• Three sad losses: We lose a pragmatic master of Googie architecture who wondered why anyone would want to preserve any of his 4,000 coffee shops (great slide show) + an architect who helped build Hawaii + Kamin’s tribute to a Chicago architect who “paid continuing attention and respect to the principles of modernism.”

• A look at some ambitious redevelopment plans that “have emerged and fizzled” in post-Katrina New Orleans that “offered the planning community an unprecedented opportunity” (until the “green dots” showed up).

• A look at local Palestinian entrepreneurs preparing for the future of the West Bank, including building a city from the ground up.

• Hawthorne bemoans the relative obscurity of L.A.’s landscape architects and relishes Halprin’s Bunker Hill Steps.

• An Indian architect takes on the aesthetics of Indian cities: it’s time to “promote and encourage the best in contemporary urban planning and development and bring modern architecture, traditional craft and design closer to people.”

• Corbu’s Chandigarh is a Mecca for architects and its preservation is “coming out of the books and is now creeping into conversations of architects worldwide.”

• An architect turned advocate says urban planners’ and health officials’ “missions rarely intersect” and “aims to demonstrate an association between design features and good health, and to prove that healthy homes are affordable on a mass scale.”

• Environmentalists and energy experts warn that Scotland’s green energy goals are ruining the landscape: “more wind farms would ‘erode the bonnie aspect of Bonnie Scotland’ and could devastate the tourism industry.”

• An eyeball round-up of reactions to the new Museo Soumaya - from “really spectacular” to “derivative.”

• Divisive” Chihuly “Museum” in the shadow of Seattle’s Space Needle gets the green light, even though “the number one thing that residents wanted was new green space, not a new paid attraction.”

• A handy round-up of reactions to the new Museo Soumaya - from “really spectacular” to “derivative.”

• Do-It-Yourself New Orleans: Since Hurricane Katrina... in 2005, a series of ambitious redevelopment plans have emerged and fizzled... offered the planning community an unprecedented opportunity... a chance to redesign a city from the ground up... would be a laboratory for testing out big ideas. Then came the green dots. By Stephanie Grace -- -- Ed Blakely; Unified Planning Board/Concordia (link); Architectural Record

• “Divisive” Dale Chihuly Glass-Art “Museum” Approved for Former Seattle Amusement Park [Fun Forest]: Fears that the park is becoming a leader in the region... Masri has hired landscape architects, designers... to invent the sort of city that has never existed here before... - Der Spiegel (Germany)

• L.A.’s landscape architects labor in anonymity: How to explain, much less minimize, the relative obscurity of L.A.’s landscape architects? There’s no easy answer but our open spaces and preservation efforts give the issue added urgency + Lawrence Halprin’s Bunker Hill Steps. By Christopher Hawthorne — Ruth Shettlhorn; Ralph Cornell; The Cultural Landscape Foundation; James Corner Field Operations/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Ken Smith; Peter Walker/Michael Arad; Garrett Eckbo; Los Angeles Times

• Making sense of aesthetics in Indian cities: We need initiatives that help people understand the need and importance to improved and aesthetically sensitive built environment... should strive to promote and encourage the best in contemporary urban planning and development and bring modern architecture, traditional craft and design closer to people. By Srinivas Murthy G- Times of India

• Chandigarh has become Mecca for architects from across the globe: “The future generations might not be able to enjoy this beautiful work of Le Corbusier... the only way to retain it this way is to term it as a Heritage City”... coming out of the books and is now creeping into conversations of architects worldwide. — Nuno Grande; Adalberto Dias; Tiago Correia; Joa Serodio

• Curbu’s Chandigarh is a Mecca for architects and its preservation is “coming out of the books and is now creeping into conversations of architects worldwide.”

• Grimshaw wins Brazilian Olympic pavilion contest: “... Mobilizarte... the only way to retain it this way is to term it as a Heritage City... coming out of the books and is now creeping into conversations of architects worldwide.”

• Carlos Slim’s Xinanfu?: Reactions to the World’s Richest Man’s Overweening New Museo Soumaya: ... reviews haven’t exactly been stellar... “The museum’s design... has generally met with more positive reception...” “call it the ‘bustier building’... ”really spectacular...” derivative on the inside... infects some needed artistic muscle into Mexico City... “He’s interested in a big museum, not a grand museum.” -- Fernando Romero - Artinfo

• Dream of a Palestinian Tiger: With a modern, new city [Rawabi] under construction near Ramallah, the West Bank is preparing for the future. Local entrepreneurs speculate that if the Palestinians ever gain independence, their country could become a leader in the region... Masri has hired landscape architects, designers... to invent the sort of city that has never existed here before... - Der Spiegel (Germany)

• Dream of a Palestinian Tiger: With a modern, new city [Rawabi] under construction near Ramallah, the West Bank is preparing for the future. Local entrepreneurs speculate that if the Palestinians ever gain independence, their country could become a leader in the region... Masri has hired landscape architects, designers... to invent the sort of city that has never existed here before... - Der Spiegel (Germany)
Some food for thought on Block Island: …the island's character depends in no small degree on having avoided, so far, an alien visitation from the likes of Spaceship Gehry…"It is more important that additions to historic properties…be 'deferential' rather than 'differentiated.' …Deference removes the presumption of contrast and emphasizes 'fitting in' rather than 'standing out.'" By David Brussat -- Steven Sernes; John Sandor [images, links] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

ARCHIVE Institute Says Home is Where the Health Is: Peter Williams, an architect turned advocate, touts an unacknowledged connection between design and well-being…The goal...to demonstrate an association between design features and good health, and to prove that healthy homes are affordable on a mass scale. -- Architecture for Health in Vulnerable Environments - Miller-McCune

Green energy target ruining Scotland’s landscape, warn experts: ...environmentalists and energy experts united to condemn the plan...more wind farms would "erode the bonnie aspect of Bonnie Scotland" and could devastate the tourism industry... - The Scotsman (UK)

Edmonton Park Pavilion Design Competition Winners - gh3; Marc Boutin Architectural Collaborative; Dub Architects; Rayleen Hill Architecture + Design [links to images] - City of Edmonton (Canada)


Richard Meier & Partners: W Retreat Kanai, Riviera Maya, Mexico