

Today's News - Monday, March 10, 2014

- ArcSpace brings us Meyer's (fab) travel guide to Helsinki, and Kiser's take on Morphosis's Emerson College in L.A. that "defines the college's identity in the center of the entertainment industry."
- Quirk is quick to cheer (so do we!) Time magazine's "fascinating and often deeply moving account" of the building of 1 WTC (a must-read/watch!).
- Wing "offers an alternative take" on architects' moral responsibilities (ref. Hadid/Qatar stadium fracas): "Does the fame of the architect somehow mitigate the responsibility? Or does one's fame and bully pulpit make one more responsible?"
- Roche sees "a moment of truth" for the Eisenhower Memorial: after 15 years and \$40 million, and "thanks to the object lesson we've been given on the consequences of ignoring standard practice, we know just where to begin again."
- Johnson does some serious digging to find out who (and what) is behind the "Astroturf organization" spending big bucks to debunk LEED.
- The Living Building Challenge's McLennan explains how the LBC's "holistic plan aims not to make cities less bad, but more good."
- Hosey explains why, "by many important measures, cities are dramatically better for the environment, the economy, and you."
- Chaban x 2: he takes an in-depth look at how Jersey City is turning "from drab to fab": move over Brooklyn - "alluring architecture is making 'Chilltown' hot."
- He finds out why NYC's approval of the massive Domino Sugar factory redevelopment (with towers 20 stories higher than zoning allows) has some housing advocates worried while it "has certainly emboldened" the real estate industry ("Mayor Build de Blasio," anyone?).
- Rinaldi cheers Denver's "Imagine 2020" arts-first plan that calls for more public art just about everywhere, and offers "incentives for planners and developers who make art a priority."
- Rybczynski strolls Thom's Tarrant County College Trinity East campus in Fort Worth, TX: "I don't want to give the impression that this is shy architecture" - "humanist" is a better descriptor.
- A former fire station in Doha is set to be transformed into art center for residencies, studios, and a gallery for international and Gulf artists.
- Brussat says Holl's addition to the Glasgow School of Art "expresses the most profound disrespect for its neighbor" (why are we not surprised).
- Pogrebin offers an in-depth look at what conservationists are dealing with now that FLW's vast archive has landed in NYC: "In preserving the models, the conservators must decide which version to restore: The model in its original form? Its final form? The building as it looked when completed?"
- Heathcote has an amusing take on movie villains' island lairs: "For the 1960s villain it needed to be Tropical Modern; for our age, it's more Tate Modern."
- AIArchitect offers a great round-up re: Palm Springs Modernism that looks at "what-if's," giant donut stands, Kaptur, Modernism's "elder statesman."
- A good reason to head west this week: Architecture & Design Film Festival lands in Los Angeles.
- Eyefuls of the winners and honorable mentions in the Fairy Tales Architecture Competition (some are puckish, some seem a bit grimm).
- Call for entries: Origomu ("folding rubber") competition: transform plastic six-pack rings into unique pieces of wearable art.

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-- Travel guide: Helsinki: ...known as a 'city of architecture.' By Ulf Meyer
-- Morphosis: Emerson College, Los Angeles: sustainable facility features a host of innovative amenities...defines the College's identity in the center of the entertainment industry. By Kirsten Kiser

TIME Debuts Powerful, Multimedia Story on One World Trade Center: ...a fascinating and often deeply moving account — one that gets across the sheer force of will and the extraordinary amount of collaboration it took to raise this building into the atmosphere. By Vanessa Quirk -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Daniel Libeskind [links, video] - ArchDaily

Moral Responsibility, Zaha Hadid and the al-Wakrah Stadium: Sherin Wing offers an alternative take on whether or not the architect is as powerless as she claims: Does the fame of the architect somehow mitigate the responsibility? Or...does one's fame and bully pulpit make one more responsible to use that influence...that will ostensibly benefit fellow human beings? - Metropolis Magazine

Moment of truth for the Eisenhower memorial: A federal commission has spent 15 years and \$40 million planning a memorial...that still hasn't broken ground...[its] departure from precedent...left the public without alternatives to a design that is too daring and bold to be feasible...Thanks to the object lesson we've been given on the consequences of ignoring standard practice, we know just where to begin again. By Sam Roche/Right by Ike: Project for a New Eisenhower Memorial - Frank Gehry - Washington Post

"LEED Exposed": Beltway Astroturf Organization Sets Sights on Green Building: Rick Berman, a serial astroturfer funded by Big Tobacco, is behind a new all-out attack on the LEED building-performance rating system. By Sara Johnson - Architect Magazine

