

Today's News - Wednesday, November 2, 2016

- Betsky bemoans the lack of national interest in U.S. architectural awards, as opposed to the U.K.'s RIBA Stirling Prize - a true national event; "other than architects, who ever hears about the U.S. prizes?"
- AIA's Scott Frank takes issue with Betsky's "lazy accounting": first, lots of Americans are aware, and second, "complaining about something without offering a solution is just whining."
- Uncommon's Evans sees great opportunities for architects to "be Britain's greatest ambassadors following Brexit. Architecture has a lot to say. It's time to demand attention."
- Dickinson explains "what we're losing in the robot-age of architecture," and why BIM "is the elephant in the room."
- Brandes Gratz explains "how to prevent the mauling and malling of New York," and cheers New Yorkers for a Human Scale City (other cities should follow suit!).
- Wainwright visits Poundbury, and instead of finding "a feudal Disneyland," it seems to be "getting a lot of things right" with "a plan that far exceeds the sophistication achieved by any modern house builder."
- Bevan cheers the makeover of London's Brutalist Salters' Hall, but is concerned about plans for the surroundings of this "stubby concrete keep" (those elevated walkways have got to go!).
- H&deM beats a number of other notable names in the competition to design Berlin's Museum of the 20th Century.
- EyeFuls of Gottesman-Szmelcman Architecture's "amorphic, blob-like" OVO Wroclaw mixed-use complex in Poland that "establishes a new vision of urban living."
- Brake takes a break in DLANDstudio's "tiny new" Sponge Park designed to absorb and filter storm water from "Brooklyn's most toxic waterway."
- Moore takes a (marvelous!) deep dive into Soleri's Arcosanti, then and now, and "how one architect's utopian town inspired others to pursue change."
- EyeFuls of Australia's 2016 AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards.
- EyeFuls of the winning design in Van Alen's "festive Flatiron holiday installation contest" - and the runners-up, too.
- Winners of the "Plan B: City Above the City" Competition hail from around the globe.

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Aaron Betsky: Elevating the Discourse: Architectural Awards in the U.K. and U.S.: The United Kingdom's RIBA Stirling Prize is a national event. Betsky asks how the U.S. can achieve the same level of national interest in architecture: There are plenty of award programs in the U.S...Other than architects, who ever hears about these prizes? - Architect Magazine

The AIA Responds to Aaron Betsky's "Elevating the Discourse": He called for more coverage of design awards in the national press. The AIA's Scott Frank estimates that nearly 500 million people have learned about AIA award-winners through the media. - Architect Magazine

Martyn Evans/Uncommon: Architects can be Britain's greatest ambassadors following Brexit: ...a collective voice is powerful - particularly from a sector that often misses out on the credit for its contribution to our nation's economic success and the 'soft power' it adds to our international reputation...Architecture has a lot to say...It's time to demand attention. We don't have a choice. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Duo Dickinson: The BIM Moment: What We're Losing in the Robot-Age of Architecture: For most architects today, Building Information Modeling is the elephant in the room...there is a professional undercurrent that BIM's impact on the creativity and value of the built product has been hurt by the latest round of technological tools...The unknowable rub is aesthetics...Architects will be further pushed into...worlds of hands-off design, further detached from culture, construction and context. - Common Edge

Roberta Brandes Gratz: How to Prevent the Mauling and Malling of New York: You, New Yorkers for a Human Scale City, are the newest and most encouraging activist voice...Politicians and planners will resist...NIMBYISM is only in the mind of the challenged leaders and their developer partners...you can develop a set of alternatives to current city policies. What would a reasonable set of alternatives look like? - Common Edge

Oliver Wainwright: A royal revolution: is Prince Charles's model village having the last laugh? Poundbury, the Prince of Wales's traditionalist village in Dorset, has long been mocked as a feudal Disneyland. But a growing and diverse community suggests it's getting a lot of things right: ...strip away the fancy dress and you find a plan that far exceeds the sophistication achieved by any modern housebuilder. -- Ben Pentreath; Quinlan Terry; Francis Terry; Léon Krier; George Saumarez Smith/ADAM Architecture [images]- Guardian (UK)

Robert Bevan: The remodelling of Brutalist Salters' Hall is a triumph: ...but questions still remain over plans for the surroundings: ...the stubby concrete keep is entangled with London's Roman wall, the ruins of the ancient church of St Alphege and the Sixties "pedway" system of elevated walkways...There are always judgments to be made in a city about which layers to keep and which to discard, but the raised walkways remain a layer too far. -- DMFK Architects; Basil Spence; John Bonnington; David Hicks; Spacehub; Make Architects [images]- Evening Standard (UK)

Herzog & de Meuron beats Chipperfield and Zaha Hadid Architects to win Berlin's £180 million modern art museum: ...proposed Museum of the 20th Century will occupy a prominent plot next Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Neue Nationalgalerie and Hans Scharoun's Berliner Philharmonie. -- Lundgaard & Tranberg Arkitekter; Bruno Fioretti Marquez Architekten; SANAA; OMA; Staab Architekten; Lisbon's Aires Mateus e Associados [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Gottesman-Szmelcman Architecture completes amorphic OVO Wroclaw mixed-use complex in Poland: Described as 'blob-like'...required alternative building techniques...clad the building in corian panels...establishes a new vision of urban living... [images]- designboom

Alan G. Brake: Sponge-Worthy Design for the Gowanus Canal: DLANDstudio completes a landscape project [Sponge Park] that absorbs stormwater from Brooklyn's most toxic waterway: A tiny new park...has a big job: absorbing and filtering a million gallons of stormwater...emanating from one of the most putrid waterways in the U.S. -- Susannah Drake [images]- Architectural Record

Shannon Moore: Catalyst: How One Architect's Utopian Town Inspired Others to Pursue Change: Although Arcosanti failed to establish a widespread movement, hundreds (and perhaps thousands) of individuals have been genuinely impacted by his work...The future of Arcosanti remains unclear, but its impact is evident. -- Paolo Soleri; Jeff Stein; Will Bruder; Richard Register; Tomiaki Tamura; Roger Tomalty; etc. [images]- Catalyst

AILA 2016 National Landscape Architecture Awards: ...40 projects were recognized in 11 new categories...to better reflect the work that Australian landscape architects are engaged with. -- Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture; Conrad Gargett; Hansen Partnership; Spackman Mossop Michaels; ASPECT Studios; Outlines

Landscape Architecture; Tract Consultants/Wood Marsh Architecture; McGregor Coxall; City of Melbourne; Hassell/Sinatra Murphy; Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture; etc. [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Van Alen Institute reveals winner of festive Flatiron holiday installation contest: New York- and Greece-based LOT...winning installation, "Flatiron Sky-Line" is a series of 10 arches...outfitted with LED lights [and hammocks]. -- Archtensions; Büro Koray Duman Architects; FreelandBuck; Young & Ayata [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Young Architects Worldwide Create Solutions for Urbanisation in the "Plan B: City Above the City" Competition: Winning designs were made to New York, Shanghai and Tampere, Finland. -- Nile Greenberg (USA); Alma Studio (Spain); Lisa Voigtländer (Germany); SungBok Song (Korea); etc. [images]- Metsä Wood



jaja architects: Park'n'Play, Copenhagen, Denmark: Parking House Lüders...challenges the conventional monofunctional parking house. With its characteristic recreational urban space on the roof it strives to be an exciting asset to the new neighborhood. [images]

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