## Today's News - Wednesday, September 10, 2014

- Sorkin, on the eve of 9/11, reflects on "the tragedy of business as usual" at Ground Zero: "After spending billions of dollars, what exactly have we wrought? ...the architecture and planning of an airport, a soulless and sinister police state Modernism" (and probably the only time you'll ever read "poor Snøhetta").

- Berg looks into a new generation of architects and city planners slowly making headway in getting a place at the table in post-conflict urban planning: "architecture has rarely been made a priority in the early, post-traumatic triage of reconstruction - creating the buildings and places where normal life can resume."

- Heyden offers an in-depth look at the "era of radical concrete" via a "a treasure trove" of images from British urban developments of the 1960s and '70s, "when town planning was automatically seen as a force for good - for all the flak, brutalism still finds admirers among today's new town planners. It also seems they've recaptured some of the optimism" (excellent read with amazing images!).

- As the Making the City Playable Conference kicks off in Bristol, Baggini looks at how cities around the world are countering "the coldness and anonymity of the urban environment" with streets and spaces created for play.

- King cheers efforts in San Francisco to create lively public spaces from "from scraps of urban land - they shine as modest works of true ambition" (and dogs are happy!).

- Lamster (mostly) likes the Clark Art Institute makeover: "The architectural elements are austere to the point of severity, exquisitely detailed and immaculately constructed. If Mies van der Rohe and Louis Kahn had ever been forced to collaborate, they might have come up with something very much like what Ando has made" (but watch out for the stairs).

- OfficeUS proposes a floating Guggenheim Helsinki that would offer high-powered art investors "security and confidentiality, not much scrutiny, and an array of tax advantages" (a new definition of the Bilbao Effect?!!?).

- Meanwhile, a coalition of arts organizations have banded together to launch an alternative competition for alternative ideas for the proposed Guggenheim Helsinki site (an impressive jury led by Sorkin - who else?).

- A tiny Arkansas town is looking for its own Bilbao - or Berkshire - Effect, "banking on a boost from" Johnny Cash's childhood home; the challenge: "We don't have anything for visitors to actually spend their money on other than the museum" (development opportunities abound - and are welcome).

- Hadid turns parametricism into a win to design London's Science Museum's mathematics gallery (turbulence fields included, of course).

- As "two architectural superpowers" in the U.S. and U.K. promote "radical reform of the architect registration process, will Australia follow suit or will it be business as usual?" (comparisons included).

- Architect magazine's 6th annual survey of the top 50 U.S. architecture firms in Business, Design, and Sustainability (some surprises!).

- Eyefuls of Fast Company's finalists for the 2014 Innovation By Design Awards: "A healthier, brighter, more efficient world doesn't just happen - it happens by design."

- The CODAawards 2014 winners "exemplify the best of what can happen when artists and design professionals collaborate" (we're wow'd!).

- Eyefuls of the three finalists in the National Sukkah Design Contest (construction volunteers wanted).

- Seoul names its first city architect: "We can find Seoul's identity through regeneration, not redevelopment."

- BNIM's Berkebile wins the $50,000 Hanley Award for Vision and Leadership in Sustainability.

- Vitra's Fehlbaum to receive Philadelphia Museum of Art's Collab Design Excellence Award at the opening of a Vitra exhibition.

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Lower Manhattan and the Tragedy of Business as Usual: Ground Zero has, at long last, begun taking on its final shape. After spending billions of dollars, what exactly have we wrought? ...it's clear that the contest between dignity and banality has been resolved on the side of the latter, decisively and consistently...At the end of the day, though, we will have the architecture and planning of an airport, a soulless and sinister police state Modernism... By Michael Sorkin -- Snøhetta; Davis Brody Bond- Metropolis Magazine

Diplomacy by Design: A new generation of architects is using rail lines, shopping centers, and football fields to keep the peace from Belfast to Baghdad...architecture has rarely been made a priority in the early, post-traumatic triage of reconstruction...architects and city planners are slowly approaching the legacies of conflict as urban problems demanding design solutions...Tweaking or reimagining physical spaces...can help build long-term civic harmony by creating the buildings and places where normal life can resume. By Nate Berg -- Karen Lee Bar-Sinai; Saskia Sassen- Foreign Policy magazine

The era of radical concrete: A massive collection of images from British urban developments of the 1960s and 1970s now provides a treasure trove for those who want to reassess a vilified era of town planning...It's nice to have a glimpse into a time when town planning was automatically seen as a force for good...for all the flak, brutalism still finds admirers among today's new town planners...It also seems they've recaptured some of the optimism. By Tom Heyden -- JR "Jimmy" James [images]- BBC Magazine

Playable Cities: the city that plays together, stays together: Forget about smart cities, Playable City ideas – like Bristol's water slide or its temporary play streets – are a human response to the coldness and anonymity of the urban environment...But does it really work? Objective assessment is inherently difficult... By Julian Baggini -- Making the City Playable Conference- Guardian (UK)

S.F.'s uncommon areas: Plazas created from scraps of urban land: ...the remnant spaces that often are blighted or ignored, but with imaginative design and care have the potential to be destinations...it is heartening to see San Francisco working to fold scraps back into the public realm, making common ground at the community level...they shine as modest works of true ambition. By John King -- MoreLab; Architecture for Humanity [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

The Clark Art Institute reflects changes in museums: The idea that a museum might remain static is anathema within the increasingly corporate culture of the museum boardroom, where success is measured, like profit, by rates of growth...The architectural elements are austere to the point of severity, exquisitely detailed and immaculately constructed...If Mies van der Rohe and Louis Kahn had ever been forced to collaborate, they might have come up with something very much like what Ando has made. By Mark Lamster -- Tadao Ando; Annabelle Selldorf/Selldorf Architects; Gary Hilderbrand/Reed Hilderbrand- Dallas Morning News

OfficeUS Propose Floating Museum for Guggenheim Helsinki Competition: ...traveling between the ports of St. Petersburg, Tallinn, and Helsinki...exhibition space and high-security storage hybrid, Guggenheim Cruises...would offer high powered investors in art a range of advantages: "security and confidentiality, not much scrutiny, the ability for owners to hide behind nominees, and an array of tax advantages."- ArchDaily

Call for entries: The Next Helsinki: Coinciding with the end of the official competition for the design of the controversial Guggenheim Helsinki, a group of independent arts organizations has issued a call for submissions for alternative ideas; deadline: March 2, 2015- Checkpoint Helsinki / Terreform / Global Ultra Luxury Faction (G.U.L.F.)

Arkansas town hopes Johnny Cash's legacy can help turn around its fortunes: Dyess, a tiny settlement created by FDR's New Deal and the boyhood home of the Man in Black, is banking on a boost from its links to the star...[could] provide an incentive for someone to build a new shop, or a restaurant, maybe even a hotel. "We don't have anything for them to actually spend their money on other than the museum"...- Observer (UK)

Zaha Hadid scoops Science Museum's mathematics gallery: ...part of the South Kensington institution's five-year Masterplan...Other recent appointments have included Muf, Phil Coffey Architects and Wilkinson Eyre. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Should architects register upon graduation? Architects around the world are calling for radical reform of the architect registration process. Wesley Perrottlooks looks at changes being made inthe UK and US...With two architectural superpowers promoting this substantial change, will Australia follow suit or will it be business as usual? -- American Institute of Architects/AIA; Royal Institute of British Architects/RIBA; NCARB; ACSA; AIAS; Australian Institute of Architects; AACA; etc.- Australian Design Review

The 2014 ARCHITECT 50: The results from our sixth annual survey are in. Here are the best architecture firms in the U.S. in Business, Design, and Sustainability...some familiar firms rose to the top (Westlake Reed Leskosky), some newcomers rocketed into the top 10 (Studio Gang Architects), and some unexpected interlopers crashed the proceedings (Jones Studio).- Architect Magazine

Finalists Of The 2014 Innovation By Design Awards: A healthier, brighter, more efficient world doesn't just happen—it happens by design. -- Local Projects; Rural Studio; BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group); Jonas Dahlberg Studio; L.A. Department of Transportation; Pensa; etc. [links to images, info]- Fast Company

CODAawards 2014 Winners: ...exemplify the best of what can happen when artists and design professionals collaborate to create artful spaces in our built environment. -- ART+COM Studios; Yuelai Ruan/Ge XU; Gensler; Derix Glasstudios; Ansen Seale/Perkins+Will; Urbana Studio/Blackburn Architects; Stanley Beaman & Sears; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Studio Fink; WET; Barbara Grygutis; CCS Architecture; Bill FitzGibbons [images]- CODA: Collaboration of Design + Art

Three Finalists Chosen for National Sukkah Design Contest for the Sukkot at the Ranch: Volunteers will construct the designs on the Ranch in Encinitas, Calif. on October 5. -- Herencia Del Rico/Max Magac/Newschool of Architecture & Design; Yoshi Silverstein/Mitsui Design; Chris Varone/Sasha Varone [images]- North County Jewish Hub

Seoul names Seung H-Sang as its first city architect: "In the past century, we misunderstood the meaning of modernisation, thinking that it meant Westernisation...We can find Seoul's identity through regeneration, not redevelopment." -- IROJE architects & planners- Dezeen

Bob Berkebile of BNIM Wins $50,000 Hanley Award for Vision and Leadership in Sustainability: ...the largest annual award for sustainability in the built environment.- EcoBuilding Pulse

Vitra's Rolf Fehlbaum to Receive Philadelphia Museum of Art's Collab Design Excellence Award: ...will give a lecture and pick up his award...on November 21, which will also mark the opening of "Vitra: Design, Architecture, Communication: A European Project with American Roots"... By Stephanie Murg- UnBeige

ANN Feature: INSIGHT: When to Remember Not to Renovate: The story of the Berkeley South Branch Library is a case study of when a Midcentury Modern building is arguably best remembered and respected through photographic and historic archives rather than reuse. By Avery Taylor Moore, AIA, Field Paoli Architects- ArchNewsNow

Zaha Hadid Architects: Vienna University of Economics Library and Learning Centre: With bundles of flowing curves around every corner...resembles a fancy stream-lined car rather than a traditional building. Situated at the center of a new university campus in Austria's capital, it is the biggest, tallest and most striking piece of architecture of the entire campus area. By Ulf Meyer [images]

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