

Today's News - Wednesday, April 6, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us an insightful Q&A with the curators of the Danish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale: it "will not be a catwalk of great projects - we want to find the cracks in everything and point to where the projects are really struggling to promote certain ideas."
- A few more thoughtful tributes to Zaha, well worth reading.
- Kats delves into the demolition of the Netherlands Dance Theater, OMA's "first seminal building," that came to "a strangely hushed finale" - its replacement will have "all the elegance of a provincial office park."
- On a brighter note, for OMA, anyway: it has big plans for "an urban playground" to replace the RFK stadium site in Washington, DC (that may or may not include a BIG-designed stadium).
- Four firms present "a new vision for Milwaukee's Harbor District" that "would sprout buildings, green spaces and jobs."
- Green reports on "an intellectual boxing match" between Mayne and Plater-Zyberk re: Baltimore's future: "Their visions for Baltimore contrast, but the answer to its many economic and social woes may be a little bit of both."
- Holbrook bemoans big-name architects designing stunning airports that work for everyone - except passengers: they should "spend more of their creative energies on the traveler's experience than on creating an interactive postcard."
- Webb is wow'd by MAD's Harbin Opera House: "What makes this building so remarkable is the confidence of its design and the quality of the finishes - it goes well beyond its sensational looks."
- Chaban reports on NYC developers taking on formerly-avoided, "odder-shaped" sites with buildings that seem to emulate the much-loved but rarely-copied Flatiron Building.
- A "stunning" new national memorial in Alabama by MASS Design Group "would help the country remember - and hopefully heal - from one of the most shameful pieces of our history" (they expect "some resistance and discomfort").
- Barash has a fascinating Q&A with Maya Lin: "public visibility means that Lin is continually outing herself - as a woman, as a Chinese American, as an outsider - and the creative urge that drives her ever forward."
- The University of Colorado Denver issues a nation-wide study that "shows disaster plans often neglect historic preservation - risking a loss of heritage and critical engines of the local economy in the event of catastrophe."
- The AIA publishes a new white paper that "addresses the nation's \$3 trillion public infrastructure crisis and how public private-partnerships offer a possible solution."
- A very interesting report about efforts to promote diversity: "It is not easy or comfortable, but then neither is being eclipsed by your faster, smarter, more diverse competition" (maybe we should join the Male Champions of Change club!).
- A very interesting - and eclectic - shortlist in the running for the Museum of London West Smithfield.
- The CCA's Lambert wins the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize; Bunge and Hoang of nARCHITECTS take home an Arts and Letters Award in Architecture.
- Murcutt takes over from Palumbo as new Jury Chair for Pritzker Prize.

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Venice Biennale Curator Series: Denmark: Q&A with Boris Brorman Jensen and Kristoffer Lindhardt Weiss about what exciting ideas visitors can expect from the Danish Pavilion: Art of the Many/Right to Space..."will not be a catwalk of great projects...we want to find the cracks in everything and point to where the projects are really struggling to promote certain ideas."

Marcus Fairs: Zaha left us ahead of time, but she did everything ahead of time...a personal tribute + Q&A with Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Zaha Hadid was "a combination of beauty and strength" + more- Dezeen

Sam Hall Kaplan: A Tip of the Hat to Zaha Hadid: As much as I had taken exception to the to the label stararchitect, out of concern that it seems to bestow the professional a license for indulgences...Dame Hadid was a happy exception. She said what she meant, and meant when she said. I loved it, even when I disagreed with her.- City Observed

Marilyn Jordan Taylor: Zaha: Women in architecture as in many other historically male-dominated fields remain woefully underrepresented. The broad sweep of Zaha Hadid's ceiling-shattering accomplishments may not be surpassed for a long time, but she has already widened the wedge that holds doors open for others - women in particular - who believe in the beauty, power and transformative impact of design.- PennDesign Design Weekly

Postmortem Preservation: The demolition of a key OMA work prompts questions about the civic value of innovative architecture: Completed in 1987, the Netherlands Dance Theater in The Hague was Rem Koolhaas's first seminal building...a strangely hushed finale...What Koolhaas did not expect was the indifference that followed...What follows in its wake...is altogether more troubling...an anodyne, ambiguously historicist multitheater complex...With a neo-Venetian facade and all the elegance of a provincial office park... By Anna Kats -- Jo Coenen- Metropolis Magazine

OMA unveils ideas for transforming RFK stadium property to an urban playground for the nation's Capital: ... outlined two design proposals...OMA team was aware that the BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group has been designing a football stadium, but the two design teams have not met to discuss how BIG's design might fit onto the RFK site. By Edward Gunts [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Milwaukee harbor would sprout buildings, green spaces and jobs: ...a new vision for Milwaukee's Harbor District calls for extensive green spaces and new buildings for water technology research, cafes and housing. -- PWL Partnership; DTAH; Wenk Associates; Studio Gang [images]- Milwaukee Business Journal

