• Tributes abound for Gowan, "a great teacher and fine architect" - "no one escaped his ruthless Glaswegian humour."

• Perhaps not dead, but the New South Wales Government Architect's Office "faces decimation" with the staff going from 120 to 12 (that doesn't bode well, does it?).

• Stead Sellers delves deep into Baltimore's "best shot at redemption" - an "irresistible experiment in urban revitalization that is the city's arts district," which hopes it "can help turn Bulletmore, Mudderland, back into Charm City" (a fascinating read).

• Guts (he's back!) cheers Miller's Court winning the Bruner Gold Medal, "a reminder, after the April riot and civil unrest, that Baltimore is a place where good things can happen, when there is the will to make it so. And there's more to come" (another great read).

• A great presentation of all the Bruner Award for Urban Excellence winners.

• Brake says "Piano has not made a building to love," but the new Whitney is "a building that never succumbs to gigantism - a viewer-centric space" that is "enriching rather than exhausting."

• Russell ponders historic preservation in NYC, and whether "the single-issue obsessives who saved the library, the Frick, and the Four Seasons" are missing the bigger picture - the many small scale, "doomed" gems that "tend civility to a part of the city being overwhelmed by overscaled, lowest-common-denominator monstrosities."

• O'Hagan hails Victorian-era "gasworks wonders" that are disappearing, and cheers the many "champions of their stark formalist beauty - and some ingenious repurposing."

• Heller has some interesting insights into Google's "architectural per-Plexity" and its "monastic vision for the future of work": "it turns out that future-proofed life looks a lot like the vacuum-packed present" ("giant lizard tank" included).

• Meanwhile, word is that the Heatherwick/BIG team might be tapped to take over from AHMM on Google's London HQ (now word whether giant lizard tanks would be included).

• Lamster laments missed opportunities in two new Dallas hospitals that "represent both the best intentions of contemporary health care design and also some of its continuing weaknesses" - even with $2+ billion, they "lack human touch."

• How an architect is the "public face" of the planning team racing against the "deadline to deliver a new venue plan for Boston's bid for the 2024 Summer Games" (no one we know in Boston really wants to win).

• A Corbu tapestry commissioned by Utzon finally makes its way home to the Sydney Opera House (such a saga!).

• The British Design Council's "much needed" Design for Service Innovation & Development report examines the growth of service design - internationally.

• The Ford Foundation shifts its grant-making focus to a "social-justice infrastructure" that will look at "not just at wealth, race, ethnicity, and gender, but also access to technology and the arts."

• In India, the newly-formed MN Sharma Architectural Society plans to "promote and liaison between Indian and foreign architectural, design and city planning organizations, and develop a body of research on Chandigarh and modern architecture."

• Call for entries: Enterprise Rose Fellowship Architechturalships for community designers (NYCHA added, and extended deadline) + London Public Library international competition for students and young architects.
delayed King’s Cross HQ...reworked scheme could see a variant of the duo’s US proposal of ‘lightweight block-like structures’ brought to the UK. - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Growing pains at new Dallas hospitals: Modern new Parkland, UTSW buildings lack human touch: ...represent both the best intentions of contemporary health care design and also some of its continuing weaknesses...suggests just how sadly ingrained Dallas’ corporate culture has become in the city’s design consciousness...As sculpture Parkland Memorial Hospital is bold, but as architecture it is alienating...Clements comes closest to achieving something close to the luxury resort paradigm. By Mark Lamster — HDR/Corgan; RTKL [images]- Dallas Morning News

Architect becomes key figure in Boston’s Olympic bid: David Manfredi is an essential member - and a public face - of a planning team racing against a June 30 deadline to deliver a new venue plan for Boston’s bid for the 2024 Summer Games. -- Elkus Manfredi; CBT; WilsonOwensOwens Architects; Populous - Boston Globe

Ford Foundation Shifts Grant Making to Focus Entirely on Inequality: ...a “social-justice infrastructure”...hopes that providing support without strings attached will help make organizations more “durable” and allow them more leeway in designing their own programs...looking not just at wealth, race, ethnicity, and gender but also access to technology and the arts. - The Chronicle of Philanthropy

UT’s [Union Territory] first Indian chief architect launches society on Chandigarh: M N Sharma Architectural Society will set up, promote and liaison between Indian and foreign architectural, design and city planning organisations, fund scholarships...and develop a body of research on Chandigarh and modern architecture. - Times of India

Call for entries: Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellowship: five organizations across the US seeking community designers for three-year fellowship; New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA); Denver Housing Authority; Capitol Hill Housing, Seattle; Hudson River Housing, Poughkeepsie, NY; Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation, Porcupine, SD; application deadline (extended): July 26- Enterprise Community Partners

Call for entries: London Public Library international architectural competition for students and young architects; cash prizes; earlybird registration deadline (save money!): July 19 (submissions due September 27)- ArchMedium

ANN feature: Keeping Supertalls Grounded, Connected: Q&A with SWA’s John Wong, FASLA, FAAR: Tall buildings “are beautiful, sleek structures, truly awe-inspiring, but a lot of a building’s long-term economic success is dependent on the integration and beauty at the ground level.” [images]- ArchNewsNow.com