• Heymann calls out architects for their "rhetorical use of landscape" that "is a form of deceit, a means-versus-ends intellectual sleight of hand" because they "know this is a shorthand method of tapping into a primary vein of cultural meaningfulness" (Part 1 of 3 - we can’t wait for the next two!).

• Rochon rues that “North American cities continue to ignore the invaluable civic lessons” she found in Paris’s “divine” Place des Vosges.

• A new research group at Columbia University comes up with what one might consider a totally bizarre idea: connect Lower Manhattan to Governors Island using landfill - “it may be an impossible project. But it is the kind of big thinking that New York needs.”

• Goldhagen is aglow amidst the “sublimely beautiful example of environmental architecture” that is The Sea Ranch: it may have failed as a model alternative to suburban sprawl, but “it offers a world-class model of a different sort.”

• Dvir reports on the sad tale of how privatization is killing a kibbutz culture center: “it will likely not regain its past glory” and “likely to soon be abandoned altogether and serve as a customs checkpoint.”

• An economist calls out Irish architects and the RIAI, claiming current contracts allow them to avoid responsibility.

• RIAI’s director begs to differ and claims the “argument is based on a false premise...We are all entitled to our opinions - but facts must also have their place.”

• Gotthad reveals its new self - to some: The decision to exclude architecture critics from the long-awaited unveiling of the new Habima building. "There were no architects present..." says Fred Kent...

• Call for entries/RFQ (deadline looming): Leipzig Monument to Freedom and Unity.

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Observations on Buildings and Landscapes: A lot of architects make a living talking...about site, landscape...Landscape is good; building is landscape; therefore building is good...Nothing sells like landscape...Architects are not required to be intellectually rigorous. They only have to convincingly sell ideas about how value is embodied in form in order to build.

Squaring public space with human needs: Four centuries after the creation of Paris’s divine Place des Vosges, North American cities continue to ignore its invaluable civic lessons. Why? “Most designers are into their own ego rather than creating something remarkably human,” says Fred Kent... By Lisa Rochon -- William H. Whyte; Project for Public Spaces (PPS); Robert Gatje- Globe and Mail (Canada)

In Praise of The Sea Ranch, a Sublimely Beautiful Example of Environmental Architecture: ..."On first look, it appears that 'suburban sprawl' is the only possible model of suburban development alternative to American suburban sprawl. In this goal, he failed..." offers a world-class model of a different sort... "Opponents of such legislation should be required to come to..." (Part 1 of 3 - we can’t wait for the next two!

In the New Republic

Architects must answer for misery of bad building: As the inquiry into the Priory Hall fiasco intensifies, it will be interesting to see how many of our professional groups try to pass the buck...may lead to a stampede to avoid responsibility in the future...If the architectural profession is not prepared to step up to the mark, we should bring back clerks of works or other hands-on professionals to ensure works are carried out properly...Existing standard contracts need to be fundamentally re-examined... By Michael Casey- Irish Times

Allegation of ‘cosy association’ between architects and builders simply untrue: A response to Michael Casey’s Opinion article criticising the architecture profession in Ireland...His argument is based on a false premise, as architects’ responsibilities to their clients are set out in a separate document, the client-architect agreement, not the building contract...We are all entitled to our opinions – but facts must also have their place. By John Granby, Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI)- Irish Times

DIA settles with architect Calatrava on use of drawings: “We got everything that we wanted!” - Denver Post

Habima reveals its new self - to some: The decision to exclude architecture critics from the long-awating unveiling of the national theater is just the latest step in this absurdly secretive project...The renovation is not a renovation but an all-out revamp...The result is an evocative new building...and an entirely different presence in the urban space...the censorship of the architectural discourse during the guided tour...is another example of the chronic absence of transparency in the fields of planning and architecture. By Esther Zandberg -- Oscar Kaufman (1936); Ram Carmi- Ha’aretz (Israel)

London’s Olympic venues challenge architects: Instead of having been designed to make a statement, as in Beijing, London’s stadiums are a reminder of today’s austere times...concerns about avoiding the white-elephant syndrome...next year’s Olympics promise to be an exercise in architectural restraint...the differences in architectural tone between these games and the 2008 version would be tough to overstate...one of the clearest signs yet that the architectural boom years...in the West have definitively ended. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Zaha Hadid, Populous, Peter Cook, Wilkinson Eyre; Hopkins Architects; AECOM, George Hargreaves [slide-show] - Los Angeles Times

River City's second act changes tack - and tone: West Don Lands condo complex changes colour and form as it stretches...
south, linked by an urban park beneath an elevated roadway…one of the most imaginative multi-family residential schemes
goto public in Toronto during the past two years. By John Bentley Mays -- Saucier + Perrotte Architects; ZAS Architects;
Phillips Farevaag Smollegen; Planning Partnership - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Can Modern Architecture Ever Gain Favor in Historic Neighborhoods? San Francisco Chronicle’s architecture critic weighs
in on his city’s epic preservation battles: John King talks about the city’s preservationist culture, and how modernist
architects manage to get their buildings built…"The way you get through the groups is to give them most of what they want.""-
The Atlantic Cities

Privatization killed the kibbutz culture center: Kibbutz Gvat’s Beit Herschel community building was once the envy of the
region…it will likely not regain its past glory…likely to soon be abandoned altogether and become a silent, forgotten
monument to the socialist ethos on which the kibbutz…was founded. By Noam Divri – Yohanan Ratiner (1937); Richard
Kaufmann; Aryeh Sharon; David Resnick [image] - Ha’aretz (Israel)

Plan for a Memorial Splits Newport’s Old Guard: Maya Lin’s plan for a memorial to the heiress and preservationist Doris
Duke in a park [Queen Anne Square] in Newport, R.I., has critics and defenders…denounced it as ersatz history and as the
result of a kind of celebrity-artist-shopping… [image] - New York Times

J. Mayer H. Architects’s Stylish New Turkey-Georgia Border Checkpoint: One might expect this striking seaside stunner to
house a luxury hotel or millionaire’s abode, in reality it serves as a customs checkpoint. [slide show] - Artinfo

Sorry, Brooklyn: This Is What Atlantic Yards Is Supposed To Look Like: B2 tower will, at 32-stories, be the "world's tallest
prefabricated steel structure." Almost makes you miss Miss Brooklyn. -- SHoP Architects [images] - Gothamist (NYC)

"It's a Really Challenging Profession": Zaha Hadid on Shrugging Off Criticism to Rise to the Top...Broad Art Museum, the
criticism she got for her second Stirling Prize, and how she has managed to climb the ladder in a male-dominated
industry…"they thought they were going to beat me up so much that I would give up. That was the plan, but I didn’t." [slide
show] - Artinfo

Wind rips open Beijing's terminal roof: Incidents of strong winds damaging T3 twice within the space of a year have made
people skeptical about its quality...roof area was too large for maintenance workers to make sure every screw on the metal
panels was tightened after five years' use. -- Fosters & Partners; Beijing Architectural Design and Research Institute- China
Daily

Call for entries/Request for Qualifications/RFQ (international): Leipzig Monument to Freedom and Unity (the Peaceful
Revolution of 1989); deadline: December 16- City of Leipzig

"Unbuilt Washington": The National Building Museum explores some breathtakingly beautiful and some simply bizarre
proposals to shape - or re-shape - America's capital: Two architect/curators discuss the what-might-have-been architecture
and urban design projects that would have made Washington, DC look very different today (and tomorrow). -- G. Martin
Moeller, Jr.; Susan Piedmont-Palladino- ArchNewsNow

Rudy Ricciotti: Cocteau Museum, Severin Wunderman Collection, Menton, France

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