EDITOR'S NOTE: We're celebrating the Fourth of July weekend by taking Monday off - we'll be back Tuesday, July 6.

• A fitting start to Independence Day weekend: a Centerbrook architect takes a stab at creating a British-to-American glossary for Yale's Kroon Hall U.K.-U.S. team (lipping, skirtings, toletens, and a bit of included).

• Part of Cleveland's plan for a comeback is investing in 58 pilot projects "that move vacant land strategies beyond temporary fences and lawns."

• Saffron cheers Drexel University finally "getting the hang of the urban thing" with two new buildings.

• Risen rallies behind Stout's new museum in Roanoke: "It's hard to imagine anything else in its place...a delicate balance of convention and unorthodoxy."

• Calys says Cavagnero's "skillful renovation" of the Oakland Museum of California "makes sure the museum keeps its Roche and Dinkeloo edge."

• Heathcote on the "astonishing discrepancy" between sales prices for great works of art and great works of architecture, and says it's high time to market Modernism.

• Zohn + Zaha re: her MAXXI Museum: "It's a sort of architecture-on-Pilates" (great Q&A).

• An amusing lunch with Nouvel reveals "why so many of his buildings are red or phallic or both...his penchant has to do with strawberries, greed and childhood gratification."

• An in-depth Q&A with Mathur and da Cunha re: why they concentrate less on client-driven commissions than on issue-centered public investigations.

• One of the "smallest pieces of brilliance" at the London Pavilion of Architecture "is a clever little contraption": a zero-carbon elevator at the Duke of York steps.

• Pridmore waxes poetic about Ponte Vecchio, a "marvel of medieval construction" that reveals Florence's layered history of "genius, commerce and tyranny."

• A tribute to Ralph Adams Cram, the unsung architect behind Cape Cod's "grand old ladies known as the Bourne and Sagamore bridges."

• Weekend diversions:
  - With luck, the "clever blend of optimism and pragmatism" in "Our Cities, Ourselves" at NYC's Center for Architecture "will convince local planners and policy makers to - at the very least - "find better role models for post-industrial urban growth than paperless office parks."
  - Kamin can't say enough about "Louis Sullivan's Idea": it's "one of the finest architecture shows to appear in Chicago in a long time" (great pix, too).
  - Perrin finds "three is a crowd" in the CCA's "Other Space Odysseys," where "three visionary architects get lost in space."
  - Gruber finds "despair" in the pages of "Urban Design": "one cannot read these essays without reflecting on how disastrous the past 50 years have been for cities."

• At 765 pages, "Architects of the Sun: Los Angeles Modernism 1900-1970"..."readily illustrated with 'lively tales of friendships gone south...and petty crummy selfishness' (FLW "may have been the Daddy of modernism but he was not a nice guy)."

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actionable plan. With luck...its clever blend of optimism and pragmatism will convince local planners and policy makers to become catalysts of change - or, at the very least, to find better role models for urban growth than Miami and Detroit. -- \[PALO Arquitectura Urbana; Michael Sorkin; Budi Pradono Architects; HCP Design; Varos-Teampannon and Kozlekedes\] - Metropolis Magazine

"Louis Sullivan's Idea": Looking for architectural fireworks? Here's the place to go: A spectacular new exhibition...at the Chicago Cultural Center...combination of compelling detail and logical structure - and its ability to take the viewer on a journey through both time and robust, three-dimensional space...one of the finest architecture shows to appear in Chicago in a long time. By Blair Kamin [images]- Chicago Tribune

Shooting the Moon: "Other Space Odysseys: Greg Lynn, Michael Maltzan, Alessandro Politi": Three visionary architects get lost in space at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), rocketing past Francois Perrin...three is a crowd... -- Superstudio [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Urban Design": Good Book, Unfortunate Field? ...the adjective that pervades the sense of the book is "despair." One cannot read these essays without reflecting on how disastrous the past 50 years have been for cities...The essayists may have been trained to design cities, but few of them...express optimism that anything they can do will improve things substantially. By Frank Gruber -- Alex Krieger; William S. Saunders; Michael Sorkin; Denise Scott Brown; Joan Busquets; Jane Jacobs; Lewis Mumford- Huffington Post

"Architecture of the Sun: Los Angeles Modernism 1900-1970" by Thomas S. Hines...At 765 pages...lavishly illustrated...lively tales of friendships gone south...and the petty crummy selfishness...humanizes their work...reminds one even islands on the land were built by somebody. -- Rudolph Schindler; Richard Neutra; Frank Lloyd Wright [slide show]- Flavorpill

We Are All Alone: I focus on "ordinary" architectural buildings and turn them into desolate containers...The mood is lonely and cold, as if the viewer were the last person on earth... By Kim Høltermand [slide show]- Places Journal

Small Firm, Global Practice: An Interview with Jim Goring and Andre Straja of Goring & Straja Architects: How they manage an international practice as a small firm. -- ArchNewsNow

Morphosis: University of Cincinnati Campus Recreation Center, Cincinnati, Ohio