Russian Architects Face Western Competition: The ongoing construction boom in Russia has brought about a problem: this country does not have enough talented architects...vacuum is now gradually being filled by foreign architects and designers.-- Patrick Leibetseder/ Ni Bartoli; James McAdam; Giovanni Bartoli; Albon & Porter; Hadid; van Egeraat; Foster; Eier & Eier; Wilkinson Eyre; BIMJ; Valode & Pistre; Behnisch. Behnisch & Partner; SWECCO; Swanke Hayden Connell/SHCA; OMA; NBBJ; - Moscow News (Russia)

Experts blast BRE's "unproven gimmicks": Research and innovation dropped in favour of commercial growth, say critics...has turned its back on evidence-based research.-- BD/Building Design (UK)

Op-Ed: Where's the science bit? Since the BRE was privatised, serious research has been replaced by meaningless PR initiatives...In the absence of a credible research body, developers are encouraged to believe that green gimmickry is enough. By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

Mayor Nutter endorses PennPraxis waterfront plan: ...pledged to transform the moribund Penn's Landing Corp. into a more flexible agency [Delaware Waterfront Corp.] that would devote itself to bringing housing, parks and recreation trails to the entire length of Philadelphia's main river. - Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Battersea Power Plan -- is Rafael Viñoly a menace or a sustainable design hero? Q&A about his bold design, the 21st century mandate for sustainable architecture, the challenges of working with an architectural icon and much more. [Images]- BusinessWeek

Adding Yellow and 'Green' to the Brooklyn Children's Museum: the Rafael Viñoly-designed addition...looks like a shimmery spaceship that has just touched down...will also be New York's first LEED-certified "green" museum... [image] - New York Sun

Old city's 'sail' bridge fails to nail it as icon, say locals: A ship's sail, a crooked nail, or a giant headache - Jerusalemites can't agree on how best to describe the newest landmark...Calatrava's light rail bridge is a flamboyant departure for the ancient city.- New Zealand Herald

Robin Hood Gardens design competition: The results: The top entries in BD/Architecture Foundation’s ideas competition...show that inspired refurbishment of the estate can give it a new vibrancy while reaching the required density levels. -- Peter and Alison Smithson (1972); Zoran Radivojevic Cazenove; Bruce Newlands Kraft/Mike Hyatt Landscape Architects; Ben Addy Moxon, etc. [Images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Arrogance or elegance? The most expensive house in the world: Towering high above Mumbai and far from the teeming shanty towns, a billion-dollar home, an oasis of ultimate luxury, is being built for the world's fifth-richest man...For some, it is a bold statement...for others, it is vulgar and inappropriate in a city where more than six million people live in shanties...an "edifice to his ego" [image] - Independent (UK)

Art Center College of Design won't renew contract of president Richard Koshalek: Key elements of Koshalek's program have now been thrown into limbo, including a proposed $50-million, Frank Gehry-designed high-tech library and design studio.- Los Angeles Times

Postcards from Nowhere: Mostly what I can offer, after all this museumgoing and gallerygoing, is a series of postcards about nothing written from places that felt like nowhere...exhibition spaces...are bland, generic warehouse-style spaces—places to dump expensive stuff. If the designs of the New Museum...and the Broad...
Contemporary Art Museum are any indication, the architects...are as fixated on logos as the artists...only brands designed to contain brands. By Jed Perl -- Sejima/Nishizawa/SANAA; Renzo Piano; Taniguchi -- The New Republic

Cascades, Sing the City Energetic: New York City "Waterfalls" are the remnants of a primordial Eden, beautiful, uncanny signs of a natural nonurban past that the city never had...actually relatively unobtrusive and brilliantly insidious. -- Olafur Eliasson (slide show, video) - New York Times

Back to the Fuller future: Nothing is as old as yesterday's future, and the Whitney Museum's "retrospective" devoted to "Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe"...definitely bears the stretch marks of its 1930s origins. It's really the optimism and energy and consumed know-it-allness that Fuller embodied...that seems so obsolete...sometimes has the look and feel of an ironic installation, a send-up of Utopian fantasies - The Star-Ledger (New Jersey)

Chipperfield's Subtle Berlin Designs Charm in London Show: "The Neues Museum, Berlin Restoration, Repair and Intervention". Sir John would have approved...Soane Museum is the perfect venue for an exhibition that is really about the conservation dilemma. [images] - Bloomberg News

Relating to the landscape: "Glenn Murcutt: Thinking Drawing/Working Drawing" at Gallery Ma, Tokyo...I keep wondering, "Should I have come here 30 years ago, or is it best that I've just come now"?-- Daily Yomiuri (Japan)

Enrique Norten exhibition "inTENtions" opens July 4 -- TEN Arquitectos [images] - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey (MARCO)


Book review: Richard Meier's American odyssey: "Richard Meier & Partners, Complete works 1963-2008" edited by Philip Jodidio...despite having won every prize going, there is a curious silence among critics about the achievement of his work. This massive volume...is the answer to that silence. By Robert Maxwell - BD/Building Design (UK)

Book review: N.B. 'cradle of architecture' in Canada, says "Building New Brunswick: An Architectural History" by John Leroux...a survey of the province's building styles stretching from aboriginal birchbark techniques to modern steel-and-glass structures...finding much to admire and quite a bit to condemn - CBC (Canada)


Stonehenge comes full circle: Matthew Sturgis reviews "Stonehenge" by Rosemary Hill...fascinating and delightful book... - Telegraph (UK)

INSIGHT: Bowling Alone in Urbanistaville: Is living in suburbia the social antidote? By Richard Carson - ArchNewsNow

-- Foster + Partners: Elephant House, Copenhagen Zoo, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania