

Today's News - Friday, June 13, 2014

- ArcSpace reviews "MVRDV Buildings" that is "highly accomplished and quietly radical...this is not your dime-a-dozen architectural monograph."
- Shigeru Ban's Pritzker Prize ceremony will be live-streamed for the first time today.
- Hawthorne parses this year's Pritzker, Golden Lion, and AIA Gold Medal winners that indicate "an emerging shift in how architecture defines itself, a loosening of the Monuments Men's collective grip."
- Roose lets loose with "5 reasons cities are getting better, and everywhere else is getting worse."
- A long look at how "defensive urban architecture" has evolved from "a more positive movement to design against crime" to the current propensity to "perceive the public as a threat and treat everyone as a criminal."
- Scottish architects call for the University of Strathclyde to loan empty studios to the Glasgow School of Art while it rebuilds.
- A most engaging Q&A between Jencks and Koolhaas, who "debate the morality, message and meaning behind this year's Venice Biennale": Rem "arrived and left quickly by a special Koolhaas speedboat that gave the conversation an added urgency and Dutch humor" (great read).
- Menking offers his thoughtful take on the Biennale: "It remains to be seen, given the profound cultural, political, and environmental crisis rolling over the world, whether it is enough to empower architects to engage with these issues or simply return to the past."
- Goodburn cheers the "amusing collaboration between FAT and Crimson" for the British Pavilion that "joyfully celebrates the heyday of British Modernism," but it is "bereft of bite."
- Meanwhile, the Rotterdam International Architecture Biennale's "Urban by Nature," curated by landscape architect Sijmons, proves its relevance by "acknowledging that our environmental problems have been caused by urbanization - and it is only in cities that the solutions can be found."
- The Palm Springs Art Museum's new Architecture and Design Center, in a 1961 former bank by E. Stewart Williams and transformed by Marmol Radziner, will be ready for its close-up this November.
- Jones says Gormley's art leaves him "cold," but he starts to enjoy himself in the artist's "Room" in a luxury London hotel: "There's something powerfully perverse about offering, as the height of luxury, a room that resembles a penitent monastic cell created for some guilt-stricken Renaissance prince."
- Singh says "Room" is "a £2,500-a-night pitch black hotel room is not suitable for the claustrophobic, but could become "a bonking site of choice" for others.
- The Four Season's Picasso curtain will make its new home at the New-York Historical Society: "It sort of breaks my heart," says Lambert.
- Eye-fuls (great presentations) of the Good Design Is Good Business 2014 winners: "Each corroborates the notion that design matters."
- Weekend diversions:
- A good reason to head to L.A.: highlights of the always interesting (and fun) Dwell on Design 3-day design exhibition.
- Beirut Design Week puts the spotlight on Dutch and Danish design "beyond flat-pack furniture and housing."
- Wainwright is wowed by "Ecopolis China," a new documentary "drenched with pathos" that offers "fascinating glimpses behind the scenes of the Chinese eco gold rush."
- "Open To The Public: Civic Space Now" at NYC's Center for Architecture "explores the conflict between our desire for freedom and our desire for control" (we saw it last night - most excellent!).
- "Women Building Change" at the Chicago Architecture Foundation celebrates 40 years of Chicago Women in Architecture members and legacies.
- Schmertz cheers Filler's "Makers of Modern Architecture, Volume II" that "deftly places his subjects in the aesthetic, theoretical, historic, and political life of their time," while "revealing his own mastery of the art of critical praise."
- Rajagopal gives two thumbs-ups to Thomé's "Ettore Sottsass" that "offers a look at lesser-known aspects of the Italian designer's work."
- Happy Friday the 13th (the only one this year)!

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"MVRDV Buildings" by Ilka Ruby & Andreas Ruby (editors): ...a highly accomplished and quietly radical monograph that sums up the work of controversial Dutch architects - not by showing their buildings as objects but by portraying life as it's lived within them...this is not your dime a dozen architectural monograph.

2014 Pritzker Prize Award Ceremony for Shigeru Ban, live-streamed for the first time. Watch it Friday, June 13 at 1pm EDT - The Hyatt Foundation

A new blueprint for architectural excellence: The Monuments Men have ruled architecture for a good 500 years, since at least the days Andrea Palladio...The women who have broken into this club...have usually done so by building bigger and more dramatic landmarks than the boys...Three significant awards...suggest momentum is gathering behind a genuinely new view of how architecture is made and measured. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Shigeru Ban/Pritzker Prize; Phyllis Lambert/Golden Lion; Julia Morgan/AIA Gold Medal - Los Angeles Times

5 Reasons Cities Are Getting Better, and Everywhere Else Is Getting Worse: ...choosing to live outside a major city is tantamount to opting to live in the past...cities are going to pull further away from rural and suburban areas economically, and carry a much higher quality-of-life premium than smaller towns. By Kevin Roose - New York Magazine

Anti-homeless spikes are just the latest in 'defensive urban architecture': Pay-per-minute benches, 'pig ears' to prevent skateboarding, devices that emit an unpleasant sound only teenagers can hear ... cities have many tactics to discourage 'unwanted' behaviour...Many of these tactics have their origins in a more positive movement to design against crime...The original goal was a lot more pro-public. But these new features...perceive the public as a threat and treat everyone as a criminal." By Maryam Omid - Guardian (UK)

Architects urge University of Strathclyde to loan empty studios to GSA: ...calling for the much-loved Brutalist block to be loaned to the Glasgow School of Art while it rebuilds its Charles Rennie Mackintosh-designed home. -- Frank Fielden & Associates (1967); Alan Dunlop; Stuart Falconer/GRAS; etc. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

