

## Today's News - Thursday, January 16, 2014

- Brussat weighs in on the MoMA/AFAM ("a cheesy little rectangle of rust") debate: "those of us who are unsurprised that the modernists feel angst at the brutality of their overlords can have our own little chuckle for a change."
- Rosenbaum x 2: she hears from founding curator of the Crystal Bridges Museum re: why AFAM should be saved: "It's too early to give up on an important if controversial building by acclaimed architects."
- On a brighter note, she cheers an FLW gem in New Jersey getting a new home at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Arkansas (makes us muse: maybe the museum will move AFAM, too?).
- Making the case for reinventing Modernist gems, with lessons from Detroit, St. Louis, and elsewhere.
- Saffron cheers Foster's foray to Philly with a towering "atelier where employees can make a mess while they invent and build stuff," proving that "urban skyscrapers are not just for paper pushers, but also for collaboration and creativity."
- King is a bit disappointed with a "stylish but subdued" building that "hints at what we'll see across San Francisco - an abundance of careful planning and a shortage of architectural nerve" (though he does like what's happening at street-level).
- Eyefuls of what could be "a stunning Los Angeles of the future."
- Haiti continues to build stronger after the quake, but with about 90% of work being done without an architect or engineer, and "safety often considered a luxury," experts fear what might happen when/if another quake hits.
- Baca's Barker re: designing for floods: "we should look at water management as an opportunity to create beautiful places."
- Pitt's Make It Right Foundation is rebuilding parts of about 30 homes in New Orleans: it's "a cautionary tale" when "using cutting-edge, sustainable construction techniques."
- A former member of New Orleans's flood protection authority explains "why we're suing the oil companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico: This place may have a chance to survive after all."
- The mayor of London throws "a hand grenade into the Southbank Centre's redevelopment plans": he wants the skate park saved.
- How "Titanic" (the movie) inspired Heatherwick's design for a pedestrian bridge across the Thames.
- Rockwell and MAS's Cipolla launch RGV: "Our vision is to build a portfolio of businesses showcasing how innovation and the power of design can make the world a better and more inspiring place."
- Wainwright's tribute to Kathryn Findlay.
- Katz pays tribute to Madeline Gins and her "reversed destiny": "Arakawa and Gins were peerless in their pursuit of an architecture that operated on both theoretical and material levels and realize them in built form."
- Call for entries: Lots of Possibility competition for innovative, affordable and replicable ideas to return vacant lots into productive use in Louisville, KY.

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[MoMA angst in the modernist world: The American Folk Art Museum is a cheesy little rectangle of rust thrust into the pastiche of the MoMA edifice...AFAM has achieved a sort of cult status now that the building...has become expendable....those of us who are unsurprised that the modernists feel angst at the brutality of their overlords can have our own little chuckle for a change.](#) By David Brussat -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Architecture Here and There

[BlogBack: Chris Crosman on Saving Folk Art Museum's Building: ...founding curator of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, who had to deal with some architectural challenges of his own, responds to Contrarian Musings: Why Folk Art Museum's Building Should Not Be Saved..."It's too early to give up on an important if controversial building by acclaimed architects..."](#) By Lee Rosenbaum - ArtsJournal

[Rescuing Wright: New Jersey's Bachman Wilson House Moves to Crystal Bridges: "...about to be taken apart and transported to Bentonville, AR, along with the furniture and fixtures designed for it. I'm very glad this is happening.](#) By Lee Rosenbaum -- Tarantino Studio; Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy [images] - ArtsJournal

[Reinvention Reinvented: Hope for Modernism: Will the loss of Prentice Women's Hospital galvanize support for a controversial building style? Few cities can claim the type of widespread salvation success found in \[Detroit's\] Lafayette Park or Columbus, Indiana...Fans of postwar Modernist architecture hope to transfer the lessons learned in Miami and St. Louis to other buildings...But the timing and the level of backing are crucial. -- Bertrand Goldberg; Blair Kamin; Docomomo; Richard Meier; George Nelson - Preservation magazine](#)

[Comcast tower a new symbol for technology: ...should be a glorious vertical atelier where employees can make a mess while they invent and build stuff...Suits to the east, hipster engineers in cutoffs and flip-flops to the west...The tower's simplicity is as potentially radical as Walter Gropius' Fagus factory was in 1913, because it recognizes that urban skyscrapers are not just for paper pushers, but also for collaboration and creativity.](#) By Inga Saffron -- Foster & Partners [images, link to video] - Philadelphia Inquirer

