EDITOR'S NOTE: Eleven days away - we have a lot of catching up to do! It's good to be back...but difficult to get our gears in motion...hence the delayed posting...

• ArcSpace brings us L.A.'s big celebration plans honoring Lautner's 100th birthday, and an eyeful of Belzberg's Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.
• Litt pays tribute to Ruth Durack, an urban planner who "raised the level of civic debate on architecture and planning" in Cleveland, Perth, and elsewhere - and gone much too soon.
• Logroeta and Kapoor among 5 recipients of the Japan Art Association's 2011 Praemium Imperiale.
• Lewis cheers Washington, DC's new Arena Stage: "Architectural exceptionalism clearly was called for, which is what Bing Thom has delivered."
• Rochon x 2: she cheers Kéré - none of his work "will change super-tall, bombastic design. But for sobering acts of architectural wisdom, keep your eyes low to the ground, where he and others are quietly making buildings that stick in our minds."
• She has high hopes that one of Toronto's "dreary, invisible streets...with no there there," even in the midst of "cultural heavy hitters," can itself be transformed "into a five-star attraction."


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Chinese Gem That Elevates Its Setting: Designed by Zaha Hadid, the new Guangzhou Opera House is gorgeous to look at. It is also a magnificent example of how a single building can redeem a moribund urban environment...a monument to a particular crossroads in China's history, as well as to Hadid’s stellar career. By Nicola Ouroosoff [slide show] - New York Times

Dizzy heights: It's Frank Gehry's first skyscraper — a twisting, rippling tower that is transforming the New York skyline...annimates Manhattan as no skyscraper has done since the Empire State Building...Spruce Street brings back the dazzle and the ritz, the catwalk strut and sheer brio that have made the great New York towers so compelling..."Do you think they'll let me have a go in London?" Gehry queries. By Jonathan Glancy - Guardian (UK)

Arena Stage complex is as stirring as the theater within: ...an aesthetically bold, sometimes theatrical, architectural ensemble unlike anything else in Washington...relates to its context perfectly...Architectural exceptionalism clearly was called for, which is what Bing Thom has delivered. By Roger K. Lewis -- Bing Thom Architects; Harry Weese

Rogers Marvel Secures Competition to Revamp 52-acre President's Park South in Washington, DC with "a bold statement about security and landscape design...a model for keeping our public spaces open and inviting...elements of all five short-listed proposals could be incorporated into the final plan..." -- Belzberg Architects: Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, Los Angeles, California

Legorreta and Kapoor among 5 recipients of the Japan Art Association 23rd Praemium Imperiale: ...each receive 15 million yen (approximately $182,000 / EUR 130,000 / £113,000)...in an awards ceremony in Tokyo on October 19, 2011. [links to images, info] - Japan Art Association

Rogers Marvel wins competition to revamp 52-acre President's Park South in Washington, DC with "a bold statement about security and landscape design that offers a model for keeping our public spaces open and inviting...elements of all five short-listed proposals could be incorporated into the final plan." By Ossa/Wallace, Roberts & Todd (WRT) - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Ricardo Logroeta and Anish Kapoor among 5 recipients of the Japan Art Association 23rd Praemium Imperiale: ...each receive 15 million yen (approximately $182,000 / EUR 130,000 / £113,000)...in an awards ceremony in Tokyo on October 19, 2011. [links to images, info] - Japan Art Association

Obituary: Urban planner Ruth Durack, 60, helped redesign Cleveland as former head of Kent State University's Urban Design Collaborative...raised the level of civic debate on architecture and planning in the city...left Cleveland in 2004 to become the inaugural head of the Urban Design Centre in Perth..."Her life was committed to urban design and making cities great places." By Steven Litt -- Ignacio Bunster-Ossa/Wallace, Roberts & Todd (WRT) - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Legorreta and Kapoor among 5 recipients of the Japan Art Association 23rd Praemium Imperiale: ...each receive 15 million yen (approximately $182,000 / EUR 130,000 / £113,000)...in an awards ceremony in Tokyo on October 19, 2011. [links to images, info] - Japan Art Association

Rogers Marvel Secures Competition to Revamp White House Lawn Extension: President’s Park South...could become one of the most pedestrian-friendly — and secure — in Washington, DC...a bold statement about security and landscape design that offers a model for keeping our public spaces open and inviting...elements of all five short-listed proposals could be incorporated into the final plan. -- Hood Design Studio; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Reed Hildebrand Associates; SASAKI [images, links] - The Architect's Newspaper
happens to connect a remarkable suite of cultural heavy hitters...But, when the show is over...the street
with no there there. It's time to invigorate John Street into a five-star attraction. By Lisa Rochon --
Planning Partnership [image]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Visiting the Cy Twombly Gallery in Houston in the week of his death: It wasn't conceived as a shrine,
exactly, but the small, windowless gallery on the campus of the Menil Collection certainly feels like one
this week...Piano's design for [main Menil museum], a modestly scaled but sublime piece of
architecture, ranks as one of the four or five best works in his prolific career. By Christopher Hawthorne -
- Renzo Piano (1995) [image]- Los Angeles Times

Luxury Chelsea Condos Get Magic Glass Walls; Behemoth Rises in Midtown: Shigeru Ban’s 11-story
boutique condo “Metal Shutter House”...is a world away from...Arquitectonica’s 63 story, blue-black glass
beehemoth...MiMA looks like a giant headstone...When not lashed by activists, too many developers do their worst. By James S. Russell -- Ismael Leyva; David Rockwell - Bloomberg News

Will no one halt the vandalising of London's skyline? Buildings such as the Shard are proof positive that
the capital has become a greedy developer's playground...The point of the Shard is showing off, not
sustainability. Timed, inevitably, for Olympics readiness...to show the world how mighty we are once
we've called in an Italian architect and Middle Eastern finance. By Catherine Bennett -- Ken Shuttleworth; Renzo Piano- Observer (UK)

Oops! Excuse our libido for the ugly! It may not be so rare that a big wheel in modern architecture has
second thoughts about his work...But when one of them, such as Kenneth “The Pen” Shuttleworth,
apologizes in public for designing ugly buildings, watch out! By David Brussat -- Foster + Partners
[images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

The Focused Arrogance of the Highly Creative: New research links creativity with lower levels of honesty
and humility...suggests highly creative people may not be humble, but they also aren’t hostile. Daring to
take imaginative leaps and putting them before the public takes a certain ego; seeing them through to
completion or implementation requires an ability to get along with others. Perhaps the most successful
artists, thinkers and entrepreneurs possess both qualities. - Miller-McCune


Plans for Little Tokyo Design Week: ...designers and artists...turning the historic Japantown into a city of
the future...July 13 to 17..."We have been able to work together to create a very timely event that opens a
door on Japan, not only its architecture and design, but also what has happened most recently in
Japan"...If the first LTDW is successful, the organizers hope to turn it into an annual event. -- Hitoshi
Abe– Rafi Shimpo (Los Angeles)

You Survived: Part 1: Regaining Profitability - and Moving Ahead: Take control of the financial life of your
business, uncover hidden revenue streams and new service offerings while charting a more stable
course for the future. By Michael S. Bernard, AIA, and Nancy Kleppel, Assoc. AIA- ArchNewsNow

Poetry as Rescuing Angel: The Angel Island Immigration Station, San Francisco Bay: Long abandoned
and near demolition, an important part of American immigration history was saved by writings on the
wall. -- Architectural Resources Group; Tom Eliot Fisch; Daniel Quan Design- ArchNewsNow

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