

Today's News - Wednesday, June 15, 2016

- ArcSpace brings us Dibbs' take on Snøhetta's SFMOMA expansion: it "offers a quirky and iconic addition to the skyline," and "navigates a complicated relationship with the Botta building with reverence, but more importantly, with a confident deftness."
- Bliss offers a thoughtful take on "the threat to public life" in a post-Orlando world: "It isn't hard to imagine certain third spaces becoming rigid, more enclosed, and surveilled - not really public, accessible, or fluid anymore."
- Jolliffe is not at all jolly about Trump's wall: "Architecture has always been a powerful political tool," and he's "using this powerful tool to reinforce the island mentality" - the U.K. "should be very worried about that," whether he wins or not.
- Bloomberg Philanthropies' What Works Cities initiative adds 12 more cities, and releases an online toolkit available to everyone.
- Wainwright considers what Irish architect Hassett discovered in the Calais refugee camp: she "was greeted with a post-apocalyptic scene. Yet, despite the misery, she was struck by what she saw - a prototype city in the making."
- Bevan found the Venice Biennale to be in "the front-line fight for architecture's soul. But whether architecture can always provide solutions to social questions is another matter; architectural promises can sometimes be as unreliable as those of politicians."
- Searle finds "brain-fizzing art" and "piles of goo get the airing they deserve" in H&deMs Tate Modern Switch House - "the building is as much a player as the art."
- The Guardian's editorial board weighs in on Switch House: a "bold, beautiful and a bountiful public resource - a palatial public space designed for our wonderment, our enjoyment, and our intellectual stimulation."
- On-again-off-again: the Smithsonian "has pulled out of opening a standalone museum at London's Olympic Park and is now set to share space with V&A East."
- Brisbane's mega-entertainment precinct project to be built over and around Roma Street Station is compared to Madison Square Garden, built on top of Penn Station (let's hope that's the only similarity!).
- Eye-fuls of LAVA's massive Zhejiang Gate Towers development in Hangzhou, China, which is aiming for LEED Gold.
- With changes to the building code, Canada begins to embrace wood-framed buildings: "it won't take long before we'll see double the current six-story limit."
- Allies & Morrison offers a more affordable alternative to the Garden Bridge - use an existing bridge: "Our proposal takes all the good bits of the Garden Bridge without the contentious bits."
- Melbourne considers a radical plan for "'sky bike' super highways" (\$100 million price tag raises eyebrows).
- Jimmy Buffett's latest Margaritaville resort is a \$750 million, 320-acre leisure scheme in Orlando by NBWW (let's hope they can keep alligators out of the 3-acre lagoon).
- A look at what went into creating MRY's ShanghaiTech that "pays homage to the region's traditional water towns" and created "highly walkable environments."
- Winners of the Australian Institute of Architects International Chapter Architecture Awards.
- Call for entries: 2016 ARCHITECT Studio Prize (deadline extended!) + Tomorrow's Workplace Design Competition + Kaza Design Competition for decorative concrete wall tiles (U.S. residents).

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[Snøhetta: SFMOMA Expansion: Media attention may be polarised, but there is no doubt that the...expansion offers a quirky and iconic addition to the San Francisco skyline...The ambitious, iconic expansion navigates a complicated relationship with the 1995 Mario Botta building with reverence, but more importantly, with a confident deftness. By Jason Dibbs -- EHDD \[images\]](#)

[The Horror of Orlando and the Threat to Public Life: In the absence of meaningful gun reform, it isn't hard to imagine public spaces becoming more rigid, enclosed, and surveilled. That's a problem: Securization exploits fear, promotes yet more anxiety, and erodes our right to access public spaces...It isn't hard to imagine certain third spaces becoming rigid, more enclosed, and surveilled - in other words, not really public, accessible, or fluid anymore. By Laura Bliss - CityLab \(formerly The Atlantic Cities\)](#)

[What Trump's wall says about American politics: Architecture has always been a powerful political tool...Trump is using this powerful tool to reinforce the island mentality of far right politics...As one of America's greatest allies we should be very worried about that - whether Trump wins or not. By Eleanor Jolliffe - BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[12 More Cities Get an Open Data Boost From Bloomberg Philanthropies' What Works Cities initiative: ...aims to help U.S. midsize cities better utilize data to drive decision-making and improve transparency...everyone can get some open data help now with the new What Works Cities Resource Toolkit, also just released. The online guide...is a roadmap to open data best practices. - Next City \(formerly Next American City\)](#)

[We built this city: how the refugees of Calais became the camp's architects: A nightclub, restaurant strip and thatched roofs - in the haphazard squalor of the Calais refugee camp, residents have found a way to make tents feel like home: Gráinne Hassett...was greeted with a post-apocalyptic scene...Yet, despite the misery, she was struck by what she saw - a prototype city in the making. By Oliver Wainwright -- Robert Mull \[images\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Venice Biennale: the front-line fight for architecture's soul: ...exhibitions grapple with social issues, from refugees to austerity - and the British Pavilion tackles hard home truths: ...reminds us that the first duty of architecture is to offer physical protection. But whether architecture can always provide solutions to social questions is another matter; architectural promises can sometimes be as unreliable as those of politicians. By Robert Bevan \[images\]- Evening Standard \(UK\)](#)

