EDITORS NOTE: We're off to Boston for the AIA convention in Boston...we'll be back Monday, May 19 (here's lots of news to keep you busy).

– Case Study house tours redefined: Giovannini turns his new loft project into experimental exhibition spaces.
– Architecture and fire don’t mix: Delft architecture school (and priceless collections) lost; and Liverpool’s oldest building afire only two months after it’s transformation into the Bluecoat Arts Centre (fire, earthquakes, typhoons, tornados - is the universe trying to tell us something?).
– Perth nutter architects hit back at criticism: development doesn’t mean wrecking the landscape.
– Southhampton is first outside London to launch a City Vision Centre to let the public help shape the city’s future.
– With plans to create a “zone of influence” around the $1 billion embassy, perhaps they should do the same for Baghdad’s Green Zone (“you kind of want to know who your neighbors are”).
– One solution for population challenge: a 2-mile-high termite tower (great pix).
– Tiny Welsh village draws big names to plan its green future.
– Qorucosuffo’s take on Foster’s Parke-Benret design to preserve peace: “new version suggests an excessive desire not to offend…well mannered if complacent” (pix to prove it - and we had such high hopes).
– Haranad passes on the glitz to warm up neighbors to Piano’s museum plans. – Hawthorne offers a cautionary tale re: Koolhaas’s Guggenheim in Vegas.
– Iowa not necessarily the only buildings in line for inaugural World Architecture Festival Awards.
– Foster gets much money for massive Mumbai project.
– Big plans to get San Francisco’s old international terminal to fly again.
– Brits to design Spanish Antarctic Research Station.
– An eyeful of notable retail projects.
– Architects For Aid barred from Burma, and changes its name (they explain why, but we wonder - why????).
– Visibly ups the ante mightily for fellowship program.
– Michigan firm designs its own building that pushes the box show people “you don’t have to build a box.”

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Fire devastates Delft University of Technology architecture faculty: ...much of the 14-storey building has been completely destroyed. – Koolhaas; MVRDV; Gerrit Rietveld-BD/Building Design (UK)

Bluecoat Arts Centre chief: We will soon be back, vowed after fire threatened to destroy Liverpool’s oldest building. The blaze hit one of the undoubted success stories in Liverpool’s European Capital of Culture year. Just two months ago...reopened its doors following a £12.5m redevelopment. Big – Austin-Smith Lord; Donald Insall Associates– Liverpool Daily Post (UK)

Riverfront architects hit back: ...said Perth had very few examples of great contemporary architecture and people needed to understand that development did not necessarily wreck a landscape...would use exciting new buildings to define great public spaces. – Ashton Reagatt McDougall [image] - The West Australian

Southampton launches City Vision model for urban planning: ...the first city outside London to launch a City Vision Centre...will be used as a design and planning tool, allowing the public to see development proposals and help shape the future of the city. - - Solent Centre for Architecture + Design; Matt SwantonRe-Format – 24dash.com (UK)

US-backed plan sees shiny future for embattled Green Zone: try to imagine luxury hotels, a shopping center and even condos in the heart of Baghdad...part of a five-year development "dream list" — or what some dub an improbable fantasy. $5 billion plan has the backing of the Pentagon.; – Yahoo News

Two-mile high termite nest proposed to counter the population challenge: Eugene Tsui is taking nature as the inspiration for his 2-mile high, one-mile wide Ultima Tower, capable of housing up to a million people...conceived less as an architecture project but as a series of mini-ecosystems within which other architectural projects can be developed. -- tsui design and research [images] - Gizmag (Australia)

Village project attracts the top names in architecture: ...have submitted plans to turn a centuries-old village...into an example of ultimate 21st-century living...hope the site will become a showcase for sustainable rural community building across Wales. – Terence Conran; Sarah Featherstone; Powell Dobson- icWales

