On a sadder note, the sun is about to set on a Tokyo "time capsule," the 1962 Hotel Okura: the "current renovation plans don't favor the wishes of the preservation community." On a brighter note, Berke's 21c Museum Hotel in Durham, NC: "It has perfect elements for rebirth - for the 'Brooklynization' of America," sayeth the architect (guess that's a good thing?). A look at the reinvention of airports: "travelers are spending longer in airports these days. And we expect more from them. Cue high-profile architects to design them" (led by Foster).

Eyefuls of new images of Piano's Valletta City Gate, his once-controversial "expansive civic complex" in Malta (looks stunning to us!). Wainwright gives two thumbs-ups to The Foundry that "punches well above its weight in both architectural ingenuity and the social impact" - and just won London building of the year ("it's basically a series of concrete shelves that you can put stuff on," sayeth Architecture 00).

Beyan parses "two remodeled buildings that are reinventing the workspace." Parry's "approach is as elegant and understated as Hywel Evans's offices in your-face." There's a fridge magnet quality of 'drink more caffeine and do dumb things faster' to some architecture.

Stone's Throwback: Renzo Piano Modernizes Ancient Material in Malta: The Valletta City Gate project is nearing completion...newly released photographs of the expansive civic complex...multiple juxtapositions that offer a modern aesthetic for Malta's future while respecting this city's ancient urban fabric. [images: Architizer]

Reinvention of airports Norman Foster began in London and Hong Kong steps up: "...travelers are spending longer in airports these days"...and we expect more from them... Cue high-profile architects to design them. -- Foster + Partners; Safdie Architects; Cristiano Ceccato/Zaha Hadid Architects/ADP Ingenierie [images].

Authors, architects and artists line up to lambast 'absymal' garden bridge plan: Critics are speaking out against the design and funding of Joanna Lumley's £175m scheme ahead of a judicial review: "...facing an escalating backlash..."It's crap." -- Thomas Heatherwick; John Tusa; Will Self; Grayson Perry; Iain Sinclair; Will Hurst; Zaha Hadid; Piers Gough - Next City (formerly Next American City)

The city springing up in the desert: New pictures of Saudi Arabia's £67 billion project that will house two million people by 2035: "...part of Saudi Arabia's efforts to 'diversify away from oil' and create jobs..."15% of the 70 square mile city already constructed..."no cost will be spared." -- Daily Mail [UK]

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Ramping up: how the new Alphabeta office building and 8 St James’s Square are redefining the workplace: Fancy an office with a cycling track? How about some Picassos for the penthouse floor? Eric Parry’s approach is as elegant and understated as Richard Hywel Evans’s offices are in-your-face. There’s a fridge magnet quality of “drink more caffeine and do dumb things faster” to some architecture. By Robert Bevan – Studio RHE; Eric Parry [images] - Evening Standard (UK)

Kununurra Courthouse: Historically, courthouses have been a means of alienating Aboriginal people from their community and place. Designed jointly by TAG Architects and Iredale pedersen hook, the new courthouse reflects the intersection of the justice system with Indigenous worldviews. By Elizabeth Grant and Thalia Anthony [images] - Australian Design Review

Planning committee ‘had no choice’ but to approve ‘brutal’ PFI school: Nottingham’s planning committee criticised the design of Top Valley Academy... likening it to a barracks or something out of Dickens. But they gave it the green light because the school has been waiting for a rebuild since 2006...School principal...declared it “lovely.” -- Ryder Architecture [images] - BDBuilding Design (UK)

With 21c Museum Hotel, Durham’s on a Roll: ...home to one of the fastest-growing cultural scenes in the nation...new hotel...has taken over the 17-story Hill Building, built in 1935-37. It has a pedigree...Empire State Building’s architects, Shreve, Lamb and Harmon...it has perfect elements for rebirth - for the ‘Brooklynization’ of America.” By J. Michael Welton – Shreve, Lamb and Harmon; Deborah Berke Partners [images] - Huffington Post

Closing Time for the Hotel Okura, a ’60s Tokyo Time Capsule: ...new design, overseen by...the son of the original architect...will preserve the blend of traditional Japanese art and modern design that served the original so well...economics, as the current renovation plans suggest, don’t favor the wishes of the preservation crowd...while it’s theoretically possible to retrofit the old building with earthquake-resistant technology, financially, it’s totally impractical. -- Yoshiro Taniguchi/Hideo Kosaka (1962); Yoshio Taniguchi [images] - Curbed

Remembering an age when we cared about landscaping the nation’s infrastructure: ...two women who influenced the shape of so much of our landscape: The recent surge of interest in the role of 20th-century women in architecture has left the engineering and environmental professions in the shadows and entirely leapfrogged landscape architecture...between them, Brenda Colvin and Sylvia Crowe...probably changed the physical landscape of Britain more than any other individuals. By Gillian Darley - BDBuilding Design (UK)

Legendary architect’s archive open for visitors: Altug and Behruz Çinici Archive not only presents a detailed history of a long established architectural firm, but also allows architects and other interested users to analyze the field of architecture in Turkey from 1960s to 2000s...currently being digitalized and cataloged at SALT Research... - Daily Sabah (Turkey)

Call for entries: Expressions of Interest/EOI: Art Mill, Qatar International Design Competition: new museum, circa 1 million square feet, to join Doha’s ensemble of museums by I.M. Pei and Jean Nouvel; cash prizes; Stage One deadline: June 26- Malcolm Reading Consultants / Qatar Museums

Call for entries: Sylvia Harris Citizen Design Award: $10,000 toward the implementation of a strong project concept to ignite change in your community; open to practicing professionals from all design disciplines based in the U.S.; deadline: August 3- Design Ignites Change / AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts)

Call for entries: “Casablanca Bombing Rooms” architecture competition: a public library on the site of the 2003 Casablanca bombings; cash prizes; earlybird registration deadline (save money!): July 2 (submissions due September 30)- HMMD / Homemade Dessert

Yesterday’s News

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