

Today's News - Thursday, November 21, 2013

- Pearman parses Caruso St. John's Tate Britain, and is particularly taken by the new spiral stair: it "is a building in itself. It is pure architecture" - though he doesn't know if he likes it yet, overall the architects "have added subtlety with a touch of cool jazz."
- Medina sails through Hadid's "curvy new gem" on the Caspian Sea where "lithe, sinuous walls swoosh like a flying carpet" - had any other starchitect or large firm designed the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, "it's doubtful they could have produced something with this much verve" (fab photos!).
- Meanwhile, her 2022 World Cup stadium in Qatar "was to look like the sails of a dhow boat ... right. The Internet laughed. And laughed. And is still laughing" (with links to the gaggle of giggles).
- Asymptote's riverside médiathèque is "a stunning silver-skinned ovaloid that seems to rise out of the semi-rural South Korean landscape" (great pix!).
- Stephens cheers Phifer's first foray at Clemson University that is a light-filled "machine for learning" (and oh-so green).
- Eyeful of BIG's big win in Montpellier, France: the Museum of the Human Body, where the "pavilions will weave together like individual fingers united together in a mutual grip."
- London's Natural History Museum Civic Realm Competition lines up an impressive shortlist of teams (including BIG).
- O'Sullivan explains why the Wolfson Economics Prize is the U.K.'s "misguided attempt to bring back the 'Garden City'" that "sounds like a recipe for yet more sprawl" - Sweden offers better examples.
- Ireland, meanwhile, is bulldozing 40 of "some 1,300 damp, rotting unfinished housing developments."
- Youngerman offers an in-depth look at the environmental and economic benefits of daylighting long-buried urban rivers, from Provincetown to New York, "part of a late-20th century urban development trend."
- LEED v4 is (finally) launching this week. Was the wait worth it?
- Burkeman and Schwartz offer their takes on a new study that shows "open-plan offices were devised by Satan in the deepest caverns of hell."
- Four (very cool) architectural innovations make Time magazine's Top 25 Inventions for 2013.
- Harvard GSD's African American Student Union explains why they invited Kanye West to speak.
- One we couldn't resist: the second "I am an architect" rap battle video, "mashing up architects and contractors in an epic throw-down."
- Call for entries: 2014 Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition (cash and trips to Italy as prizes).

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Tate Britain by Caruso St. John: ...new spiral stair...is a building in itself. It is pure architecture...I don't know if I like this stair yet. I admire it. It feels gorgeous. It is clever, possibly too clever. It is intricate, possibly too intricate...have added a layer of intellect and historic reference while also restoring aspects of Sidney J. Smith's original...have added subtlety to Smith, with a touch of cool jazz. By Hugh Pearman [images]- RIBA Journal (UK)

Zaha Hadid's Curvy New Gem on the Caspian: Swept up in Baku: The new Heydar Aliyev Center ...resembles a billowing sail or a coiled mollusk shell...lithe, sinuous walls swoosh like a flying carpet...Almost martian in its appearance...had any other starchitect or large architectural office been given the commission, it's doubtful they could have produced something with this much verve. By Samuel Medina [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Your Laughs May Prevent Qatar's Beautiful 2022 World Cup Stadium from Being Built: ...the al-Wakrah stadium...was to look like the sails of a dhow boat...Dhow boats ... right..."resemblance to a woman's private parts may be unintentional"...the Internet laughed. And laughed. And is still laughing. -- Zaha Hadid; Aecom [image, links]- The Atlantic Cities

The ARC: In designing a riverside médiathèque in South Korea, Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture and their New York-based firm Asymptote Architecture created an immersive high-tech celebration of the very analog landscape...River Culture Pavilion...a stunning silver-skinned ovaloid that seems to rise out of the semi-rural South Korean landscape on the outskirts of Daeg... [images]- Architect Magazine

