Angus Stewart begs to differ with Simon Jenkins re: restoring the Christchurch cathedral bell tower: “the thought of restoring a mediocre building makes my hackles rise.”

Elshahed continues his exploration of Tahrir Square’s history and future as a public space; it “continues to capture the imagination of politicians, architects, and urban planners eager to come up with a master plan and complete what they recognize is an unfinished urban space.”

Schumacher cheers an “unprecedented collaboration between University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the city” and “a wonderfully progressive and ambitious project” to imagine Milwaukee’s forlorn inner harbor as an ecological sanctuary.

Angela Brady urges stars to stop exploiting students: RIBA president-elect calls for an end to free working and for better preference...If he wants better planning decisions, invest in better planners. Perhaps a few of London’s thousands of out-of-work architects could help?

Noemi Avram; Group 4 Architecture/Paul Jamtgaard

Facebook friends city of Menlo Park: Social network off to the right start with new campus..."They are used to an urban environment. Let’s make it better not just for them, but for everybody”...in a municipality that’s had some recent, hotly contested development debates, there was new hope that Facebook could lead to positive change.

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A Unified Home for Arts Education, With a Split Right Down the Middle: Brown University’s new interdisciplinary arts center...is a handsome piece of architecture...Perry and Marty Granoff Center adds a touch of contemporary glamour to a campus of solemn brick buildings and converted clapboard houses...without the over-the-top effects that could offend its aesthetically conservative neighbors.

Mary Louise Schumacher -- Dreiseitl Atelier; Continuum Architects + Planners; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson [images, links]

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A glass and light celebration of the humanities: Mandel Center for the Humanities at Brandeis University...fascinating to see..."It is a wonderful piece of architecture...appealing to the public’s fear of new buildings will enforce banal stylistic preference...If he wants better planning decisions, invest in better planners. Perhaps a few of London’s thousands of out-of-work architects could help? By Kieran Long -- Tony Fretton Architects; Karakusevic Carson Architects; Sergison Bates Architects - Evening Standard (UK)

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rail development, environmentally-sensitive land-use planning, rebuilding public spaces, and economic solvency. -- Goody Clancy; Notre Dame School of Architecture; BGK Architects/Michael Dennis & Associates; East Beach Company; Opticos Design; WDR & RT Taggart; etc. [link to images, info]- Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)

Mayor Boris Johnson has drafted in Dare to help rebrand the capital's Docklands area ahead of the London 2012 Olympics: ...part of a consortium called Industri[us]...was chosen via a competition called "Meanwhile London"... -- Fluid; Colliers International; Dave Barrie & Associates - Campaign magazine (UK)

Call for entries: Connections: The Gowanus Lowline inaugural international ideas competition for the Gowanus Canal area in Brooklyn, NY; registration deadline: April 1 - Gowanus by Design/Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation

Call for entries: Core77 Design Awards: 15 categories of design endeavor including Design for Social Impact, Service Design, Interiors/Exhibition, Design Education Initiative, and Never Saw the Light of Day; deadline: May 3 - Core77

Eisenhower Memorial and PS1 Young Architects Program Receive Rival, Unsolicited Competitions: The old saying "you can't please all the people all of the time" has gotten a workout in recent days, focused on pieces of architecture. -- MoMA; Archinect; Interboro; Institute for Classical Architecture & Classical America; Frank Gehry [links]- UnBeige

Can Beautiful Turbines Help Critics Embrace Wind Energy? NL Architects's proposal for foliage-inspired turbines challenges the notions that wind farms are eyesores...wind turbines that could moonlight in an art gallery...Power Flowers...a nice little blast of renewable power -- presumably without raising the hackles of the local NIMBY crowd. By Suzanne LaBarre [images, video]- Fast Company

Ryue Nishizawa: Teshima Art Museum, Teshima Island, Seto Inland Sea, Japan

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