Tribute to an architect and educator. -- China hopes to devise a “green GDP” - but are leaders getting cold feet? -- Green roofs having a tough time taking root in New York City. -- Survey shows “green” is good, but perceptions of higher costs still an obstacle. -- Parking garages as the new civic architecture. -- Mockbee’s Rural Studio is growing up; Sambo’s daughter takes on completing his Sub Rosa Pantheon. -- A glow-in-the-dark entertainment coliseum planned for Glasgow. -- Q&A’s with kings of prefab and a “green” architect inspired by his Native American roots. -- Exhibition review: Calatrava disappoints, and “Safe” has the “spirit of its time and place.” -- One we couldn’t resist: forget protesting a McMansion next door - this time it’s a McTreehouse (only in L.A.).

In Memoriam: Jerzy Soltan, 92, architect and Robinson, Jr., professor of architecture and urban design, emeritus, at Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)- The Harvard Crimson

The greening of China: investigating whether its rigid system for assessing the performance of party leaders and civil servants can be used to tackle pollution...trying to devise a way of calculating a “green GDP”. - The Economist (UK)

Cool(er) Roofs: a movement is growing to replace New York City’s iconic rooftops with something cooler, literally. “white roof”...green roofs remain a challenge in New York. -- Diana Balmori - Gotham Gazette

Turner Green Building Survey Reveals That More Than 70% of Executives Believe That Green Buildings Enhance Student Performance and Ability to Retain Teachers: Lack of Awareness and Misperception of Higher Construction Costs Still Primary Obstacles to Building Green - Business Wire

Making a Parking Garage Look Nicer Than a Parking Garage: So many cities, universities, hospitals, airports, train stations, corporate parks and housing developments are building upscale parking decks, that they now represent a mainstream movement in civic design. -- Tevebaugh Associates; Tim Haahs & Associates - New York Times

Building a better tomorrow: Four years after the premature death of its charismatic founder, Samuel “Sambo” Mockbee, the Rural Studio has grown and grown up. -- Andrew Freear - Birmingham News (Alabama)

Daughter carries on father’s work with Sub Rosa Pantheon: It was an unfinished puzzle that Sambo Mockbee left: the pieces scattered, the image only hinted at, the meaning unclear...a mystery his daughter Carol Mockbee felt compelled to solve.- Birmingham News (Alabama)

Scotland’s answer to Rome’s Colosseum: ...spectacular £62 million national arena...will be clad in translucent material that allows it to glow in the dark...design is solely dedicated to huge entertainment events. -- Spencer de Grey-Foster & Partners [image] - The Scotsman (UK)

Interview with the Marmol Radziner + Associates Prefab team [images, links] - fabp prefab

The Natural History of Architecture: Q&A with Johnpaul Jones: “I draw upon the Indian realm to help make something good for our environment.” - Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Architects - Tidepool (Oregon)

Pale blueprint: Met misses point on Calatrava: This is a show for those who see genius in the sketch and compromise in the execution. By Justin Davidson - NY Newsday

Foiling fear: In design, as in other areas, terror is a great motivator: Anywhere else, a collection of objects like this would seem a touch arbitrary. Here, it has the spirit of its time and place...“SAFE: Design Takes On Risk” at MoMA - The Economist (UK)

Not in My Neighbor’s Backyard: ...a dispute not over a 12,000-square-foot neo-Tudor monster or a towering modernist cube, but over a backyard treehouse for an 18-month-old girl. -- Roderick Wolgamott Romero [images] - Los Angeles Times


-- Exhibition: Aerospace Design, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York City
-- Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Casa da Musica, Porto, Portugal