EDITOR'S NOTE: We're back! NOLA was fantabulous, the AIA convention was enlightening (and exhausting), but we're glad to be home - and have lots of catching up to do...

• ArcSpace brings us MVRDV’s China Comic and Animation Museum in Hangzhou (strolls through thought bubbles included).
• Rybczynski cautions “landscape urbanism” advocates who would like to see the High Line model take off nationwide: it’s a tougher proposition than they think, and it probably won’t be worth the effort.
• Rochon finds a sad irony in Toronto’s “futile battle” for “enlightened streetscapes” because of shortsighted city bureaucracy in “an era when beautiful spaces are seen as expensive frippery” (too bad for Nathan Phillips Square and Fort York Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge).
• Hawthorne sees the future of L.A.’s Exposition Park (with its Gehry and Becket buildings) as a microcosm of issues the city and the region must contend with.
• King celebrates two reasons a new apartment building is a milestone for one of San Francisco’s “most intriguing neighborhoods,” first being “the handsome snap of the building itself.”
• Arieff is intrigued by the Droog/DS+R collaborative project to imagine a “future suburbia” using Levittown as the construct - but “while life may imitate art, it’s not necessarily meant to be displayed as such.”
• Salz blames the demise of the American Folk Art Museum on its design and “utter lack of imagination and hubristic mess of starchitectural vanity.”
• Goldberger and Davidson vociferously disagree: “It would be a devastating loss if it were to disappear” + “blaming Williams and Tsien, or their lovely little building, for a nationwide epidemic of museum obesity amounts to clubbing an innocent bystander” (so, what will MoMA do with it now?).
• Seattle’s Chihuly Museum finally moving forward - some compromises included (we’re glad to hear).
• Sri Lankan architect claims too many buildings are not designed by qualified architects and do not meet mandated access for users with disabilities.
• Architect magazine’s 3rd annual Top 50 list is not all the same old same old’s (we’re happy to see).
• Belmont Freeman offers a thoughtful look at Kevin Roche’s legacy as a visionary.
• We couldn’t resist: Architect Barbie just made her debut at AIA confab in New Orleans (could this signal women architects are finally shattering the glass ceiling?).
• Deadline reminder: 2011 Evergreen Awards to recognize outstanding building performance and design.
Majority of buildings not user-friendly, says chartered architect: More than 60% of buildings in Sri Lanka mainly in the private sector including supermarkets, banks and toilets are not designed by professionally qualified architects, said Harsha Munasinghe, acting Dean and Head of Moratuwa University's Department of Architecture...at a programme organized by IDIRIYA, a non-profit organization focusing on disability rights...- The Sunday Times (Sri Lanka)

2011 ARCHITECT 50: 3rd annual ranking of American architecture firms judges them on three factors: profitability, sustainable ethos, and design quality. By looking at the whole picture, we're able to honor not the biggest, but the best. -- Perkins+Will; SmithGroup; William Rawn Associates; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Ann Beha Architects; Sasaki Associates; ikon.5 Architects; DLR Group; ZGF Architects; FXFowle; etc.- Architect Magazine

Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment: The legacy of one of the finest and most influential — and controversial — architectural firms of the 20th century is ripe for fresh examination and three recent media events...compel us to do so...Roche stands out as a visionary. By Belmont Freeman -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates; Eeva Liisa Pelkonen [images]- Places Journal

Designing Women: It took almost 10 years, but Architect Barbie has shattered the glass ceiling...like a lot of other professional women, she couldn't have done it without her friends...Although women have been professional architects since 1885...there is still gender disparity... -- Despina Stratigakos; Kelly Hayes McAlonie; Louise Blanchard Bethune- Buffalo News

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: 2011 Evergreen Awards to recognize outstanding building performance and design; deadline: May 31 - Eco-Structure magazine