[38 Dolores a stylish but subdued addition to Upper Market: ...hints at what we'll see across San Francisco...an abundance of careful planning and a shortage of architectural nerve...buildings of this sort should strive to do more than placate the neighbors and fill in the blanks. Some need to stir the imagination, raise the bar for what comes next. By those standards, this newcomer falls short.](#) By John King -- BAR Architects; April Philips Landscape Architecture [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

[This Is What Los Angeles Could Look Like In 2033: LA is moving toward a greener future, friendlier to pedestrians, metro users and bicyclists...20 architectural renderings give us a glimpse into a stunning Los Angeles of the future. -- AECOM; HNTB, Michael Maltzan Architecture and AC Martin Partners; Peter Zumthor; Frank Gehry \[images\] - Huffington Post](#)

[Haiti Builds Stronger After Quake, Gaps Remain: ...construction practices have improved...But construction of smaller commercial buildings and homes is more haphazard...As much as 90% of Haiti's construction is done without an architect or engineer...smaller builders now use better materials, but safety is still often considered a luxury.](#) - ABC News (US)

[Designing for floods? The answer is plain: The recent flooding in the UK reminds us as architects that we need to make sure our buildings and their users understand the environment in which they are located...we should look at water management as an opportunity to create beautiful places...not only for new cities but every time we change our existing towns and cities.](#) By Robert Barker/Baca Architects [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

[Wood product said to be rotting in 'green'-built homes: Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation is rebuilding parts of about 30 homes after finding that a special type of wood used in construction isn't holding up...a cautionary tale for nonprofit home builders and others interested in using cutting-edge, sustainable construction techniques... \[slide show\] - New Orleans Advocate](#)

[Why We're Suing the Oil Companies: A former member of the flood protection authority in New Orleans explains why legal](#)

action is being taken against the petroleum industry operating in the Gulf of Mexico...This place may have a chance to survive after all. By John M. Barry- Metropolis Magazine

Boris throws Southbank plans into disarray: The mayor of London has thrown a hand grenade into the Southbank Centre's redevelopment plans by declaring his support for the campaign to save the skate park. -- Feilden Clegg Bradley; SNE; Rick Mather Architects - BD/Building Design (UK)

How Leonardo DiCaprio Inspired a Stunning Bridge That Doubles as a Park: If Thomas Heatherwick has his way, the River Thames will soon have a new plant-filled pedestrian crossing inspired in part by the scene in Titanic... -- Arup; Dan Pearson [images]- Wired

David Rockwell, Vin Cipolla: Ready to launch: The design veteran and civic leader...have joined forces...RGV will create, invest in and incubate media, entertainment and hospitality firms...already has four projects underway including...Imagination Playground..."Our vision...to build a portfolio of businesses showcasing how innovation and the power of design can make the world a better and more inspiring place." - Crain's New York Business

Kathryn Findlay:...unconventional designs ranged from space-age homes to the Orbit tower for the London Olympic Park..."She was one of the most talented people in British architecture," said Eva Jiricna..."I hope her work will be discovered by a new generation." By Oliver Wainwright -- Ushida Findlay [images]- Guardian (UK)

Death, Defied: The Architecture of Madeline Gins: ...would not have wanted an obituary...was devoted to creating buildings and objects that..."reversed destiny" by battling its lowest common denominator, death...Arakawa and Gins were peerless in their pursuit of an architecture that operated on both theoretical and material levels...and realize them in built form. By Anna Kats [slide show]- Artinfo

Call for entries: Louisville Metro Government Lots of Possibility competition for innovative, affordable and replicable ideas to return vacant lots into productive use + seed funding to see the ideas through implementation; deadline: February 24- Louisville Metro Government (Kentucky)

ANN Feature: Lost in Space: Calori & Vanden-Eynden on the Positive Payoffs of Integrated EGD: Ever been lost in a building, feeling your stress level rise by the minute? If so, the lack of effective environmental graphic design is very likely the culprit. By Claire Wilson [images]- ArchNewsNow



-- Photo Report From Doha. By Pygmalion Karatzas -- Arata Isozaki; Legorreta + Legorreta; Jean Nouvel; NORR; Coelacanth K&H; Allies & Morrison; OMA; Cesar Pelli; etc.

-- BIG: ...Bjarke Ingels Group...risen to world-wide renown in record time, winning commissions left and right...all burst of unflinching confidence and supercharged youthful energy. By Jakob Harry Hybel

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