Lee Hall Addition, Clemson University: Machine for Learning: An architecture school expands into a steel and glass structure that showcases its structural and energy-efficient features...moved the courtyard concept indoors... By Suzanne Stephens - Thomas Phifer and Partners; McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture [slide show]- Architectural Record

BIG wins competition to design Museum of the Human Body (Cité du Corps Humain): ...will be part of a newly developed extension to the Parc Marianne area of Montpellier, France... "pavilions weave together...like individual fingers united together in a mutual grip" ...will explore the human body from an artistic, scientific and societal approach... -- Bjarke Ingels Group; A+ Architecture; Base [images]- Dezeen

Shortlist announced in Natural History Museum Civic Realm Competition: ...teams now...to work up proposals for the grade I-listed museum's new civic public realm. -- BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group)/Martha Schwartz Partners; Grant Associates/Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios; Niall McLaughlin Architects/Kim Wilkie; Land Use Consultants (LUC)/Design Engine; Stanton Williams Architects/Bradley-Hole Schoenach Landscape Architects- The Architects' Journal (UK)

The U.K.'s Misguided Attempt to Bring Back the 'Garden City': Here's why they're dead wrong...the Wolfson Economics Prize has political weight behind it...a manifesto that attacks the evils of infill and encroaching urban character sounds like a recipe for yet more sprawl...but Sweden's example show that it's possible to build modern, sustainable, genuinely urban communities without looking back in longing. By Feargus O'Sullivan [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Ireland will bulldoze 40 vacant housing developments—only 1,260 to go: We're living in a golden age of ghost towns...real estate mania left the country's

economy and government finances in tatters. It also left behind some 1,300 damp, rotting unfinished housing developments. - Quartz

Daylighting Rivers in Search of Hidden Treasure: City building has always been a process of creating land for development, often modifying nature to do so...How unexpected, then, that...cities have been destroying land to make room for water...daylighting is better understood in economic terms, as part of a late-20th century urban development trend... By Zach Youngerman [images]- Urban Omnibus

Returning to LEED: More than four years after its predecessor, and one year later than originally planned, LEED v4 will be launched at Greenbuild 2013. Was the wait worth it?- Architect Magazine

Open-plan offices were devised by Satan in the deepest caverns of hell: They're bad for concentration, motivation, stress – and they don't even make it easier for employees to communicate, new research indicates...Harvard Business Review...showing just how frustrating people find them...published in the December 2013 issue of the Journal of Environmental Psychology... By Oliver Burkeman [link to report]- Guardian (UK)

You're Not Alone: Most People Hate Open Offices: People in cubicles and open offices long for privacy and probably get less work done...researchers from the University of Sydney...find that the benefits of easy communication that supposedly go along with open-plan offices don't outweigh the the disadvantages... By Ariel Schwartz [links]- Fast Company

Four Architectural Innovations Make Time magazine's Top 25 Inventions For 2013 -- +Pool/Family/Playlab; Infinity Tower/GDS Architects; Volvo Solar Pavilion/Synthesis Design + Architecture (SDA); 3Doodler [images, links]- ArchDaily

Harvard GSD's African American Student Union Tells Us Why They Met With Kanye West: ...AASU members were stirred by a series of interviews...referencing his growing interest in design...very public frustration with the limits experienced by Black designers and artists...only 1% of licensed architects in the United States identifies as being African American.- Architizer

Architect vs. Contractor Rap Showdown: YKKAP has released its second "I am an architect" rap battle video, this time mashing up architects and contractors in an epic throw-down. Who won? [video]- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: 2014 Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition; open to North America-based architects and designers; \$15,000 in prizes and 3 trips to Italy; deadline: February 3- Ceramic Tiles of Italy

-- Álvaro Siza: Bouça Housing Complex (2004), Porto, Portugal
-- Kisho Kurokawa (1934-2007): one of the most radical and productive thinkers in recent Japanese architecture...a founder of the Metabolist Movement
-- Batlle i Roig Arquitectes: Funeral Home, Sant Joan Despí, Barcelona, Spain

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