EDITOR’S NOTE: We’re heading to the AIA convention in Washington, DC, very early Wednesday morning (road trip!), and will not be posting again until Monday, May 21 (we’ll have a lot of catching up to do!).

- Westworld redux: a $1 billion green ghost city to rise in the New Mexico desert to test and evaluate new technologies (operations and maintenance system will be underground) - "while no one will live there, the city will be designed as if they do" (great links).
- RMI's Gallagher Adams on the high price of "energy apathy; we can choose not to pay that price."
- Architects are invited to imagine height restrictions - they didn't have to force "their brightest ideas into efficient but boring 130-foot high grey boxes," so they let their creativity run wild, even if the products might be scary.
- Kamin calls for careful scrutiny of Pelli's plan for Chicago's Wolf Point: "the issue is whether the design...will rise to the level of greatness demanded by the site - or whether the Chicagoans of today, like the Indians of long ago, are going to get hustled."
- Davidson on Cornell's "high-stakes commission" on Roosevelt Island: "the home of futuristic innovation can't look dumb and dull" and "Mayne will have to summon more urban sensitivity for this assignment than he has ever shown before."
- Predock protests plans for a water park opposite his Human Rights museum in Winnipeg: "it seems to me that this site is destined for a higher civic purpose."
- Schumacher cheers HGA's plans for a new atrium at the Milwaukee Art Museum: "a modest structure that wouldn't compete with the masterpieces around it."
- Q&A with H&deM re: their "unusual, mischievous, archaeological scheme" for the Serpentine Pavilion: "It's really quite bold, this public airing of past starchitects' laundry."
- Beverly Hills (finally) gets serious about preservation - alas, not before FLW Jr.'s wing-shaped home bites the dust ("It was a beautiful piece of art and a terrible home.").
- Viet Nam faces its own "thorny issues" regarding historic preservation: "many pieces of architectural heritage" have been "distorted" by "unskilled and unresearched restoration."
- The president of the Malaysian Institute of Architects laments: "we're not getting enough architects...if we don't support our local talent, who will?"
- The "traditional - and often unsuccessful - saviors of decayed neighborhoods" should take heed of lessons to be learned from efforts by SCAD design students.
- Rochon raves about some of Canada's Governor-General's Medals in Architecture winners - "architectural masterworks" that "take your breath away."
- Change in plans for WTC spire raises its architect's "ire": the tower could end up being ranked only third tallest in the U.S. ("They should have done a better job designing it," sayeth the developer about the spire).
- Weekend diversions (a bit early):
  - Jacobs finds that MoMA's "obsession with image manages to obscure some of its most important content" in "Foreclosed": if you pay attention, you'll find "not an architecture show at all," but "a mini-seminar on public policy."
  - "Delhi Modern" in New Delhi documents "a time when architects, urban planners and state departments came together" instead of leaving everything to private developers.
  - Hume is entranced by a Toronto photo show that "reveals beauty in greasy, hidden train yards...a timely reminder that transit can be taken any way but not for granted."
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Heritage conservation a thorny issue say scientists: Unskilled and unresearched restoration of buildings and the setting of performance records at cultural events is placing tangible and intangible heritage at risk. Preservation requires a scientific approach...many pieces of architectural heritage have been distorted by these efforts. 

Designing a sustainable tomorrow: Saifuddin Ahmad is a strong advocate of sustainability, not only for Mother Nature but also for the future of local architects: In the late 1970s, Malaysia had only three schools for architecture. Now, there are 25. "Yet, we're not getting enough architects," laments the president of the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM)...says the country should do more to promote local architects. "If we don't support our local talent, who will?" -- SNO Architects; Datuk Ken Yeang; Hijjas Kasturi

What Art-School Kids Teach Us About Urban Renewal: Some of the most interesting revitalization work...is coming not from the traditional - and often unsuccessful - saviors of decayed neighborhoods. It's coming from design students, who are earnestly trying to find ways to work with local residents without igniting suspicion of outsiders wielding big ideas. By Emily Badger -- Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)

Five medal-winning houses to write home about: This year's winners of the Governor-General's Medals in Architecture include three residences that stand as architectural masterworks...that take your breath away... By Emily Badger... "They should have done a better job designing it"... -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)

"House & Home" at the National Building Museum: ...explores a subject so wide and so fundamental to American life that it inevitably touches the pleasure buttons of nostalgia. There are places where one wishes the stress were different...But the curators have managed to tell a complicated story clearly and engagingly. And they haven't neglected complex questions... By Philip Kennicott

Structural vision: The architectural landmarks, and a few interiors, of Delhi from the 1950s to 1980s, captured when they were crisp and new: "Delhi Modern: The Architectural Photographs of Madan Mahatta"...documentary evidence of a time when architects, urban planners and state departments came together...when the whole business wasn't left to private developers... -- Business Standard (India)

"The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City" by Alan Ehrenhalt: Readers tag along to such locales as Chicago, Phoenix, Philadelphia and Denver as the author explores how these metropolises, so different at first glance, are being reshaped by very similar urges and trends. By John King

SEEDocs to Premiere Online May 18: The first in a series of six mini-documentaries...features the six national winners of the 2012 SEED Award for Excellence in Public Interest Design -- BNIM; Make it Right; Atkins Olshin Schade Architects; Architecture for Humanity; MASS Design Group; etc. - Design Corps / Social, Economic, Environmental Design Network (SEED)

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