

Today's News - Thursday, January 15, 2015

- Nouvel boycotts the opening of his Philharmonie de Paris, penning a long explanation to Dezeen: "I will not tolerate that untruthful, defamatory and disparaging writings or comments are made about me" (seems Russell was right - if you missed his take, click "Yesterday's News").
- Dittmar calls on architects to "stop bashing each other" re: style wars, citing "the real problem with architecture and city making...in which the style warriors might find a common enemy."
- Take heart, traditionalists! Kennicott reports on Schwarz winning the \$200,000 Driehaus Prize, but "perhaps even more significant" is the \$50,000 Henry Hope Reed Award going to Dr. Richard Jackson, "who has worked tirelessly to document and mitigate the public health impacts of urban sprawl and bad - or nonexistent - urban planning."
- Australian architects are cautiously optimistic about two provisions in the new China-Australia Free Trade Agreement: they don't "necessarily mean that market access or working in China will become any easier."
- Sperry minces no words about the AIA's "unwillingness to prohibit the design of torture facilities" - it is "a shocking, shameful and deeply troubling statement."
- A city near Atlanta decides "not to let a half-completed development sit empty," but the "solution has been both praised and vilified."
- Gaudí's only project outside of Spain will be built in Chile (one can only hope it doesn't take 100+ years!).
- HOK gets back in the game of sports architecture with its acquisition of 360 Architecture.
- Osborne offers a lively Q&A with Libeskind re: grand-scale collaboration, Ground Zero, his new National Holocaust Monument in Ottawa, and being patient.
- A new affordable housing project in Long Beach, CA, will have plenty of public amenities within walking distance.
- New 3D mapping technologies are being used connect historic preservation and planning.
- Shepard pens a most thoughtful and eloquent farewell as he exits Urban Omnibus (thank you, Cassim, for 6 terrific years!).
- Six (amazing!) projects win the 2015 SEED Award for Excellence in Public Interest Design.
- The 2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Competition jury picks two(!) winners (oysters and organics included).
- Call for entries: Lost Spaces Ideas Competition: Re-envisioning Calgary's remnant public spaces + 2015 Architecture Business Plan Competition for start-ups and young firms.

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Jean Nouvel boycotts opening of his Philharmonie de Paris: ...claiming it is "not finished" and defending his firm against allegations regarding cost overruns...These charges are unfounded...I will not tolerate that untruthful, defamatory and disparaging writings or comments are made about me." [images]- Dezeen

Style wars are irrelevant when architecture is reduced to floor-plate cladding: Architects should stop bashing each other and concentrate on the real enemy: The bulk of contemporary building is...dictated by the tastes of global investors...This is the real problem with architecture and city making, and it is one that the style wars don't address and in fact one in which the style warriors might find a common enemy. By Hank Dittmar- BD/Building Design (UK)

Local architect receives 2015 Richard H. Driehaus Prize: David M. Schwarz...works in a conservative, contextually sensitive style...perhaps even more significant...is the \$50,000 Henry Hope Reed Award...winner is Dr. Richard Jackson, who has worked tirelessly...to document and mitigate the public health impacts of urban sprawl and bad - or nonexistent - urban planning. By Philip Kennicott- Washington Post

Will the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (CHAFTA) open doors for Australian architects? ...contains two provisions that affect Australian architects, which have been met with cautious optimism...does not necessarily mean that market access or working in China will become any easier. By Scott Flett- Business Spectator (Australia)

Architects and torture: What color is your waterboard? The unwillingness of American's leading architectural association to prohibit the design of torture facilities is a shocking, shameful and deeply troubling statement. By Raphael Sperry/Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR) -- American Institute of Architects (AIA)- CNN

What to Do With a Dying Neighborhood: Covington, Georgia, decided not to let a half-completed development [Walker's Bend] sit empty. But the city's solution has been both praised and vilified by observers. By Alana Semuels -- Ellen Dunham-Jones; Randy Vinson [images]- The Atlantic

Chile to (Finally) Build Gaudí's Only Project Outside of Spain: ...confirmed government funding for the construction of the Gaudí Cultural and Spiritual Center in the city of Rancagua...The project originated in 1922...Since 1996, Chile's Corporación Gaudí de Triana has been working to make the design...a reality. -- Christian Matzner [images]- ArchDaily

Once again, HOK is a star player in sports architecture: ...finalized its acquisition of Kansas City-based firm 360 Architecture...formed a new sports architecture practice, HOK Sports + Recreation + Entertainment, that will be led by former 360 leaders. - Kansas City Business Journal

Q+A with Daniel Libeskind: The master-planner of New York's World Trade Center talks about grand-scale collaboration, the personal significance of Ground Zero, and building the new National Holocaust Monument in Ottawa. By Catherine Osborne- Azure magazine (Canada)

Developer, architect give tours of senior arts colony in anticipation of Signal Hill affordable-housing project...in downtown Long Beach...plenty of public amenities, including City Hall, the library, schools and the community center, within a short walking distance. -- Studio One Eleven [images]- Signal Tribune (California)

Modern Mapping Connects Historic Preservation and Planning: ...to determine how best to integrate new development into the historic fabric, Tangram 3DS has created a 3D map...part of a larger shift toward using technology to plan for aesthetic purposes...to enable architects, developers and the public to see how proposed buildings would look in context. By Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow [images]- Next City (formerly Next American City)

On the First Six Years of Urban Omnibus: A Founding Editor's Farewell: On the sixth anniversary of Urban Omnibus, outgoing editor Cassim Shepard reflects on the evolution of the publication and looks ahead to what comes next. - Urban Omnibus

Six projects selected as winners of the 2015 SEED Award for Excellence in Public Interest Design: The projects will be presented at the 15th annual Structures for Inclusion/SFI conference in Detroit, April 11-12. -- Blue Star Studio; Emily Pilton/Studio H; MASS Design Group; CoCoon (sector for contextual construction); +D/Design/urpouse Studio; etc. [images]- Design Corps / Social, Economic, Environmental Design Network (SEED) / Lawrence Technological University

Jury picks two winners for 2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Competition: It's Local vs. Global: Pavilions Designed in New York City and Madrid for Governors Island 2015 Summer Season..."Billion Oyster Pavilion" and "Organic Growth"... -- BanG Studio; Izaskun Chinchilla Architects [images]- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

Call for entries: Lost Spaces Ideas Competition: Re-envisioning Calgary's remnant public spaces; cash prizes; registration deadline: March 20 (submissions due March 30)- Design Talks Institute (d.talks)

Call for entries: 2015 Architecture Business Plan Competition: open to registered architects in the U.S. or Canada who are considering starting a design firm or who have started a new firm in the past 10 years; no fee; cash prizes; registration deadline: February 3 (submission deadline: March 3)- Charrette Venture Group



-- "Friedensreich Hundertwasser - 1928-2000" by Wieland Schmied: an inspirational portrait of one of the most prolific artists of the 20th century...his sustainable principles are highly compelling and should warrant consideration by architects today.

-- What's On? Architectural Exhibitions, January 2015 edition: Russian avant-garde, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin; Studio Mumbai, Bordeaux; Highrise City Frankfurt, DAM; "Architecture in Uniform," MAXXI, Rome; National Building Museum, Washington, DC; "After Hurricane Sandy - Rebuild by Design," Aedes am Pfefferberg, Berlin

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