[Tate Modern's Switch House - brain-fizzing art to power a pyramid: Supersized sculpture, live performance and piles of goo get the airing they deserve in an expansion full of surprise - the 360-degree lookout is art itself...the building is as much a player as the art. By Adrian Searle -- Herzog & de Meuron \[images\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Editorial: Tate Modern's Switch House: bold, beautiful and a bountiful public resource: ...the growth from mighty to gargantuan feels justified...in a nation whose public realm is diminishing...this museum asserts the possibility of something better. It makes public the claim that we can all meet equally - without paying for the privilege - in a palatial public space designed for our wonderment, our enjoyment, and our intellectual stimulation.- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Smithsonian backtracks on UK outpost: ...has pulled out of opening a standalone museum at London's Olympic Park and is now set to share space with V&A East...leaves a vacancy which the London Legacy Development Corporation \(LLDC\) said it wants to fill with a cultural tenant.-- O'Donnell & Tuomey- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Noel Robinson's mega Brisbane entertainment precinct compared to Madison Square Garden: ...'Brisbane Live' to be built](#)

over and around Roma Street Station are drawing comparisons to MSG in New York City and LA Live in Los Angeles...a new entertainment facility...along with a suite of new commercial, cultural, hotel and residential buildings. -- NRA Collaborative (formerly Noel Robinson Architects) [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Twin sustainable skyscrapers under construction in Hangzhou, China: ...design of the Zhejiang Gate Towers project reflects Chinese characters...facades will sport aluminum shading fins that shimmer in the sunlight...aiming for LEED Gold...part of a larger masterplan comprising a total of five buildings... -- LAVA/Laboratory for Visionary Architecture [images]- Grist Magazine

Wood-framed structures on the rise: Changes to the Ontario Building Code allowing for taller wood-framed structures are upping the construction landscape: The trend toward wood was kicked off in British Columbia and Quebec...it won't take long before we'll see double the current six-storey limit. + Timber! A guide to woodstuffs. -- Quadrangle Architects; RAW Design; Michael Green Architecture [images]- Toronto Star

Allies & Morrison proposes cut-price Garden Bridge: ...suggests reconfiguring Blackfriars Bridge so that traffic takes up just half the width, leaving 3,700sq m for flower beds, trees and footpaths..."Our proposal takes all the good bits of the Garden Bridge without the contentious bits." [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Wheels in motion for 'sky bike' highways in Melbourne's CBD: A radical plan for a \$100 million...plan to extend a network dedicated to bike corridors, including "grade separated" raised sections...released a plan for a 1.7 kilometre raised "veloway" that would run about 10 metres above the ground...a sign that bikes were moving into the mainstream of planning for economic development. -- Donald Bates/LAB Architecture Studio; Pacific Strategies [images]- The Age (Australia)

Freshwater lagoon, wellness centre and waterpark to feature at Jimmy Buffett's latest Margaritaville resort: ...ambitious plans for the US\$750m (€664m, £526m) leisure scheme...320-acre property, called Margaritaville Resort Orlando... -- The McBride Group; Nichols Brosch Wurst Wolf & Associates (NBWW); Site Concepts International (SCI) [images]- CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

The Development of ShanghaiTech: ...in 1992, the vision was to develop China's own "Silicon Valley," but it has long been missing an essential element: advanced academic institutions...campus is intended to fill that void, while the design pays homage to the region's traditional water towns...result in highly walkable environments. -- Moore Ruble Yudell Architects [images]- Urban Land Magazine (Urban Land Institute/ULI)

Australian Institute of Architects International Chapter Architecture Awards: Australian architects working on projects abroad...now vie for the Jørn Utzon Award for International Architecture... -- Denton Corker Marshall; studioMilou Singapore/CPG Consultants; Terroir/Kim Utzon Architecture; Tonkin Zulaikha Greer/Paul Rolfe Architects; Troppo Architects; Kerry Hill Architects; JPW [images]- Australian Design Review

Call for entries (deadline extended!): 2016 ARCHITECT Studio Prize recognizes thoughtful, innovative, and ethical studio courses at accredited architecture schools; cash prizes; deadline: June 24- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: Tomorrow's Workplace Design Competition: imagine what our work lives will be in the next 5 years; cash prizes; deadline: October 8- Metropolis Magazine / Staples Business Advantage

Call for entries: Walker Zanger Kaza Design Competition (open to U.S. residents): Design a range of decorative concrete wall tiles; cash prize + royalties; deadline: September 30- Walker Zanger / Architectural Digest

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