

Today's News - Thursday, February 11, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, February 16. Happy Valentine's Day - and Presidents' Day!

- NTHP's Meeks makes a convincing case against the argument that "historic preservation districts are to blame for the affordable housing crisis" - it is "deeply flawed - history, sustainability, fairness, and economic vitality can go hand-in-hand."
- Wainwright x 2: he cheers a new report on London's development system that is "a breath of fresh air" in calling for "a new culture of transparency - and certainly more than soggy notices strapped to lamp-posts."
- He has a high hopes for Peyton-Jones' "characteristically ambitious swansong" for this year's Serpentine Pavilion: "this five-pavilion bonanza looks a bit like a way of ticking off all the architects she wanted to commission before she left."
- Moore is quite taken by Jaccaud Zein's "plain brown building with hidden depths": while it is "not a solution to any housing crisis" or "a heart-stopping, mind-blowing masterpiece," it is "a reminder that architecture can be an art of living."
- Chicago approves P+W's 13-acre Riverline mega-development that will surround Goldberg's River City apartments: "The implications of such a large project are not trivial."
- The Pier55 development team responds to the City Club of New York's criticism: "City Club continues to make false claims about Pier55 and its public process" - its arguments against the project "may be numerous, but they are without merit."
- Mattern marvels at "how the 1939 World's Fair anticipated our current obsession with urban data science and 'smart cities'" - and the project's astounding filing system: "the history of filing systems is the history of computing" (archival images a must-see!).
- Two we couldn't resist in honor of Valentine's Day: Eyefuls of Collective-LOK's gleaming "Heart of Hearts" in Times Square "invites all kinds of reflection" in its dozen faceted glass hearts.
- And while we usually avoid linking to developers' websites, Related's amusing infographic gives some of Hudson Yards' astounding statistics a romantic perspective (somebody had fun calculating how many bottles of bubbly could fill its water retention tanks + concrete and fondue pots - never mind 250 billion sweetheart candies!).
- Call for entries: Museum of London West Smithfield international two-stage design competition (emerging firms encouraged!) + 2016 SMPS Marketing Communications Awards (international).
- Weekend diversions:
 - Wainwright weighs in on "Leonardo da Vinci: The Mechanics of Genius" at London's Science Museum, and finds himself weighed down (in a good way) by how the show "eerily connects humanity's love of beauty and its thirst for war."
 - We're looking forward to seeing the Tsao & McKown-designed "Beauty - Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial."
 - "The House. The Mentor. The Archive. Christian Kieckens" in Antwerp "reveals the interaction between architectural history, design research, teaching and the built oeuvre."
 - Baillieu bemoans "British architecture used to be worthy and serious," but with "This is Temporary" by Cate St. Hill, "you will need to turn your bullshit detector firmly on."
- An intriguing excerpt from "Nature and Cities: The Ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning" asks us to "imagine engineers embracing the tenets of ecological design and planning" - and so much more.

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[Why Historic Preservation Districts Are Crucial to Cities](#): ...the suggestion that historic preservation districts are to blame for the affordable housing crisis...is a common view among a certain subset of urban economists, it is also deeply flawed...preservation projects are expanding housing options, helping cities become more affordable...history, sustainability, fairness, and economic vitality can go hand-in-hand. By Stephanie Meeks/National Trust for Historic Preservation - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

[Growing pains: how will London house 1.5 million more people by 2030?](#) City planning needs a new culture of transparency to keep up with shifting development projects, says an independent report - and certainly more than soggy notices strapped to lamp-posts: "Growing London" is a breath of fresh air, addressing longstanding flaws in the development system... By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

[Bjarke Ingels to design 2016 Serpentine pavilion - but he's not the only one](#): ...a characteristically ambitious swansong for Julia Peyton-Jones...She clearly wants to go out with a bang - this five-pavilion bonanza looks a bit like a way of ticking off all the architects she wanted to commission before she left. By Oliver Wainwright -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Yona Friedman; Asif Khan; Barkow Leibinger; Kunlé Adeyemi/NLÉ;- Guardian (UK)

[Shepherdess Walk: a plain brown building with hidden depths](#): ...Jaccaud Zein Architects' new London housing development is an exemplar of thoughtful design in keeping with the area's hard-edged past...not a solution to any housing crisis...Nor is it a heart-stopping, mind-blowing masterpiece, but it's a reminder that architecture can be an art of living. By Rowan Moore [images]- Observer (UK)

