• Goldberger and Gardner have two very different takes on Nouvel's new Manhattan tower: one cheers "the art of the façade" (and the interiors are great, too); the other finds it proof that NYC "is the place where some of the world's best architects come to create some of their dullest buildings."

• Pearman finds Hadid's MAXXI "mesmerizing" - "old-school Zaha, still with echoes of her early built projects" (in a neighborhood formerly of interest only to soldiers and architecture buffs).

• Farrelly wonders if the "ongoing trickle" of "finkering" to the Sydney Opera House gives Utzon "the last laugh after all": some parts "are quite nicely done, in a sensible-shoes sort of way."

• Utzon's fill is very pleased with the results - and thinks his father would be, too: "even icons have to move with the times."

• The (welcome) return of the office tower: RBC Centre...a complex of rare elegance. It also happens to be a thoroughly urban addition to the streetscape and the skyline, one of those exceptional developments that work both as a landmark and a place to be...represents a genuine act of city-building, not just another tower."

• Anderton chats with experts and architects about whether architecture can change the perception, and practice, of policing; Keenen Ivory Wayans' sustainable supersized (16,000sf!) house; and the case for an Eli Broad art museum in Santa Monica.

• Call for entries: 'Tis the time of year when everyone makes lists: The most original offices around the world (some surprises); 50 Best and 5 Worst Inventions of 2009 (some familiar, some not); 10 Green Startups to Watch (some very interesting building materials).

• Call for entries: transformers into the former Commonwealth Institute for London Design Museum (must play nice with Rem, we assume).

• Calgary picks three finalists to vie for new pedestrian bridge: the selections signal it will be a "less out-there design" than Calatrava's neighboring Peace Bridge.

• Harleywode compares, in urban and architectural terms, the Beverly Hills and Santa Monica sites that could be home to Broad's new museum.

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Call for entries: London Design Museum begins quest for design team to transform Parabola: An international search for a designer to transform the interior...at the former Commonwealth Institute building in Kensington...pre-qualification questionnaires must be made by December 4. - Culture24

Call for entries: 2010 Metropolis Next Generation® Design Competition: One Design Fix for the Future: provide one small (but brilliant and elegant) fix - leading to an incremental (or dramatic) change in sustainability; cash prize; deadline: January 29, 2010- Metropolis Magazine

Call for entries: ASLA 2010 Professional & Student Awards; registration deadlines: February 12, 2010 (Professional Awards); May 29, 2010 (Student Awards)- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

-- Tadao Ando: Punta della Dogana, Francois Pinault Foundation, Venice, Italy
-- Book: "Eye of the Leopard" by Dereck Joubert & Beverly Joubert