

Today's News - Tuesday, May 20, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: This just in: Phyllis Lambert takes the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the Venice Biennale - yay!

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Rio's new art museum, "one of the flagships in the city's \$3.8 billion plan to renovate and revitalize its run-down port district."
- Steuteville takes an in-depth look at New Urbanism's positive - and dramatic - impact on mid-size and smaller cities.
- Penalosa gives St. Paul, MN, 14 steps to make it the world's best city: 7. Embrace winter. 11. Make biking and walking utterly normal.
- Big plans for Chicago's Lake Shore Drive that embraces Burnham's vision, not "commissioned by a development team, but by a collective of Streeterville residents seeking to improve their neighborhood."
- Davidson strolls Governors Island, "one of New York's new jewels...this is a hands-on landscape, not a precious diorama. Please keep on the grass."
- Spotlights shine on SWA's Katy Trail in Dallas that still "faces some growing pains. Yet none of those challenges have diminished the park's pull + Houston and other cities are restoring wilderness to urban rivers instead of trying to "corral and conquer nature."
- Heathcote x 2: he ponders whether creative people really are "the key to city regeneration - now it is time to reassess the results of this almost obsessive drive to attract creatives, to better understand how this process has worked, and whether it is always positive."
- He explains why the "design industry must adapt to thrive - perhaps where the future lies is in the application of design to less familiar areas" (like social design).
- Lynch tackles the history of the office building as "a work of art," and how "large projects on inner-city sites afford opportunities for both artistic creativity and civic responsibility."
- Eyefuls of the coolest bus shelters in a tiny Austrian town by seven international stars (fab photos - a must-see!).
- Moscow joins the Venice Biennale for the first time with "MOSKVA: urban space" that will focus on the "'connective fabric' of public spaces that define the identity of the city today."
- The U.K.'s 2015 Milan Expo pavilion hopes to be the bee's knees.
- Great Q&A with Denise Scott Brown who "divulges her love affair with neon. Unlike other architects, she fears neither clutter, ephemera, nor a joke."
- Q&A with Gehry re: the Biomuseo in Panama, the LUMA Arles Arts Campus in Switzerland, and how "industrial" architecture has "lost its sense of humanity. The idea works great for the money thing, but it doesn't work great for the feeling thing."
- A judge orders a Spanish political party to take down "Calatrava bleeds you dry" website (so it launches "Calatrava won't silence us").
- The Graham Foundation awards over \$520,000 in grants to 68 projects "that demonstrate innovative and thought-provoking ideas in architecture" (great presentation!).
- Eyefuls of all 143 entries in Sydney's Green Square aquatic centre competition that will be whittled down to five finalists.
- WorldWide Storefront initiative picks 10 projects for "a simultaneous, multi-locus of alternative spaces around the globe."
- More details on the Van Alen Institute's benefit auction, "an unusually savvy list of 30 'design experiences' with prominent figures" (motorcycle tour with Cloepfil included).
- Call for entries/RFP: The Energetic City: "redefine public spaces by identifying, creating and/or restoring, the vital but missing links apparent in NYC's physical, natural and digital realm."

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Bernardes + Jacobsen Arquitetura: MAR – Rio Art Museum: ...one of the flagships in the city's \$3.8 billion plan to renovate and revitalize its run-down port district. It is also a tactful amass of existing and new. [images]

New Urbanism's impact on mid-sized and smaller cities: Witold Rybczynski recently suggested that the New Urbanism has had little or no impact on big cities...tends to blend in rather than shout "look at me"...In mid-sized or smaller cities, the effects of New Urbanism can be much more dramatic. By Robert Steuteville -- Michael Campbell; Duany Plater-Zyberk; Gibbs Planning Group; McKenna Associates; Moule & Polyzoides - Better! Cities & Towns (formerly New Urban News)

14 steps to make St. Paul the world's best city: Gil Penalosa toured the Twin Cities...presented his checklist for how St. Paul can join the ranks of Paris, Vancouver and Melbourne, Australia, as one of the world's top cities...4. Keep Baby Boomers here...7. Embrace winter...11. Make biking and walking utterly normal. By Jay Walljasper - Pioneer Press (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)

Lake Shore Drive Island? \$177M Plan Aims to Embrace Burnham's Vision: ...includes creating a new offshore island, straightening the S-curve and burying part of Lake Shore Drive underground...wasn't commissioned by a development team, but by a collective of Streeterville residents seeking to improve their neighborhood... -- VOA Associates [slide show] - DNAinfo Chicago

Governors Island's New 30-Acre Park...one of New York's new jewels...this is a hands-on landscape, not a precious diorama. Please keep on the grass...The park is still in its infant stage...But you can sense a more verdant future, when lush, intimate corners of a landscape will offer a counterpoint to the harbor's wide horizons. By Justin Davidson -- Adriaan Geuze/West 8 - New York Magazine

A Trail Helps Open Up a Dallas Neighborhood to New Development: The Katy Trail, built on former railroad property, is a key part of the transformation of Uptown into a "live, work, play" district...In all, some \$1.2 billion in projects are under construction or are about to begin...faces some growing pains...Yet none of those challenges have diminished the park's pull. -- SWA Group [images] - New York Times

