A most welcome trend: "Once the first thing to be cut in a time of recession, the arts are proving their worth: it's not just recognized as a cultural hub...Communities as diverse as Paducah, Ky.; Park City, Utah; and Buffalo, N.Y.; consider the arts no longer in need of a handout but the go-to source of a hand up...For every $1 investment, $51 return." -- Richard Florida; Daniel Libeskind; Allied Works Architects; Frederick Law Olmsted; Frank Lloyd Wright; Christian Science Monitor

See, hear, feel and taste science at The Mind Museum in Taguig City: "the massive building looks like a spaceship...to help address the significant gap in its math and science education, the museum will not be a substitute for schools, but rather a way to help breed scientific literacy." -- Ed Calma/Lor Calma & Partners [images, video]- GMA News [Philippines]

Civic buildings: You've seen the pool, the stadium and the velodrome -- now here's the octopus-tentacle shooting range and the multicoloured rubber bridge...the hidden architectural highlights of London 2012 Olympics...it's clear that the other Olympic buildings are more than just a field of also-rans...architecture Britain should be proud of" (great slide show), says Alan Davies/Pollard Davies.

Sydney waters plan: "...the entire population of Australia could be accommodated within 25 km radius of Melbourne's CBD, provided it were settled at the current density of Brooklyn." -- GMA News [Australia]

Australia could house an additional 530,000 residents if it were as dense as Los Angeles..."I'd contend most of Sydney's infrastructure and environmental negatives...are a failure of politics, not an inevitable consequence of higher density." By Alan Davies/Pollard Davies [images]- Citkey (Australia)

A Shift in the South Bronx: "...long overlooked because of its grit and poverty, it's new proximity to downtown [makes] it ripe for development—a prospect that some fear will drive out longtime residents. [images]- Pollard Davies - Citkey (Australia)

A Shift in the South Bronx: "Via Verde, a terraced and landscaped complex that has risen above an abandoned rail yard...lauded at its inception as an architectural gem and a model of environmental building. More unclear was whether the development—a prospect that some fear will drive out longtime residents. [images]- Pollard Davies - Citkey (Australia)

The spaceship-like Mind Museum in Taguig City, Philippines, is "a substitute for schools, but rather a way to help breed scientific literacy" (in a very cool space). -- Ed Calma/Lor Calma & Partners [images, video]

Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO)'s new Design Excellence program. -- AECOM/Snohetta; Allied Works Architecture; Grimshaw Architects - Wall Street Journal

Controversial Liverpool Waters plans approved: Chapman Taylors' masterplan for £5.5 billion scheme pleases Liverpool City Council..."we can have the strikingly modern, while retaining our world heritage status. I have never regarded this as being 'either, or'"...English Heritage said the plans would cause "serious harm"...has also been criticised by Design Council Cabe and Unesco. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Library Parks Foster Community in Colombia: Medellín, Colombia's "library parks" — built for its poorest residents — are bringing sanity and community to one of the world's most violent cities. By Greg Nichols -- Javier Vera- Miller-McCune

Libraries of the future? ...one prototype library design offers a solid mix of form and function while another falls short: The debut of new library commissioner...gives Chicago a chance to think afresh about its libraries - and how good design can uplift the experience of the millions of people who use them. By Blair Kamin -- Dirk Lohan/Lohan Anderson [images]- Chicago Tribune

Initial Design Team Shortlist Announced for New Embassy Project in Mexico City: ...the first solicited project under Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO)'s new Design Excellence program. -- AECOM/Snohetta; Allied Works Architecture; Antoine Predock Architect/Moody-Nolan; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/Buro Happold; Ennead Architects; Miller Hull Partnership; Morphosis Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects - U.S. Department of State

First Steps Made Toward New School of Medicine: Five shortlisted firms are competing to design a building for UB's new School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences...a final selection will be made on March 29. -- Cannon Design; Diller Scofidio
New Israeli college to derive half its power from alternative energy: Campus in Ashdod will be home to schools including a branch of the Shamoon College of Engineering, a nursing school and a school of environmental studies. By Noam Dvir – Knafo Klimor Architects [image] - Ha`aretz (Israel)

Mud-brick builders go from the desert to the Waldorf-Astoria: A luxury hotel going up in Jerusalem drew on the eco-building talents of the members of a tiny kibbutz in Israel's Negev Desert...it's the little things that make the biggest difference. -- Sinan Kafadar [images] - ISRAEL21c

N.Y. Architect Seizes Chance to Design New Tulsa Park: At least 55 acres will be turned into an "amazing" public gathering place..."My hope is to create something so great that on a beautiful day you'd be nuts if you didn't come down." -- Michael Van Valkenburgh [images] - Tulsa World (Oklahoma)

SHoPping Around: Arch-Urbanist Vishaan Chakrabarti Joins Hotshot Architecture Firm: ...looking to expand its practice beyond unconventional buildings into unconventional cities, SHoP has added a new partner to the firm, professor skyscraper himself..."we're going to reinvent urbanism"... By Matt Chaban [slide show] - New York Observer

Mind your language: A look ahead to the archispeak of the next generation: As a profession we are all guilty of using verbose language or architectural slang when presenting or describing our wonderful creations...new words or phrases that may permeate the profession...10. Needing a Taco: the state of being in which an architect is taking him or herself wayyyyy too seriously. By John McRae/ORMS - Building Design (UK)

Book Review: Tracing a Hidden Track from Adolf Loos as Modernist Architect to Jennifer Post as Modernist Interior Designer: "The Looshaus" by Christopher Long, and "Jennifer Post: Pure Space: Elegant Minimalism" by Anna Kasabian...with this unlikely couple, we can air out that beleaguered term "architectural minimalism" and trace a trajectory of what might be better identified as "essentialist architecture." By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow

Allied Works Architecture: Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, Colorado