• Hawthorne looks at what’s happening in Japan a year after the earthquake and tsunami: “Architects are ahead of the government in planning,” but “their efforts have so far garnered little support from politicians in Tokyo.”
• Hanscom on FEMA’s push for disaster-proof green buildings along with a new report that looks at “climate resiliency” and identifies “the risks associated with a changing climate. The list looks like the 10 Plagues.”
• London’s Shard will soon be trumped by Paris as home to Europe’s tallest building (actually, there will be two).
• Rose reviews the week (with much tongue-in-cheek): Foster’s Paris towers; controversial Liverpool Waters scheme closer to reality; Aberdeen’s vote on DS+R’s Granite Web (“or “Teletubby Park”, depending on whose side you’re on”); the new Ferrari Museum is “vintage Kaplicky”, and more.
• Div looks at what might be in store for Tel Aviv’s abandoned Dolphinarium that faces the wrecking ball to make way for waterfront towers (what else??!!): “an unfortunate end to a fantastical architectural dream that never managed to fulfill its potential”, the architect is “hurt and pessimistic.”
• Olympic architects better play by the rules re: no publicizing their projects, or they could face prosecution: they “should have made more of a fuss two years ago.”
• Two NYC firms tapped to design two art fairs, hoping “to mitigate viewer fatigue and boost sales by bringing some clarity to the aisles upon aisles of art.”
• MoMA’s Gadanho delves deeply into the “performance architecture of Didier Fiuza Faustino” (a long read; great pix).
• U.K.’s 2012 Civic Trust Awards winners announced (a long list).
• Weekend diversions:
  • Kamin finds strengths (and weaknesses) in Tigerman’s show at the Graham Foundation and the 81-year-old enfant terrible’s “cleverly-titled” new book: his forte is commentary rather than construction...His whole career has been a revolt against ‘build, don’t talk.”
  • King cheers early Golden Gate Bridge sketches at the California Historical Society that “are fun cultural artifacts that in real life would have been deadly,” and prove “a truth that is never out of style: The best architecture knows when to leave well enough alone.”
  • Speaking of bridges, the Dallas Center for Architecture is celebrating the opening of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge with a Calatrava exhibition.
• Two talks on NYU’s Center for Architecture’s two shows on Baghdad, 1952-1982, and current Middle East architecture: they “challenge assumptions about the region and provide some startling revelations” + models were built by students and professors at the University of Baghdad’s architecture school - “their work was shrouded in secrecy.”
• Two (not so positive) takes on MoMA’s “Foreclosed” show: Lerner is pleased to see “serious proposals...readily buildable” instead of “mile-high farming machines or magically floating street grids,” but the unsatisfactory aspect “is its vagueness about the economic arrangements that would supposedly underpin these projects...The challenge is that it’s not just about design.”
• While MoMA “wisely seized the chance to imagine a new future for the suburbs, the result, unfortunately, is absurd.”
• Rappaport’s “Vertical Urban Factory: East Asia” at NYU’s East Asian Studies Department asks: “can new factories and manufacturers present solutions that are economical, ecological, and socially sustainable for future East Asian cities?”
• London’s Royal Academy celebrates Haworth’s 350th anniversary with an exhibition “exploring not the architect’s working methods but his cultural legacy”; it’s too bad its “hustled such promising material into what it optimistically calls its Architecture Space.”
• The two-volume “Pyongyang: Architectural and Cultural Guide” offers “a startling contrast between propaganda and the reality of life in North Korea - it could hardly be more timely” (amazing images!).
• We couldn’t resist: an eyeful of Sonja Hinrichsen’s Snow Drawings in Colorado (also amazing).
Palette...a cleverly-titled new book, "Schlepping Through Ambivalence: Essays on an American Architectural Condition" shares the show's strengths and weaknesses...his forte is commentary rather than construction...his whole career has been a revolt against "build, don't talk." By Blair Kamin [images]- Architectural Record

