas; Frank Gehry; Frank Lloyd Wright- Metropolis Magazine

5th Annual NYC Architecture & Design Film Festival, October 16 - 20: 25 feature-length and short films, director Q&As, panel discussions, book signings, and more- Architecture & Design Film Festival

Exhibition Review: ...multimedia artist Amie Siegel's new video "Provenance" traces the 60-year diaspora of Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret's Chandigarh furniture...big-screen journey around the world—and through time—a surprisingly emotional, funny, and all-around majestic viewing experience; at at Simon Preston Gallery, NYC [slide show]- Architectural Record

"Participatory City: 100 Urban Trends from the BMW Guggenheim Lab": ...features 100 of the key trends published in the New York, Berlin, and Mumbai editions...October 11, 2013, to January 5, 2014. - ArchDaily

"Out of Hand: Materializing the Postdigital": ...the first in-depth survey dedicated to exploring the impact of computer-assisted methods of production on contemporary art, architecture, and design. On view at the at the Museum of Arts and Design, NYC. -- Zaha Hadid; Anish Kapoor; Jürgen Mayer H.; Greg Lynn; Maya Lin; etc. [images]- Museum of Arts and Design (MAD)

"3 in 1: Contemporary Explorations in Architecture & Design" at the Art Institute of Chicago: ...broken down into three small separate exhibitions each revealing different categories...Greg Lynn's "Stranded Sears Tower" explores how computer programming can act as a mode of creative expression. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Architect Manqué: Elmgreen & Dragset's new installation "Tomorrow" at the V&A, transforms five galleries into the house of a fictional architect, laying clues for the visitor as to his life – and impending bankruptcy – as well as the bigger back story of the giddy world of money and property in London...the grand narrative is undermined by the unconvincing detail. By Kester Rattenbury [slide show]- Uncube magazine (Germany)

Spectacular ruins of the Motor City: "American Beauty: The Opulent Pre-Depression Architecture of Detroit," a stirring exhibition of Philip Jarmain's extraordinary large-format color photographs...at the Meridian Gallery...even if this project weren't an inherently moving testament to a vanishing city that flew too close to the sun, Jarmain's photographs, with their commanding artistry and power, would stand on their own. [images]- Bay Area Reporter (San Francisco)

A Definitive History of Porsche Design: "Porsche by Design: Seducing Speed" at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh. With more than 20 models on display - including Steve McQueen's Speedster and Janis Joplin's psychedelia-inspired 356C - it will be the largest and most diverse Porsche exhibition ever mounted in the U.S. By J. Michael Welton [images]- Architects and Artisans

Q&A: Alexandros Washburn: "The Nature of Urban Design: A New York Perspective on Resilience" defines a new era...has accomplished, if not quite the impossible, then certainly the daunting: he's written a concise and accessible treatise on urban planning, blissfully free of jargon..."I believe the next phase in urban design is people solving their own problems, launching their own initiatives." By Martin C. Pedersen - Metropolis Magazine

Resilience in Red Hook: ...as Hurricane Sandy approached New York, Alexandros Washburn defied evacuation orders and stayed fast in his home...But he had good reason; the city's chief urban designer wanted to observe first-hand...Here he recounts his experience during the storm and the hugely complicated — and ongoing — municipal recovery and response. (adapted from "The Nature of Urban Design") By Alexandros Washburn [images]- Places Journal

Modern architecture without pain: Master critic Witold Rybczynski's irreverent guide to the greatest buildings of the past and present: ...couldn't find a better guide to this enigmatic terrain than "How Architecture Works: A Humanist's Toolkit"...provides a tour of the factors every architect must consider when designing a building... By Laura Miller - Salon

Celebrity Love Letters to Their Favorite Parks: "City Parks: Public Places, Private Thoughts" by Catie Marron collects intimate essays on 21 great parks in cities around the world...The lushness and depth of Oberto Gili's photographs are matched by the quality of the words... [images]- The Atlantic Cities

"Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer: A Landscape Critic in the Gilded Age," a new critical biography by Judith K. Major...firmly establishes her as a key player in the rise of mainstream criticism, as well as situating her within a network of female professional peers... By Alexandra Lange - Design Observer



- 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

Note: Pages will open in a new browser window.
External news links are not endorsed by ArchNewsNow.com.
Free registration may be required on some sites.
Some pages may expire after a few days.

[Yesterday's News](#)