Chaban outlines in great detail NYC's 5-year secret project to develop perfect disaster housing program: "It's the FEMA trailer of the future, built with the Dwell reader in mind...if only it had been ready a year ago."

Checker checks in on Chicken Little, Staten Island, a Ferris wheel, and disorderly development and is more than a bit disappointed: "Events on the North Shore over the past two weeks indicate that Sandy's alarm bells are growing faint indeed."

British architects call on the government for a long-term flood strategy - architects included: "we can develop responses here and contribute globally."

Benffer and the new Massachusetts policy initiative designed to encourage diverse, walkable neighborhoods," and a commitment to build 10,000 multifamily homes each year, which "may turn out to be more significant as an indirect contribution to smart growth than the relatively weak smart growth criteria."

Hume has been really a good-news day: his nemesis (in case you hadn't noticed), Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has apparently been given the boot. "Now for the really, really good news: Toronto can finally start to deal with issues that matter."

Grabar gives an overview (with lots of informative links) as to how it happened, and cites Berg: the controversial mayor "has not made many friends within the city's community of urban thinkers, designers and practitioners." (or cyclists and pedestrians, for that matter).

Oslo is transforming itself into "a safe harbor from Europe's turmoil and a haven for adventurous design."

Bimbaum offers an in-depth report on the continuing saga of the thermal burn slowly roasting the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas; even a James Turrell installation "has been declared destroyed" (with pix to prove it).

Lifson looks at the ongoing travails of Goldberg's Prentice Women's Hospital in Chicago: "Northwestern says it will hold an international design competition to make sure the [new building] is a piece of "world-class" architecture. Preservationists say they already have one."

Hume continues his good mood, spreading laudatory adjectives left and right for Toronto's "spectacular" new Regent Park Aquatic Centre: it is "one of those rare projects where everything comes together without fatal compromise, civic misgivings or any obvious damage inflicted by value engineers...it's also a powerful statement about the beauty of utility."

How Gehry's "paper bag" project for the University of Technology, Sydney will be built from "homely brown bricks, laid by hand," with hopes it will be the city's most distinctive icon since the Opera House.

Q&A with Perth-based architect Barcham in Bangalore re: the growing importance of passive-design architecture.

Our favorite of the day: LAVA lands a job in the land of the lost: it will transform an old Russian cabaret theater buried in tons of rubble since 1934 into a cultural center (with luxury apartments, of course) - photos are amazing!

Wainwright brings us the "breast of Bath" - a "growing pink dome constructed from recycled plastic bottles" perched on a grassy hill "like a radiant nipple" to raise awareness for the breast cancer charity Cancerkin.

Playground gear is no longer playing it so safe after "decades of dumbed-down playgrounds, fueled by fears of litigation, concerns about injury and worrywart helicopter parents" (and kids love it!).

Four 2012 ar+d Emerging Architecture Award winners "capture a spirit of creative resilience."

Six firms vie for the chance to revamp Glasgow's George Square.

The winner of BD's Small Hotel competition "was praised for its simplicity and honesty" (see Nov. 21 ANN for the shortlisted entries). To subscribe to the daily newsletter click here.
Of sun, wind and green architecture: While sun and wind are quintessential to built spaces, passive-design architecture looks at managing waste outputs from the house, says Australian architect Maxwell Roy Barcham...in Bangalore to attend to some of his projects that he has undertaken here. - The Hindu (India)

The Secret Garden: An old cabaret theatre from the roaring `20s has been uncovered in the heart of Berlin...buried in 30 tonnes of rubble since 1934...discovered by accident by Dirk Moritz of the Moritz Gruppe...three level building will comprise spaces for performances and exhibitions, studios, meetings and conferences, and luxury apartments... -- Oscar Garbe (1905); LAVA (Laboratory for Visionary Architecture) [images]- Design Porteur

The `breast of Bath` will provide a ray of light for cancer sufferers: A glowing pink dome, Beacon on the Hill, is to be constructed from recycled plastic bottles on top of Long Knoll in Wiltshire...This pink and blue installation, which will perch on the grassy hill...like a radiant nipple, is the work of lighting artist Bruce Munro for UK breast cancer charity Cancerkin. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Playing It Too Safe? New Playground Gear Promotes Risk-Taking to Boost Fitness And Brain Development: ...decades of dumbed-down playgrounds, fueled by fears of litigation, concerns about injury and worrywart helicopter parents, have led to cookie-cutter equipment that offers little thrill...potentially stunting emotional and physical development and exacerbating a nationwide epidemic of childhood obesity. [images]- Wall Street Journal

Emerging Architecture and Creative Resilience: 2012 ar+d Emerging Architecture Awards capture a spirit of creative resilience and present a unique insight into the critical preoccupations that will shape the future of architecture...four winners are drawn from Japan, Spain, Bangladesh and Canada. -- Hiroshi Nakamura; Langarita-Navarro Arquitectos; Kashef Chowdhury/Urbana; 5468796 Architects [link to articles, images]- Architectural Review (UK)

Glasgow’s George Square revamp: six firms shortlisted...designs will be put on public display at the Lighthouse in early January...proposals will see 13 monuments...temporarily relocated...Some may not return. -- Burns + Nice; Gustafson Porter; JM Architects; John McAslan & Partners; James Corner Field Operations; Agence Ter - BBC News

Zaha Hadid Architects: Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan