EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to technical difficulties beyond our control we were unable to post on Friday - sorry 'bout that. And tomorrow is this week's "floating" newsletter day - we'll be back Wednesday, January 21.

• We are so, so saddened by the news that Architecture for Humanity HQ, which "put humanitarian design on the map," has closed its doors. Pogrebin, King, and Stott weigh in with why's, wherefore's, and reactions.

• Bernstein broils (again) about the "supersizing" of Manhattan with "supertall" towers "sprouting like beanstalks, costing its citizens precious sunshine and air," and "making the revised skyline the physical manifestation of New York's income disparities."

• Buntin lays bare "the myth of gentrification: It's extremely rare and not as bad for the poor as you think."

• More minces no words about what he thinks of support by London's mayor for a luxury high-rise development that "illustrates his contempt for localization," and "puts an end to the patient dialogue taking place until now."

• Wainwright is not so wow'd by Nouvel's new Paris concert hall: it's "a tyrannical new mothership" that's landed "among a zoo of other architectural misfits," and "effectively channels the last two decades of architecture's more extravagant tendencies into one great lump" (ouch!).

• Altai isn't at all impressed with Libeskind's International Congress Xperience in Mons, Belgium: his "statement about 'contrasting geometric forms' is an understatement. This thing is a poke in the eye."

• Heathcote is heartened by efforts to rescue "London's best architectural joke" from the wrecking ball. "The fight is on to save a rare reminder of hubris and humor expressed in architecture."

• Hawthorne is disheartened by the demolition of Ray Bradbury's house (by Mayne, no less): "It was not a distinguished work of architecture. But there's no doubt that it was a cultural site of real importance in Los Angeles" (hopeful news for a Google diner, though).

• Lydon tackles tactical urbanism by way of MoMA's "Uneven Growth" (a big-picture take, not a review).

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• Welton cheers Davis Brody Bond's 9/11 museum: despite the difficult design process, "the architects seized a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to design a museum that channels the site's sadness and loss into something more positive."

• Iovine (mostly) cheers the Cooper Hewitt's makeover that makes the museum "more engrossing than ever."

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• Brussat congratulates Schwarz for winning the Driehaus Prize (and, unsurprisingly, berates Kennicott and Lamster's takes).

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Finding Good Below Ground Zero: September 11 Memorial Museum: ...design process - with its unending public hearings, conflicting opinions and countless agendas - was anything but easy....Admirably, the architects refused to lose sight of their purpose...[they] seized a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to design a museum that channels the site’s sadness and loss into something more positive. By J. Michael Welton -- Davis Brody Bond [images] - Huffington Post

Designing for Past and Future: The updated Cooper Hewitt museum makes 21st-century technology mesh with a Neo-Georgian building...more engrossing than ever... By Julie V. Iovine -- Gluckman Mayner Architects; Beyer Blinder Belle; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Local Projects - Wall Street Journal

Art Gallery of New South Wales narrows architecture firms down to five finalists for Sydney Modern: No Sydney firms in the running.... -- Kerry Hill Architects; Sean Goodsell Architects; Kengo Kuma and Associates; RMA Architects: SANAA - WA Today (Australia)

Dréhaus Prize for David M. Schwarz: Congratulations to the classical architect...Philip Kennicott, probably would have been tooting Schwarz’s horn for years if his work had been modernist....Mark Lamster...had a few lame remarks to celebrate Schwarz’s prize... By David Brussat - Architecture Here and There

Gaming the System: Monopoly Gets Updated for 2015 in "Austerity": ...an update of Monopoly, but instead of robber barons and railroads, there are global financiers and the Shard...with rules duly bent to favor those of privileged descent. [images] - Architizer

-- "Friedensreich Hundertwasser - 1928-2000" by Wieland Schmied: an inspirational portrait of one of the most prolific artists of the 20th century...his sustainable principles are highly compelling and should warrant consideration by architects today.

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