

Today's News - Tuesday, September 15, 2015

- ANN feature: Salingaros continues his series, Architecture's New Scientific Foundations, with Adaptive vs. Random Complexity, Part 2.
- Kamin is cautiously optimistic about revised design of the Lucas Museum: "Lucas 2.0" will be 25% smaller (a good thing), but "prepare yourself for a sales job worthy of Hollywood, and remember that what matters is the goods, not the glitter" (images not yet released).
- Keegan considers what the Lucas Museum should be like: "we need to be vigilant about discouraging the truly dystopian - much needs to be worked out to keep this challenging work from being just weird."
- Lamster looks at two very different office towers in Dallas: one (architect not named) checks all the right boxes, but "rather lamely" disguises "the fact that it's really just a mediocre glass tower stuck up on top of a garage"; the other (by Kuma) "promises to be one of the more sophisticated buildings" in the city.
- With a line-up of "extraordinary" new condo towers, Vancouver "aims to take its arguably boring architecture to the next level" (origami balconies included).
- An in-depth (and terrific!) look at "the battle over the L.A. River": it boils down to "the naturalists vs. the urbanists, the kayakers vs. the water conservationists, and the smart growers vs. the anti-gentrifiers" - "nobody's gonna wave a magic wand and it's gonna look like DisneyWorld." Not even Frank Gehry."
- Bestor's Blackbirds infill project in L.A. is a "high-density micro neighborhood" that proves "you can do a higher quality approach to density that is very design centric."
- Hooper offers a detailed look at what went into Murphy Burnham & Buttrick's restoration of St. Patrick's Cathedral (it took 9 years, but it will be ready for the Pope!).
- A facelift for Australia's oldest museum is "like a jewel set in sandstone."
- Gendall offers a sneak-peek at Design Miami's 2015 Entry Pavilion designed by "the most fledgling designers possible" - GSD students, who have designed a canopy of "pink-foam architectural models."
- Badger cheers "a rare science-based edict" from the U.S. Surgeon General - "a radical idea wrapped in a banal government document: Americans should walk more" (and "implicates America's car culture").
- Slessor finds herself sitting next to a member of the Rubble Club, made up of architects who outlive their buildings.
- Forget fly-throughs: Groves Natcheva Architects produce a "thriller movie" as an alternative way of presenting architecture ("an affair, revenge and attempted murder" included).
- Adjaye takes home MIT's 2016 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts (along with the \$100,000).
- Stern "can look back on a long record of improvements" at the Yale School of Architecture, "but many of the challenges that he has tackled over the past two decades remain" for his successor.
- Malecha resigns as dean of NC State's College of Design - he's heading to sunnier climes and the NewSchool of Architecture and Design in San Diego.
- The lawsuit over Cooper Union tuition is settled: tuition fees will remain in place, but a special committee will develop a plan to return the school to a tuition-free model.
- Call for entries (lots of 'em, and deadlines loom!): RFQ: Aarhus School of Architecture in Denmark + Deadline reminder: The Architect's Newspaper 3rd annual Best Of Design Awards + PPS/ Southwest Airlines 2016 Heart of the Community Projects + As Seen On [ ]: 4th annual Urban Omnibus writing competition + Re-Form Design Competition 2015.

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Architecture's New Scientific Foundations, Part 3: Adaptive vs. Random Complexity, Part 2. Nourishing environments are complex yet highly organized, but cannot be minimalistic. By Nikos A. Salingaros - ArchNewsNow.com

Lucas museum slims down, which is a good thing: ...I'm happy to report that Lucas 2.0 has taken the SlimFast hint and will have 25% less square footage than originally planned...if [it] still seems out of place, all of the green space in the world will amount to nothing more than window dressing - the urban design equivalent of perumping the pig. There are other reasons for concern...prepare yourself for a sales job worthy of Hollywood, and remember that what matters is the goods, not the glitter. By Blair Kamin -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang - Chicago Tribune

Here's what the Lucas Museum should be: While we'll know soon enough what the revised design...looks like, let's pause to consider what it can - and should - be like...It's in Chicago architecture's DNA to support daring and original design, but we still need to be vigilant about discouraging the truly dystopian...we've seen that rules can be broken to make us all the richer...much needs to be worked out to keep this challenging work from being just weird. By Edward Keegan -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects - Crain's Chicago Business

Dallas architecture can be better. Here's how: ...a new office tower...is a schizophrenic mash-up of ideas...A grass walk? Check. Roof gardens? Check...Randomly projecting office blocks? Check. It has everything! ...but look closely...rather lamely disguising the fact that it's really just a mediocre glass tower stuck up on top of a garage. It's the kind of building that kills a city...worth comparing...to another tower [for] the Rolex Corporation...promises to be one of the more sophisticated buildings in Dallas. By Mark Lamster -- Kengo Kuma [images] - Dallas Morning News

Extraordinary new condo towers aim to give Vancouver the 'Wow!' factor: ...the city aims to take its arguably boring architecture to the next level...a traditional condo tower with origami balconies...another dramatic building...Jenga-style... -- James Cheng; Gregory Henriquez; Büro Ole Scheeren; Kengo Kuma/KKAA; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group [images] - CBC (Canada)

Who Will Win the Battle Over the L.A. River - the Naturalists or the Urbanists? ...tensions are beginning to emerge...They can agree on at least one thing: Change along the river is inevitable...It seems as if everyone has a plan...It can't be restored. We're beyond that. A new river must be invented..."nobody's gonna wave a magic wand and it's gonna look like DisneyWorld." Not even Frank Gehry. -- Mia Lehrer - LA Weekly

