• Feffer posits: "Want to build a new society for peace, justice, and sustainability? Ask an architect" - a fascinating take that entails North Korea's slow steps towards sustainable building and AHF's Open Architecture Challenge re: alternative uses for military bases.

• Hatherley tackles whether the "Skyscraper Index" really does predict recessions - and why "not all towers are built by phallic capitalism": the hospital next to the "ludicrously overpowering, overscaled, overpriced Shard" may be "a mere high-rise, it's made of concrete, it's inexpensive and, worst of all, it serves a useful function."

• Benfield on the Healing Cities Institute's "8 Dimensions of a Healing City": an "intriguing list" that is "about how well cities are working for their residents...it is clearly on to something" (great links, too).

• We're thrilled AJ has made its "Women in Practice" issue available to all, with an interesting explanation of why Barbie graces the cover, while the issue "contains more than 60 non-plastic practicing architects"...Some starting (and some not so surprising) results from its first Women in Architecture survey.

• Dvir does his best to decipher the details re: the one-says/the-other-says drama playing out around Jerusalem's Museum of Tolerance: if the Wiesenthal Center works with another architect using Chuyin Architects' design, "it would be the first time in Israel that a major public structure was built using the design of an architect who was not actively involved in the construction" + The architects claim they still own the design copyright and are ready to go to court (Gehry must be glad he's free of this one!).

• Glancey, on a higher note, hails plans for the Pan Am Games 2015 Athletes Village in Toronto's West Don Lands: it's the public-sector investment in green infrastructure that's bringing in private-sector investment (to the tune of about $1 billion).

• Long says "The Art-Architecture Complex" "gently debunkes the reputations of a series of ageing architects who probably don't give a damn what anybody thinks any more, while offering little to the rest of us."

• Weekend diversions:
  • An urban planner builds an 80-square-foot scale model of Long Beach, CA, so that residents and business owners "can try their hand at city planning. The process is more than child's play."
  • Webb and Heller offer high praise for "Eames Words" at LA’s A+D Museum (just a few more days to catch it!).
  • As MCNY celebrates Roche's New York, the architect reflects on his road from Ireland to the Big Apple: he didn't set out to be an emigrant."

• King cheers "A Negotiated Landscape: The Transformation of San Francisco's Waterfront Since 1950": "if you're a planning junkie, all this is catnip."

• Balmori and Sanders' "Groundwork: Between Landscape and Architecture" presents "compelling arguments for increasing collaboration between the two disciplines."

• Welton gives thumbs-up to Hicks Stone and the "first comprehensive book on his father's work...raising a new curtain on one of this nation's most original architects."

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• Benfield on the Healing Cities Institute's "8 Dimensions of a Healing City": an "intriguing list" that is "about how well cities are working for their residents...it is clearly on to something" (great links, too).

• Why we put Barbie on the cover: Even the AIA hailed Architect Barbie as a role model for aspiring female architects. Women in Practice issue contains more than 60 non-plastic practising architects...also launching three new Women in Architecture awards. [links, images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

• Shock survey results as the AJ launches campaign to raise women architects' status: Data from the AJ's first Women in Architecture survey show that 47% of women claim that men get paid more for the same work, and almost two-thirds believe the building industry has yet to accept the authority of the female architect. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

• Wiesenthal Center continues work on Museum of Tolerance after architects quit: ...the center said...they intend to work with another architect to complete the project using Chuyin Architects design. It would be the first time in Israel that a major public structure was built using the design of an architect who was not actively involved in the construction. The Chuyins said...they hold all the exclusive intellectual, moral, commercial and reproduction rights to the designs...By Noam Dvir - Haaretz (Israel)

• Construction of Museum of Tolerance Jerusalem could begin soon: Architectural firm denies that museum owns rights to design, says it will go to court...This is the third time the museum will have to look for an architect. -- Frank Gehry; Chuyin Architects - Jerusalem Post

• Blackpool gets its very own Vegas-style registry office, a Scottish giant goes to the great studio in the sky, and the sad demise of two close-knit London housing estates...A week of happy beginnings and sad departures. By Jonathan Glancy -- dRMM; Isi Metzstein/Gillespie, Kidd & Coia/Andy MacMillan; Peter Besley/Asesemblage; Alison and Peter Smithson; Renzo Piano [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

