

Today's News - Tuesday, October 13, 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for not alerting readers we were not posting yesterday. It was Columbus Day (U.S.), and we had early morning plans.

- ArcSpace brings us Kiser's take on two stunning cultural projects in China.
- Calatrava takes home the 2015 European Prize for Architecture.
- Schumacher takes in the Chicago Architecture Biennial, and cheers its "emphasis on social justice" with "a palpable desire to better the planet and make architecture more relevant."
- Wainwright seems quite taken by SANAA's "sublime" Grace Farms in Connecticut, "America's miraculous new center for arts and faith. Just don't call it a church."
- Pollock also finds the "sublime" at Grace Farms, which "neither looks nor behaves like a conventional building," and "makes no attempt at monumentality or grandeur."
- Slenske says DS+R's McMurtry Building at Stanford University is a "marvel."
- Baillieu begs to differ with Architects for Social Housing protests against RSH+P's Neo Bankside being shortlisted for the Stirling Prize: "No community has been displaced. The real protest should be saved for those developments which gentrification has missed altogether."
- Flint has a few issues with Sussman's argument that "urban design should pay more attention to cognitive science - I wonder if one possible result is a restraint on creativity, and cookie-cutter boredom."
- 3XN's Nielsen "is quick to sum up what's wrong with" Sydney's Circular Quay.
- Yale taps Beyer Blinder Belle to design its first university-wide student center.
- Mortice marvels at the 75-year-old Crow Island School in the Chicago suburb of Winnetka, designed by P+W and the Saarinens - it is "something like the Seagram Building of elementary schools. But if that's the case, why do so many elementary schools still look like tired, institutional warehouses?"
- Anderton has a lively Q&A with architect and writer Gil Martin re: why she loves LA's ugly buildings.
- A very interesting mix of firms from across the U.S. selected as the inaugural pool of designers for the Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program.
- APA names 15 great neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces as 2015 Great Places in America.
- Five firms from all over the world make the shortlist to overhaul government buildings on the world's remotest inhabited island (pop. 270).
- New America launches the Resilient Communities Program with Puchalski at the helm (bravo Pamela!).
- Two we couldn't resist: Eyefuls of an "insane French Bubble Palace" on the Côte d'Azur, yours for \$455 million ("a bizarre testament to what happens when you have a bit too much creativity and way too much money").
- Prison Architect is a new video game that "might not actually be about architecture in any meaningful sense, but it is certainly about systems of control over the physical and mental lives of prisoners."
- Call for entries: Inaugural CITAB-CTBUH China Tall Buildings Awards + Winter Stations 2016 International Design Competition for lifeguard stands on Toronto beaches + Stewardson Keefe LeBrun Travel Grant (U.S. citizens).

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Atelier Alter: Qujing Culture Center, Qujing, China + Archea Associati: Liling Ceramic Art City, Hunan, China. By Kirsten Kiser [images]

Santiago Calatrava Awarded Europe's Top Architecture Prize: The European Prize for Architecture 2015...Europe's Highest Award Presented at an award ceremony to be held at the World Trade Center in New York on November 17.- Chicago Athenaeum/European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies

First survey of architecture in North America showcases more purposeful ambitions: Is good architecture a fundamental human right? That question materializes with some urgency at the Chicago Architecture Biennial...an emphasis on social justice...a palpable desire to better the planet and make architecture more relevant. By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Studio Gang; Theaster Gates; Tatiana Bilbao; Vo Trong Nghia Architects; Yasmeen Lari; Otherothers; Didier Faustino; Fake Industries; Atelier Bow-Wow; Moon Hoon; Joseph Grima; Sarah Herda [images]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

'It's a gift!' Inside America's miraculous new centre for arts and faith: SANAA get spiritual with the sublime \$83m Grace Farms centre for arts, faith and justice in New Canaan, Connecticut, which is backed by a hedge fund manager. Just don't call it a church. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Rolling on the River: A ribbon of glass, steel, and wood floats through a hilly landscape, serving a nonprofit foundation dedicated to bringing people closer to art, nature, and faith: had to wrestle with the needs of a complicated set of users...answered this complexity with simplicity...[Grace Farms] neither looks nor behaves like a conventional building...the River makes no attempt at monumentality or grandeur...achieves something far more sublime... By Naomi R. Pollock -- Kazuyo Sejima+Ryu Nishizawa/SANAA; OLIN; Larry Wener Landscape Associates [images]- Architectural Record

Separate spaces: Diller Scofidio + Renfro's new Stanford building is a marvel: ...McMurtry Building they designed to house Stanford University's Department of Art & Art History...art-making and art history sides of the building had very different needs, while demanding equal but separate spaces...two buildings intertwine in a 'productive face-off...' By Michael Slenske [images]- Wallpaper*

