Bernstein reports that Rem beat Bjarke for the Miami Beach Convention Center redesign: "the designs may have had more similarities than differences," and it "doesn't mean construction will begin anytime soon" (and Ingles described their competition "oddiest").

The project "may be a hard sell," with a commissioner describing the winning team as "litigious and aggressive," that "I'm warning you now, is going to be a handful.

Meanwhile, cheers and jeers for Miami Beach considering a temporary halt to demolitions of historic homes: one side, high hopes it will save neighborhoods from out-of-character McMansions; on the other side, it would be "an architectural streetjacket.

Saffron minces no words about what she thinks of plans for façadectomies for two historic Philly venues, making them "soulless structures" (one would be a parking garage).

New York's research programs in biomimicry could have "far-reaching impacts on the built environment," and "could serve as a model to other hotbeds of creativity around the country."

Day delves into the "intriguing parallels" where "art and crime collide - museum and prison design have altered our perceptions of transgression, vision and time, and how architecture can shape those perceptions (fascinating read!)."

Woodman gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Rogers' show at the Royal Academy: "one of his great talents is his ability to choose collaborators - the question of quite how he has directed such a large group of people to such singular ends remains the exhibition's central untapped mystery."

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Turrell's "temple of spirit" at the Guggenheim: "After the flashiness of "Aten Reign" the subtleties of the other works can be found wanting."
Paths of glory: what might a cycle-friendly city look like? From elevated bike lanes to spiralling cycle stands, a new book charts innovative infrastructure from around the world..."Cycle Infrastructure," written by the architects behind Dutch planning practice Artgineering...they ask how cycle highways might start to influence the fundamental ways we make our cities. By Oliver Wainwright [images] - Guardian (UK)

"Blue Paint Is Not Enough": London's bicycle advocates say they're fed up with a city government that promotes cycling but isn't serious about safe bike infrastructure...If the mayor's office is unwilling to push cycling safety, they should stop trying to coax Londoners and visitors onto a network where people are dying even in the spaces designed to protect them. By Feargus O'Sullivan- The Atlantic Cities

Lubetkin Prize shortlist announced: Zaha Hadid, Grimshaw/Dattner Architects and Wilkinson Eyre make the cut...chosen for this year's prize for the best international building. [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

Shortlist of three unveiled for Hull memorial: £250,000 memorial will be a tribute to the lost trawlermen of Hull -- Colour Urban Design; Dress for the Weather/Factory Architecture; Jacqueline Donachie; Plincke Landscape- BD/Building Design (UK)

MAD Architects Reveal Designs for "Floating" Pingtan Art Museum: ...to be the largest private collection museum in China...has a fluid form of undulating landscape with cave-like interiors...The museum is an integral part of a top-down push to transform Pingtan into a new urban area...the quiet island will soon become a bustling new city. -- Ma Yansong [slide show] - Artinfo Hong Kong

Le Corbusier's Kaleidoscope: Looking at the Architect's Sense of Place: ...[he] turned to history to investigate...how to transform raw materials into not only a space but also an emotive place of belonging. While the Villa Savoye is a rather abstract catalogue of perspectives...Sainte Marie de La Tourette...takes this idea of a superimposed narrative to its full conclusion by uniting procession with an actual iconographic rebus. By Adam Kleinman/Modern Painters [slide show] - Artinfo

Le Corbusier at MoMA: A love/hate relationship: ...surveys [his] career with a curious twist..."Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" argues that the architect was also deeply sensitive to landscape and place...it turns out to be both a provocative and productive way to reexamine his career...curators convincingly demonstrate that he was indeed sensitive to place, took cues from the landscape, respected history and deplored much of what we would call sprawl. By Philip Kennicott -- Barry Bergdoll, Jean-Louis Cohen - Washington Post

Man of mystery - the Royal Academy's "Richard Rogers RA: Inside Out": ...casts little light on the collaborations behind his work...The question of authorship is never addressed directly but what can be said with certainty is that one of [his] great talents is his ability to choose collaborators...the question of quite how he has directed such a large group of people to such singular ends remains the exhibition's central untapped mystery. By Ellis Woodman- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Temple of Spirit: The Guggenheim rotunda is transformed into a sublime skyspace in James Turrell's new exhibition...After the flashiness of "Aten Reign" the subtleties of the other works can be found wanting. They are subtle reflections on themes of light and space that require time and effort before revealing themselves to the viewer. By Dora Sapunar [images] - Metropolis Magazine

"Grand Central Sketchbook: Designers Dream": ...Architectural League of New York put out a call for sketches and drawings that capture or re-imagine this gateway to the city...selected winners -- included in a special edition "Grand Central Terminal Moleskine Sketchbook"...exhibited at the New York Transit Museum. [images,links] - Urban Omnibus

Hitler's Classical Architect: Why is Léon Krier defending anew the work of the Third Reich's master builder? "Albert Speer: Architecture, 1932–1942"...I find myself bored and creeped out—and not only because the lifework of a monster has been given the deluxe treatment. The architecture itself is flat-out bad and stinks of both human and imaginative death. By Michael Sorkin - The Nation

A Conversation with Gordon Young, Author of "Teardown: Memoir of a Vanishing City": Place is not always the result of the work of well-intended design professionals. By Kenneth Caldwell [images] - ArchNewsNow