

Today's News - Thursday, April 14, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow will be a no-newsletter day (heading out early to the AIA Design Awards Luncheon!). We'll be back Monday, April 18.

- Baillieu sees all sides of Zaha: she was "difficult, even when you were on her side: Step into one of her best buildings, and you feel anything is possible."
- Stratigakos parses architecture's "woman problem - Zaha Hadid knew it well."
- Canadians discover their first woman architect wasn't who they thought it was.
- Moore's farewell message to London's mayor: "Goodbye Boris. You have not left your city more beautiful than you found it. You have been more like Nero, fiddling with vanity projects while it burns with clumsy overdevelopment."
- Wainwright isn't any kinder, homing in on the mega Bishopsgate Goodyard development, opposed by practically everyone - its fate now depends on Boris Johnson's "one-man imperial court."
- Saffron has high hopes for a new arts center in a tough Philly neighborhood: "Though the new Taller can't cure all that ails Fairhill, it should make the Badlands a lot less bad."
- Stephens cheers Pugh's facelift for a Long Beach street: "Though upgrades are strictly cosmetic and largely two-dimensional, residents now have something arguably more important: an inviting place to get a pet, a pedicure, or a pair of Levi's."
- There's new evidence gleaned from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Youngstown, Ohio, that "gives cities reasons to reassess policies about cleaning and greening vacant lots, developing parks, or catching stormwater in green installations."
- Heatherwick's Pier55 on the Hudson River gets the go-ahead from the New York State Supreme Court.
- Aravena puts his social housing designs online - you can download for free.
- Belogolovsky has a fascinating (and rather odd) Q&A with Eisenman, who "pulls no punches" re: just about everything and everyone: "Since I was never interested in people before, being interested in people now is a different condition of the work."
- Bernstein tells the tale of how the AIA got the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to revise important (and untenable) conditions in its bus terminal competition.
- Call for entries: NYC Port Authority Bus Terminal International Design + Deliverability Competition (revisions in "Addenda").
- Weekend diversions:
 - Menking delivers the not-so-diverting news that MoMA is closing down its architecture and design galleries - with no guarantee they will return after DS+R's makeover.
 - On a brighter note, the Van Alen Institute launches an online auction of art and design "experiences" (tool around Madrid with Moneo, bike around Brit Brutalism with Sam Jacob - and more!).
 - "Snøhetta: People, Process, Projects," designed by the firm, makes its U.S. debut this weekend at the Center for Architecture in Portland, Oregon.
 - Wallis hails "Superstudio: 50 Years of Superarchitettura" at Rome's Hadid-designed MAXI museum: "Its hallucinogenic visions are still making waves. We still don't really know what it all means, but that doesn't make us love it any less."

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Amanda Baillieu: Zaha was always a difficult person to deal with: Zaha Hadid...deserves to be recognised as one of architecture's greats. But she was also difficult, even when you were on her side: Step into one of her best buildings, and you feel anything is possible. - Dezeen

Architecture Has a Woman Problem. Zaha Hadid Knew It Well: ...an excerpt from "Where Are the Women Architects?"...that examines the sexism that surfaced (and continues today) after Hadid became the first woman to be awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2004. By Despina Stratigakos - Slate

Canada's first woman architect identified: Robert Hill, editor of the "Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950," has uncovered evidence of a Canadian woman graduating from architecture school in 1914, making Miss Alice Charlotte Malhot (1889-1968) Canada's first woman architect. - Canadian Architect

Boris Johnson's dire legacy for London: ...pity his successor, faced with ill-planned developments and vanity projects: ...he promised not to create "Dubai-on-Thames"...Oh no, of course not...it is hopelessly naive to believe that [he] believes something when he says it...Goodbye Boris. You have not left your city...more beautiful than you found it. You have been more like Nero, fiddling with vanity projects while it burns with clumsy overdevelopment. By Rowan Moore - Observer (UK)

Are Shoreditch skyscrapers a London tower too far, even for Boris Johnson? The mega Bishopsgate Goodyard development is opposed by two councils and the mayor's own advisers - its fate now depends on his one-man imperial court. By Oliver Wainwright -- Foster + Partners; Gensler; Stock Woolstencroft [images] - Guardian (UK)

