

Today's News - Monday, October 21, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us Meier's Teachers Village in Newark, NJ; Ito's "friendly and socially responsible buildings"; and Ripoll Tizón Estudio de Arquitectura's social housing in Mallorca.
- Grahame Shane pays eloquent tribute to Marshall Berman and his "three voices" that will be missed, "but especially his third voice, more public and formal...witnessing truth before power without fear, deeply courageous and independent."
- Capps reports that in the contentious Continuing Resolution, our (oh-so-contentious) Congress included a clause that requires all funds needed for the Eisenhower Memorial must be raised before construction can begin, which "could potentially set its fate."
- Kotkin uses stats to dispel the urban myth that empty-nester suburbanites are flocking back to urban centers, so the 'burbs better get ready to "ramp up services to accommodate them" (shuttle buses and hospitals come to mind).
- A fascinating (and depressing) report on what Spain's economic crash has cost the country's architectural community: "decline in the allure of the architecture profession is dramatic."
- Ulam visits Lviv and "peels back" the Ukrainian city's - and his own family's - architectural roots with an architectural historian who tells him: "Here we have architecture," but "only a skeleton of this creature remains."
- Perth architects weigh in on the city's good, bad, and ugly, and an emerging Australian architectural identity.
- Baan's TEDTalk is an absolutely amazing photographic tour that celebrates "humanity's ability to survive and make a home - anywhere" (absolutely awesome and a must-see!).
- Kimmelman gives two thumbs-ups (he'd give three if he could!) to Williams & Tsien's Lakeside project in Prospect Park: it restores Brooklyn's "pastoral heart" with a "seamless integration of architecture and landscape" that "recovers the tranquility and natural wonder that are the first glory of this urban masterpiece."
- The third installment of the Lincoln (as in automaker) Reimagine Project teams up with Arch Digest and Architecture for Humanity for a pocket park in San Francisco.
- Goodyear's great report on how cities everywhere are "daylighting" their long-covered rivers, "helping to cope with flood risk in a cost-efficient, environmentally safe way" - and making them nice places for citizens, too (great links).
- Speaking of which, Brasuell says it's a "watershed moment" for the L.A. River with a new report by the Army Corps of Engineers ("the same power that originally encased the river in concrete") that recommends habitat restoration (what a concept!).
- Gunther calls for the preservation of the New Jersey Palisades' majestic vista: no one "should be allowed to destroy it, especially when there is land and ingenuity available to otherwise accommodate the required commerce and hopeful growth," lest it become "nothing more than a platform for towers as far as the eye can see."
- Bevan catches up with Assemblage's Besley re: winning the competition to design Iraq's parliament and "optimistic design for a dangerous time" ("some background wheeling and dealing means that Hadid may still be in the race").
- Hilgford rather likes Rotterdam's new Central Rail Hub that "looks a bit like a discarded fast food tray - the slightly mish-mash design rather suits the city it serves."
- Spurr offers a most lively (and amusing) report from WAF 2013, "from the good, and not so good, to the glorious" + Eyefuls of the WAF's top projects, awarded "for their architectural brilliance."
- Winners all: 2013 World Habitat Awards winners from Palestine and the U.S. (and "8 outstanding finalists") + Eyefuls of the winners in the ACSA Steel Design Student Competition.
- Call for entries: DOCOMOMO US's 1st Annual Modernism in America Awards for the documentation, preservation and re-use of modern buildings, structures, and landscapes.

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-- Richard Meier & Partners: Teachers Village, Newark, New Jersey
-- Toyo Ito & Associates: Friendly and socially responsible buildings that challenge the spatial conventions of modernist architecture.
-- Ripoll Tizón Estudio de Arquitectura: Social Housing in Sa Pobla, Mallorca, Spain

Obituary: Marshall Berman, 1940-2013: The teacher, poet, and South Bronx native...had three voices...We will miss his voices, but especially his third voice, more public and formal, ex cathedra, from the chair of the professor, witnessing truth before power without fear, deeply courageous and independent. By David Grahame Shane- The Architect's Newspaper

Continuing Resolution Strips Fundraising Waiver for Eisenhower Memorial: With time ticking down for the Memorial, language in the CR now requires that all funds be raised up front before construction can begin...and could potentially set its fate. By Kriston Capps -- Frank Gehry [images]- Architect Magazine

Where Are The Boomers Headed? Not Back To The City: ...no urban legend has played as long and loudly as the notion that "empty nesters" are abandoning their dull lives in the suburbs for the excitement of inner city living...suburbs will likely persist as a primary arena for aging populations...communities will have to ramp up services to accommodate them, such as shuttle buses and hospitals. By Joel Kotkin- Forbes

Spain's economic crash brings architecture dreams back to earth: Years of grand building projects inspired droves of Spaniards to join the architectural field. But the recession has forced a rethinking of how and why buildings are built...decline in the allure of the architecture profession is dramatic. -- Clara Eslava/Eslava y Tejada Arquitectos; Rafael de La-Hoz; Manuel Ocaña; Luis Fernandez-Galiano- Christian Science Monitor

Lviv's, and a Family's, Stories in Architecture: During a visit to the Ukrainian city, the author peels back layers of Lviv's history, and his connection to it: "Here we have architecture, and what was inside perished," architectural historian Ihor Zhuk said. "Only a skeleton of this creature remains..." By Alex Ulam -- Michal Ulam; Ivan Levynskiy [images]- New York Times

The good, the bad, and the ugly, according to Perth architects: Fad housing trends of the past are being phased out and buyers are increasingly conscious of architecturally designed spaces: ...an Australian architectural identity had emerged. -- David Karotkin/Australian Institute of Architects WA; Adrian Iredale/Iredale Pedersen Hook; Philip Gresley/Gresley Abas Architects; Kelly Rattigan/Formworks Architecture- PerthNow (Australia)

Iwan Baan: Ingenious homes in unexpected places: Torre David, Caracas, Venezuela; a 50-70,000 person makeshift village built on a garbage landfill in Cairo, Egypt; A Venice-like slum city built on the water in Nigeria; and a Chinese village built in the soil, over 20 feet underground...Glorious images

celebrate humanity's ability to survive and make a home - anywhere. [video]- TEDTalks / TEDCity2.0

Restoring Brooklyn's Pastoral Heart: Lakeside, a \$74 million Skating Complex in Prospect Park...bids to turn this area back into the park's center of gravity, as Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux imagined during the 1860s...seamless integration of architecture and landscape...updates recreation for a new century. But it also recovers the tranquility and natural wonder that are the first glory of this urban masterpiece. By Michael Kimmelman -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Christian Zimmerman [slide show]- New York Times

The Lincoln Motor Company Announces The Lincoln Reimagine Project: ...third installment [a] collaboration with Architectural Digest and Cameron Sinclair/Architecture for Humanity to reimagine the urban fabric, transforming a San Francisco street into a pocket park...Burrows Street Park project...part of Lincoln's "Hello, Again" campaign... [image]- Broadway World

A Key Tool for Flood Control Are the Rivers Under Our Feet: Cities from Los Angeles to Yonkers, N.Y. to Manchester, U.K. are working to daylight their long-covered rivers...helping to cope with flood risk in a cost-efficient, environmentally safe way...The movement to reclaim rivers, and by so doing heal the cities that once scorned them, is everywhere. By Sarah Goodyear [video, links]- Next City (formerly Next American City)

Watershed Moment: Army Corps of Engineers study marks a major step in Los Angeles River's renewal...changes the focus of the Army Corps—the same power that originally encased the river in concrete...by recommending habitat restoration along an 11-mile stretch... By James Brasuell [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Why It's Important To Save The New Jersey Palisades' Majestic Vista: No single property holder, regardless of civic intent or LEED-sensitive design attention, should be allowed to destroy it, especially when there is land and ingenuity available to otherwise accommodate the required commerce and hopeful growth...Once LG's headquarters is realized, there will be no further impetus to design alternatives...These magnificent cliffs will become nothing more than a platform for towers as far as the eye can see. By Paul Gunther [images]- Architizer

Profile: Assemblage: Winning the competition to design Iraq's parliament complex shone a global spotlight onto Peter Besley and Hannah Corlett's small London practice. Robert Bevan spoke with Besley about an optimistic design for a dangerous time...some background wheeling and dealing means that Zaha Hadid may still be in the race..."I could never send my staff there..." [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Fast Food Station: Rotterdam's new Central Rail Hub: ...looks a bit like a discarded fast food tray...nicknamed it "Kapsalon" after a local speciality. The nickname seems as much affectionate as critical of the slightly mish-mash design of the building, which rather suits the city it serves. By Jason Hilgeford -- Will Alsop; Maxwan A+U; West8; Team CS: Benthem Crouwel Architekten/MVSA Meyer en Van Schooten Architecten/West8 [images]- Uncube magazine (Germany)

WAF 2013: Lock, stock and barrel: Global meeting of minds or too-expensive talkfest? 2013 World Architecture Festival — from the good, and not so good, to the glorious: "Value and Values"...architects are still reticent about refining their skills at communicating that value to the wider public, government and clients...In an age when the 'mediatization' of images is increasingly tuned to the attention span of a Twitter feed, this gives architects back some control in the discussion of what their projects are really about. By Sam Spurr [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

World Architecture Festival's Top Projects: The Auckland Art Gallery...has been crowned World Building of the Year...over two dozen built projects received awards for their architectural brilliance...Shut out in the past, American firms gained traction this year. -- Frances-Jones Morehen Thorp/FJMT + Archimedia; Koning Eizenberg Architecture; Sharon Davis Design; Perkins+Will; 3XN; Wilkinson Eyre; Emre Arolat Architects; Mecanoo Architecten; Wingardh Arkitektkontor; Concrete; a-lab [slide show]- Azure magazine (Canada)

2013 World Habitat Awards winners announced: Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme - Palestine; and The 100,000 Homes Campaign - USA + 8 outstanding finalists [links to details]- Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF)

Student Winners Design for Sustainability and Strength in ACSA Steel Competition: ...Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture 2012-2013 Steel Design Student Competition...called for comprehensive and environmentally thoughtful steel designs in two categories. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: 1st Annual Modernism in America Awards: celebrate the documentation, preservation and re-use of modern buildings, structures and landscapes built in the United States or on U.S. territory; earlybird deadline (save money!): December 15- DOCOMOMO US

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