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AANY Ponders Public Spaces in the Age of Occupy Wall Street: The OWS protests have raised a major question for architects, legal eagles, and other concerned folks: what makes up truly public space...Freedom of Assembly: Public Space Today panel tried to address just this question. -- Michael Kimmelman; Alexander Cooper/Cooper; Robertson & Partners; Michael Sorkin; Lance Jay Brown; Rick Belt; Elizabeth J. Kennedy/Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architecture; etc. [link to video of discussion]- Curbed New York

It's Time to Rethink 'Temporary': Architecture has always been synonymous with permanence, but should it be? The architecture that's been making news is fast and fleeting: pop-up shops, food carts...there is undeniable opportunity in the temporary: It is an apt response to a civilization in flux..."temporary" is so retro that it's become radical. By Allison Arieff -- New York Observer

Koolhaas's Defense of Generic Architecture: If you only read the highlights of his...interview in Der Spiegel, you probably missed the point...he believes the generic city is also the freest...Generic plug-in waterfronts...are the product of a simple equation between developers and city governments...architecture is "icing on the cake," a broken, out-dated profession, missed the point...he believes the generic city is also the freest... By Witold Rybczynski -- The Atlantic

A Stunning Revival for Hamburg's Old Port: A 388-acre industrial zone is being transformed into HafenCity, a vibrant mixed-use district...Despite some financial setbacks, the $10 billion urban renewal project is moving along. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Selldorf Architects; Richard Meier & Partners; Kees Christiaanse/KCAP/ASTOC; Henning Larsen; Spengler & Wiescholek; Rem Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) [slide show] - Architectural Record

The University in the Shopping Mall: A Vancouver suburb's experiment: Surrey Central City is hardly a run-of-the-mill mall. Designed to the design of the project was the 5,000-student, four-story university facilities on top...planned like a traditional downtown...why should students be isolated from everyday life? Or vice versa? The longer I walked around...the more convinced I became of the profound correctness of this innovative solution. By Witold Rybczynski -- Bing Thom Architects [slide show essay] - State

Is modern architecture now old hat? The Lloyd's Building...designed by Richard Rogers, has achieved heritage status with its Grade I listing...Proof that "modern" has, indeed, become an historical style label is with us now...There are several layers of meaning here...has become an unirisible, although perhaps not yet much-loved, London landmark...From bold astonishment to the safety of the archives in a quarter of a century! This is an irony to savour... By Stephen Bayley -- The Atlantic Cities

London Bridge Station redevelopment gets green light: Plans...including demolition of the South Eastern Railway offices in Tooley Street and permanent closure of Stainer Street and part of Weston Street - have been approved by Southwark's planning committee...fits into the £6 billion Thameslink Programme... - Graham [images] -- London SE1

Eisenhower's granddaughters critical of Frank Gehry's memorial design: Modernism vs. traditionalism. In Washington, this spells controversy. The project has become a battle of wills...Susan Eisenhower and her family...would prefer a simpler, more traditional design...They're not against Gehry. They're not against modern design. They just don't like this one... By Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan - The Atlantic

Fixing suburbs with green streets that accommodate everyone: There's a lot to like about Montgomery County's initiative, including that it brings together three relatively new and successful lines of sustainability thinking and planning: redesigning suburbs; green infrastructure; and "complete streets"...It reminds us that the greatest potential for sustainable communities lies with the integration of ideas and purposes. By Kaiya Benfield - Swt Design Company; Galina Tachieves/Smart-Wrap Repair Manual; Ellen Dunham-Jones/June Williamson/Retrofitting Suburbia [images, links] - Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

National Parks Go Urban: ...an exciting NIMBY project. It will put nature in millions of backyards by establishing Canada's first urban National Park in the country's largest urban area. Nestled in the east end of the Greater Toronto Area, Rouge National
Park will be unlike any other. By David Suzuki - Huffington Post Canada

The best (and worst) in Chicago architecture 2011: ...the good begins with the UNO Soccer Academy...The magical, mechanical Mansueto Library...some of the worst...The demolition of the old Michael Reese Hospital...That awful fiberglass Marilyn Monroe in granny panties... By Lee Bey -- Juan Moreno; Ghafari Associates; Helmut Jahn [images, links]- WBEZ

2011 Annual Design Review: With 20 projects across six categories, the winners reflect exceptional design in a variety of building typologies. -- Steven Holl Architects/Solange Fabião; Höweler + Yoon Architecture; Preston Scott Cohen; Martin Blackwell Architect; Johnsen Schmaling Architects; Lord Aeck & Sargent/Office dA; de Leon & Primmer Architecture Workshop; etc. [images, info]- Architect Magazine

The House on Chicken Feet, Part 1: "Baba Yaga": ...three "architectural fairy tales," reimagined by New York firms...all of the tales explore, in words and images, the "promise of a magical home." By Kate Bernheimer & Andrew Bernheimer/Bernheimer Architecture; Leven Betts; Guy Nordenson and Associates - Places Journal

London's Futuristic New Double-Decker Bus Hits The Streets: The prototype, a fuel-efficient hybrid by the studio of Brit-boy wonder Thomas Heatherwick, is cleverly designed to speed up passenger boarding and represents the first time that the city has commissioned a new bus in more than 50 years. By Suzanne LaBarre -- Heatherwick Studio [images]- Fast Company

Street artist Eduardo Releño's 3D illusions on pavements [slide show]- Telegraph (UK)

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP for iconic Stage Center in downtown Oklahoma City designed by John M. Johansen in 1970; won a National AIA Honor Award in 1972 but is now in danger of being lost; deadline: February 29, 2012 - AIA Central Oklahoma Chapter (AIA COC)

Call for entries (international): OPPTA Competition: Emergency Interventions: 5 sites are areas of risk or emergency situations where intervention will be through immediate action; earlybird (discount) registration deadline: February 20; submission deadline: April 16, 2012- Pan-American Observatory of Landscape, Territory and Architecture


Competition winner: BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group: Koutalaki Ski Village, Levi, Finland

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