EDITOR'S NOTE: Happy New Year! (Oohhh...that alarm clock going off was painful this morning!) Now we have some serious (and not so serious) catching up to do...

- ArcSpace kicks off the New Year with Guarnaccia's retelling of "Three Little Pigs" - only this time they're Gehry, Johnson, and FLW ("the wolf and the readers are in for a surprise.
- Architects weigh in on school design following the Newtown, CT, shooting: "When someone has the intent to kill, I'm not sure if architecture can solve that problem."
- It's Haddad vs. design pirates in China: "the race is on to see who can finish first."
- Kimmelman and Petsky see things very differently when it comes to Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum: "I can't recall seeing a more ridiculous looking building" vs. "its smooth white forms curving up and out, sails with aplomb."
- Russell gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Foster's Park Ave. tower: it "injects some desperately needed life into the Manhattan commercial high-rise...but it will plunge the mid-block deeper into shadow."
- Bey reports on plans that "put a jazzy 1950s ex-hospital on the terminal list" in Chicago; there's "some chatter in the preservation community, but not much."
- Peaami proffers an in-depth look at how the U.K.'s "grocer philanthropist" (a.k.a. the Sainsbury family) has been "an incredibly positive force for good, across the cultural spectrum" + Proof is in the pudding: Foster's Sainsbury Centre is granted grade II* listing.
- Florida is a big sports fan, but "the outrageous, over-the-top deal for the new Miami Marlins stadium should once and for all end the 'era of publicly funded stadiums' " and the "sweetheart stadium deals help bankrupt cities and counties."
- Singapore's Asian Civilisations Museum will soon don a new, titanium-clad wing.
- SCI-Arc is spreading its own wings with a new outdoor gathering space that "is seen as a way for the school to reach out to its arts district neighborhood (they might want to re-think the moniker "League of Shadows")."
- Webb and Kimmelman pen eloquent tributes: "Johansen was a rose, the last of his generation. And he was left to bloom alone" + "Woods hoped to liberate architecture from its material tethers and encourage everybody who engaged with it to think more boldly and humanely."
L.A. architecture school is poised to spread its wings: A new outdoor gathering space designed by a SCI-Arc faculty member will host graduations and is seen as a way for the school to reach out to its arts district neighborhood...architecture students are helping with...the so-called "League of Shadows." -- Marcelo Spina/Georgina Huljich/P-A-T-T-E-R-N-S [image]- Los Angeles Times

Obituary: John Johansen, 1916-2012: Michael Webb remembers the outspokenly unique modern architect and opinionated member of the New Canaan Five...[he] was a rose, the last of his generation. And he was left to bloom alone. -- Archigram - The Architect's Newspaper

Lebbeus Woods: Architecture's "moral center," his friend Thom Mayne called him; the greatest architect of our day, thought the critic and architect Michael Sorkin...[he] hoped to liberate architecture from its material tethers and encourage everybody who engaged with it to think more boldly and humanely. By Michael Kimmelman - New York Times Magazine

Sculptural Yet Sensible: This year in architecture, sides were drawn pitting socially relevant design against high-profile architecture...Luckily a bumper crop of compact, versatile and strikingly sculptural museums shows how the best architecture unites intelligent design and strong image making. By Julie V. Iovine -- Zaha Hadid; Farshid Moussavi; Herzog & de Meuron; Louis Kahn; David Adjaye; SHoP Architects [images]- Wall Street Journal

Year In Review: Essential Architecture Stories of 2012: From Kapoor's Tower to Kahn's Park... By Kelly Chan – Wang Shu/Pritzker Prize; Paul Rudolph/Orange County Government Center; Anish Kapoor/Cecil Balmond; Venice Architecture Biennale; Wolf Prix; David Chipperfield; Philip Nobel; Frank Lloyd Wright; SHoP Architects/Barclays Center; Bertrand Goldberg/Prentice Women's Hospital; Louis Kahn/FDR Four Freedoms Park; Lebbeus Woods; Oscar Niemeyer - Artnet

Buying into the arts, reaping regional rewards: Art and architecture year in review 2012: The alignment between arts and culture and the rebirth of Cleveland -- or at least parts of it -- has never been clearer...betting big-time on the arts as a tool to revive neighborhoods, attract new residents, retain companies and fuel economic activity. By Steven Litt -- Farshid Moussavi; Stanley Salowitz/Natoma Architects; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Curt Fentress/Fentress Architects; Richard Fleischman + Partners Architects; Sasaki Associates - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Ten things Toronto can look forward to in 2013: Between the crumbling Gardiner, transit rows and Rob Ford, 2012 wasn't Toronto's finest year... By Christopher Hume -- Shim Sutcliffe Architects; Fumihiko Maki; Charles Correa; Michael Van Valkenburgh - Toronto Star

Urban Trends We Hope Die in 2013: Enough with the yarn bombing already, and other wishes for the new year: ...our collective plea to stop the (urbanism) madness and start getting real... -- The Atlantic Cities

Ten Years and Counting...: Reflections on the year, ArchNewsNow's first decade, and our 10th ANNiversary Fête: If you're reading this, it means the Mayans weren't wrong (but the End-of-Timers were) – Happy Winter Solstice! By Kristen Richards - ArchNewsNow.com

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