EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow is a no-newsletter day (Architects Regatta!) - we'll be back Friday, September 18.

• Kennicott on DS+R's The Broad museum in L.A.: "Too much bad art overwhelms great architecture."

• Wainwright x 2: he gets a rare peak at North Korea's capital Pyongyang that is turning into the "socialist fairyland" of "Pyonghannatt": "The whole place feels slightly unreal, a mock-up of activity hastily assembled for visitors" (his photos are fabulous, too).

• He cheers the "ramshackle restoration" of a "derelict pleasure palace" in London that "leaves the tattiness intact, a beguiling Tardis of Victoriana."

• Heathcote warns that grand plans often obliterates the kinds of spaces "that can accommodate the ad hoc culture that drives urban creativity. The irony is that success squeezes out exactly the kind of cheap, flexible spaces that made the city succeed in the first place" (he does find a few bright spots).

• A geographer debunks "Texas exceptionalism" and red flags being waved about Houston's lack of zoning codes: "Houston isn't that unusual at all. Houston is downright all-American! Zoning, or lack thereof, is a red herring."

• King bemoans San Francisco's "environmental apathy" when it comes to considering rising waters: "distant threats are no match for topical dramas."

• Feinstein offers 10 "game-changing designs that hold promise to protect citizens against flooding."

• A new apartment block by Woods Bagot in Melbourne's eastern suburb "aims to foster a sense of community, a concept not customarily associated with newly built apartments. Now more than ever, architects and designers are tasked with replicating the conditions associated with the Great Aussie Dream."

• Four great takes on hits (and misses) "in the affordable housing debate" in New York City, Chicago, Austin, and San Jose.

• Six teams are in the running to connect Tampa's new Pier Park to downtown - including the team that won the park part (and everyone promises "to play well with each other").

• Dunlap-shakes out what went into creating Dattner's salt shed on the Manhattan waterfront: "it is hard not to see a giant salt grain. Folded, creased and chamfered, its windowless, enigmatic facade is like a monumental work of origami."

• O'Sullivan reports on a competition, to launch next year, for a €700 million revamp of Paris's much-reviled Tour Montparnasse: the "declared objective: to create a 'Parisian Times Square."

• The Zoological Lightning Institute's Save a Billion Birds! campaign "seeks local bans of bird-killing glass for all new construction as well as remediation of existing glass."

• PARKing Day 2015 is this Friday (its 10th anniversary!)

• Winners all: Triple Bridge Architectural Competition for development along the Liepaja Canal in Latvia + The "compelling letters" that won the Dear O'Sullivan

• Heathcote warns that grand plans often obliterate the kinds of spaces "that can accommodate the ad hoc culture that drives urban creativity. The irony is that success..."

• A new apartment block by Woods Bagot in Melbourne's eastern suburb "aims to foster a sense of community, a concept not customarily associated with newly built apartments. Now more than ever, architects and designers are tasked with replicating the conditions associated with the Great Aussie Dream."

• Four great takes on hits (and misses) "in the affordable housing debate" in New York City, Chicago, Austin, and San Jose.

• Six teams are in the running to connect Tampa's new Pier Park to downtown - including the team that won the park part (and everyone promises "to play well with each other").

• Dunlap-shakes out what went into creating Dattner's salt shed on the Manhattan waterfront: "it is hard not to see a giant salt grain. Folded, creased and chamfered, its windowless, enigmatic facade is like a monumental work of origami."

• O'Sullivan reports on a competition, to launch next year, for a €700 million revamp of Paris's much-reviled Tour Montparnasse: the "declared objective: to create a 'Parisian Times Square."

• The Zoological Lightning Institute's Save a Billion Birds! campaign "seeks local bans of bird-killing glass for all new construction as well as remediation of existing glass."

• PARKing Day 2015 is this Friday (its 10th anniversary!)

• Winners all: Triple Bridge Architectural Competition for development along the Liepaja Canal in Latvia + The "compelling letters" that won the Dear O'Sullivan

• Heathcote warns that grand plans often obliterate the kinds of spaces "that can accommodate the ad hoc culture that drives urban creativity. The irony is that success..."