Green building 'not going far enough': The goal is positive impact not a smaller negative effect, says Jason F. McLennan, the creator of the Living Building Challenge: ...goes much further than other certification systems such as LEED or BREEAM...sets standards for equity...a human scale, and enable democracy, social justice and rights to nature - and beauty...The LBC's holistic plan aims not to make cities less bad, but more good. - New Zealand Herald

Why Cities Are Smarter: By many important measures, cities are dramatically better for the environment, the economy, and you...With the benefits of urban life becoming clearer and clearer, it's no wonder that people are showing a strong preference for it. By Lance Hosey/RTKL [links] - Huffington Post

From drab to fab, Jersey City's alluring architecture is making "Chilltown" hot: ...has finally become a destination in its own right, and developers are getting hip to the need for cutting-edge buildings to suit newcomers' demanding tastes...reversing missteps of earlier decades. By Matt Chaban -- Marc Kushner/HWKN; Gwathmey Siegel; Gro Architecture/Land Strategies; Concrete Architects [images] - NY Daily News

Mayor de Blasio's Brooklyn housing plan is building big worries: After approval of a \$1.5 billion project on the site of old Domino sugar plant in Williamsburg, some advocates worry the developments will overwhelm neighborhoods...The real estate industry has certainly been emboldened...The new message out of City Hall is 'Build, baby, build'... By Matt Chaban - SHoP Architects - NY Daily News

Denver's new cultural plan imagines arts-first public policy: ..."Imagine 2020"...calls for more art in just about every venue...as well as incentives for planners and developers who make art a priority. One of the plan's more interesting ideas is

among its smallest: \$40,000 in immediate grants for micro-art projects in neighborhoods to create public gathering places...Arts & Venues department will begin taking applications for "P.S. You Are Here"... By Ray Mark Rinaldi- Denver Post

The Picture Frame, Not the Picture: A new university satellite campus in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, creates a vibrant public promenade that descends towards Trinity River...I don't want to give the impression that this is shy architecture...Humanist is a good word to characterize...[Tarrant County College] Trinity East. By Witold Rybczynski -- Bing Thom Architects; Bennett Benner Pettit (formerly Gideon Toal); SWA Group [images]- Canadian Architect

Qatar fire station to be transformed into art centre: Space will house residencies, studios and a gallery for international and Gulf artists..."The Doha fire station is a building of great importance to the community; it has served the community the past 30 years and will continue to do so through the arts." -- Ibrahim Al Jaidah [image]- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Hollible, just hollible: Steven Holl's addition to the Glasgow School of Art, whose 1909 original by Charles Rennie Mackintosh is an icon of architects of every school, expresses the most profound disrespect for its neighbor. By David Brussat- Architecture Here and There

Models Preserve Wright's Dreams: A vast Frank Lloyd Wright archive relocated to New York is starting to yield new knowledge about him, including his thinking behind Broadacre City, a vision of a utopian metropolis...In preserving the models, the conservators must decide which version to restore: The model in its original form? Its final form? The building as it looked when completed? By Robin Pogrebin- New York Times

How dreams of island paradise become nightmares in the movies: From villain's lair to lonely prison, island dwellings in many films are far from utopian: For the 1960s villain it needed to be Tropical Modern; for our age, it's more Tate Modern. By Edwin Heathcote [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Special Section: Palm Springs Modernism Week: Architectural 'What Ifs' on Display: ...its architectural heritage through the lens of what didn't get built + Something to Laugh At: Charles Phoenix on Mid-Century Modernism Preservation: Giant donut stands, wacky rooflines... + Stories of Quiet Elegance: A 24-year-old wunderkind set loose in the desert, Hugh Kaptur has grown into a Southern California Modernism elder statesman [images]- AIArchitect

Architecture & Design Film Festival Heading to Los Angeles: ...a 30-film slate as well as a program of panel discussions and Q&As, a pop-up bookshop, and other design-related events. The five-day event kicks off March 12- UnBeige

Winners Announced For The Fairy Tales Architecture Competition: ...with over 300 entries from 50 countries...3 winning entries and 10 honorable mentions. -- Kevin (Pang-Hsin) Wang/Nicholas O'Leary; Anna Pietrzak; Joseph Altshuler/Mari Altshuler/Zachary Morrison [images]- Blank Space

Call for entries: Origomu ("folding rubber): transform plastic six-pack rings into unique pieces of wearable art; winning designs will be auctioned off and the funds will go directly to organizations protecting the environment; cash prizes; deadline: March 30- Greencard Creative

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