EDITOR'S NOTE: We will not be posting the newsletter tomorrow, and possibly missing Friday as well...but we'll be back for sure on Monday, April 25.

- On the first anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico (and two days a way from Earth Day), Beatley ponders "blue urbanism" and its many challenges.
- A world gone mad: an arsonist strikes Gaudí's Sagrada Família basilica in Barcelona, destroying the sacristy and badly damaging the crypt.
- A report on the end of the skyscraper boom: "The age of bling is over. The tall glass box is dead," says Shuttleworth (and why bankers, not architects, are shaping city skylines these days).
- A cheer for South Brisbane finally coming "one step closer to becoming the vibrant, cultural urban hub that it has long deserved" (after too many years waiting).
- Call for entries: 2011 Best Tall Building and Lifetime Achievement Awards (deadline looms!) + Arch Record's 2nd Annual Cocktail Napkin Sketch contest (we hope it's a success).
- AIA Billings Index for February was "tepid at best."
- AIA UK 2011 Excellence in Design Awards winners announced.
- NYU's ambitious expansion plan in Greenwich Village hits pothole (to the cheers of many, no doubt).
- Pearman is at his poetic best re: the restoration of London's "astonishing" St. Pancras hotel: "Its real reason for existence is not to lodge well-heeled visitors...It is there in order to exude magnificence!" (with exquisite pix by Morley von Sternberg).
- Heathcote has a happy visit with Levete on the day AL_A found out about its V&A win.
- Comment: South Brisbane's Riverside Neighbourhood Plan: ...one step closer to becoming the vibrant, cultural urban hub that it has long deserved...finally brings certainty to their development timetables with densities...-- Scott Whiteoak/Ellivo Architects; -- PLACE Design Group- Architecture & Design (Australia)
- Cleveland Browns' vision for the lakefront could benefit from public input: Initial renderings...look more polished than they actually are...intended to create interest among potential developers, who would then hire their own architects...it's important to make sure that Cleveland is sending clear signals to potential developers about civic goals for the lakefront. By Steven Litt -- Elkus Manfredi Architects [images]- Cleveland Plain Dealer
- NYU's expansion plan hits pothole: New York State rules that Washington Square Village site where the school plans to add two new buildings may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places...ambitious expansion plans for its core Greenwich Village campus may be even harder to pull off...-- New York Times
- The saintly and the sybaritic: restoring London's astonishing St. Pancras hotel: Nice to see it back in use again as intended. But its real reason for existence is not to lodge well-heeled visitors to London. That's just an excuse. It is there in order to exude magnificence...one of the very best buildings in Britain. By Hugh Pearman -- George Gilbert Scott (1873); Richard Griffiths Architects; RHW/L Architects [images]- HughPearman.com [UK]
- Sci-fi fluidity in public space: ...Amanda Levete is "hugely proud" of the Future Systems work but says "if we were to describe the difference it would be less object driven, less about form-making and more about the thought process." A distinctive aesthetic is indeed emerging in a number of compelling projects nearing completion. By Edwin Heathcote -- Jan Kaplicky; AL_A; Anish Kapoor- Financial Times [UK]
- Billings: Pace Yourself: For AIA Billings Index, it's the turtle not the hare...February results tepid at best. "Overall demand for design services seems to be treading water over the last two months"--The Architect's Newspaper
- No Winners at the Port of Los Angeles: Cruise terminal competition scuttled by timing and economics...abandoned in favor of a less ambitious in-house redesign, angering the architects involved and dashing hopes of an area rebirth. By Sam Lubell -- Tetra Design; MME Institutional; Anil Verma Associates; TFO Architecture [images]- The Architect's Newspaper
- AIA UK Announces the 2011 Excellence in Design Awards Winners -- Terry Pawson Architects; Hugh Strange Architects; Zaha Hadid Architects; Haworth Tompkins [images]- American Institute of Architects UK Chapter
- Deadline reminder: Call for entries: 2011 Best Tall Building and Lifetime Achievement Awards; deadline: April 29- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)
- Call for entries: Cocktail Napkin Sketch: Who says drawing's dead? Enter our 2nd annual sketch contest (U.S.); deadline: July 21- Architectural Record

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