• Benfield and Ramirez cheer Australia’s final draft of a report encouraging "world class design" that focuses on both humans and urban form: “A national urban policy, now there's an idea.”

• Berger is quite happy about Sustainable Seattle’s Happiness Initiative.

• A new generation of apps could "offer potential solutions for two of the trickiest parts of the urban planner's job: sharing data and engaging citizens."

• Move over Cambridge - it's looking like Boston's waterfront is ready to give it a run for its development money.

• Just south of the Olympic Park a "little slice of Swedish design" is looking to take shape with a village built on the principles of Le Corbusier.

• LeBlanc cheers developers who aren't taking the path of least resistance when it comes to a historic stretch of Toronto's Yonge Street.

• King gives two thumbs-ups to a "streamlined and shiny, affirmative and bright" new sports center in a troubled East Oakland neighborhood: "If we're lucky it will have a ripple effect far beyond the activities inside."

• Brussat continues to broil about Maya Lin's design for Newport's Queen Anne Square: "An inauthentic park redesign masquerading as a memorial to a woman who campaigned against inauthenticity in architecture makes no sense."

• After spending its lifetime in secondhand space, NYC's John Jay College gets a (big!) new home of its own.

• A "death row" of 10 urban highways cutting through cities: "We now know what they didn't in Eisenhower's day: it's possible to remove highways from city centers without ruining either the city or the highway."

• Arts Council England plans to focus on "strategic funding" for existing facilities instead of "big, new, brash buildings."

• Dvir reports on what will be Israel's first architecture museum set open in Haifa next year.

• Meanwhile, Rem "frets" over the future of the EU: "Europe is simply an incomplete machine: It's limping...Unless the machine is constructed the way it's intended, it won't work."

• Two we couldn't take our eyes off of: Halbe's stunning images of Hadid's remarkable bridge in Abu Dhabi + Tobia's photo essay about "egos of the dead" and the "extravagant mausoleums and graves of Philadelphia's 19th-century elite."

• Many recent grads from top architecture schools are re-thinking their futures: "If those frustrated job seekers pick up for good, the profession will suffer."

• Something they might find helpful: Arch Record's list of more than two dozen fellowships and grants for architects and designers.

• A good reason to head to Yale tomorrow: "Catastrophe and Consequence" symposium to examine safe building in developing countries with weak or non-existent building code systems.

• A good reason to head to Madrid and Segovia next week: MIT+IE "Considering Cities II" symposium.
Tearing up the rule book: OMA might be a successful global brand but that doesn't make it conventional. It's still asking difficult questions and coming up with the solution you least expect – who else would see a library as a refuge for the homeless? ...OMA may be a bit more mainstream these days, but it will never stop asking questions, or giving unexpected answers. By Hugh Pearman -- Rem Koolhaas; Ellen van Loon [images]- RIBA Journal (UK)

Pritzker Star Rem Koolhaas Frets Over EU: ...has watched many a building project fall through in the course of his career. One he'd hate to see die is the construction of Europe...[it] "is simply an incomplete machine: It's limping...Unless the machine is constructed the way it's intended, it won't work." -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Rotor- Bloomberg News

Sheikh Zayed Bridge by Zaha Hadid Architects: Photographer Roland Halbe has sent us some new images...- Dezeen


The Graduates Gripe: Getting an architecture degree is expensive. Is it worth it in a recession? ...many recent graduates of the top schools also seem to be rethinking their education...If those frustrated job seekers give up for good, the profession will suffer: "This will be a big problem in five years, because a generation could be wiped out." [link to "America's Best Architecture Schools 2012"]- Architectural Record

Fellowships and Grants for Architects and Designers: ...with stipends ranging from a few thousand dollars to $100,000...a list of more than two dozen programs.- Architectural Record

"Catastrophe and Consequence: The Campaign for Safe Buildings": Yale School of Architecture and The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation co-host a symposium to examine safe building in developing countries with weak or non-existent building code systems; November 4-5- Yale School of Architecture

IE School of Architecture and Design + MIT Department of Architecture redefine the contemporary city in Madrid and Segovia: MIT+IE "Considering Cities II" symposium November 8 and 9 -- Nader Tehrani; Yung Ho Chang; Alexander D'Hoooghe; Martha Thorne; Javier Quintana; Jose Maria Churitchaga; Ricard Frigola- IE School of Architecture (Madrid)

Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, UNESCO World Heritage Site, Island of Malta: To protect the 5,000-years-old temple ruins against further deterioration, engineers developed two special membrane roof structures, which now cover and protect the archaeological excavation. -- Walter Hunziker Architekten; formTL