EDITOR’S NOTE: We’ll be taking Friday’s off for the rest of August...see you Monday, August 11.

• Is a German city turning into a “green dictatorship,” or is it more “like an argument between the enlightened environmentalists and the really enlightened environmentalists.”
• Are eco-town dreams going the way of the supercasinos?
• Architects look for a “solution that allows us to enjoy luxury and shrink our footprint at the same time.”
• Fintay’s pink starfish that was to be the English country home of the 21st century gives way to an Adam 35,000–square-foot “Georgian-style stone pile straight out of Pride and Prejudice” – and green to boot (yeah, right).
• An eyeful of some fanciful visions of homes of the future.
• McCloud’s own ‘grand design’ to transform the quality of British housing is in chaos.
• Baillieu says his goal is good, but perhaps he’s “biting off rather more than he could chew.”
• Plans in the works to bring back ancient Thrace capital buried in a reservoir.
• Beijing reopens historic Qianmen shopping street (but how much of it is actually authentic, we wonder − do check out the garbage can!).
• Nadel takes on security of Olympic proportions.
• Despite probing essays, a tome on Sert is “too deferential to be able to say anything relevant to today’s debates about how to correct them.”
• Of note: Dubai just bought 20% of Cirque du Soleil, but no word yet on who will design its theater on Palm Jumeirah (where else?).
Security of Olympic Proportions: Conventional Wisdom on Safety at Public Venues. Large public venues have more demanding security programs than most buildings because these iconic structures are often considered terrorist targets. With sound planning and preparation, they can also be safe havens during a disaster. By Barbara A. Nadel, FAIA - Buildings.com

The King of Central Park West: ...Robert A. M. Stern-s 15 Central Park West, an ingenious homage to the classic Candela-designed apartment buildings... Paul Goldberger examines the art, as well as the limits, of Stern-s grand nostalgia.[images]- Vanity Fair

Birmingham’s new library, an architectural shot in the arm: Mecanoo’s design could bring excitement to the city centre...“a social heart” of the city. By Martin Spring - Building (UK)

Mission Bay condominium complex stands out: Arterra may prove to be an aberration, a bright spot amidst the bland boxes that typify infill housing in San Francisco. ...With luck, it will be something else; a signal to developers and architects that they shouldn’t settle for something that just looks good on paper. By John King --- Kwan Henmi Architecture/Planning [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Foggo Associates reveals neighbour for Foster’s Gherkin [images, link]- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Turning Pavement Into Paradise: EDAW interns propose new park over LA’s 101 Freeway [image]- The Architect’s Newspaper

Dome sweet dome: Alfred Deakin, an early prime minister, did a lot for Australia. His biggest mistake was, in the 1880s, cancelling the grand dome planned for our Parliament House. --- Karl Fender- Melbourne Herald Sun (Australia)

Call for entries: 3rd Annual Ed Bacon Student Competition: Rebuild | Revive...Ludlow Neighborhood of North Philadelphia; cash prizes; registration deadline: September 30- Ed Bacon Foundation

Calvin Klein Plans 40th Anniversary Party: ...giving its friends, family and hometown a gift...a purpose-built provisional John Pawson structure adjacent to the much-anticipated High Line [and] making a significant donation to fund the project’s future operations... - Womens’ Wear Daily/WWD

A-Salted by the Falls“ River Cafe’s Trees in Danger: ...80-foot waterfall at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge has turned the famed waterfront eatery’s trees and plants prematurely brown...Public Art Fund hopes to nip the crisis in the bud...also at Governors Island... --- Olafur Eliasson- New York Post

Book review: “Far From Equilibrium: Essays on Technology and Design Culture” by Sanford Kwinter...reads in some ways like a time capsule, recalling the halcyon days of Studebakers and Stalin...an undeniably bracing and enlivening volume.- Icon magazine (UK)

Book review: "Josep Lluís Sert: The architect of urban design, 1953–69," edited by Eric Mumford & Hashim Sarkis...tells how Sert was a little too in love with ordering the city...Despite probing essays...it is too deferential to be able to say anything relevant to today’s debates about how to correct them.- BD/Building Design (UK)