[Filling in the Gaps: City of Chicago approves mega-development along river](#): Perkins+Will's Riverline project is one of the largest developments the city has seen in decades. Located on the empty 13 acres...surrounding Bertrand Goldberg's River City apartment building...The implications of such a large project...are not trivial. -- Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

[Letter to the Editor> Pier55 responds to City Club of New York criticism](#): Instead of engaging the community - as the Hudson River Park Trust and Pier55, Inc. have done over the past year - the City Club continues to make false claims about Pier55 and its public process...arguments against Pier55 may be numerous, but they are without merit... -- Heatherwick Studio- The Architect's Newspaper

[Indexing the World of Tomorrow: How the 1939 World's Fair anticipated our current obsession with urban data science and "smart cities"](#): The future was imagined to take place within a neo-Corbusian city: streamlined, rational, orderly, efficient...Just as important...was the dream of efficient urban administration ...now expressed in fetishized data visualization...the history of filing systems is the history of computing. By Shannon Mattern [images]- Places Journal

[Valentine's Day Installation In Times Square: Romance abounds in a glimmering pavilion](#). Luckily for lovebirds and cynics alike, Times Square's gleaming new Valentine's Day-themed pavilion invites all kinds of reflection: Collective-LOK's "Heart of Hearts" consists of a dozen faceted glass hearts, each 10 feet tall and gold-tinted, arranged in a circle... [images]- Architectural Record

[In time for Valentine's Day, New York's newest neighborhood might make your heart skip a beat](#): The open-air observation deck atop 30 Hudson Yards can accommodate 1,200 bended-knee marriage proposals at one time... [infographic]- Hudson Yards (Related Companies)

[Call for entries: Museum of London West Smithfield international two-stage design competition](#); established and emerging designers encouraged; the latter through low turnover threshold of £2m; deadline for Expressions of Interest/EOI: March 15- Museum of London / Malcolm Reading Consultants

Call for entries: 2016 SMPS Marketing Communications Awards (international); earlybird entry deadline (save money!): March 1; final submission deadline: March 15- Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS)

"Leonardo da Vinci: The Mechanics of Genius" - an eye for destruction at the Science Museum, London: Combining Da Vinci's flying machines and designs for death and destruction, this model show eerily connects humanity's love of beauty and its thirst for war...the elephant in the room...500 years on, scientific breakthroughs are still fostered by the military industry, innovation forever fuelled by man's ravenous appetite for destruction. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

"Beauty - Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial": With projects ranging from experimental prototypes and interactive games to fashion ensembles and architectural interventions...with more than 250 works from around the globe...The exhibition is designed by Tsao & McKown Architects.- Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum

"The House. The Mentor. The Archive. Christian Kieckens" reveals the interaction between architectural history, design research, teaching and the built oeuvre.- Flanders Architecture Institute / deSingel International Arts Campus (Antwerp)

Can't get no satisfaction from Instagram architecture: A generation ago graduates were designing social housing projects not pop-ups: British architecture used to be worthy and serious...Those days are long gone. But if you're a young "socially committed" architect what do you do...The answer for some has been temporary architecture...according to a new book, "This is Temporary" by Cate St Hill...you will need to turn your bullshit detector firmly on. By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

"Nature and Cities: The Ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning" by George F. Thompson, Frederick R. Steiner, and Armando Carbonell: Imagine engineers embracing the tenets of ecological design and planning...Imagine...a citizenry knowing that all human life begins and ends with nature, the source of all life. Imagine that. [excerpt]- Land Lines / Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

A Filtered View #4: Where is Sustainability's Flying Buttress? It may take a decade or so before photovoltaics and other energy-producing technologies find an aesthetic foothold, but for architecture to survive - they must. By Charles F. Bloszies, FAIA- ArchNewsNow.com



The Nishi Building: Canberra, Australia's parliamentary capital, is often labeled bland and bureaucratic. But the new building...sits in stark contrast...It is progressive, quirky and vibrant...has put Canberra back on the map...collaborated with over 60 architects, designers, makers and artists...the antithesis of a typical commercial, residential or hotel development. It favors messiness, localism and pluralism over the expected and generic. -- Molonglo Group; Suppose Design Office; Fender Katsiladis Architects; March Studio; Oculus Landscape Architecture [images]

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