• Good news/bad news re: 2012 Venice Architecture Biennale: we cheer the team and theme selected for the U.S. Pavilion!

• Betsky bemoans the probability that Berlusconi is ousting the Biennale's president to replace him with a food business executive (who brought Gatorade to Italy): "Luckily, there is still some hope."

• Kimmelman cheers "a quiet revolution" in NYC with dozens of public buildings being designed by gifted architects instead of the lowest bidders - a reminder that governments actually do get things right sometimes."

• Instead of "half-timbered buildings and medieval romance" of a German village on the outskirts of Shanghai, Speer thought he knew better and convinced the Chinese what they really wanted was a sort of Bauhaus-style residential quarter, now it's a ghost town - nobody wants to live there (slide show really proves it).

• Hawthorne on LACMA's architectural mix: "It seems to attract and then foreclose visionary architectural plans"; but does it really "need to feel unified architecturally? Maybe not."

• Brussat x 2: Gehry's proposed design for the Eisenhower memorial "is being blasted by a well-aimed (and well-deserved) bombardment," including at a forum where he was "peppered with hostile questions" for "kicking tradition in the shins."

• He gives Douthat kudos "for noticing the difference between beauty and ugliness," but he doesn't seem to get new urbanism: "criticizing tradition remains the hypocrisy that dare not speak its name."

• Weder chronicles life in a "moderny, hurty house" - a machine for living in that she "was inapt at operating," and "began to miss the reassuring privacy of those tyrannical barriers we call walls, doors, and curtains" (a great read).

• Preservationists are more than a bit peeved over planning process to redo Peavey Plaza in Minneapolis that "some regard as one of the great American Modernist plazas."

• Stem wins his first U.K. project: the redesign of a Mayfair mansion block as a luxury development in central London.

• Koolhaas talks about his Barbican exhibition, Maggie's Centre Gartavel, Glasgow, why the Brutalist Preston bus station should be treasured, and why architecture is "not just for super-rich."

• The Philippines' first LEED Gold tower rises in Manila: "it will help pave the way for other architects to promote green principles in architecture."

• After a much-needed revamp, the University of Minnesota's College of Architecture is now a "jewel" of the campus.

• DiVer delves into a collection of Shulman photos "discovered by chance" documenting his "seminal trip to Israel in 1959, in which he captured in a moving way both urban and rural landscapes."

• 10 communities earn Walk Friendly status (great presentation - and some real surprises).

• 2011 Zerofootprint Re-Skinning Awards winners announced (and another great presentation).

• Sjunkhatten National Park Competition in Norway names a winner: "the jury found the mythical approach appropriate for enriching children's experience of nature."

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• Call for entries: Strategies for Public Occupation; 1st Prize: The possibility of a new world order.

• We couldn't resist: an eyeful of the winners in the 2011 Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest.
redesign a Mayfair mansion block...would see the demolition of a 1930s red-brick building...final value of the development could reach £400 million. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Architecture 'not just for super-rich': Rem Koolhaas talks about his new exhibition of...OMA, at the Barbican Art Gallery, Maggie's Garnetville, Glasgow, and why the Brutalist Preston bus station should be treasured and seen as an "emblem"... [audio] - BBC Radio 4 (UK)

How green is my building: ...the 33-story Zuellig Building, the first high-rise with a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (Core and Shell) (LEED-CS) Gold Pre-certification in the Philippines. "By designing this green building, it will help pave the way for other architects to promote green principles in architecture" -- W.V. Coscolluela & Associates; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images] - The Philippine Star

Gould Hall aces its class at the University of Oklahoma in Norman: OU's College of Architecture is the jewel of the South Oval after a $23.6 million redesign, renovation and expansion -- Bockus Payne Associates Architects - The Oklahoman

Iconic images of a new land: Julius Shulman documented the work of American's preeminent designers for 75 years. Largely forgotten until now, however, was a seminal trip to Israel in 1959, in which he captured in a moving way both urban and rural landscapes...discovered by chance in the Israel Architecture Archive... By Noam Dvir -- Zvi Elhayani; Joseph Neufeld; Zeev Rechter; Yaakov Rechter; Dov Carmi; Zvi Meltzer; Arieh Sharon; Benjamin Idelson; Yosef Werner Wilsover; Richard Kaufman; Joseph Kianwein; Heinz Rau; Ram Karmi; Avraham Yaeki; Amonn Axendroni [image]- Ha`aretz (Israel)

10 Communities Earn Walk Friendly Status: ...join the inaugural class of 11 Walk Friendly Communities announced in April 2011. The program will begin accepting applications for the next round on November 1, with the deadline for submission on December 15, 2011. [links to images, info]- Transportation Issues Daily

2011 Zerofootprint Re-Skinning Awards Winners and Finalists -- Daly Genik/Energy Code Works/Title 24/Polly Furr Venice Studio; iParc/Büro Für Integrale Planung (Office for Integrated Planning)Imagine Envelope; etc. [links to images, info]- Zerofootprint

"Saivu" Wins Sjunkhatten National Park Competition in Norway: ...the jury found the mythical approach appropriate for enriching children's experience of nature. -- Eriksen Skajaa Architects; Pushak; Bjarbekk & Lindheim Landscape Architects [images]- Bustler

Call for entries: Strategies for Public Occupation: Call for ideas that offer a new, creative and productive way of spatial occupation for public demonstrations and actions in cities throughout the world; 1st Prize: The possibility of a new world order; deadline: December 1 - Storefront for Art and Architecture

Cocktail Napkin Sketch Contest 2011: ...evaluated more than 1,200 napkins from nearly 400 entrants. -- Zeljko Toncic/Rizvi Architects; Gregory L. Klosowski/Ellipsis A+D; Hirotsuka Hayakawa/Cooper, Robertson & Partners; Tony Costello/Costello + Associates; Carol Hisung/FPFOWLE; John E. Quinton, Jr./BRR Architecture; Vlad Zadneprianski/TPG Architecture [slide shows]- Architectural Record

Ricardo Bofill Taller de Arquitectura: Barcelona Airport Terminal 1, Barcelona, Spain

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