EDITOR'S NOTE: We'll be taking Friday's off for the rest of August...see you Monday, August 18.

• Just when we thought all that could be said has been said no: China: Wondering whether all that stararchitecture "was a wise use of such wealth."
• Lessons from Beijing for Delhi as it plans to rebuild ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games: "People will be comparing. We better remember that."
• China "is ground zero for anyone with big ambitions," but what does it reflect: "an even more insane Moscow."
• An examination of the safety issues that plagued the Bird's Nest (we trust they've been fixed).
• Kamin's "Skyscraper wars, part four."
• Streetcars making a comeback across the U.S.
• Critics claim Gaudí's Barcelona masterpiece being marred by mediocrity.
• Mid-century Modern under threat in Dallas and Memphis.
• Meanwhile, restoration of a Modernist gem in Germany "was a case of subtraction" (+ fab slide show)
• An appreciation for a Kahn masterpiece in Philadelphia.
• Rybczynski wanders "Home Delivery": "a stylish litany of second-place finishers, also-rans, if-onlys, and downright losers" (and some good stuff, too).
• Prefabs gaining ground and going green.
• Weekend diversions: Rawsthorn on "1% Water and Our Future" show in Belgium: it "explores our relationship to water, and how design can help us to use it more responsibly and productively."
• "Living Beautifully: Greene and Greene in Pasadena" (in Pasadena) highlights the offbeat.
• Mid-century Modern under threat in Dallas and Memphis.
• Critics claim Gaudí's Barcelona masterpiece being marred by mediocrity.
• "Lessons from Beijing for Delhi..." - Business Standard (India)
• Shock and awe: The Olympic spending was to completely transform the image of China and it is clearly worked...It poses for us a test as we push our own plans to rebuild Delhi ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games. People will be comparing. We better remember that... - Vancouver Sun
• Building Beijing: It has been years since a host nation has used the Games as a chance to splash out on the newest and most exciting trends in architecture...even as it raises some unsettling questions... - Epoch Times International
• Skyscraper wars, part four: Jahn's message is that it is easy to learn the language of a culture but far more difficult to learn its essence. By Blair Kamin -- Adrian Smith; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Helmut Jahn/Murphy/Jahn; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) - Chicago Tribune
• Downtowns Across the U.S. See Streetcars in Their Future: Cincinnati and at least 40 other cities are exploring streetcar plans to spur economic development, ease traffic congestion and draw people back from the suburbs. - New York Times
• Master's vision blurred as trustees put stamp on emblem of Barcelona: Sagrada Familia will bear little resemblance to Gaudi's original plan, say critics. "What stands out is the mediocrity of a group of technicians and developers who are well-meaning but... - Guardian (UK)
• Preservationists shocked at Dallas banker's plan to raze Stanley Marcus home: "If I can see on paper where it is economically feasible to go the restoration route, I would do it."...house is more famous for the architect who didn't design it. -- Roscoe DeWitt (1938)- Dallas Morning News
• Clock ticks on Gassner landmark in Downtown Memphis: Admirers of modern architecture...will have to act quickly to save an iconic former C&S Bank building...isn't old enough to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places, but architects said that doesn't diminish its value as one of the city's best examples of mid-20th century modern architecture. -- Francis Gassner (1974) [image]- Commercial Appeal (Memphis)
• An Architectural Gem in Germany is Reborn: ...restoring the 80-year-old ADGB Trade Union School...was a case of subtraction..."...it was more hidden under changes made over time."...the greatest threat facing Modernist buildings is a "lack of public will"... - David Sokol -- Hannes Meyer (1930); Bremere Gesellschaft von Architekten [slide show]- Architectural Record
• Kahn's National Masterpiece: One of the most seminal buildings of modern architecture is right here in Philadelphia. The Richards Medical Research Laboratory (1961). - The
Instant House: Would you buy a home that was made in a factory? A slide-show essay about "Home Delivery"...the MoMA show is a stylish litany of second-place finishers, also-rans, if-onlys, and downright losers...Most of the prefabs...come under the category of "bright ideas"... By Witold Rybczynski -- Richard and Su Rogers/Rogers Stirk Harbour; Jeremy Edmiston/Douglas Gauthier; Oskar Leo Kauffmann and Albert Rüff; Lawrence Sass; Richard Norton/Haack + Högner; Marcel Breuer; KieranTimberlake- Slate

Factory-built homes may be greener: Modular houses are built to higher standards and with less waste, proponents say..."The technology is there, we just haven’t embraced it."...NAHB is in the process of completing a review of green building standards especially for modular homes... -- KieranTimberlake; Michelle Kaufmann; KAA Design Group- Christian Science Monitor

Creating solutions to a water crisis: "1% Water and Our Future" an exhibition at Z33...in Hasselt, Belgium...explores our relationship to water, and how design can help us to use it more responsibly and productively. By Alice Rawsthorn -- karlssonwilker; Jordi Canudas; Atelier Van Lieshout; IDEO; Irene van Peer [slide show]- International Herald Tribune

Going Greene: "Living Beautifully: Greene and Greene in Pasadena" to highlight offbeat items of famed Pasadena architects...at the Pasadena Museum of History, the first in a series of events marking the Gamble House’s centennial. [images]- Pasadena Star-News (California)

Book review: The Vanishing City: The life and death of Beijing’s alleys: Michael Meyer records this orgy of destruction and the ongoing struggle for a new identity in his excellent book "The Last Days of Old Beijing."- Slate

Book review: Dangerous Roads Are Safest, and Other Traffic Mysteries: The abomination visited upon...city dwellers around the globe is the subject of Tom Vanderbilt’s "Traffic: Why We Drive the Way We Do (and What It Says About Us)."- Bloomberg News

Book review: Designing the places we wait: "New Lobbies & Waiting Rooms" by Daniela Santos Quarinto explores the creative beauty of spaces for times in between...invaluable visual sourcebook... By Norman Weinstein [images]- Christian Science Monitor

Book review: "Bright Air" by Barry Maitland: This former professor of architecture knows how to construct an intricate and thrilling plot...[his] understanding of architecture is evident in the scrutiny afforded to buildings and place. How good it is to have him finally describing the cityscape of urban Sydney...- Sydney Morning Herald

RIBA launches rival to Wikipedia: ...an internet knowledge bank called RIBAPedia...website will be unveiled on Friday 15 August and will cover everything from profiles of schools of architecture to research papers. - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

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Frank Gehry: Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2008, London, UK
architecture53seven: Egan’s Coffee Bar & Roof terrace, Portlaoise, Ireland
Book: Olympic Architecture 2008, Introduction by Guoxin Ma

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