How Do You Combat Sprawl In L.A.? Recycle The City: Barbara Bestor and developer Local Construct choreograph a high-density micro neighborhood in Echo Park: Infill projects like Blackbirds offer a way to add those structures by making the city denser instead of building on the fringes..."you can do a higher quality approach to density that is very design centric"...better design yields better profits for developers who take this approach. By Diana Budds [images] - Fast Company / Co.Design

St. Patrick's Cathedral Gets an Update Fit for the Pope: Nine years in the making, Murphy Burnham & Buttrick's restoration of the New York landmark wraps up: ...three-year, \$187-million renovation...put on hold during the Great Recession...the firm used the time "to research and determine the best possible [restoration] methods"...approximately 20 consulting firms and 150 restoration specialists worked on St. Patrick's in the last nine years. By Emily Hooper -- James Renwick, Jr. (1888) [images] - Architect Magazine

Facelift for Australia's oldest museum: The Australian Museum in Sydney...has been given a glittering new pleated glass facelift...Dubbed "Crystal Hall," the new pavilion protrudes from the museum's neoclassical wing, designed by James Barnett in 1890, like a jewel set in sandstone. -- Neeson Murcutt Architects; Joseph Grech Architects [images] - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

A First Look at Design Miami's 2015 Entry Pavilion: ...awarded the project to the most fledgling designers possible: a group of students - Joanne Cheung, Jenny Shen, Steven Meyer, Doug Harsevoort and Yiliu Shen-Burke - at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)...designed UNBUILT...canopy made with 200 unique, pink-foam architectural models...But don't expect to recognize the models...the buildings they represent have existed only in the imaginations of their designers. By John Gendall [image] - New York Times T Magazine

The government is trying to make walking American again: The U.S. Surgeon General...proposed a radical idea wrapped in a banal government document, a 72-page "call to action" with 359 tiny-font references: Americans should walk more...a rare science-based edict meant to shape national discussion on major public health threats, implicates America's car culture and "sprawling land use patterns." By Emily Badger - Washington Post

The rise of the short-lived building and the long-lived architect: As buildings' lifespans get shorter, the Rubble Club grows in number. By Catherine Slessor -- Owen Luder, Isi Metzstein - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Groves Natcheva Architects produce thriller movie to explore alternative ways of presenting architecture: "Black Ice" to be screened at the London Design Festival...15-minute film is "as dark and psychotically inventive as the architecture of the house in which it is set" and tells the story of an affair, revenge and attempted murder. - Dezeen

Pride of Britain: David Adjaye to Receive the 2016 Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts at MIT: The \$100,000 prize also includes a valuable artist's residency at the Institute in the spring of next year. - Architizer

With Robert A.M. Stern prepared to depart, Yale School of Architecture looks to future: ...he can look back on a long record of improvements. But many of the challenges that he has tackled over the past two decades remain...the University needs to prioritize the school's goals of promoting diversity and improving architectural design technology while preserving important traditional design techniques such as hand drawing. - Yale Daily News

Design Dean to Retire at End of Semester: Marvin J. Malecha, the visionary dean who championed research, expanded academic programs and spearheaded global engagement in NC State's College of Design, will retire...after more than two decades of service. He has accepted the position of president and chief academic officer at the NewSchool of Architecture and Design in San Diego. - North Carolina State University

Agreement Reached on Lawsuit Over Cooper Union Tuition: ...tuition fees will remain in place, but the board will be expanded to include student trustees, additional alumni trustees, and faculty and staff representatives while a special committee works to develop a plan over the next three years to return the school to a tuition-free model. - Philanthropy News Digest / Foundation Center

Call for entries: Request for Qualification/RFQ: "NEW AARCH" Aarhus School of Architecture, Denmark: Prequalification; deadline: October 19 - Danish Building & Property Agency

Call for entries (deadline reminder): 3rd annual Best Of Design Awards (international, but projects must be located within the U.S.): project-based awards program that showcases great buildings and building elements; registration deadline: October 9 (submission deadline: November 2) - The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: Applications for Southwest Airlines 2016 Heart of the Community Projects: ...community-driven grant program has supported the activation of public spaces in cities across the country; deadline: October 16 - Project for Public Spaces (PPS)

Call for Entries: As Seen On [ ]: 4th annual Urban Omnibus writing competition; explore the changing relationship between performance, audience, and the physical city through narrative, theory, history, or humor; cash prizes; deadline: October 19 - Urban Omnibus

Call for entries: Re-Form Design Competition 2015 (U.S.): Design an object or interaction that inspires or has been inspired by a new contemporary behavior; deadline: October 19 - AIA | DC / Price Modern & Haworth

Being Frank Gehry: Paul Goldberger's account of the architect's rise is also a tale of things not going Gehry's way: "Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry" is a compelling biography of perhaps the world's most famous architect. And yet it is also, to a great extent, a list of Gehry's disappointments. By Fred A. Bernstein - ArchNewsNow.com



Colorful Condensations: Mikkel Frost's CEBRA Toons: Can a single drawing sum up the complexity of a sizable built project? ...hand-drawn Toons...amalgamates various drawing techniques into playful architectural sonnets...communicate the insistence on a room for optimism, playfulness, and vigor in contemporary architecture. [images]

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