Cities Try to Restore Wildness to Urban Rivers: The Buffalo Bayou is everything Houston city planners once despised...Now, Houston and other cities are spending millions again...Rather than corral and conquer nature, today's planners want some wildness to the water both to improve the environment and to attract young, nature-loving city dwellers. -- Kevin Shanley/SWA Group - Associated Press/AP

Are creative people the key to city regeneration? The idea that the creative quarter is the key to the regeneration of any city has become so entrenched that it has become almost a cliché...now it is time to reassess the results of this almost obsessive drive to attract creatives, to better understand how this process has worked, and whether it is always positive. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

Design industry must adapt to thrive: ...perhaps where the future lies is in the application of design to less familiar areas...The emergence of social design and conceptual design promises to question, undermine and reinterpret accepted

dogma...real changes might emerge. Corporations are cautious, but it will happen...Designers always work in the future with an ability to anticipate change. If industry declines and power shifts, design still may have a future, albeit one that looks very different. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

The office as a work of art: Large projects on inner-city sites afford opportunities for both artistic creativity and civic responsibility: At first sight, office design seems to have been left alone by architectural theorists and by the better sort of modern architect. Yet, throughout the 20th century all sorts of architects worked on office buildings. By Patrick Lynch/Lynch Architects -- Alvar Aalto; Louis Kahn; Peter Celsing; Sigurd Lewerentz; Adolf Loos; Mies van der Rohe; James Wines; Rem Koolhaas; Peter Behrens; Walter Gropius; Joseph Rykwert; Gio Ponti; Richard Norman Shaw; Adler & Sullivan; Vogt; BDP- The Architects' Journal (UK)

A Tiny Austrian Town Has the Coolest Bus Shelters We've Ever Seen: Krumbach...with a population of 1,000, came up with a clever idea to try to put itself on the tourism map...approached 7 international architects with an unusual proposition: design a bus stop for us and we'll give you a free vacation in Krumbach. Every single one of them said "yes." -- Sou Fujimoto; Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu/Amateur Architecture Studio; RintalaEggertsson Architects; Antón García-Abril/Déborá Mesa/Ensamble Studio; Smiljan Radic; Architecten de Vylder Vinck Taillieu; Alexander Brodsky [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Moscow will debut at the Venice Biennale of Architecture: ...for the first time will present its own project "MOSKVA: urban space"...in the majestic interior of the church of Santa Maria della Pietà...in addition to Russia's traditional pavilion...for the first time the capital is not addressing the appearance of individual buildings...but rather to that which is located between buildings, the «connective fabric» of public spaces that define the identity of the city today. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- Architectural Council of Moscow / Archcouncil of Moscow

Revealed: new images of UK's 2015 Milan Expo pavilion: ...led by artist Wolfgang Buttress and including BDP...working with an extensive team on the design...described as a virtual hive to 'highlight the plight of the honeybee'. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

A Love Affair with Neon: A Conversation with Denise Scott Brown: Given the rare invitation to her Philadelphia home, we made the two hour trek to hear Scott Brown divulge her love affair with neon, the first words she ever spoke to Robert Venturi, and the importance of collaboration...Unlike other architects, she fears neither clutter, ephemera, or a joke. -- Robert Venturi; Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates/VSBA [images]- Architizer

Frank Gehry - Interview: As the Biomuseo, a museum of biodiversity in Panama, completes, Veronica Simpson ...asks about the bold and somewhat uncharacteristic use of colour...and also about...the innovative LUMA Arles Arts Campus in Switzerland..."I think the biggest problem with 'industrial' architecture is that it's lost its sense of humanity. Minimalist stuff drains all the humanity out of it. That idea works great for the money thing, but it doesn't work great for the feeling thing." - DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Top Spanish architect wins lawsuit over 'Calatrava bleeds you dry' website: Santiago Calatrava awarded €30,000 in damages over site highlighting problems with City of Arts and Sciences in Valencia...judge said...the site's name was "insulting and degrading"...By Friday morning [political party] relaunched the site under the new name Calatrava no nos calla, which translates as "Calatrava won't silence us." - Guardian (UK)

Graham Foundation awards over \$520,000 in Grants to Individuals: 68 projects that demonstrate innovative and thought-provoking ideas in architecture. -- James S. Russell; Jorge Otero-Pailos; Bernard Tschumi; Joseph Giovannini; Interboro Partners; etc. - Graham Foundation (Chicago)

143 architectural designs unveiled in Sydney's Green Square aquatic centre competition: ...'imaginative proposals' from both emerging and established firms will be scrutinised and whittled down to five finalists... [link to images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Winners: WorldWide Storefront: 10 selected projects that will be part of WorldWide Storefront ("WWSF"), a new initiative to provide a simultaneous, multi-locus of alternative spaces around the globe and a digital platform... - Storefront for Art and Architecture (New York City)

Motorcycle Tour with Brad Cloepfil and Home-cooked Dinner with Paola Antonelli Among Offerings in Van Alen Institute Auction: ...an unusually savvy list of 30 "design experiences" with prominent figures...benefit to coincide with a gala on May 21, and it comes as the institution raises funds for an expansion and renovation- Architectural Record

Call for entries/Request for proposals/RFP: The Energetic City: an initiative to redefine public spaces by identifying, creating and/or restoring, the vital but missing links apparent in NYC's physical, natural and digital realm; deadline: June 30- Design Trust for Public Space

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