• A conversation in Viet Nam with Sao Paulo architect Kogan re: his views on urban Viet Nam: "I think Ha Noi has potential for contemporary architecture."
• Caruso's Q&A with Holl: he's "not a 'signature' architect (and why that's good)."
• Chicago's Northerly Island gets the engineering go-ahead to reshape its southern end, but things are "a long way off from fulfilling some of the glitzier goals."
• Szenasy's Q&A with Design Trust for Public Space's Chin re: the urban farming movement: "Typically farms and gardens are not competing with developers for land."
• Sam Hall Kaplan is heartened by L.A.'s new Grand Park: it "marks a shift in the city's psyche" (and "the tail of the Grand Avenue project that is wagging the dog").
• At the other end of the preservation spectrum, San Francisco neighbors are none too thrilled with Twitter co-founder's tear-down plans "on one of the city's most idyllic streets."
• Eicker is most eloquent about Noero Wolff's Red Location Cultural Precinct in Port Elizabeth, South Africa that "honors the legacy of the fight against apartheid, while bringing it alive for a new generation of South Africans."
• Tributes abound for Nakano, a landscape architect and urban designer who was "always looking toward the bigger good - not just the project but the context in which the project was being inserted."
• A historian's thoughtful take on why the international community should "work to protect Syria's historical sites" - its "cultural patrimony can play a crucial role" in repairing the divisions when the revolution ends.
• Chen reports that multiple (but anonymous) sources have tagged Nouvel as the winner in a starchitect-studded competition to design a "mega-sized" new building for the National Art Museum of China (great slide show of shortlist - minus Nouvel).
Neighbors to Twitter co-founder: Cease and desist: Change doesn’t come easily in San Francisco, so it’s no surprise that history buffs are fighting Evan Williams’ plans to destroy an old house—pitting the rights of new tech money against an old community—albeit one already littered with new tech money—trying to stop change on one of the city’s most idyllic streets. — Louis Christian Mullgardt (1911); Lundberg Design; Carey & Co Inc. Architecture [slide show] - CNET

L.A.’s Latest Park Marks a Shift in the City’s Psyche: Given the region’s segregated and fractured cityscape, public parks in Los Angeles frankly have had few advocates...Grand Park is the tail of the Grand Avenue project that is wagging the dog. By Sam Hall Kaplan -- Rios Clemente Hale Studios; Frank Gehry; Diller Scofidio + Renfro - PLANetizen

Q&A: Susan Chin on Urban Farms: Today there are 10 times more urban farms in Gotham than in San Francisco and Seattle...she answers a few questions about the culture, the realities, and potential for the urban farming movement...“Typically farms and gardens are not competing with developers for land.” By Susan S. Szenasy -- Design Trust for Public Space: Five Borough Farm: Seeding the Future of Urban Agriculture in New York [images, links] - Metropolis Magazine

Northerly Island to go back in time: Army Corps of Engineers OKs plan to transform southern end into ‘a picture of what the city was like before the city was built’...reshaping the southern end of the 91-acre man-made peninsula into an ecologically diverse habitat...The Park District is a long way off from fulfilling some of the giztier goals... -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang- Chicago Tribune

A New Starchitect Takes Aim at London: Ole Scheeren has become a success in Asia...Now the rising star wants to take on the Gehrys and Fosters by opening an office in London...wants to prove that he can do more than high-profile government and investor-funded buildings in Asia. -- Rem Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Büro Ole Scheeren [images] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Inside the Design Mind II: Steven Holl: not a ‘signature’ architect (and why that’s good)...talks about his sources of inspiration, a mid-career enlightenment, and his recent recognition as one of the most celebrated “American” architects. By Andrew Caruso [images, links] - Metropolis Magazine

The director laureate of modern design: Marcio Kogan talks to Bao An about his career, and his views on urban Viet Nam...“I think Ha Noi has potential for contemporary architecture.” -- Studio MK27- Viet Nam News

Q&A with Nicole Migeon - Architect of "Warm Minimalism": Designing places of respite for creative clientele- ArchNewsNow

-- ARX Portugal Arquitectos & Stefano Riva: House in Juso, Portugal
-- Ilda Arquitectos: DJ House, Carcavelos, Portugal

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