• A new apartment block by Woods Bagot in Melbourne's eastern suburb "aims to foster a sense of community, a concept not customarily associated with newly built apartments. Now more than ever, architects and designers are tasked with replicating the conditions associated with the Great Aussie Dream."

• Four great takes on hits (and misses) "in the affordable housing debate" in New York City, Chicago, Austin, and San Jose.

• Six teams are in the running to connect Tampa's new Pier Park to downtown - including the team that won the park part (and everyone promises "to play well with each other").

• Dunlap-shakes out what went into creating Dattner's salt shed on the Manhattan waterfront: "it is hard not to see a giant salt grain. Folded, creased and chamfered, its windowless, enigmatic facade is like a monumental work of origami."

• O'Sullivan reports on a competition, to launch next year, for a €700 million revamp of Paris's much-reviled Tour Montparnasse: the "declared objective: to create a 'Parisian Times Square."

• The Zoological Lightning Institute's Save a Billion Birds! campaign "seeks local bans of bird-killing glass for all new construction as well as remediation of existing glass."

• PARKing Day 2015 is this Friday (its 10th anniversary!)

• Winners all: Triple Bridge Architectural Competition for development along the Liepaja Canal in Latvia + The "compelling letters" that won the Dear O'Sullivan
A Revamp for Paris’s Least Favorite Building: A redesign competition has been announced for Tour Montparnasse and its surrounding mall and plaza: “...due for a €700 million makeover...an architectural competition was announced...declared objective: to create a “Parisian Times Square”...” By Feargus O’Sullivan - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

The Zoological Lighting Institute Urges Total Ban on Unprotected Bird-Killing Glass in Proposed Construction Projects: “...its ‘Save a Billion Birds!’ Campaign seeks local bans of bird-killing glass for all new construction as well as remediation of existing glass...” -- James Karl Fischer - BusinessWire

PARK(ing) Day 2015: “...an annual worldwide event where artists, designers and citizens transform metered parking spots into temporary public parks. Friday, September 18 - PARK(ing) Day

Winners of Triple Bridge Waterfront Architecture Competition selected: “...ideas for the proposed development along the Liepaja Canal (Latvia)...winners from China, United States, and Germany. -- Sun Yu/Zhao Xue; Ka Leung Yuen/Sze Kwan Wan; Pablo Rodriguez Parada [images] - HMMD / Homemade Dessert

Winners of the Dear Architecture Competition Challenge the Profession with Open Letters: “Winners penned compelling letters that tackle...social exclusion by way of poor urbanism, the underrepresentation of women...and architecture’s response (or lack thereof) to new environmental concerns such as fracking.” -- Craig L. Wilkins, PhD, RA; Vershaé Hite/Brittany Eaker Kirkland; Lewis Williams - Blank Space

Call for entries: Varna Regional Library (Bulgaria) open international architectural competition; no fee; cash prizes; deadline: November 9 - Municipality of Varna / Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria

Call for entries: 2016 Rome Prize: awarded to emerging and established artists and scholars working in Architecture, Design, Historic Preservation and Conservation, Landscape Architecture, etc.; fellowships include a stipend, room and board, and workspace at AAR in Rome; deadline: November 1 - American Academy in Rome

Call for entries: 2016 Berkeley Prize Essay Competition: “Sheltering Those in Need: Architects Confront Homelessness”; open to full-time undergraduate students enrolled in any architecture degree program or majoring in architecture throughout the world; Stage 1 (500-word essay proposal) deadline: November 1 - Berkeley Prize / Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley


Being Frank Gehry: Paul Goldberger’s account of the architect’s rise is also a tale of things not going Gehry’s way: “Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry” is a compelling biography of perhaps the world’s most famous architect. And yet it is also, to a great extent, a list of Gehry’s disappointments. By Fred A. Bernstein - ArchNewsNow.com

Colorful Condensations: Mikkel Frost’s CEBRA Toons: Can a single drawing sum up the complexity of a sizable built project? “...hand-drawn Toons...amalgamates various drawing techniques into playful architectural sonnets...communicate the insistence on a room for optimism, playfulness, and vigor in contemporary architecture. [images]