• While the healthcare may be one of the few fairly prosperous A/E sectors, an architect explains why the growing trend in hybrid operating rooms requires a new design approach for architects.

• After Liverpool gets the news it's in danger of losing its world heritage site status, UNESCO inspectors check out developments around the Tower of London and the Palace of Westminster with concerns about the skyscrapers (like the Shard) rising around them.

• Russell sees promise in Salt Lake City's pilot efforts in the Sustainable Communities program: "With proximity to a new light-rail line, suburbs can build to traditional urban densities."

• Meanwhile, New York State gets with the Complete Streets initiative, now it's the law.

• Some of Toronto's satellite cities are waging a big boxitus battle by "banking on culture to fight big-box sprawl" to revitalize their downtowns.

• Kamin has high hopes for Chicago's Navy Pier shortlist: "the real story here is pier officials' fundamentally sound emphasis on constellations of talent, not starchitects; and on the urban landscape, not a 'look at me' aesthetic object."

• Doig x 2: if urban bicyclists want to change cities (and not to be considered "elite snobs"), they need a new attitude.

• If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be?

• Some of the proposals).

• The U.N. teams up with Cucinella to build 20 green schools in Gaza that will "fuse Islamic architecture and sustainable design" (and make education "less vulnerable to the politics du jour").

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• Diamond + Schmitt tapped to give the "inelegant rear end" of Canada's otherwise "wonderfully evocative" National Arts Centre a "posterior for posterity."

• Brown, the stellar shortlist of three in the St. Peterburg's Pier competition offer a wave, a lens, and an eye: "Wow seemed to be the word of the day."

• Walk, Bike to Work in Salt Lake's Answer to Suburban Nightmares: ...piloting a federal program called Sustainable Communities...With proximity to a new light-rail line, suburbs...can build to traditional urban densities...Daybreak and City Creek got built in sync with a regional planning effort...called Wasatch Choice for 2040. By James S. Russell - Bloomberg News

• In Florida, the stellar shortlist of three in the St. Peterburg's Pier competition offer a wave, a lens, and an eye: "Wow seemed to be the word of the day." (with an eyeful of the proposals).

• The N.A.C.'s National Arts Centre (inaugural Elgin St. rear is a maddening shortcoming of a wonderfully evocative building. Fixing it requires a deft, but not delicate, hand...will take imagination and more than a bit of re-engineering...Diamond + Schmitt should prove an excellent choice. By Roy Phillips - Fred Lebensold/Affleck, Desbarats, Dimakopoulos, Lebensold, Sise (1969); Diamond + Schmitt Architects - Ottawa Citizen (Canada)

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they need a new attitude...The bicyclists-as-gentrifiers trope turns out to be more perception than reality...If we want to improve the image...we need to start with ourselves. If we’re successful, the concept of the elitist bicyclist will one day seem as silly as, well, driving in Manhattan. By Will Doig - Salon

Why city rankings always get it wrong: Happiest cities, most livable cities, loneliest cities -- the Web’s filled with lists. Almost all of them are bogus...the most value these lists probably have is that they can get people talking about issues. By Will Doig - Salon

Mercer Quality Of Living Survey: Canada Slides Slightly On Liveable Cities Index: Vienna appears to be the current undisputed winner...In second place came Zurich, followed by Auckland, New Zealand, and Munich, Germany. - Huffington Post

Lunch With The Critics: Second-Annual Year-End Awards: How will 2011 be remembered in architectural history? The last hurrah of starchitectural extravagance? After long deliberation... By Mark Lamster and Alexandra Lange -- Michael Kimmelman; Paul Goldberger; Esther Zandberg; Preston Scott Cohen; Philip Kennicott; Moshe Safdie; Brad Cloepfil; Neutlings-Riedijk; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Shigeru Ban; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Architect Barbie; Foster + Partners; Nicholas de Monchaux; Brian Lehrer; Metropolis Magazine [links]- Design Observer

Architects and Designers Named USA Fellows -- Each Receives $50,000 for Artistic Excellence -- Elena Manferdini/Atelier Manferdini; J. Morgan Puett/Mildred’s Lane; Jenny E. Sabin/Jenny Sabin Studio; Ada Tolla/Giuseppe Lignano/LOT-EK; Mabel O. Wilson/6Ten Studio- United States Artists

Herman Hertzberger to Receive the RIBA 2012 Royal Gold Medal for Architecture: One of his major influences on 20th century architecture was to challenge the early modernist belief that 'form follows function'..."has transformed the way we think about architecture, both as architects and people who use buildings"... -- Architectuurstudio HH [images]- Dexigner

The BSA welcomes Renée Loth as the new editor of ArchitectureBoston: ...founding editor Elizabeth Padjen, FAIA, is stepping down after...14 years. - Boston Society of Architects/BSA/AA

Glimpses of a Forgotten, Forbidden City: The town of Wünsdorf near Berlin was once the headquarters of the Soviet military in East Germany and home to some 50,000 soldiers. But after the Red Army’s departure in 1994, the buildings were left to crumble. Photographer Jörg Rüger explored the grounds, and was fascinated by their silent charm. [slide show]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

Butterfly wings inspire design of water-repellent surface: Mimicking the many-layered nanostructure of a butterfly’s wing, an international team of researchers have created a silicon wafer that traps both air and light. - EarthSky

Call for entries: ArchNewsNow / MOO Competition: If you could hand your business card to one person in the world, who would it be? (It's fun!)- ArchNewsNow

Yesterday's News

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