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Obituary: Cornelia Brierly, 99, In Memoriam: Taliesin Fellow, architect, and interior and landscape designer...studied with Frank Lloyd Wright for 10 years, after which she was partner in private practice with then-husband Peter Berndtson...Indira Berndtson Q&A about her mother’s influence on her, growing up in Taliesin, and preserving the legacy of architects. - Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BWAF)

After Criticism, New York Public Library Offers Peek at Renovation Plans: ...something crucial has been missing from this debate: what the transformed library will actually look like...Foster has essentially created a major new contemporary library within Carrère & Hastings’s [1911] neo-Classical one...[he] said he knew better than to desecrate a masterpiece. By Rob Pogrebin – Norman Foster/Foster + Partners [images] - New York Times

All the Panic Over the New York Public Library’s Renovation Plan Is Overwrought: Now we finally have schematic drawings...it’s wonderful to see intelligent architecture trump panicky rhetoric...design preserves, protects, and restores the library’s visible areas. In exchange, it operates on the building’s guts, being a vast hidden chamber. That's a tradeoff I can happily accept. By Justin Davidson -- Foster + Partners - New York Magazine

Crib> Yale University Art Gallery: Jayne Merkel surveys Ennead Architects’s museum expansion in New Haven: Rare indeed is the renovation of three adjacent buildings—from different periods and in different styles—that emphasizes their differences...allows each component to shine... -- Peter B. Wight, (1866); Egarton Swartwout/Tracy & Swartwout (1928); Louis Kahn; Joel Sanders [images]: - The Architect's Newspaper

Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture's First Manhattan Skyscraper Among the City's Tallest: Extell Development made waves as when they announced their 1,004-foot-tall skyscraper One57 by Christian de Portzamparc...next project a few blocks down the street looks to climb even higher...an 88-story, 1,550-foot-tall tower on West 57th Street...[links] - The Architect's Newspaper

West 8 wins Fort Mason ideas competition: ...what set apart the team which was its varied and often fine-grained approach to the 13-acre enclave, which is thronged on some days and all but empty on others. "They instinctively grasped that what's needed isn't one big idea, but a series of interventions..." By John King -- Jensen Architects; Ila Berman; Architectural Resources Group; Brunner/Cott; AMP Architects [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Salesforce taking all of high-rise on Mission: One more construction crane is headed to the San Francisco skyline - and the fate of 14 acres in the emerging Mission Bay neighborhood is murkier than ever...Whatever shape and form it finally takes, 350 Mission will be the first new office tower to break ground...in more than half a decade. John King -- Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

How to Make Privately Owned Public Spaces Truly Open to the Public: The city of San Francisco has now mapped all of its downtown POPOS, and it's ensuring for the first time that residents really have access to them. By Emily Badger [images, links]: - The Atlantic Cities

Theaster Gates Sells Fire Hoses to Rebuild Chicago Slums: [artist’s] latest canvas is neighborhoods given up for dead...He wants to help artists from these tough blocks to work and address "the need for culture where it doesn't exist." He wants to help artists from these tough blocks to work and address "the need for culture where it doesn't exist." - The Atlantic Cities

How an Industrial City Reinvented Itself as a Sustainability Hub: France's Nantes has a powerful plan to cut carbon, eliminate cars, and redevelop the city's heart: The proud city needed a new identity...first, culture and then, sustainability...the two have come together in some highly innovative ways that have led the European Union to designate Nantes as its "Green Capital" for 2013. By Kaid Benfield [images]: - The Atlantic Cities

How social housing in Manchester has reinvented the back-to-back: The latest phase of the New Broughton development sheds the bombast to create practical, robust homes on a budget..."If you're on a tight budget, don't spend it on bling, but on space..." - The Atlantic Cities

Toronto and Gardner on crash course: It's time for a full discussion about the future of the Gardiner Expressway...restoring the elevated highway to structural soundness will cost $505 million...there are smarter ways to spend half a billion dollars...we should be allowed to see the results of an international ideas competition organized back in 2009... By
Wang Shu: the architect challenging China's obsession with scale: China's massive building projects will not last, says Wang Shu, who is on a quest for 'reality' in architecture...is prepared not to work at all, if the conditions aren't right for him.

By Rowan Moore -- Lu Wenyu/Amateur Architecture Studio- Observer (UK)

Architecture Billings Index Signaling Gains for Fourth Straight Month: Positive business conditions for all building sectors: "These are the strongest business conditions we have seen since the end of 2007...If we do end up going off the 'fiscal cliff' then we can expect a significant setback for the entire design and construction industry." -- Kermit Baker- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Demand for Architects Builds Momentum: There are few professionals more hopeful for a bright future this holiday season than architects, who are finally starting to see business conditions improve...Architecture firms getting the most business...cater to institutions rather than to private companies developing speculative office buildings... -- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects (ZGF); Legat Architects; A. Zahner Co.; Neil Denari- Wall Street Journal

A New Humanism: Part 3: What do our human origins have to do with the built environment? ...concepts and words...that we use when analyzing or judging human qualities and person-to-person relationships are paralleled in our responses to architecture, landscapes, and urban places. By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; Illustrations by Albrecht Pichler- Metropolis Magazine

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-- Daniel Libeskind: Academy of the Jewish Museum, Berlin