A bumper crop of AIA Small Project Award winners demonstrates architects' ability to bring design excellence to the humblest of projects.

Last year, Moscow's Strelka Institute was the top "hipster hangout"; this summer's programs promise more "responsible fun" with some big names (though you'll still be able to "have a night out without necessarily having to use your brain").

Pogrebin offers a sneak-peek (great pix!) of the soon-to-open second leg of NYC's High Line that "promises to be the summer's biggest sequel" (we can't wait!).

He also ventures to the "secret city" of Oak Ridge, where the "drive to build the atomic bomb (and planners from Chicago) shaped this city in Tennessee" (and no, Kamin minces no words: the lack of engagement of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks "is reprehensible" given the building meets standards for landmark status.

The fate of Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital in Chicago could be sealed by tomorrow: Roeder finds Jahn, Gang, and Keegan anxious to save it, and Goldberg's architect son wondering when does the city's "can do" attitude become "don't care."

An in-depth look at PlaNYC's brownfield program: as in other cities, "some question how much they actually serve low-income communities in the long-term."

Austin Williams takes on de Botton's Living Architecture, calling it "his personal therapy session to exorcise his childhood torment by recreating the modern architecture of his memories" that only "creates interesting, well-designed but self-regarding follies."

Lamster sings high praise for the "unsung genius of Flemish architecture": it "should not be underestimated, though it usually is" (and surely to tick of NJ: Belgium doesn't deserve being called "the New Jersey of Europe").

The fate of Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital in Chicago could be sealed by tomorrow: Roeder finds Jahn, Gang, and Keegan anxious to save it, and Goldberg's architect son wondering when does the city's "can do" attitude become "don't care."

Gunts explains big plans on the horizon for Baltimore re: a $900 million convention center expansion and arena + new visions for Inner Harbor.

Rochon rails against Toronto's literal (and figurative) gridlock: "we have to unpark our brains, invest in transit and get this city moving"; unfortunately, "urban visionaries" with "remarkable urban intuition" are "a scarce commodity in Canada."

An in-depth look at PlanNYC's brownfield program: as in other cities, "some question how much they actually serve low-income communities in the long-term."

Kaminsk's designs spin magic from angles: It's imaginative and utterly unexpected, provocative and urban: keeping a low profile even as it turns the city grid inside-out...is very much a work in progress...has shown there's an inventive way to double the size of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art with both artistic flair and ground-level smarts. John King -- Mario Botta (1995) [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

When it comes to architecture, museums forsake the past: Institutions including SFMOMA, the Whitney, the Barnes Foundation and MoMA plan various additions and exits, a boom for contemporary architects but a bust for architectural history...Never have museums been so eager to hire talented architects...And never have museums been so dismissive of architecture's civic or historic value. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Renzo Piano; Marcel Breuer (1966); Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Diller, Scofidio + Renfro; Snøhetta- Los Angeles Times

Hollywood landmark at a crossroads: New York developers are reviving plans to surround the Capitol Records building with a mixed-use project covering 1 million square feet. Whether Millennium Hollywood would enhance or detract from the iconic structure depends on fuzzy details. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Welton Becket/Louis Naidorf (1956); Gary Handel/Handel Architects; William Roschen/Roschen Van Cleve Architects [images]- Los Angeles Times

AR Exclusive: FXFOWLE Unveils Design for Museum of the Built Environment in Saudi Arabia: ..340,000-square-foot museum aims to explore the role that social, economic, and environmental forces have played in the region's constructed landscape, both historically and in recent times. [slide show] - Architectural Record

Richard Rogers, Barangaroo architect, defends his vision: The argument that Sydney does not need another green headland on the harbour alongside the new financial services industry high-rise
Proposed downtown arena gets private financing commitment: Construction magnate Willard Hackerman pledges to lead group to raise funds for new hotel and 18,500-seat arena...significantly increasing the chances that plans for a $900 million convention center expansion and arena will become a reality + Walking bridge, light shows, park proposed for Inner Harbor. By Edward Gants -- Ayers Saint Gross [images, links] - Baltimore Sun

Toronto’s gridlock is never going to be beautiful. If Torontonians truly want grace in our public space, we have to unpark our brains, invest in transit and get this city moving...Beauty in a city has as much to do with ease of transportation as it does with the aesthetics of a particular building...Urban visionaries are a scarce commodity in Canada. By Lisa Rochon -- Janette Sadik-Khan; Lee Myung-bak - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Shades of Brown: PlaysNYC Brownfield Program Cleans Sites, But Who Benefits?...as brownfield programs in other parts of the country come to fruition, some question how much they actually serve low-income communities in the long-term...a close look at these initial projects begins to reveal some tarnish. [links] - Gotham Gazette (NYC)

Exploring the architecture of Alain de Botton: Living Architecture is his personal therapy session to exorcise his childhood torment by recreating the modern architecture of his memories...Unfortunately, therapeutic architecture is not the real thing...creates interesting, well-designed but self-regarding follies... By Austin Williams -- JVA; MDRDV; NORD Architects; Hopkins; Peter Zumthor; David Kohn Architects - Future Cities Project (U.K.)

The Unsung Genius of Flemish Architecture: The old knock on Belgium is that it’s the New Jersey of Europe...Flemish architecture is...fundamentally solid, creative when the situation requires (but never flashy), and respectful to a fault...it should not be underestimated, though it usually is. By Mark Lamster -- Stephanie Beeck; Jo Crepelle; Robbrecht & Daen; Xaveer de Geyer; B-Architecten; Barak; Nu Studio; Vincent van Duysen; Neutlings-Riedijk [images, links] - Design Observer

Prentice Women's Hospital: Landmark or teardown? Northwestern University, wants to tear the structure down in the name of higher uses for its medical school...Geoff Goldberg, an architect and son of Bertrand Goldberg, said...”This would be a signal to the creative community,” he said. “Does ‘can do’ become ‘don’t care’?” - Chicago Sun-Times

High Line: the Sequel: Coming soon: the grand opening of Section 2 of the High Line, the elevated park along the Hudson River that drew two million people last year. By Robin Pogrebin -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro [slide show] - New York Times

Summer at Strelka Offers ‘Responsible Fun’: Last year, the Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design shot the Strelka Institute for Media, Architecture and Design to the top of Moscow’s hipster hangouts but this year promises more “responsible fun” and less pure entertainment...luckily you can still have a night out...without necessarily having to use your brain. -- Yekaterina Grishina; Alejandro Aravena; Joseph Grima; Kazuyo Sejima - The Moscow Times (Russia)

With 8th Annual Small Project Practitioners Design Awards, Architects Show Resourcefulness in Finding Small Places for Design:...the latest crop of SPP award recipients is a bumper one...demonstrating architects’ ability to bring design excellence to the humblest of projects. -- Plus One Design + Construction; Revelations Architects/Builders Corporation; Macrae Gibson Architects; Johansen Schmalin Architects; David Jameson Architect; Jeffery S. Poss, FAIA; David Salmela, FAIA, Robert Nischke Architects [slide show] - AIArchitect
