• Call for entries: Helsinki Central Library International Architectural Competition.
• As if things aren’t bad enough, a new study shows an architecture degree yields highest unemployment: “People keep telling kids to study what they love — but some leaders are better than others.”
• Krasnow on the special challenges in designing Indian Country detention facilities: “One of the significant differences is the challenge of incorporating a tribe’s cultural traditions into the modern environment.”
• A London-based firm wins U.N. ideas competition for housing in Iraq; first up: three sites in Baghdad (one hopes).
• The downsides of working in a glass office: aside from a loss of privacy, there’s “the bird factor — people slamming into walls.”
• Mays goes mano-a-mano with Yansong Ma re: how his “foxily curvaceous” Marilyn tower in Mississauga was “a landmark breakout from cereal-box modernism” (the term “nature” comes up often).
• The downside of working in a glass office: aside from a loss of privacy, there’s “the bird factor — people slamming into walls.”
• A London-based firm wins U.N. ideas competition for housing in Iraq; first up: three sites in Baghdad (one hopes).
• As if things aren’t bad enough, a new study shows an architecture degree yields highest unemployment: “People keep telling kids to study what they love — but some leaders are better than others.”
• Call for entries: Helsinki Central Library International Architectural Competition.

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here.

Architecture and urban design forecast for 2012: Navy Pier competition, Hadd on Michigan State, London Olympics, and more. By Blair Kamin — VOA Associates; Ralph Johnson/Perkins+Will; Stanley Tigerman; Jeanne Gang; Müller + Müller; Zimmerman/Smoluchowski (ZSK); Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Anderson/Kos Architects; Arab; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Carol Ross Barney; Lucien Lagrange [links] — Chicago Tribune

The Burj Khalifa two years later: With help from Hollywood, the world’s tallest building asserts its status as a global icon, but real estate and urban planning problems remain: “the big real estate idea was to make the tower a focal/selling point for an entire urban district... Dubai has an awful track record of building first and planning later, and so it is with the Burj... for now at least, it is plainly no towering achievement in urban planning. By Blair Kamin — Bill Baker/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Adrian Smith [images, links] — Chicago Tribune

Buildings of 2012: BD looks ahead to some of the key projects around the world due for completion in 2012 — OMA; Zaha Hadid; Grimshaw/Dattner Architects; MVRDV; SANAA; Foster + Partners; Herzog & de Meuron [images] — BDBuilding Design (UK)

Top 10 Newly Developed NYC Apartment Buildings Ranked on Architectural Merit: ...there were some strong entries for excellent architecture — encouraging hope that the city’s design conservatism may be waning... By Carter B. Horsley — Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Frank Gehry; Neil Denari; Perkins Eastman; DDG Design; Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kohn/EEEK; Arquitectonica; SLCE Architects; Lucien Lagrange; Annabelle Selldorf/Selldorf Architects — Citybizlist New York

Reinventing the East Side Waterfront: A steady drumbeat of real estate deals, park restorations, reclaimed piers and new esplanades heralds the remaking of Manhattan’s East Side waterfront... “a golden age for the East River” is at hand... — Municipal Art Society - New York Times

Roses and raspberries for 2011: ...main ally in suppressing the dominion of the raspberry in recent years is the continuation of the poor economy. By David Brussat [images] — Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

PennPraxis at 10: ...research ideas can translate into object lessons for design students by assigning them real-world projects with contracts, deliverables, deadlines — and, not incidentally, fees. “Along the way, the group has pushed farther and farther afield, branching into the sort of city-changing projects that other academic design groups only dream of...” Its impact has been really profound,” says Inga Saffron... — Harris Steinberg; Gary Hack; James Timberlake/KieranTimberlake — The Pennsylvania Gazette (University of Pennsylvania)

50 Years Later, Jacobs Still Leads a Sorority of Dissent: Rachel Carson, Betty Friedan, and Jane Jacobs tore at the social fabric of America... They reaffirmed the beauty... that had been forgotten in the aesthetic cataclysm of the 1950s, and then they painstakingly explained what had happened and what could be done... Though they chose different images, they all wrote about the same thing. By Josh Stephens — California Planning & Development Report

Polishing a Gem: Cranbrook’s Saarinen-designed museum gets a new wing... does not add new galleries, lobbies, or grand entrances. But to call it simply “storage space” would demean the complicated inner workings of a building that allows the museum to operate as intended when it was completed in 1942... — Adrian Smith [images] — Chicago Tribune

Adrian Smith [images] — Chicago Tribune

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here.
curvaceous Absolute condominium tower in Mississauga almost six years ago... Critics at home and abroad hailed the project as a landmark breakout from cereal-box modernism... the word “nature” comes up often... “Going natural,” however, does not mean the same thing for Ma that “going green” signifies for most Western architects. By John Bentley Mays -- MAD Architects - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Indecent Exposure: The Downsides of Working in a Glass Office: While they may bring more efficiency, some complain about a loss of privacy... Some companies are tinkering with the designs to make them more habitable... Then there is “the bird factor — people slamming into walls”... - Wall Street Journal

British firms wins Iraq housing work: Assemblage has won a United Nations ideas competition... The government is looking at using its winning design on three sites in Baghdad which it wants to start work on this year. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Thoughts on Planning, Programming & Designing Indian Country Detention Facilities: One of the significant differences in designing an Indian Country detention facility is the challenge of incorporating a tribe’s cultural values & symbols. By Peter Krasnow, FAIA/Justice Solutions Group - Correctional News

"Local architects are incapacitated": Chief Tokunbo Omisore was recently elected President of African Union of Architects (AUA)... he speaks on his role as president, the state of the architectural industry and plans for the future... "the focus is to re-brand African Architects and architecture." - The Nation (Nigeria)

New study shows architecture, arts degrees yield highest unemployment: “People keep telling kids to study what they love - but some loves are worth more than others”... - Washington Post

Call for entries: Helsinki Central Library International Architectural Competition (2 stages); cash prizes; deadline (Stage 1): April 16, 2012 - City of Helsinki (Finland)

Faith & Form/IFRAA 2011 Religious Art and Architecture Awards: “Context” was the watchword... -- Duncan G. Stroik Architect; Kubala Washatko Architects; Albano Poli; Kiki Smith/Deborah Gans; Constantine George Pappas; Shim-Sutcliffe Architects; Maurice Jennings + Walter Jennings Architects; Akin Olishin Schade Architects; Kosinski Architecture; Quinn Evans Architects; Historic Building Architects; Richard Brown Architect; Lehrer Architects LA; Arquipelago; etc. - Faith & Form Magazine

Association of Licensed Architects (ALA) Announces Winners in 13th Annual Design Award Competition -- Dewberry/MKC Associates; INVISION Architecture; Morgante Wilson Architects; Dewberry/HDA Architects; Hirsch Associates; FGH Architects; Harley Ellis Devereaux; McCollum Architects; Design Organization; Urban Works; Torchia Associates; Korb Tredo Architects; LCM Architects; etc. - Association of Licensed Architects (ALA)

Yayoi Kusama: Flowers That Bloom at Midnight, Jardins des Tuileries, Paris, France