Protesters are wrong to target Neo Bankside and hipsters eating cereal: We should be less worried about gentrification than about the complete failure to provide for communities like Barking Riverside: No community has been displaced...The real protest should be saved for those developments which gentrification has missed altogether...it is the frightening reality of what happens when the provision of housing fails to keep up with a city's popularity, not hipster bars selling craft beer and cereal. By Amanda Baillieu -- Architects for Social Housing; Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners- BD/Building Design (UK)

Making the Case for Symmetrical Cities: Ann Sussman argues urban design should pay more attention to cognitive science...It has long been established that well-tailored design is pleasing not only to the eye but the soul...What's different about the gospel that Sussman is spreading is that it's backed up by neuroscience...The bottom line seems to be, why bother trying anything new, when we've already figured out what constitutes good design? I wonder if one possible result is a restraint on creativity, and cookie-cutter boredom. By Anthony Flint- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Bringing life to Sydney: 3XN's Kim Herforth Nielsen on 'dead' streets: ...is quick to sum up what's wrong with Circular Quay. The Danish architect, whose firm was chosen...to design the master plan and tower for AMP Capital's \$1 billion Quay Quarter

redevelopment, says any building should leave a site better than it found it.- Australian Financial Review

Beyer Blinder Belle to design Schwarzman Center: ...will transform the current Commons and Memorial Hall into Yale's first university-wide student center. -- Carrère and Hastings (1901)- Yale News

Why Don't All Schools Look Like This One? When it opened 75 years ago, Crow Island School revolutionized school design...in the Chicago suburb of Winnetka, Illinois, is a beloved icon of progressive school design...something like the Seagram Building of elementary schools...But if that's the case, why do so many elementary schools still look like tired, institutional warehouses? By Zach Mortice -- Lawrence Perkins/Perkins+Will; Eiel and Eero Saarinen [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

DnA/Frances Anderton: Wendy Gilmartin Loves LA's Ugly Buildings: ...architect and writer...finds the charm in the ugly, or the "fugly"; Q&A about the good and the bad in the ugly, as well as what motivates her own work. [images]- KCRW (Los Angeles)

Inaugural Pool of Designers Selected for Northwest Arkansas Design Excellence Program: ...concludes a two-month nationwide search for innovative designers that will contribute to the future of the urban landscape in Northwest Arkansas...36 firms selected represent 13 states, the District of Columbia and Canada.- Walton Family Foundation

APA Recognizes the 2015 Great Places in America Designees: ...annual list recognizes 15 Great Neighborhoods, Streets, and Public Spaces. [links to images, info]- American Planning Association (APA)

Revealed: finalists in RIBA contest on world's remotest inhabited island: ...five teams vying to overhaul government buildings on the remote islands of Tristan da Cunha...the project will create a 'more self-sustainable future' for the 270-strong island community which is also known as Edinburgh of the Seven Seas. -- Brock Carmichael Architects; Lateral Office; John Puttick Associates; Scott Brownrigg; Javier Terrados/Fernando Suárez [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

New America Welcomes Resilient Communities Program and Pamela Puchalski as Director: ...launch of the...new program that will aim to help communities and local leaders protect and improve assets, infrastructure, and systems...- New America

Just what you always wanted: Insane French Bubble Palace on sale for \$455 million: ...on the Côte d'Azur, Le Palais Bulles was owned by Pierre Cardin and is a bizarre testament to what happens when you have a bit too much creativity and way too much money. -- Antti Lovag [images]- The Real Deal (NYC)

When Prison Is a Game: What insight can the new video game Prison Architect offer into the structures and complexities of incarceration in America? ...might not actually be about architecture in any meaningful sense, but it is certainly about systems of control over the physical and mental lives of prisoners.- The Atlantic

Call for entries: Inaugural CITAB-CTBUH China Tall Buildings Awards; categories: Awards Categories are: Best Tall Building China; Legacy Award; Urban Habitat Award; Construction Award; Innovation Award; Outstanding Achievement Award; deadline: December 14- China International Exchange Committee for Tall Buildings (CITAB) / Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

Call for entries: Winter Stations 2016 International Design Competition: "Freeze / Thaw": proposals for lifeguard stands on Toronto beaches; designers honoraria and construction budget included; deadline: November 12- Winter Stations

Call for entries: Stewardson Keefe LeBrun Travel Grant to further the personal and professional development of an architect in early or mid-career (U.S. citizens); deadline: November 2- Center For Architecture Foundation

Book Review: Clarifying The Art of Layering Space, or How Architects Outdo Superman's X-Ray Vision Daily: In "Time, Space, and Material: The Mechanics of Layering in Architecture," Anne-Catrin Schultz provocatively illuminates essentials of architectural layering, storytelling, interpretation, and wonder that are concentrated in the acts of creating and appreciating architecture, layer after layer. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow.com

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