• A high water mark: artists moor holiday houseboat on London roof: Vessel installed on top of Queen Elizabeth Hall on South Bank...what you see spread out before you as you board the artwork Roi des Belges, also known as A Room for London, is the most compelling, and gloriously wide-angled, panorama of central London.... By Jonathan Glancy -- The Architects' Journal - (UK)

• Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Blackpool gets its very own Vegas-style registry office, a Scottish giant goes to the great studio in the sky, and the sad demise of two close-knit London housing estates...A week of happy beginnings and sad departures. By Jonathan Glancy -- dRMM; Isi Metzstein/Gillespie, Kidd & Coia/Andy MacMillan; Peter Besley/Asesemblage; Alison and Peter Smithson; Renzo Piano [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

• View from the soul: the week in architecture: Blackpool gets its very own Vegas-style registry office, a Scottish giant goes to the great studio in the sky, and the sad demise of two close-knit London housing estates...A week of happy beginnings and sad departures. By Jonathan Glancy -- dRMM; Isi Metzstein/Gillespie, Kidd & Coia/Andy MacMillan; Peter Besley/Asesemblage; Alison and Peter Smithson; Renzo Piano [images, links]- Guardian (UK)
What Works: "Eames Words" at the A+D Museum distills the essence of Charles & Ray Eames: His pithy comments on the design process provide the text; her gift for color and arrangement breathe life into every corner of the room. By Michael Webb [Images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Eames Words": I'll take wisdom anywhere I can get it. Even on a wall...The Eameses' words are just as potent in the 21st century as they were in the 20th; their insights transcend style, with timeless quotes... By Steven Heller -- Deborah Sussman/Sussman/Pregza; Andrew Byrom; Todd Erlandson; Lara Hoard[Images]- New York Times

MCNY celebrates Roche's New York: The immigrants built and continue to build New York City. Few, though, if any, have had quite the impact on how it looks than Kevin Roche. Not that the world-renowned architect set out to be an emigrant...It was the beginning of a glittering and extraordinary career..."Kevin Roche: Architecture as Environment" at the Museum of the City of New York... -- Eero Saarinen; Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo-- Irish Echo

"A Negotiated Landscape: The Transformation of San Francisco's Waterfront Since 1950" tells how S.F. tide turns port into promenade: The best thing about Jasper Rubin's new book...is that it opens a window onto landscapes that do not exist...the basic lesson applies to every large city. What doesn't happen can cast as long a shadow as what does...If you're a planning junkie, all this is catnip. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Breaking New Ground: "Groundwork: Between Landscape and Architecture" by Diana Balmori and Joel Sanders...designers might begin to understand buildings and landscapes as "linked interactive systems that heal the environment...present compelling arguments for increasing collaboration between the two disciplines, a process that can help deal with the growing complexities in the built environment. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

"Edward Durell Stone: A Son's Untold Story of a Legendary Architect": Nothing else about an architect matters as much as his buildings. And Hicks Stone - author, architect and son of the modernist master - has set out to prove the point with the first comprehensive book on his father's work...raising a new curtain on one of this nation's most original architects. By J. Michael Welton [Images]- Huffington Post

"The Art-Architecture Complex" by Hal Foster: ...gently debunks the reputations of a series of ageing architects who probably don't give a damn what anybody thinks any more, while offering little to the rest of us. By Kieran Long -- Norman Foster; Richard Rogers; Renzo Piano; Zaha Hadid; Diller Scofidio & Renfro; Herzog & de Meuron- Icon (UK)

ADR's top ten books of 2011 on architecture, design and urbanism -- "Closer to God: Religious Architecture and Sacred Spaces" by Lucas Ferreiss; "20/20: Editorial Takes on Architectural Discourse"; "Living in the Endless City" by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic; "The Beach Beneath the Street: The Everyday Life and Glorious Times of the Situationist International" by McKenzie Wark; "Utopia: Texts and Projects, 1967–1978" by Craig Buckley & Jean-Louis Völk; "A Taxonomy of Office Chairs" by Jonathan Olivares; "CCCP: Cosmic Communist Constructions Photographed" by Frédéric Chaubin; etc.- Australian Design Review

"Becoming Julia Morgan" by Belinda Taylor explores the life of California's first licensed woman architect...Jan. 13 to 15 at the Sausalito Woman's Club, which Morgan designed and completed in 1918...the Julia Morgan Project intends to perform the play at Morgan-designed buildings - Marin Independent Journal (California)