Early Golden Gate Bridge sketches' flight of fancy: "A Wild Flight of the Imagination: The Story of the Golden Gate Bridge" at the California Historical Society show us what could have been...The images are fun cultural artifacts that in real life would have been deadly, and they illustrate a truth that is never out of style: The best architecture knows when to leave well enough alone. By John King -- John Eberston; Irving Morrow; Joseph B. Strauss [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

In celebration of the opening of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, the Dallas Center for Architecture presents "Nature & Motion: The Architecture of Santiago Calatrava" - Dallas Center for Architecture

Assumptions of Middle East Architecture Challenged in Two New York Exhibitions at the Center for Architecture: ...trace mid-century planning in Baghdad...and the building boom of the last decade in the broader Middle East..."City of Mirages: Baghdad, 1952-1982" and "Change: Architecture and Engineering in the Middle East, 2000-Present" challenge assumptions about the region and provide some startling revelations. -- Pedro Azara; Hassan Radone; Le Corbusier; Josep Lluís Sert-International Business Times

The Baghdad the Could Have Been: At New York's Center for Architecture, an exhibition of models quietly constructed in Iraq shows 20th-century dreams for the city..."City of Mirages: Baghdad, 1952-1982"...curator Pedro Azara...began working with students and professors at the University of Baghdad's architecture school...their work was shrouded in secrecy. -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Le Corbusier; Walter Gropius; Alvar Aalto; The Architects' Collaborative; Hisham A. Munir; Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown; José Luis Sert; Ricardo Boffill; Doxiadis Associates; Willem Marinus Dudok [slide shows]- Architectural Record

Dreaming of Home: "Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream"...no mile-high farming machines or magically floating street grids...They are serious proposals with recognizable components—more and less radical, but readily buildable...Surprisingly, the unsatisfactory aspect of the exhibition is its vagueness about the economic arrangements that would supposedly underpin these projects...we need alternatives to sprawl that can really work. The challenge is that it's not just about design. By Jonathan Lerner -- Visible Weather; WORKac; Zago Architecture; Studio Gang Architects; MOS [images]- TraceSF (San Francisco)

Pomp and paternalism: Every exhibition aspires to make a strong impression. "Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream"...is disappointing largely because its premise is so fascinating...MoMA wisely seized the chance to imagine a new future for the suburbs. The result, unfortunately, is absurd...The suburbs may be in need of change, but surely not the changes proposed here. -- Barry Bergdoll; Reinhold Martin; MOS; Zago Architecture; Studio Gang; WORKac [images]- The Economist (UK)

"Vertical Urban Factory: East Asia" at NYU's East Asian Studies Department features architecture in the development of urban industrial regions in China, Korea, and Japan...the exhibition asks: can new factories and manufacturers present solutions that are economical, ecological, and socially sustainable for future East Asian cities? -- Albert Kahn (1913); Giacomo Matte-Trucco (1926); Toni Molkerei (1977); Henn Architekten (2006) [images]- Vertical Urban Factory/Nina Rappaport

Nicholas Hawksmoor: Architect of the Imagination: A new exhibition at the Royal Academy marks the 350th anniversary of a master of medley: ...a small exhibition exploring not the architect's working methods but his cultural legacy...It's a shame, then, that the RA has hustled such promising material into what it optimistically calls its "Architecture Space." [images]- Telegraph (UK)

Pyongyang's Architecture on trial: A two-volume "Pyongyang: Architectural and Cultural Guide" offers a startling contrast between propaganda and the reality of life in North Korea: ...this book, with its revealing images and stimulating discussion, could hardly be more timely. By Hyunjoo Lee [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Sojourn Hinrichsen's Snow Drawings: ...a massive drawing stomped into the drifts at Rabbit Ear Pass, Steamboat Springs, Colorado...creates a temporary landscape with a sense of movement. [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Allied Works Architecture: Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, Colorado