EDITOR’S NOTE: Tomorrow is this week’s “floating” no-newsletter day. We’ll be back Thursday, December 11.

- Holl beats out a roster of shortlisted stararchitects to design new wing for Mumbai’s oldest museum + Local press reports some are concerned about losing an adjacent playground, but are assured (sort of) that “the area will remain a public space.”
- Florida parses a recent study re: arts hubs and their roles in urban economic development: while they “are not a silver bullet for cities, their role is ‘highly underestimated.’”
- West digs deep into some of the (astounding) reasons why 1WTC isn’t as green as it’s supposed to be (Superstorm Sandy was only part of the problem).
- Kim counsels 1WTC to “take heart” despite all the criticism, and offers a round-up of other iconic skyscrapers that “were initially criticized, only to later be widely admired, or at least accepted, as part of their cities’ skylines.”
- It looks like Piano may be designing the “final piece of the Barangaroo puzzle” with three residential towers that “will no doubt rekindle the debate about the use of public space and whether the proposed height is appropriate for Sydney.”
- Hadid minces no words about the cadre of Japanese architects criticizing her Tokyo stadium, saying it’s “embarrassing” for the architects - and calls them “hypocrites.”
- Meanwhile, Walker and Clagett mince no words about what they think of Hadid’s design for a London billboard: it’s a “butt-ugly heap of twisting sheet metal”;
- “space junk,” and “its aesthetic traction is questionable. The design is a retreat...” (ouch!).
- On a more positive note, Moore picks “the five most inspiring buildings of 2014.”
- Architectural historian Brown pleading for an end to the architecture wars between traditionalists and modernists: “Unfortunately, differences in opinion can become toxic when the opponents meet,” but there must be a way to make peace.
- A proposal by Gwathmey Siegel Kaufman to save Rudolph’s County Government Center could be a model for saving other endangered landmarks: “perhaps the solution lies with architects taking a financial stake - such as a $1 million deposit accompanying the firm’s proposal, may prove more effective.”
- Capps can’t believe Memphis “is only doubling down on the bad juju” that has followed the city’s “infamous” Pyramid, and could put the city “on the hook for millions if the deal falls apart” (it wouldn’t be the first time).
- Lubell calls for L.A. to get serious about building more affordable housing that is “essential for a vibrant and diverse” city - and suggests ways it could be done.
- Ferro looks into Maltzan’s “quest to remake housing for the homeless”: “You can’t just give them an apartment and expect things to work out,” says he.
- Eyefuls of the design approaches and solutions proposed by the five teams participating in the Re-envisioning Branch Libraries initiative.
- Heathcote pays eloquent tribute to Mackay: “His dedication to making urban settings better for everyday life became pivotal in the way cities are now planned.”
- Call for entries: Harvard GSD 2015 Wheelwright Prize Competition (registration doesn’t open until January, but guidelines are posted - use the holiday break to get a jump on things!) + Expression of Interest/EOI: Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge Competition for a pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Thames + Architecture Podium International Architecture Awards 2015.
views...Unfortunately, differences in opinion can become toxic when the opponents meet...We can protect our architectural heritage and embrace a certain type of sensitive modernist architecture at the same time. In doing so, we might even blaze a trail for other cities that struggle with this issue. By Marisa Angell Brown/genie loci- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Gwathmey Siegel Kaufman Submits Proposal to Save Paul Rudolph’s Goshen Landmark: ...proposal to transform the Orange County Government Center into a Hudson Valley arts hub would save the Modernist masterpiece from destruction...perhaps the solution lies with architects taking a financial stake...such as a $1 million deposit accompanying the firm’s proposal, may prove more effective...- Architect Magazine

Is Memphis Making (Another) Massive Mistake With Its Pyramid? A giant Bass Pro Shops outlet is set to move into the infamous landmark. But the city could be on the hook for millions if the deal falls apart....Bass has a proven track record of sticking cities with the tab for failed launches...Memphis is only double down on the bad juju... By Kriston Capps - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Editorial> Build More Affordable Housing: Sam Lubell argues that affordable housing is essential for a vibrant and diverse Los Angeles: We may think we’re getting more prosperous as our economy improves, but that will prove to be a dangerous, and expensive, mirage if we don’t manage our development the right way. - The Architect’s Newspaper

Michael Maltzan Architecture’s Quest To Remake Housing For The Homeless: The architect’s newest building joins a cadre of ambitious residences he has built for the Skid Row Housing Trust...”You can’t just give them an apartment and expect things to work out.” By Shaunacy Ferro [images] - Fast Company

Re-envisioning Branch Libraries: An overview of the design approaches and solutions proposed by the five teams — led by Andrew Berman Architect, L+ (SITU Studio), Marble Fairbanks, MASS Design Group, and UNION [images]- Architectural League of New York / Center for an Urban Future

David Mackay, architect, 1933-2014: [He] saw Barcelona - and all urban settings - as places of opportunity. His dedication to making them better for everyday life became pivotal in the way cities are now planned. By Edwin Heathcote -- Oriol Bohigas/Josep Martorell /MBM- Financial Times (UK)

Call for entries: Harvard GSD 2015 Wheelwright Prize Competition: ...will begin accepting submissions January 5, will award a prospective architect with a $100,000 international travel grant. [Registration deadline January 16. Submission deadline January 30]- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: Expression of Interest/EOI: Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge Competition (international): a pedestrian and cycle bridge spanning the River Thames; honorarium will be paid to second-stage shortlisted competitors; deadline: January 13, 2015- Wandsworth Council, London

Call for entries: International Architecture Awards 2015 (international): 36 categories open to professionals and students; registration deadline: January 31 (submissions due February 15)- Architecture Podium

ANN Feature: Nuts + Bolts #10: Charting a Course from Career Bewilderment to Career Betterment: Be curious, be adventurous, and, when necessary, be assertive. By Stanley Stark, FAIA, LEED AP- ArchNewsNow

7 Examples of Seductive Retail Architecture: ...a local landmark that helps to make a brand seem substantial...a few recent examples of enchanting retail architecture. -- MVRDV; OMA; Toyo Ito & Associates; Jun Aoki; Zaha Hadid Architects; Reiser + Umemoto [images]