Seven great movies that star architecture (and lots of great links).

With "Visual Acoustics: The Modernisms of Julius Shulman," viewers "cannot help but fall in love with this adorable old man."

On film: Foster may be "keen to distance himself from Rand's superhero," Howard Roark, but "How Much Does your Building Weigh, Mr Foster?" suggests that "he...forgets how to make nothing mean something.

Crosbie croons about an "opportune convergence" resulting in "an exceptional work of architecture" for Yale's Kroon Hall.

Merrick measures in on the "King Kong" of architecture. "So the world has 7 starchitects," SOM (and its "biggest beasts") has a "historically monstrous shadow" that covers them all.

A primer on some "heavy hitters," but what do some other starchitects "have to do to earn the nickname of King Kong?"

Woodman wonders whether Chipperfield "played it too safe" in Essen (his Neues Museum is "a tough act to follow").

The Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Center launches Walks in Contemporary Budapest, an online tour-guide of selected buildings erected in the last 20 years.

Weekend diversions: NYC on our mind: Hawthorne finds the "uneven results" of the Guggenheim's "Contemplating the Void" suggest there is one skill that will be most valuable in hard times: "knowing how to make nothing mean something."

Smith calls it "a frolicking, mostly feel-good show" where it's the architects "who tend to be most Oedipal." (great slide shows)

"Modernism At Risk" at the Center for Architecture offers case studies that "reveal the many ways the design community is working to sustain the legacy of modern architecture - one building at a time."

"Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary" at The Drawing Center "captures and showcases his genius as an engineer, mathematician, architect, and composer.""He excelled in all four."

At the AA-San Francisco Gallery, "Vertical Gardens" presents imaginary and real projects "that envision solutions for building greener urban environments."

In Chicago, "Susan Gles: Buildings and Gestures" includes "an architectural gobstopper."

Krieger and Saunders' "Urban Design" offers "a well-rounded assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the differing schools of urban design theory.

"Talking Architecture" is a useful book "for those who know little about contemporary Indian architecture. But that is also its main weakness."

The "poetic approach" of "Ten Walks/Two Talks" makes it no ordinary tour guide: its "exuberance is something of an art in itself - and an eye-opener for anesthetized New Yorkers."

On film: Foster may be "keen to distance himself from Rand's superhero," Howard Roark, but "How Much Does your Building Weigh, Mr Foster?" suggests that "he has at least a little of Gary Cooper in him."

With "Visual Acoustics: The Modernisms of Julius Shulman," viewers "cannot help but fall in love with this adorable old man."

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"Modernism At Risk: Modern Solutions For Saving Modern Landmarks" at the Center for Architecture...organized by the World Monuments Fund (WMF)...case studies reveal the many ways the design community is working to sustain the legacy of modern architecture - one building at a time. -- Hannes Meyer and Hans Wittwer; Edward Durell Stone; Paul Rudolph; Marcel Breuer; Warren Platner; Walter Gropius; Eero Saarinen - ArtDaily.org

Tune In: *Iannis Xenakis: Composer, Architect, Visionary* at The Drawing Center...captures and showcases his genius. He was a world-class engineer, mathematician, architect, and composer - and excelled in all four. The installation intelligently shows us the effect of all this cross-pollination. By Victoria Meyers/hanrahanMeyers Architects [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

"Vertical Gardens" features over two dozen projects, both imaginary and real...that envision solutions for building greener urban environments...at AIA San Francisco Gallery. -- Rael San Fratello Architects; Mn Day; Boor Bridges Architecture; GLS Landscape | Architecture; Lisa Lee Benjmin; Abruzzo Bodziak Architects; ATOPW/The Harrison Studio; Bob Bingham and Claire Hoch; Patrick Blanc; Bohn & Vlpen Architects; Dickson Despommier/Eric Ellingsen/SOA Architects/Blake Kurasek; Evo Design/Mica Gross/Rogers Design Group; Todd Haiman; Haus-Rucker-Inc.; Mundo Verde Ortega; Claude Boulevarde de Passillé; Oda Projesi; Naomi Reis; Roomsvices; SITE - AIA San Francisco / Center for Architecture + Design

Building Traveling Thinking: "Susan Giles: Buildings and Gestures" at Kavi Gupta Gallery in Chicago...includes four small sculptures fusing together iconic building models into an architectural gobstopper...video's subjects are describing a piece of architecture in layman's voice, complete with curly-q descriptions and accompanying hand gestures. - The Architect's Newspaper

Urban Design: A Frame of Mind? "Urban Design" by Alex Krieger and William S. Saunders...a critical analysis of competing theories and predicts future challenges posed by growing urban populations...a well-rounded assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the differing schools of urban design theory. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Dissecting Indian architecture: "Talking Architecture: Raj Rewal in conversation with Ramin Jahanbegloo"...Rewal's personal voice does come through clearly, and we get useful glimpses into his thoughts about cities, architecture, sustainability, and culture...a useful reference especially for those who know little about contemporary Indian architecture. But that is also its main weakness. - Business Standard (India)

The Art of Taking a Walk: ...Jon Cotner and Andy Fitch’s new book "Ten Walks/Two Talks," a series of 60-minute, 60-sentence walks around Manhattan...No ordinary tour guide...poetic approach makes for an intriguing look at the urban landscape...their exuberance is something of an art in itself - and an eye-opener for anesthetized New Yorkers. - The Architect's Newspaper

A reputation built to last: A film about Norman Foster has made its debut in Berlin. The architect makes for a gripping subject "How Much Does your Building Weigh, Mr Foster?"...is keen to distance himself from Rand's superhero..."The architect really has no power."...new documentary suggests that he has at least a little of Gary Cooper in him. -- Foster + Partners; Deyan Sudjic - Independent (UK)

Julius Shulman: The Architect's Photographer: "Visual Acoustics" is a film for artists and art lovers alike...The audience cannot help but fall in love with this adorable old man with such a humbling passion for his work as a photographer and the architecture that captured his heart. - Cornell Daily Sun

Seven great movies that star architecture: ...have productively grappled with architecture, both real and imaginary. [images, links].- Independent Film Channel (IFC)

Exhibition: Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle: "Gravity is a Force to be Reckoned With," MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA...a half-scale, inverted version of Mes van der Rohe's uncompleted 50x50 House (1951)