• Bernstein pens a most eloquent tribute to Fred Schwartz, who "wasn't so much an architect as a public citizen who used architecture as a tool to improve lives. Other tools included empathy and patience" (we counted him a friend and will sorely miss him).

• Al Sabouni's eloquent and touching report from Homs: "If one lesson could be learned from the conflicts we're experiencing in Syria, it is that architecture is much more powerful than one might like to think - leading through architecture could make a way for us out of this black hole."

• Ferro queries Ingels, Diller, Wilkinson, Fentress re: "how morality fits into the process of accepting or rejecting a commission."

• H&deM tapped for new Vancouver Art Gallery; "they are very sensitive to place."

• Londoner Simpson, "one of the world's leading practitioners of New Classicism and New Urbanism," tapped to design University of Notre Dame's new School of Architecture.

• King cheers the five teams tapped to craft "concepts" for a park at the edge of San Francisco's Crissy Field: "It's an unusual exercise in that the next step isn't to select a winner."

• Mironova takes an in-depth look at how community land trusts can help solve a broad range of problems, including inequality and affordability that affect residents across the country.

• New research shows that "green space puts people in a better mental state, with 'significant and sizable' effects."

• STUDIO V's mixed-use vision for Crescent Cove on Queens' waterfront gets a green light with a design "determined to not continue the trend" of generic lass towers rising elsewhere.

• Goldberger is ag thought that an architect's already half-finished house in a Raleigh, NC, neighborhood has NIMBY's swarming at the gates. It's "an example of modern architecture trying hard, very hard, to be a good neighbor" - it "couldn't fit in better unless he were prepared to throw in the towel and produce a make-believe Victorian."

• Wainwright and Stamp pay tribute to Hollein, "who mixed forms and materials with promiscuous abandon, designing with a magpie sensibility," and "what still excites us about his work."

• Ditto re: winners of the Center for Active Design's inaugural Excellence Award + 2014 ALA/IIDA Library Interior Design Awards.

• An impressive list of winners in Cooper-Hewitt's 2014 National Design Awards.

• Results of London auction of work by architects rakes in £5.6 million, with pieces by Hadid, Pei, and Aalto exceeding expectations (and others not at all).

• A very, very long shortlist in the running for the inaugural Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize and Prize for Emerging Architecture (265 nominees!).

• The official Call for Entries for the Guggenheim Helsinki will launch June 4, but you can sign up now to get in the loop.

• Call for entries: ideas for upcoming exhibition re: "how museums and galleries can be re-imagined once our existing ideas about them are destroyed."

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Works by architects and designers make £5.6m at auction: Zaha Hadid, I.M. Pei and Alvar Aalto all exceed expectation... "The Architect," a sale devised for auctioneers Phillips by US architect Lee Mindel, included pieces by Le Corbusier, Lutyens, and Frank Lloyd Wright. - BDBuilding Design (UK)

Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize Nominees: MCHAP and Mies Crown Hall America's Prize for Emerging Architecture (MCHAP emerge) announced 265 nominees for the two inaugural prizes... will receive a monetary prize, $50,000 and $25,000, respectively. - Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)

Cooper-Hewitt Announces Winners of the 2014 National Design Awards -- Brooks + Scarp; Roman and Williams Buildings and Interiors; Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture; Ivan Chermayeff/Tom Geismar/Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv; Witold Rybczynski; etc. - Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Center for Active Design Names Inaugural Excellence Award Recipients -- VMDO Architects; BKSK Architects; GGLO; Design Workshop, Inc.; BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group; etc. - Contract magazine

2014 ALAVIDA Library Interior Design Awards Winners -- Dewberry; OPN Architects; Lee H. Skolnick Architecture + Design Partnership; JKMM Architects; Bettisworth Welsh Whiteley; Snohetta/Clark Nexsen/Another Inside Job; designLAB architects; The Miller Hull Partnership; Gensler; Rice+Lipka Architects; "MULTIPICITIES; etc. - Contract magazine

Malcolm Reading Consultants to Manage Architectural Competition for Proposed Guggenheim Helsinki: ... will be inaugurated on June 4... sign up to receive information... - Guggenheim Museum

Call for entries: To Be Destroyed: A call for ideas for upcoming exhibition "TBD"... propose how museums and galleries can be re-imagined once our existing ideas about them are destroyed; deadline: June 30 - Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA)