• ArcSpace brings us Pugh + Scarpa in Santa Monica, and Morphosis in Maryland.
• Calys finds San Francisco's SPUR "an honest piece of architecture."
• Hawthorne x2: he looks into the labyrinth of controversies, political and aesthetic, surround L.A.'s new arts school (was Pritz the right pick?).
• His take on why Century Plaza hotel is worth saving from a plan for "a district still largely unworkable." but would make it "newly unremarkable."
• Lewis says the imminent demolition of D.C.'s Brutalist church is not necessarily "a harbinger of things to come...with a creative facade makeover, even the brutal can be made beautiful."
• Hunt howls at the "disregard for Britain's greatest socialist architect."
• A call for Leeds not to cut down its "concrete jungle" (the "annoyance factor they provide to the old guard is almost reason enough to preserve them").
• Labor agreement saves Gehry's Beekman Tower (and many other NYC projects) from getting cut off at the knees.
• SOM's Pearl River Tower offers a glimmer of hope in polluted Chinese city (not all are convinced).
• Re:Vision Dallas finalists offer off-the-grid solutions for a city block that could be working models of sustainability for cities around the world (worth linking to images).
• An eyeful of winning designs to transform old London barges into new homes.
• Atlanta's Civil Rights center picks a stellar landscape team.
• Erickson supporters make plea for reflecting pool at Museum of Anthropology; and developer hopes to actually build the late architect's 60-storey skyscraper in Vancouver.
• Climate change on our brain: U.S. Energy Secretary Chu wants to paint the world white to fight global warming; a new report documents the global impact of climate change on human society today; Yale researchers' study finds most polluted ecosystems can recover - in an amazingly short time.
• Zumthor compares work to love affair: "There's a kind of chemical reaction" (and the hard work comes after the infatuation).
• Australian Institute of Architects names new National President (she's young and green - in the sustainable sense).
• Architect magazine's new annual ranking of the top 100 U.S. firms (criteria create a few surprises).
• Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art named the RIBA Journal's Stirling of Stirlings.
Arthur Erickson supporters make plea for reflecting pool at Museum of Anthropology: "...say it's time to complete his vision..." - Noel Best/Stantec; Bing Thom; Simon Scott; Georgia Straight (Vancouver)

Developer trying to save building: There are hopes that a 60-storey skyscraper design by the late Arthur Erickson can still be constructed in downtown Vancouver...Speculation has been rife that the eye-catching Erickson tower will be shelved in favour of a less ambitious design, if anything is built at all. - Metro News Vancouver (Canada)

Steven Chu, Nobel prize-winning physicist [and] U.S. Energy Secretary: paint the world white to fight global warming:...By lightening paved surfaces and roofs to the colour of cement, it would be possible to cut carbon emissions by as much as taking all the world’s cars off the roads for 11 years - The Times (UK)

Human Impact Report: "The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis"...A comprehensive report documenting the global impact of climate change on human society today...aims to fill a void in both a general public understanding of climate change as well as to senior policymakers. [links]- Global Humanitarian Forum

Most Polluted Ecosystems Recoverable, Say Yale University Researchers: ...most polluted or damaged ecosystems worldwide can recover within a lifetime if societies commit to their cleanup or restoration. [link to study]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Pritzker Prize winner compares work to love affair: "There's a kind of chemical reaction..." He walks the site of a new project, observing, absorbing and brainstorming, "Dreams start...It's like falling in love." And as with love, the hard work comes after the infatuation... -- Peter Zumthor - Associated Press (AP)

Architects' peak body goes young and green with new female National President: A woman who represents the new face of the Australian architecture profession – dynamic, young, innovative and 'green' – has been appointed the Australian Institute of Architects’ (RAIA) 70th National President. -- Melinda Dodson/GHD Architects - Australian Institute of Architects/AIA (formerly RAIA)

The Architect 50: A new annual ranking of the top U.S. firms (not just the big ones, mind you)...criteria for inclusion comprise a trifecta of critical goals for every practice: profitability, sustainability, and design quality. -- William Rawn Associates; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM; HOK; Rafael Vinoly; Perkins+Will; etc. - Architect Magazine

Rennie Mackintosh's Glasgow School of Art has been named the RIBA Journal's Stirling of Stirlings in a vote to find the best building of the RIBA's 175 year existence. - BD/Building Design (UK)