• The public realm rules today: the winning design in the Green Square Library & Plaza competition "gives the space back to Sydney."
• The Smithsonian taps BIG to come up with a campus master plan: "there's no telling when or if it will implement Ingels' designs, but it will be fascinating to see what he comes up with."
• North of the border, Hume hails "Toronto's newfound interest in parks - we are going from being a city that cared mostly about buildings to one focused on the spaces between buildings."
• Luka lauds Montreal's "encouraging if somewhat controversial" Quartier des Spectacles: it's "a fine example of a compelling Canadian tendency toward reurbanism."
• Winnipeg is re-imagining its own downtown spaces with proposals to take "underused spaces most of us would not even notice and transform them into high-density hubs of urban activity."
• Chicago's mayor has big plans for the Windy City's riverfront, but "before he barges ahead, he'd do well to take some lessons from what worked - and what didn't - in three other cities."
• NRDC's Henderson considers this a "Burnham moment" for the Chicago River's future, before it becomes "a stinking lagoon at the center of our downtown, neighborhoods, and suburbs."
• A "new crop of bridge replacements has Los Angeles poised to remake its image - with style."
• Moby riffs on "baffling, Byzantine, fantastically uncohesive" L.A. architecture in all its "mind-numbingly complicated" glory.
• PBS MetroFocus presents a look at three regions still struggling to cope, post-Sandy; MAS's Cipolla on plans to make major changes to Manhattan's East Midtown area; and CUF's Giles on the new roles NYC libraries have in their communities.
• Portland State University extends the city's downtown cultural district.
• Lamb Hart's A New Humanism: Part 11 looks at "the connections between intentions and expectations - we often enjoy surprises, but we still crave the pleasure of a basic predictability."
• Three architects in Egypt launch Mini Architect, "a program designed to help children master daily life skills and function more effectively."
• Blast from the past: a 1957 interview with FLW exhibits "his trademark eloquence and blistering opinions" (such as "distaste" for the Sydney Opera House, and a warning to NYC that if it doesn't acquire more green space immediately, it will be "uninhabitable").
• Starchitects design rugs for a non-profit that benefits master female weavers in a poverty-stricken province of Afghanistan: "Today, we employ 700 people in an area that looks like the moon."
• An impressive list of winners of the ICAA 2013 Arthur Ross Awards for Excellence in the Classical Tradition.
• Call for entries: BIA 2013 Brick in Architecture Awards (U.S. & Canada).
Building blocks: Children learn to see the world through architecture: Mini Architect, a program designed to help children master daily life skills and function more effectively, hopes to help them "see the world through architecture"..."We noticed that our work as architects has positively impacted our own children"... -- Rania al-Basty; Amira al-Sherif; Rania Nassar- Egypt Independent

The NEH Preservation Project: 'The Artistic and the Beautiful': Frank Lloyd Wright's Wide-Ranging Views: In 1957, he sat down to discuss his design philosophy, exhibiting his trademark eloquence and blistering opinions...expresses distaste for the nascent designs of Sydney Opera House...warns that if New York City doesn't acquire more green space immediately, it will be "uninhabitable."- WNYC.org

Gehry, Hadid design rugs for nonprofit Arzu Masters Collection: ...Arzu Studio Hope, a U.S. nonprofit organization has launched 10 hand-knotted wool rugs designed by Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Michael Graves, Robert A.M. Stern, Margaret McCurry/Stanley Tigerman/Tigerman McCurry..."Today, we employ 700 people in an area that looks like the moon"...[images]- Los Angeles Times

ICAA 2013 Arthur Ross Awards for Excellence in the Classical Tradition Winners -- Fairfax & Sammons Architects; Thomas Jayne/Jayne Design Studio; Miriam Ellner; Jonathan Nelson; Richard Cameron- Institute of Classical Architecture & Art (ICAA)

Call for entries: BIA 2013 Brick in Architecture Awards (U.S. & Canada); new categories include: K-12; Colleges & Universities, and Renovation/Restoration; deadline: April 30- Brick Industry Association

Nuts + Bolts #2: You Can't SELL if You Can't TELL: You talk all the time but are you communicating clearly? Use your words effectively to build your influence. By Tami D. Hausman, Ph.D.- ArchNewsNow

-- Michael Maltzan Architecture: Regen Projects, Los Angeles, California
-- MAD Architects/Ma Yansong: Huangshan Mountain Village, Anhui Province, China