Redesigning a Building to Preserve Peace in the Neighborhood: Should the plan for the Parke-Benret Gallery building be approved, it would only underscore the bizarre thinking behind decisions governing historic landmark cases today...new design is more polite and less original...By Nicolai Ouroussoff – Foster + Partners [images] - New York Times

Harvard hints at museum plans in artful manner: No glitzy press conferences or snazzy videos...an exhibition that opens at the Fogg on Sunday, "Rezno Piano’s Art Museum for Harvard"...will offer a peek at the architect's sketches for the new museum complex...a deliberate approach in unveiling the project's design in the wake of negative responses to previous plans. - Boston Globe

Rem Koolhaas saw what Vegas didn’t have, not what it needed: Guggenheim
Hermitage Museum closes at the Venetian Hotel, evidence that the city’s visitors seek
glitz and gambling, not art and culture... Is it a cautionary tale about museum satellites or
something closer to a worthy experiment... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Office for
Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Foster; Libeskind; Jahn Vinoly- Los Angeles Times

Award for world’s best building -- and it could be a bus garage: From lavatory to bus
shelter, any building will have as much chance of winning the inaugural World
Architecture Festival (WAF) Awards -- CFA Voysey; Berthold Lubetkin; FRS Yorke;
Architects’ Copartnership; Adie Button & Partners; van Heyningen and Harward
Architects; Walter Segal; Terry Farrell; Benson + Forsyth; Piers Gough- The Times
(UK)

Foster + Partners evolve in India: ...receives £4m to design 17-acre office complex in
Mumbai... will be known as Evolution.- Building (UK)

SFO’s old international terminal to fly again: San Francisco International
Airport, closed in 2000, will hustle again with domestic passengers by the end of
2010... renovation costing an estimated $383 million is planned for Terminal 2... --
Gensler- San Francisco Chronicle

Plans for new Spanish Antarctic Research Station, Juan Carlos 1 revealed by British
design team -- Hugh Broughton Architects; Faber Maunsell- New Civil Engineer (UK)

2008 Notable Projects: Retail -- Office dA; Johnston Marklee; WORK Architecture
Company; Tighe Architecture; PATTERNS; dialogue38; Wendy Evans Joseph;
Lynch/Eisinger/Design [images]- Architype Review

Architects For Aid (A4A) barred from Burma: ...standing by with partner charities like
Save the Children ...charity is to change its name to Article 25, Development and
Disaster Relief from the beginning of next month.- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Vinoly Mentors New Generation of Designers: ...celebrating his firm’s 25th birthday in
2008 by funding emerging architects through an expanded apprentice
program... accepting applications for the fellowship program this month. The deadline is
Aug. 1.- Bloomberg News

Architect’s office open to interpretation: A statue outside depicts falling walls,
encompassing the role of the architecture company in creating new visions for
clients... “We’ve had clients come to us because of the building. I’m sure we’ve also had
people not come to us because of the building. It was designed to push the box and tell
people you don’t have to build a box.” -- Integrated Architecture [images]- MichiganLive

Architect puts a modern spin on classic forms: As a self-described historicist, he’s a
rebel in today’s world of post-postmodern architects... insists he’s not one of those
“bow-tie architects in the gentleman-architecture tradition.” -- Kirk Peterson Architects
[iimages]- San Francisco Chronicle

Call for entries: EPA Lifecycle Building Challenge 2: projects, designs, and ideas to
conservate construction and demolition materials and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
by designing buildings for adaptability and disassembly; registration deadline: June 15
(U.S.)- Lifecycle Building Challenge

Kaufmann House sells for $15 million: Not as real estate, but as a piece of
art...underperformed a bit. Christie’s New York initially believed the house would bring
upwards of $25 million. [images]- The Desert Sun (Palm Springs)

Words That Build: Clarifying Presentations to Clients through Rhythmic Emphasis: Tip
#2: Use rhythmic accents to create a persuasive story for your client. By Norman
Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

-- Renzo Piano Building Workshop: Broad Contemporary Art Museum (BCAM), Los
Angeles;
-- Allied Works Architecture: Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, Colorado

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