Reinhold Martin returns to ruminate on the next phase of the Occupy movement and "the counterintuitive idea of a 'privately owned public space,' and its close cousin, the oxymoronic 'public-private partnership.'"

An architect, landscape architect, and Berger weigh in on Corner's plans for Seattle's waterfront: it's "not so much "time to go back to the drawing board" as time to get outside and get real." a call to keep at least some of the kitsch alive + a call to "to pare back some of the other strenuous and over-reaching aspects" of the design.

King thinks SFMOMA's expansion plans are "on the right track": the schematic design "prods us to think about how buildings function, not merely how they look" (though there are some disappointing elements).

Welton takes a long-overdue look at the landscape surrounding the "neo-Emerald City apparition in the Dubai desert" (a.k.a. Burj Khalifa).

It looks like high-speed rail in America is dead: its "backers weren't as staunch as its detractors...It's our children's problem now."

Kamin makes his pick of the best architecture of 2011: "Despite the ongoing construction downturn, much to celebrate."

AIA anoints Holl with its 2012 Gold Medal, and VJAA with the 2012 AIA Architecture Firm Award.

Weekend diversions:

- Welton cheers Gwathmey Siegel show at Yale: it's "Charles Gwathmey's humanity that comes across most clearly...In two words, he was a class act."
- "Civic Action" at the Noguchi Museum teams up artists with (unnamed) architects and planners to "take a crack at city planning"; the results "range from site specific to silly."
- Waxman walks through the other Bertrand Goldberg show in Chicago that "asks what can be understood about an architect's practice by examining the artwork and furnishings he surrounded himself with" (toucans and cuff links included).
- Lifson riffs on Lautner in this centennial year of his birth: his hometown in Michigan has honored him with two exhibitions, while the documentary "Infinite Space" explains "the shock of arriving in L.A. after growing up and working in the Midwest."
- In Berlin, "Form Follows Nature" offers a history of nature as a model for developing forms in civil engineering, architecture, and the fine arts.
- Taiwan hosts the Kaohsiung International Container Arts Festival, opening tomorrow, with "New Sweet Style: Arbitat," where imaginations create visions of the "home" using shipping container.
- Q&A with Austin Williams re: "The Lure of the City: From Slums to Suburbs," explaining some common misconceptions about cities: "Sustainability has become a misanthropic attitude."
- King's picks for a holiday gift guide of books on architecture.
- Brussat gives (mostly) thumbs-up to "The Language of Towns and Cities: A Visual Dictionary": it "is frankly and boldly an encyclopedia of the New Urbanism, which is really the old urbanism updated for the modern world."
- Two we couldn't resist: Gehry designs the artwork for the 54th Annual Grammy Awards (the poster looks more like Gehry's Greatest Hits - we don't quite get the connection) + A cool video of rapper Ice Cube "professing his love for Charles and Ray Eames" (his take on L.A.'s freeways is actually the most interesting part.)
hometown of Marquette, Mich., has honored him with two exhibitions...In the 2009 documentary "Infinite Space," he explains the shock of arriving in L.A. after growing up and working in the Midwest. By Edward Lifson- National Public Radio (NPR)

"Form Follows Nature": A history of nature as a model for developing forms in civil engineering, architecture, and the fine arts...at Aedes am Pfefferberg, Berlin, 13 December 2011 – 26 January 2012 -- Frei Otto; Carsten Nicolai; Dieter Dolezel; Finsterwalder Architekten [images] - Aedes Gallery (Berlin)

Kaohsiung International Container Arts Festival 2011: "New Sweet Style: Arbitat": International artists exercise their imaginations on the interior or exterior of shipping container to create visions of the "home"; December 10, 2011 - January 31, 2012; Pier 2 Art Center, Taiwan [images] - Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts

Q&A: Austin Williams, Urbanist: "The Lure of the City: From Slums to Suburbs" by Alastair Donald and Austin Williams...he explains some common misconceptions about cities..."Some eco-cities are merely marketing labels to sell bog-standard urban developments to canny politicians; some have regressive anti-urbanist agendas but masquerade as urbanism." - The Economist / More Intelligent Life (UK)

John King's holiday gift guide: books on architecture: "Bernard Maybeck: Architect of Elegance" by Mark Anthony Wilson; "Old Buildings, New Designs: Architectural Transformations" by Charles Bloszies; "Port City: The History and Transformation of the Port of San Francisco, 1848-2010" by Michael R. Corbett; "Reveal: Studio Gang Architects" by Jeanne Gang; "Design With the Other 90%: Cities" by Cynthia E. Smith; etc. - San Francisco Chronicle

An encyclopedia of cities and towns: "The Language of Towns and Cities: A Visual Dictionary" by Dhiru Thadani...journeys deeply into the territory of the urban, using urbanism to map a return to urbane cities and towns...this is frankly and boldly an encyclopedia of the New Urbanism, which is really the old urbanism updated for the modern world. By David Brussat [images] - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Frank Gehry Creates Official Artwork for the 54th Annual Grammy Awards: ...will grace the cover of the GRAMMY Awards program book, telecast tickets and promotional poster. [images] - PR Newswire

No Joke: Here's Ice Cube Professing His Love For The Eameses: "They were doing mash-ups before mash-ups even existed..."Made for "Pacific Standard Time"..."They were doing mash-ups before mash-ups even existed," he says of the couple's early prefab Case Study House..."This is going green, 1949 style, bitch...This is going green, 1949 style..." - [video] - Fast Company

INSIGHT: At the Intersection of Medicine, Technology, and Design: Hybrid Operating Rooms: Technology has enabled the transformation of classic operating rooms into dynamic, multi-purpose environments - requiring a new design approach for architects. By Ross A. Cole, BAM Architecture Studio- ArchNewsNow

Dominique Perrault: Arganzuela footbridge, Madrid, Spain

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