To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Gloriously, madly English: Festival Hall has had a £111m revamp — but can you spot the difference? ...the character of the gracious, determinedly noniconic RFH has been improved no end. By Hugh Pearman -- Robert Matthew/Leslie Martin/Peter Moro (1951); Allies and Morrison- The Times (UK)

Pomp and circumstance: After two years and £111m, the Royal Festival Hall has been radically yet subtly restored to the sleek, light-filled building it was always meant to be, By Jonathan Glancey -- Leslie Martin/Peter Moro (1951); Allies and Morrison [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

What's wrong with this picture? Everything about Pier 27 is great, except for one thing...The trouble is that it will occupy land that should be dedicated to a public purpose... By Christopher Hume -- Peter Clewes/architectsAlliance [image]- Toronto Star

Dull, dull, dull: South San Francisco’s new Solaire transit village is a nothing in several shades of beige...an architectural purgatory and a cautionary tale...this showcase of so-called smart growth comes packaged in the most generic structures imaginable... By John King -- Van Meter Williams Pollack; Kwan Henkt [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Adaptive Reuse Revisited: For Wade Killefer, Who Designed Numerous Downtown Housing Projects, Development Now Depends on Parking -- Killefer Flamang Architects- LA Downtown News

New York architects take case for saving Breuer tower to Cleveland planners: "We feel duty-bound by conscience to share what we know" By Seven Litt -- Robert P. Madison International/Kohn Pedersen Fox; Davis Brody Bond/Webber Murphy Fox - Cleveland Plain Dealer

There’s Nothing Sacred About the Building Height Limit: With rigorous analysis and fine-grain, targeted planning, not broad-brush rezoning, the city could identify sites well suited for more intense use, increased density and higher structures. By Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Dumbing down Dickens, Disney-style: London’s literary classes say humbug over park that repackages author’s bleak Victorian era...Dickens World, a $133 million controversial new fantasy destination in Chatham, England... - Toronto Star

Billy Graham, tourist attraction: The evangelist’s life is honored in a hometown museum. But the $27-million museum also boasts a splash of Disney, and that’s troubled some of Graham’s admirers. -- ITEC Entertainment Co. - Los Angeles Times

Op-Ed: Danger: Playground Ahead: Hope may be on the horizon. We seem to be witnessing, if not a tipping point, then a seesaw tilt in playground design. By Allison Argoff -- Rockwell Group; C. Th. Sonenshen; Jennifer Siegal/Office of Mobile Design; Daniel Kerber/Alexa Kreissl; Carsten Höller [slide show]- New York Times

Reinventing the Wheel: The London Eye is an engineering marvel with tourist appeal...The process of making it was every bit as compelling as the ride on the finished product. By Hugh Pearman -- Marks Barfield - Wall Street Journal

Fantasy Island: Five teams compete to make Governors Island an urban paradise. Only one will survive. -- Field Operations/Weinmann/Eye Architects; Harroreaves Associates/Michael Maltzan Architecture; Ramin Esmailzadeh Architects (REX)/Michel Desvigne Paysagistes (MDP); West 8/Rogers Marvel Architects/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; WRT LLC/Weiss/Manfredi/Urban Strategies [images] - New York Magazine

Three firms compete to design tourism project: ...a multi million dollar "mixed use" tourism property development in Nausori outside Suva...The Haven -- Hames Sharley/Yellow; Studio Pali Fekete architects (SPF:a); Lab Architecture Studio (LAB)- FijiLive

International Design Forum (IDF) Design Labs proposes Creative School and Arab Association of Designers (AAD)- Gowealthy.com (Dubai)
June 4: Symposium at and about the InterActiveCorp headquarters (IAC), New York City, with Frank Gehry, Paul Goldberger, Mark Scolgin- Harvard Design Magazine

Life in the Sprawling Suburbs, if You Can Really Call It Living: Blending documentary elements and some dramatic material, "Radiant City" is an acerbic position paper on the cultural damage done by postwar architectural fads. -- James Howard Kunstler- New York Times

Lessons in Clean Living: The first permanent museum dedicated to the Bauhaus movement opens on the site in Germany where it was born. "Bauhaus Dessau: Workshop of Modernism"-- Newsweek

Book Review: New reflections on West Coast architecture: An art historian's dream and a tribute to the craft of art books. "West Coast Residential: The Modern and the Contemporary" provides welcome perspectives on how we live and build. By Trevor Boddy -- William Wurster; Stanley Saitowitz; B.C. Binning; Battersby and Howat- Globe and Mail (Canada)

The world's best paper planes: Slip the surly bonds of earth with a folded sheet of A4. Jonathan Glancey, who spent his childhood manufacturing squadrons of paper aviation, offers some tips; and Top tips from the experts- Guardian (UK)