• ArcSpace brings us an eyeful of Romero's Soumaya Museum.
• Berger on signs that Seattle is getting ready for its next boom: though good signs are in "abundance," what is really needed is "enlightened and creative planning" so that "development opportunities aren't squandered."
• Hinshaw, on the other hand, says San Diego holds a lesson for Seattle in "how NOT to treat a central waterfront."
• King takes on the pros and cons of some of San Francisco's newest POPS (privately owned public spaces) and how to "make a worthy program better" (signage has a lot to do with it) + he sizes up 6 POPS re: "Why you should go...Why you haven't gone: How would you know? What can be done to make them better.
• A 4-year study by Design Council Cabe on the relationship between crime and contemporary housing casts doubts on the "efficacy of the police's controversial Secured by Design strategy."
• Baillieu minces no words about what she thinks of the study results: the "case for Secured by Design has always looked doubtful...the way to tackle crime is by having police on the streets not sitting in committee rooms telling architects what to do."
• Moore has a most amusing conversation with Gehry re: the "backlash" against him that he finds "self-righteous" and "annoying" (he can do square, too).
• Welton gets the scoop from Freelon re: the evolution of the design for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (groundbreaking tomorrow).
• A Kathmandu architect on a crusade to chronicle and preserve Nepal's architectural treasures: "To put things into a book is an act of preservation because one day this will be the only way to remember."
Saving stone treasures: A Kathmandu architect is attempting to chronicle a dying culture. ...much of the capital’s ancient architecture will soon be no more than a memory...as haphazard urbanisation and a desire for modernity change Kathmandu. ...“To put things into a book is an act of preservation because one day this will be the only way to remember,” says Niels Gutschow, who has dedicated the last four decades to chronicling and preserving Nepal’s architectural treasures. - The Star (Malaysia)

Kieran Long’s architectural journey from Berlin to London and Venice: The three cities that shaped my views on architecture are places where history wins over innovation...where transformation is more compelling than the shock of the new...a building’s fabric displays the ebb and flow of history, if you just know how to look at it. -- David Chipperfield; John Soane - Telegraph (UK)

Rome mixes contemporary architecture while keeping its focus on past: ...latest architectural additions...render visible the tension between past and present...communicates that Italy wants very much to assert itself as a contemporary creative power, not just as the heir to a glorious past. By Steven Litt -- Zaha Hadid; Richard Meier; Renzo Piano; Massimiliano Fuksas [images] - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Swiss Architect Takes First Prize at Bab Al Bahrain Open Ideas Competition: ...to redesign one of the few existing public squares in Bahrain...Second and Third Place were given to teams from Italy and the Netherlands. -- Lukas Lenherr; Baukuh and Guido Tesio; Partizan Public- Dus Architects [images, links] - Bustler

Winners Announced: The Core Project Competition to vitalize the city of Sebastopol, California -- Vinod Kadu/Smita Ambadi; Joel Baumgardner/William Baumgardner; Steve Jewkes/Rick Rocchetti/Deborah Woodbury; Pavel Kouznetsov/Albert Escobar/David AT Phan/Leandro Yuan [images] - City of Sebastopol / AIA Redwood Empire Chapter

INSIGHT: Bringing Art to the Streets without Breaking the Bank: An architect explains how he used innovative materials and a close-knit alliance of stakeholders to create an economical yet artful amenity for a city’s public transit passengers. By Walter Geiger, AIA, FARA - ArchNewsNow

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