Which Way to a Better Future for Baltimore? ...an intellectual boxing match between contemporary architect Thom Mayne and New Urbanist planner Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk...Their visions for Baltimore contrast, but the answer to [its] many economic and social woes may be a little bit of both. By Jared Green- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Airports, Designed for Everyone but the Passenger: As big-name architects create airports with ambitious goals in mind, it's the smaller things - like comfy seating and adequate heating - that are missing: Architects may need to spend more of their creative energies on the traveler's experience than on creating an interactive postcard. By Chris Holbrook -- HKS; César Pelli/Pelli Clarke Pelli; Norman Foster/Foster + Partners; Zaha Hadid; Moshe Safdie; Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners/Antonio Lamela [images]- New York Times

[The Harbin Opera House Opens in China: The cultural monument is set to become a powerful symbol for a city on the rise, and for its designer, Beijing architect Ma Yansong: What makes this building so remarkable is the confidence of its design and the quality of the finishes...\[it\] goes well beyond its sensational looks. By Michael Webb -- MAD Architects \[images\]- Azure magazine \(Canada\)](#)

[Flatiron Building, Admired but Rarely Copied, Inspires Developers: ...one of the city's favorite landmarks...has been rarely copied. At least, not until now...New York developers prefer to stick to the grid...have begun to look to odder-shaped plots. By Matt A.V. Chaban -- Cary Tamarkin; DDG; FXFOWLE Architects \[images\]- New York Times](#)

[This Stunning National Memorial Would Recognize America's Legacy Of Lynchings: Located in Montgomery, Alabama, this proposed museum and memorial would help the country remember - and hopefully heal - from one of the most shameful pieces of our history: ...project leaders...expect the idea to stir up some resistance and discomfort... -- Michael Murphy/MASS Design Group \[images\]- Fast Company / Co.Exist](#)

[Q&A: The Ecology of Maya Lin: A Memorial for the Planet: ...celebrity isn't unambiguous: public visibility means that Lin is continually outing herself - as a woman, as a Chinese American, as an outsider...she talks about her lifelong focus on the environment, the necessity and limitations of research, and the creative urge that drives her ever forward. By F. Philip Barash \[images\]- ArtSlant](#)

[Study shows disaster plans often neglect historic preservation: ...risking a loss of heritage and critical engines of the local economy in the event of catastrophe...\[Researchers'\] survey of state hazard mitigation plans found just 40% included a representative from historic preservation on the core planning team while 60% did not.- Phys.org](#)

[AIA: Public-private partnerships could solve nation's public infrastructure crisis: A new white paper addresses the nation's \\$3 trillion public infrastructure crisis and how public private partnerships offer a possible solution.: "Building-Up: How States Utilize Public-Private Partnerships for Social & Vertical Infrastructure"... - Building Design + Construction \(BD+C\)](#)

[Diversity promotes bottom line as differences can generate business solutions: The Male Champions of Change club knows that diversity is not just about fairness; it's good for business, too: ...a powerful tool in the never-ending search for success...it is not easy or comfortable, but then neither is being eclipsed by your faster, smarter, more diverse competition.- Australian Financial Review](#)

[West Smithfield International Design Competition shortlist announced by Museum of London -- BIG -- Bjarke Ingels Group/Hawkins\Brown; Caruso St John Architects; Diener & Diener Architekten/Sergison Bates Architects; Lacaton & Vassal Architectes/Pernilla Ohrstedt Studio; Stanton Williams/Asif Khan; studio Milou architecture/RL&Associés/Axis Architects- Malcolm Reading Consultants](#)

[Phyllis Lambert wins Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize: Canadian Centre for Architecture founder has won the American Academy of Arts and Letters' prize, which recognizes an architect...who has made a significant contribution to architecture as an art...The Academy also recognized...Eric Bunge and Mimi Hoang, co-founders of nARCHITECTS, with one of four Arts and Letters Awards in Architecture. By Elsa Lam - Canadian Architect](#)

[Australia's Glenn Murcutt takes over as new Jury Chair for Pritzker Prize: ...now holds one of the most important judiciary positions in the world of architecture...the only Australian to have won a Pritzker...will see him take over from Englishman Lord Peter Palumbo- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[ANN feature: Zaha. A special issue: I didn't know Zaha Hadid. We met once - in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, of all places. My encounter with her left an indelible impression. By Kristen Richards - ArchNewsNow.com](#)

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