Can high-toned arts center calm Philly's most violent neighborhood? ...simple, one-story building has become a symbol of the growing visibility and clout of the city's Hispanic population...Though the new Taller can't cure all that ails Fairhill, it should make the Badlands a lot less bad. By Inga Saffron -- Antonio Fiol-Silva/WRT [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

New Faces in Long Beach: ...what can high design do for a pet store, a nail salon, or a store called simply "American Clothing"? Plenty...Though upgrades are strictly cosmetic and largely two-dimensional...residents now have something arguably more important: an inviting place to get a pet, a pedicure, or a pair of Levi's. By Josh Stephens -- Gywnne Pugh Urban Studio [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Another Reason to Love Urban Green Space: It Fights Crime: A new body of evidence suggests that adding greenery in vacant or gray settings reduces criminal activity nearby: ...gives cities reasons to reassess policies about cleaning and greening vacant lots, developing parks, or catching stormwater in green installations. - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

NY State Supreme Court green lights Lower West Side Pier55: ...planned \$130 million, 2.7 acre island of public space off of the lower west side of Manhattan...The City Club of New York believes the project will hurt wildlife and is against public interest...Construction is expected to start this spring... -- Heatherwick Studio; Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Download Alejandro Aravena's Social Housing Designs for Free: The files may not win you a Pritzker, but it's a start: "It's a mistake to think if a problem is big, the solution is big...[the designs] are public knowledge, an open source that we hope will be able to rule out one more excuse for why markets and governments don't move in this direction..." - Architectural Record

Interview with Peter Eisenman: "I am not convinced that I have a style": As one of the most revered and often reviled architects of the latter part of the 20th century...pulling no punches when discussing the work of others, including Rem Koolhaas, Richard Meier, and even his younger self..."It has nothing to do with the people. Since I was never interested in people before, being interested in people now is a different condition of the work." By Vladimir Belogolovsky/"Conversations with Peter Eisenman." - ArchDaily

After Pressure from AIA, Port Authority Revises Bus Terminal Competition Rules: ...a targeted effort...resulted in a number of

changes that make the competition, if not ideal, significantly better...consistent with the AIA's 2011 Handbook of Architectural Design Competitions. By Fred A. Bernstein [Call for entries below]- Architectural Record

Call for entries: NYC Port Authority Bus Terminal International Design + Deliverability Competition; Phase 1 deadline: April 28- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

MoMA to Abolish Architecture and Design Galleries: The museum claims that this is a temporary result of the current Diller Scofidio + Renfro renovation and expansion...lets hope that the DS+R scheme, which has not been made public, will include galleries devoted to architecture and design. By William Menking- The Architect's Newspaper

Van Alen Institute Commences Online Auction of Art + Design Experiences: ...third annual auction of "design experiences"...opportunities to meet leaders with in the creative field. The experiences being auctioned off range dinners with the Libeskinds and Richard Rogers...Brit Brutalism by Bike with Sam Jacob...A Jaunt Around Madrid with Rafael Moneo...- The Architect's Newspaper

"Snøhetta: People, Process, Projects": Center for Architecture in Portland, Oregon, will open the first full-scale exhibition of [the firm's] work in the US. Designed, built, and curated by the designers themselves...to kick off Design Week Portland. [images]- Center for Architecture (Portland, Oregon)

A '60s Architecture Collective Who Made History (but No Buildings): Italy's legendary radical design group Superstudio never actually finished a building, and yet its hallucinogenic visions are still making waves: ...[its] place in postwar design history borders on the mythic...Maxxi museum in Rome is presenting "Superstudio: 50 Years of Superarchitettura"...We still don't really know what it all means, but that doesn't make us love it any less. By Stephen Wallis [images]- New York Times

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



Venice Biennale Curator Series: Britain: Q&A with Shumi Bose, Jack Self and Finn Williams about this year's British Pavilion..."Home Economics," a reflection on the home as the contemporary frontline of British architecture. By Robert Martin

CO-AP: Camperdown Childcare Center, Sydney, Australia: ...located down an unassuming back stree...within a former warehouse, the center exemplifies the delight that can be found from adapting older structures for new programs and purposes. [images]- ArcSpace

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