

Today's News - Wednesday, August 13, 2014

- Jaffe tackles "disciplinary architecture" and "the hidden ways urban design segregates the poor" ("ostensibly well-intentioned").
- Edelson parses the "lack of architects' voices" in the "poor door" debate that boils down to "the social importance of architecture itself" (great links, too).
- Herbst finds out how some creatives and urbanists in L.A. experience "qualitative changes among the infrastructures that support their activities," and how "businesses, developers, museums, and city governance are changing the reception and application of community grown initiatives."
- A warning to be "be wary of the covenant that creative placemaking offers," especially when it comes to music and audiences - the music of our time truly does change our thinking about places and the people in them."
- A fascinating look at how Donald Judd's "quirky" Marfa, TX, is suffering from its own success: "like other wonderful places suffering from gentrification, the poor people always get shoved aside" (not just the poor).
- Saffron raises some serious questions about plans for an apartment building behind Philly's iconic Rodin Museum: the developer "will be asking the city for a long list of favors. It is time for the city to demand something meaningful in return: a work of architecture that can stand proudly next to Cret's masterpiece."
- In Greenville, SC, "simple elements combine for maximum impact" in a new plaza in the city's central downtown district.
- After Maltzan's winning design to make over St. Petersburg's pier bit the dust, the Florida city hopes a second try will be a real winner: see RFQ below.
- Wainwright cheers Grymsdyke Farm, "the ideal place for students to experiment with new technologies and local materials," and finds out "why every village needs a robot."
- Andraos to succeed Wigley as Columbia's GSAPP dean (yay Amale!).
- Arch Record names the winners of its First Annual Women in Architecture Awards (cheers to them all - and here's to many more!).
- A good reason to head to Adelaide, Australia, in early September: 7th International Urban Design Conference: "Designing Productive Cities."
- Call for entries (and lots of 'em!): RFQ: St. Petersburg Pier (Florida) redesign and replacement, or renovation + RFQ: Future Ground international competition to develop innovative strategies for vacant land reuse in New Orleans + Next Big One International Open Ideas Competition for innovative design solutions to mitigate natural disasters + Blueprint Awards 2014 for the very best in world architecture and design + Deadlines extended: 2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition.

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The Hidden Ways Urban Design Segregates The Poor: There's a name for uncomfortable benches, hard-to-reach parks, and ubiquitous surveillance: disciplinary architecture...Before poor doors there were anti-homeless spikes, pay-per-minute benches...ostensibly well-intentioned: to preserve the public order and reduce the timeless fear of crime...such design, by any name, typically targets poor minorities... By Eric Jaffe -- Steven Flusty/"Building Paranoia" - Fast Company

"Poor Door" No More: The lack of architects' voices in the fallout over 40 Riverside Boulevard: ...the debate...is one about the social importance of architecture itself: if 40 Riverside Boulevard is just a building...then the "poor door" is just good fences making good neighbors. However, if we think that architecture says anything about our social ideals and values, then architects should make their voices heard in this discussion. By Zachary Edelson -- Goldstein Hill & West Architects - Architectural Record

Can Creative Practice Gentrify Creative Practice? In these past five years...Los Angeles' communities of artists and urbanists have experienced qualitative changes among the infrastructures that support their activities...people who've taken part in the artistic, cycling, and sharing communities...how they feel the success of their projects...businesses, developers, museums, and city governance are changing the reception and application of community grown initiatives... By Robby Herbst - KCET.org (California)

Who is Creative Placemaking? New Music, Integrity, and Community: ...new music should be wary of the covenant that creative placemaking offers, both to artists and audiences, while not losing sight of how the music of our time truly does change our thinking about places and the people in them. - NewMusicBox.org

Quirky Marfa feels growing pains: ...while few doubt that the arts and tourism have rescued Marfa from decline, some see a price to be paid for being the darling getaway spot for well-heeled visitors from Houston, New York and California...just like other wonderful places suffering from gentrification, the poor people always get shoved aside..."This will become another Santa Fe, New Mexico. [slide show] - San Antonio Express-News (Texas)

Building plan may hem in the Rodin Museum: ...could make the diminutive Rodin look hemmed in by a giant...The impact on the jungly landscape of the rail bed, which has been dubbed the "low line" by the group that wants to turn it into a trail park, could be equally profound...[developer] will be asking the city for a long list of favors...It is time for the city to demand something meaningful in return: a work of architecture that can stand proudly next to Paul Philippe Cret's masterpiece. By Inga Saffron -- Barton Partners - Philadelphia Inquirer

ONE City Plaza, Greenville, South Carolina: ...simple elements -- including urban sofas, trees, water and shade structure -- combine for maximum impact in creating an outdoor experience that attracts pedestrians for shopping, dining or just strolling in the city's central downtown district...references Greenville's textile industry history... -- Civitas; 4240 Architects [images] - World Landscape Architecture

St. Petersburg plans to include public in selecting pier architect: City officials hope their second invitation for architects to design a new pier ends better than the first one. - Tampa Tribune (Florida)

Clay robotics: the future of architecture is happening now in a Chilterns farm: With robots made from sausage-stuffers in the barn and follies in the fields, Grymsdyke Farm is the ideal place for students to experiment with new technologies and local materials. Its creators explain why every village needs a robot. By Oliver Wainwright -- Guan Lee - Guardian (UK)

Amale Andraos named dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation (GSAPP): ...principal of New York-based WORKac...succeeding Mark Wigley. - The Architect's Newspaper

Architectural Record Announces Winners of First Annual Women in Architecture Awards: ...recognizing the design leadership of American women architects... -- Merrill Elam/Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Sheila Kennedy/Kennedy & Violich Architecture; Erinn McGurn/SCALEAfrica; Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk/University of Miami School of Architecture - Architectural Record

7th International Urban Design Conference: "Designing Productive Cities," Adelaide, Australia, September 1-3; examine affordable housing and diversity for "Gen Y" who are interested in more compact design models. For the rapidly growing ageing population sector, we will discuss isolation, location, ease of transport, mobility and affordability. - Urban Design Australia Conference

Call for entries: Request For Qualifications/RFQ: St. Petersburg Pier (Florida) redesign and replacement, or renovation; two-stage selection process; shortlisted teams will each receive a \$30,000 stipend; deadline: September 5 - City of St. Petersburg, Florida

Call for entries: Request for Qualifications/RFQ: Future Ground international competition to develop innovative strategies for vacant land reuse in New Orleans; 3 teams will be awarded \$15,000 to participate in a six-month research and design process; deadline: September 29- Van Alen Institute / New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA)

Call for entries: Next Big One: International Open Ideas Competition: propose an innovative design solution that can mitigate natural disasters while simultaneously providing permanence for the community; cash prizes; registration deadline: August 31 (submissions due September 30)- Architecture for Humanity Vancouver

Call for entries: Blueprint Awards 2014 for the very best in world architecture and design; deadline: August 29- Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Call for entries - deadlines extended: 2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition: ...design and construct an architectural pavilion on Governors Island, NYC; registration deadline: September 20 (submissions due September 30)- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY



10 Libraries Worth Visiting: The library is fighting for its survival...Luckily, a number of contemporary projects seem determined in wanting to ensure the continued relevance of the library as an institution and societal focal point. -- OMA; Sou Fujimoto Architects; Snøhetta; Toyo Ito & Associates; Renzo Piano; schmidt hammer lassen architects; COBE + Transform; Dominique Perrault; Gehry Partners

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