EDITOR'S NOTE: Just a reminder that we're taking Fridays and Mondays off for the rest of August. We'll be back Tuesday, August 21. Happy Weekend!

• Q&A with Nicole Migeon: a background in fine arts developed into her architectural style of "warm minimalism."
• Bentley offers an in-depth look at the "Rust Belt rebound" going on in Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati - "but is the deck stacked against them?" (hopefully not!)
• Jerusalem approves a cluster of 12 skyscrapers - not all are pleased (and please don't block view of Calatrava's bridge!).
• A long-delayed mixed-use project in Houston is finally underway.
• Chicago taps SOM to explore the redevelopment of the 37-acre Michael Reese Hospital site.
• Mariinsky II in St. Petersburg on track to open next year, though many in the "local architectural community criticized the design for its devastating lack of personality."
• Salt Lake City picks HKS /Pelli Clarke Pelli team for its new Utah Performing Arts Center.
• Altabe minces no words about modern museum design, where "form doesn't follow function anymore" - case in point: Gehry's "newest tin foil-like extravaganza" for Panama's BioMuseo.
• Brussat continues his bravos for Signorelli and Salingaros's tirade about the tyranny of modernism: "My only complaint is that their excellent essay is still far too easy on modernism."
• A report on the "remarkable" Burbank Senior Artists Colony in Los Angeles that combines low-cost housing with serious arts training for the elderly.
• One we couldn't resist: McMansions making their mark atop a shopping mall in China (we kid you not!).
• Hanley hails MoMA's "Century of the Child": it is "thoroughly researched and playfully presented...surprising and fun."
• Berger is less impressed with GSD students' proposals to redevelop a segment of the Chicago River: it might be "chock-full of interesting ideas," but you better be "well versed in deciphering the kinds of materials architecture students prepare for their studio projects" to understand them.
• "Horizon" sits on a hill in New Zealand: "a curious mix of expectation, distance, chance and brain circuitry. And, in this case, delight."
• An excerpt from Moore's "Why We Build" deconstructs "the mysterious ways in which buildings shape our lives."
• Lovins/RMI's "Reinventing Fire" may not be a light read, but it is an important one, offering "lots of low-hanging fruits that could be quite lucrative if grabbed, and it tells you where to look for them."
• "As an architect, I try to make life better for people. A lot of the buildings I work on are not only good examples of architecture but they're also good examples of doing well by the community."
• "The Tyranny of Artistic Modernism": Signorelli and Salingaros paint the truth in blacks and whites, pulling no punches whatsoever. My only complaint is that their excellent essay is still far too easy on modernism."
• On healthy aging, A Late Act in the Footlights: A Los Angeles area program for the elderly combines low-cost housing with serious arts training...the Burbank Senior Artists Colony is remarkable...a mix of market-rate and low-income apartments...looks like an upscale hotel but is built for the arts...
Chinese Home Builders Find Great Location: On Top Of A Shopping Mall...McMansion-style housing atop a five-story shopping center in the central district of Zhuzhou...Now that’s mixed-use development. [images]- Architizer

"Unfinished Business: 25 Years of Discourse in Los Angeles": Currently on view at the WUHO Gallery in Hollywood is a retrospective...held in honor of...The Los Angeles Forum for Urban Design and Architecture, known simply as “The Forum”... [images]- Urban Omnibus

Child’s Play: The Museum of Modern Art charts 100 years of design growing up in "Century of the Child: Growing by Design, 1900-2000"...thoroughly researched and playfully presented...keeps it feeling surprising and fun. By William Hanley [slide show]- Architectural Record

Big Ideas, Murky Presentation: Philip Berger deciphers proposals to redevelop a segment of the Chicago River..."Waterline" is chock-full of interesting ideas. But unless you’re well versed in deciphering the kinds of materials architecture students prepare for their studio projects, you might have some difficulty discovering them. -- Philip Enquist/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images]- The Architect’s Newspaper


The inescapable power of architecture: In an extract from his new book "Why We Build," Rowan Moore deconstructs the mysterious ways in which buildings shape our lives...If there is truth in architecture, its shape is not immediately obvious. - Observer (UK)

"Reinventing Fire" by Amory B. Lovins and the Rocky Mountain Institute: ...even the most optimistic future scenario is mostly based on things that are possible with current technology...lots of low-hanging fruits that could be quite lucrative if grabbed, and [it] tells you where to look for them...it's all about solutions! [images, links]- TreeHugger.com

An Israeli Arab’s home is his castle: An architectural study of the extravagant Arab villas in the north of Israel finds that they reflect more than just personal taste: "Architecture: The Arab Home as Social Text" by Kobi Peled...an important document...about the development of the Arab home in the 20th century...extroverted design reflects a society experiencing an identity crisis. By By Noam Dvir [images]- Haaretz (Israel)

New Board Game Gives You The Thrills And Chills Of Urban Renewal: Toronto-based artist Flavio Trevisan debuted his board game The Game of Urban Renewal...simulates the fate of Toronto’s Regent Park neighborhood, an intense locus of the city’s urban renewal efforts since 1947.- Architizer

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