• Sad news day: Oscar Niemeyer has passed away a week shy of his 105th birthday. After scanning dozens of obituaries, we selected five very different informative and/or heartfelt tributes by Ouroussoff (with link to Kimmelman's '05 profile), Glanceny, and Lord Foster, among others.

• Shortlisted winners in Melbourne's Flinders Street Station design competition are warned to stay away from “long-listers” exhibition of the rejected designs for fear it “might lead to wrangling over intellectual property.”

• King parses the shortlisted “head-turners” in San Francisco’s Fort Mason design competition.

• Litt x 2: Skeptics who “fretted” that Moussavi’s MOCA Cleveland “would be a downer” because “the dark material would look depressing” have nothing to fear: it is “a gorgeous addition to the city...steek, elegant and mysterious...voluptuous and highly tailored.”

• He cheers the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (finally) moving ahead with plans for a bold makeover.

• Q&A with Martha Schwartz re: how creative landscape architecture can help cities become models of sustainability: “If you don’t really understand people’s cultural values, you’ll get it wrong.”

• Q&A with Aric Chen re: his curatorial aim for Hong Kong’s new M+ museum to place Asia at the center of design history: “a very different perspective than any other museum has taken.”

• Loomans illuminates the current status of FLW’s David Wright house in Phoenix: “It is moment of reckoning for the city.”

• Wainwright, meanwhile, ponders a sticky wicket (a.k.a. authenticity) re: FLW’s heart-shaped island north of Manhattan (now for sale): “The design bears all the hallmarks of Wright. But all is not as it seems.”

• EPA announces the winners of the 2012 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement (great presentations).

• A good reason to be in Accra, Ghana, Dec. 21: ArchAfrica Accra hosts this year’s global Holcim Awards Gold winning, Dédéof Francis Kéré.

• One we couldn’t resist: 10 Le Corbusier Facts (#10: Dalí was quoted describing Corbu’s buildings as “the ugliest and most unacceptable buildings in the world” – and they were friends!).

• Call for entries: 4th Biennial International Trimo Urban Crash Competition: “Bike Base”: a challenge for architecture and design students.
The Fight to Save Frank Lloyd Wright's Phoenix Legacy: ...architects and historians say [the David Wright house] one of the 20 most significant Wright buildings...Phoenix does not put much value on preserving its historic buildings...It is moment of reckoning for the City... By Taz Loomans - The Atlantic Cities

Heart-shaped Frank Lloyd Wright island up for sale: ...questions of authenticity have been raised about this posthumous project...11-acre Petre island rises out of the middle of Lake Mahopac, 50 miles from Manhattan...The design bears all the hallmarks of Wright...But all is not as it seems. By Oliver Wainwright [images] - Guardian (UK)

EPA announces the seven winners of the 2012 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement -- BLVD Transformation Project, Lancaster, CA; Mariposa District, Denver, CO; The Cooperative Building, Brattleboro, VT; Destination Portsmouth, Portsmouth, VA; Northwest Gardens, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Larkin District, Buffalo, NY; Bay Area Transit-Oriented Affordable Housing Fund, San Francisco [links to images, info] - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

ArchiAfrika Accra Hosts Holcim Foundation with Global Holcim Awards Gold winner 2012, Diébédo Francis Kéré December 21 - ArchiAfrika

In Pictures | 10 Le Corbusier Facts: To celebrate Le Corbusier's 125th anniversary, the 100th anniversary of the foundation of his inaugural studio in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland...10 facts about the man himself...Dali was quoted describing Le Corbusier's buildings as "the ugliest and most unacceptable buildings in the world." [images] - AnOther Magazine (UK)

Call for entries: 4th Biennial International Trimo Urban Crash Competition: Bike Base challenges students of architecture and design to design a Bike Service and Coffee Shop in the center of Ljubljana, Slovenia; first prize the realization of the winning project in Ljubljana and an all-expense paid summer school term; deadline: January 31, 2013- Trimo Urban Crash (Slovenia)

Books: "Tadao Ando: Conversations with Students"
-- "Sou Fujimoto – Sketchbook"
-- "Wang Shu – Imagining the House"
-- Hans, His Chairs and The World" by Anne Blond, illustrated by Birgitte Haahr Lund

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