The Flying Dutchman: Charles Jencks Interviews Rem Koolhaas: ...debate the morality, message and meaning behind this year's Venice Biennale...Rem, an old student of mine...and a friend since 1969, arrived and left quickly by a special Koolhaas speedboat that gave the conversation an added urgency and Dutch humour...a typical Koolhaas disclaimer which has it both ways with a vengeance. - Architectural Review (UK)

Editorial> Fundamentally Unstable: William Menking outlines the Rem Koolhaas-curated Venice Biennale, Elements of Architecture: It remains to be seen...given the profound cultural, political, and environmental crisis rolling over the world,

whether it is enough to empower architects to engage with these issues or simply return to the past. - The Architect's Newspaper

Dark Satanic Orange: Biennale British Pavilion Bereft of Bite: The amusing collaboration between FAT and Crimson for the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale joyfully celebrates the heyday of British Modernism but lacks a critical voice..."A Clockwork Jerusalem"...many intriguing nuggets suggesting the possibility of an architectural avant-garde better equipped to reach out to a mass public, but...fails to address just how such engagement might be achieved in the future. There is an unmistakable bluntness of fangs... By Clive Goodburn -- Sam Jacob; Wouter Vanstiphout - *Architectural Review* (UK)

"Urban by Nature": This research exhibition presents not only the latest building and technological renderings, but also an academic agenda with new solutions and strategies developed for the long-term...Acknowledging that our environmental problems have been caused by urbanisation, [landscape architect & curator] Dirk Sijmons claims it is only in cities that the solutions can be found. And this is what...makes the Rotterdam International Architecture Biennale so relevant. [images]- *Australian Design Review*

Palm Springs Art Museum to unveil new Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion in Nov. 2014: The opening exhibition, "An Eloquent Modernist, E. Stewart Williams, Architect," will celebrate...the acclaimed architect who designed the historic building in 1961... -- Marmol Radziner [image]- *ArtDaily.org*

Antony Gormley's £2,500 Room without a view : The sculptor turned architect's luxury-hotel room takes London's art and property booms to new heights ... and darker depths: ..one journalist becomes claustrophobic and has to leave. I am starting to enjoy myself. There's something powerfully perverse about offering, as the height of luxury, a room that resembles a penitent monastic cell created for some guilt-stricken Renaissance prince...As an artist, Gormley leaves me cold, but as an architect, his imagination rubs uneasily against reality. By Jonathan Jones - *Guardian* (UK)

Antony Gormley's new sculpture: a £2,500-a-night pitch black hotel room, nakedness preferred: ...his new inhabitable sculpture 'Room' on the facade of the Beaumont Hotel, London...plunges guests into total darkness - and it may become 'a bonking site of choice'...It is not an experience that would suit the claustrophobic. By Anita Singh [images]- *Telegraph* (UK)

After Much Debate, Picasso Curtain Will Be Moved From the Four Seasons: The Landmarks Conservancy and Aby J. Rosen, the owner of the Seagram Building, struck a deal under which Picasso's "Le Tricorne" would relocate to the New-York Historical Society...Phyllis Lambert is unhappy about the turn of events. "It sort of breaks my heart"... - *New York Times*

Good Design Is Good Business 2014 Winners: Each corroborates the notion that design matters and seeks to raise the bar for its unique enterprise. -- William McDonough + Partners; Diamond Schmitt; Jaklitsch / Gardner; KPMB; Deborah Berke Partners; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Eskew+Dumez+Ripple; Gensler; Richard Meier & Partners [images]- *Architectural Record*

Dwell on Design: ...an immersive 3-day design exhibition at the Los Angeles Convention Center from June 20-22, will feature over 400 exhibitors and 90 presentations on "new ideas for modern living"...main themes will be highlighted in five pavilions...- *ArchDaily*

Finding inspiration in Dutch and Danish design: Beirut Design Week is exploring the realm beyond flat-pack furniture -- and housing -- in its Danish Architecture Exhibition and Dutch Design Exhibition...- *Daily Star* (Lebanon)

The Chinese billionaire with six months to make the world's tallest building: A new documentary takes on the amazing case of Zhang Yue and the Chinese eco gold rush...Drenched with pathos, "Ecopolis China"...fascinating glimpses behind the scenes...Like finding the mythical end of the rainbow, it seems that those chasing the Chinese eco dream are all too often left to discover it is nothing but a flimsy mirage. By Oliver Wainwright - *Guardian* (UK)

"Open To The Public: Civic Space Now": AIAA 2014 President Lance Jay Brown, FAIA, and curator Thomas Mellins speak about the exhibition on view at the Center for Architecture, NYC: "explores the conflict between our desire for freedom and our desire for control..." - *Center for Architecture / AIAA* (NYC)

Chicago Women in Architecture Celebrates 40 Years with Exhibition: "Women Building Change" at the Chicago Architecture Foundation will provide "a platform for us to be able to point to specific projects, and show the public that these projects -- which have some significant locations in the city - are done by women"...- *DNAinfo Chicago*

Critical Condition: Mildred Schmeitz reads Martin Filler's "Makers of Modern Architecture, Volume II": ...deftly places his subjects in the aesthetic, theoretical, historic, and political life of their time, as well as in his...revealing his own mastery of the art of critical praise. - *The Architect's Newspaper*

Sottsass and India: "Ettore Sottsass" by Philippe Thomé, designed by Julia Hasting...offers a look at lesser-known aspects of the Italian designer's work...shows how he formed deep friendships with a remarkable number of great, creative people in his life. Upon reading this new monograph, a great number of not-so-famous people will also be left wishing they had known him, among them a certain Indian student of design history. By Avinash Rajagopal - *Metropolis Magazine*

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