Ten Years and Counting: yours truly reflects on ArchNewsNow’s first decade (we’ll be adding pix and captions later today).

Goldberger and Lamster weigh in on Foster’s plan for NYPL: “if he could bring himself to make this design a little sharper, even tougher, it might end up being a lot easier to feel good in” + “for something so long promised...it is surprisingly lacking in architectural ambition and imagination” (both reference Barnes & Noble).

Murg reports that the Gates Foundation is backing a scientific study of urban slums worldwide.

BD’s World Architecture 100 survey indicates some architects are heading to war-torn countries; some “to boost flagging workloads”; others because they’re “simply more adventurous.”

The Zambia Institute of Architects appoints a new council to put the profession back on course: the “relevance of the architectural profession to national development has of late been heavily questioned.”

Eyefuls of the winner and runners-up in the competition to rebuild Haiti’s Notre Dame de l’Assomption Cathedral.

Rosenbaum relishes the news that FLW’s endangered Phoenix house has found an anonymous white knight (with link to Kimmelman’s report - with a gentle scolding).

Cary lines up 10 Notable Developments and Top 10 Public Interest Design Milestones of 2012: it’s been a “banner year for do-good design!”

Hume lines up his faves of 2012: “it’s the public sector that gave the city its most compelling architecture this year.”

Lange and Lamster hand out their 3rd Annual Year-End Awards: including the OMG Do We Really Have to Like It Award and The Golden Blowtorch for Poor Community Relations (thoroughly entertaining).

Top 50 Films for Architects: #10: “Apocalypse Now.”

Lubell and Goldin kick off a Kickstarter campaign for their “Never Built: Los Angeles” show at L.A.’s Ar+D Museum next year (be sure to catch the video that “offers the first glimpse of some of the truly ambitious and even outrageous proposals of yesteryear”).

Weekend diversions:

- Arief reads cities by walking and through books: Smith’s “City: A Guidebook for the Urban Age” is “original and inventive”; Speck’s “Walkable City” is “delightfully acronym- and jargon-free” with suggestions that are “revolutionary in their simplicity.”

- Lasner’s “High Life: Condo Living in the Suburban Century”: the “subtitle might suggest a story of determined residential heterodoxy...the real story is nowhere near as simple, and a good deal more interesting.”

- Hatherley’s “A New Kind of Bleak” rains down “on everything he encounters that he believes to be shoddy, privatized, timorous or banal.”

- Q&A with Speck re: “Walkable City.”

- Campbell’s “Made for Walking: Density and Neighborhood Form” is a “richly illustrated book that identifies essential ingredients of sustainable urbanism” and great architecture.

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- One we couldn’t resist: “Gangnam-style” Christmas lights we can’t get out of our head (please get this out of our head!)

Today's News - Friday, December 21, 2012
Top 50 Films for Architects: #10: “Apocalypse Now” (1979) - Building Design (UK)

“Never Built: Los Angeles” Hopes to Inspire Design Ambition: A+D Museum’s upcoming exhibit...a Kickstarter campaign...provides a video that offers the first glimpse of some of the truly ambitious and even outrageous proposals of yesteryear; assembled by the exhibit’s organizers, Sam Lubell and Greg Goldin. – Clive Wilkinson Architect [link to images, video] - FORM magazine

Reading the City: Finding out what makes cities smart, through books, conferences and hitting the pavement...P.D. Smith’s “City: A Guidebook for the Urban Age”...original and inventive...“Walkable City” by Jeff Speck...delightfully acronym- and jargon-free...suggestions are revolutionary in their simplicity...“Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies: Lafayette Park, Detroit”...“Architectural Inventions” by Matt Bua and Maximilian Goldfarb; “Torre David”... By Allison Arieff - New York Times

Condo Living: “High Life: Condo Living in the Suburban Century” by Matthew Gordon Lasner explores the long and checkered story of conjoined living...The subtitle...might suggest a story of determined residential heterodoxy...the real story is nowhere near as simple, and a good deal more interesting. By Anthony Paletta [images] - Metropolis Magazine

“A New Kind of Bleak" by Owen Hatherley: ...he leaves his critical footprint as he treks through Britain raining down curses on everything he encounters that he believes to be shoddy, privatised, timorous or banal...a rousing defence of infrastructure, public investment and British provincialism... By Sukhdev Sandhu - Icon (UK)

How American Cities Can Thrive Again: Cities can thrive again by making their downtowns more pedestrian friendly. Q&A with Jeff Speck re: “Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time” - U.S. News & World Report


‘Gangnam Style’ Christmas Light Show: Watch A House Blink To This Year’s Mega-Hit...a light show you’ll never forget. - Huffington Post


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

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Yesterday's News

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