More Pritzker chatter well worth reading: Rudin has a very interesting take on Aravena, the Pritzker, and video games about humanitarian crises: "Videogame architecture is failing the poor of the world. Aravena is Penn and Teller to the architect's Houdini."

* Lamster weighs in (again): the "timing inevitably, and unfortunately, raises the question as to the credibility of the prize. The irony is that Aravena [a Latin Christopher Walken] is widely perceived as responsible for a genuine public space that can requisition as places of spectacle and genuine public space."

* Hall Kaplan says "Hooray!" for Aravena's win: "It will hopefully lend additional attention to the groundsawd for affordable, well designed, user-friendly housing."

* Bozikovic has a very interesting conversation with the Pritzker winner: "Architects may not solve the world's biggest problems - but it's their job to try. Aravena is excited to use the "gravitas" of the prize to change the conversation."

* Winston's Q&A takes quite a different tack, with Aravena coming down hard on architectural education, saying architects "are never taught the right thing. There's nothing worse than answering the wrong questions well."

* The Pritzker's Thorne offers insight into "the room where it happens" - how the jury's deliberation work, and what makes Aravena's work deserving of the prize.

* Korody offers a round-up of Pritzker stories (most already in ANN), but scroll down to his amusing take Schumacher's "rant," and his own take on what it means when the Pritzker and the Venice Biennale confer authority to a mode of architectural practice applauded for its political orientation.

* Meanwhile, a Beijing architect "gets back to the basics of caring for humanity" by converting "a clutch of old warehouses in a remote rural village...to give new life to a community through good design."

* Poont talks to the team behind the Design Museum Dharavi to find out if "a Mumbai museum on wheels can change perceptions of slums" - just in time for the annual India Design Forum.

* One more reason to find yourself in Mumbai in February: the 361° Design Conference: Architecture and the City: Architecture | Urbanism | Sustainability, and an impressive array of speakers (to and Cook included).

* Kuma denies Hadid's accusations that "numerous components of his design" for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic stadium "are identical to her original work": "despite the room where it happens...its own success"?

* Heathcote x 2: He ponders the question of what makes a design good, and "design art" - a "hybrid territory where the usual rules do not apply" (has it "become a victim of its own success")?

* He cheers the urban lighting spectacular: "Done well, it creates a fleeting glimpse of another, more civic city in which the skyline and our increasingly privatized streets are requisitioned as places of spectacle and genuine public space."

* Gould reports on her enlightening experience at the USGBC annual conference, which tackled activism and diversity - and the terms "inclusion" and "equity" too often "used as buzzwords (or 'diversity-washing' distractions)."

* Three (!) we couldn't resist: Rogers is surprised and "delighted" to find out he was name-dropped in Bowie's 1995 "Thrux these Architect's Eyes."

* Five myths about architects: #2: Architects have big egos and are bad listeners.

* Taiwan dons a giant glass slipper church "in a bid to attract more women. It has not been an unqualified success" (oh, really?!??).

* Eyeful of the 2016 AIA Honor Institute Awards (great presentations).

* Folio's "Hanger Barn" wins the City of Dreams 2016 Pavilion Competition on Governors Island (coat check not included).
Japanese architect denies copying Zaha Hadid's Olympic stadium design: Kengo Kuma admits to 'certain similarities'... [Hadid] says numerous components of Kuma's design are identical to her original work... "When we consider...sight-lines...and regulations on constructions of this type, it is automatic that some similarities will arise...despite the technical details being similar, the concepts are completely different"... [images] - Telegraph (UK)

Cities defined by more than tall buildings: Today's tallest tower is tomorrow's Guinness World Records footnote. Great skyscrapers are thrilling to behold, but great cities are defined less by record-breaking spires than by lively streets and rich layers of culture. Where would you rather spend your next vacation, in Paris or Dubai? By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Studio Gang Architects/Jeanne Gang - Chicago Tribune

What is good design? A look at the many definitions of quality: There are numerous ways to judge the virtue of an object, from usefulness and aesthetic merit to simply how it makes us feel: Design has become a victim of its own success..."design art"...a hybrid territory where the usual rules do not apply...has deserted the functional for the psychological, choosing instead to address the needs of the intellect rather than everyday life. Then there is social design. By Edwin Heathcote -- Dieter Rams; Steve Jobs; Assemble; Theaster Gates; etc. [images] - Financial Times (UK)

Celebrations of light set our splendid cities ablaze: The city is not just about density - it is as much about the ethereal intensity of its right-time dreamscape: bright lights, big city...Done well, it creates a fleeting glimpse of another, more civic city in which the skyline and our increasingly privatised streets are requisitioned as places of spectacle and genuine public space. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

Expanding Diversity For Design: Activist designers at the U.S. Green Building Council's annual conference prove that equity happens when you take the lead...and follow through: While the terms "inclusion" and "equity" are often used as buzzwords (or "diversity-washing" distractions), our speakers showed concrete ways they are manifesting meaningfully in practice today. By Kira Gould - Metropolis Magazine

Richard Rogers "Delighted" to Have Been Name-Dropped in David Bowie Song: [He] may count a Pritzker Prize, the Stirling Prize, and a knighthood...among his impressive heap of awards, but unbeknownst to the British architect, he also achieved recognition from...David Bowie back in 1995. In the song "Thru' these Architect's Eyes"...he namedrops both the late Philip Johnson and Rogers... - Architectural Record

Five myths about architects: The profession is an area where myths abound about everything from what an architect does to how much they earn and the size of their egos... Myth 2: Architects have big egos and are bad listeners... Myth 5: Architects cannot wait to sting you with hidden costs.

The giant glass slipper church of Taiwan: A 16m-high (55ft) glass church in the shape of a high-heeled shoe...apparently in a bid to attract more women. A huge glass... what? It has not been an unqualified success...Women apparently don't all want glass slippers. [images] - BBC News

2016 AIA Institute Honor Awards: Gold Medal; Architecture Firm Award; Topaz Medalion for Excellence in Architectural Education; Edward C. Kemper Award; Whitney M. Young Jr. Award; Architecture; Interior Architecture; Regional & Urban Design; Twenty-five Year Award -- Denise Scott Brown and Robert Venturi; LMN Architects; EHDD/Monterey Bay Aquarium; BNIM; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Rogers Partners; Jones Studios; Morphosis Architects; Eric Owen Moss Architects; Murphy Burnham & Buttrick Architects; Studio Gang; etc. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

The City of Dreams 2016 Pavilion Competition winning design: Hanger Barn by Folio (Youngsu Lee and Bosuk Hur), will be assembled on Governors Island... [images] - FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY