

Today's News - Tuesday, January 7, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: We hope everyone's New Year has begun with banners flying high - and remain so for years to come! Now, to some serious catch-up over the next few days (and apologies for tardy posting - it took time to get back into the swing of things).

- [Betsky considers](#) what the 2020s will bring us: "Architects will focus on reuse, flexible spaces, and earthy materials," but "memes will be more effective than monuments - we should not repeat the High Modernist mistake of throwing out the historical baby with the fluidity of the modern bathwater."
- [More than](#) 100 Australian firms offer pro-bono design services to those impacted by bushfire crisis, forming Architects Assist- "we are ready when they need us."
- [In California](#), San Clemente finalizes a "sea level rise report in hopes of establishing a coastal program," including continuing to bring in sand to restore its beaches - but the "Surfrider Foundation advocated for methods like pairing the living shoreline with managed retreat" (read the comments - yikes!).
- [Brandes](#) Gratz "weeps" for NYC as she watches her city commit "urban suicide" with supertall towers "spreading like kudzu - a visible disgrace" that "reflects how real estate owns and controls a city (demolition of 270 Park Avenue is the poster child).
- [Jacobs cheers](#) MoMA's new curatorial approach, but bemoans "the missed opportunities of its expansion - it had become a better museum but a worse building - like a major airport terminal - as it's grown, it's become less distinct."
- [Curator](#) and critic Belogolovsky visited the new MoMA and found "a genuine sense of pleasure - it feels like exploring a real city - crowded, loud, fascinating, surprising. But as far as architecture, I am unsettled. Nothing is quite special, intimate, and magical - there are wonderful moments, but they can be easily missed."
- [Chances](#) of Breuer's Central Atlanta Library making National Register of Historic Places "are slipping away" because of a \$50 million renovation that includes "chiseling windows" into the façade, though "historic designation likely wouldn't have spared the library from exterior changes."
- [On brighter](#) notes: Zaha Hadid Architects' revised design for a timber stadium in Gloucestershire, U.K., (finally) wins planning permission.
- [Gendall](#) explains why "the coolest architecture on Earth is in Antarctica - long the purview of engineers, now attracting designer architects looking to bring aesthetics to the coldest neighborhood on Earth" (one research station "could be mistaken for an art museum").
- [Toyota has](#) an "audacious plan" - and taps BIG to design a prototype "city of the future" at the base of Japan's Mt. Fuji "aimed at creating safer, cleaner, more fun cities."
- [Ingalls](#) parses plans for an "urbane village" that taps an impressive list of architects to "redefine the ski town in a tech-utopian Utah community" ("TED meets Burning Man").
- [Conklin](#), meanwhile, considers Canada giving "utopia a chance with The Orbit," a 450-acre smart city master plan. "While PARTISANS does admit to Garden City inspiration, their reasons for departure from the framework are weak - they just replace 19th-century jargon with 21st-century jargon" (and a digital master plan).

- [Hatherley](#), on the other hand, parses how, in the 1980s, "high-tech architects showed little affinity for urban complexity," and why "it's unsurprising that they've tended instead towards either the business park, or the theme park."
- [DSAI's Schmitt](#) explains that Canadian architects "are winning more work beyond our borders - and welcome excellence from anywhere because it makes us stronger competitors everywhere" (hopefully, not behind a paywall!).
- [Scruton](#) chronicles what was a difficult year "in which much was taken from me [including dealing with cancer and chemo]. But much more was given back."
- [AIA releases](#) final set of chapters of "Guides for Equitable Practice" online that "focus on developing employee career paths; building and involving authentic community engagement, and measuring firm progress in developing equitable practices."
- [We're sad](#) to end on a sad note: The rector of Notre Dame says there's a "50% chance" the structure might not be saved because of scaffolding "threatening the vaults of the Gothic monument."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Peter Piven: Cultural Fit: What is cultural fit when design firms merge or acquire, and how do you achieve it?
- [ANN feature](#): JoAnn Locktov: Venice Gift Guide: Many Venetian artisans and small businesses suffered extensive damages in the unprecedented acqua alta flooding in November, so when you invest in their creativity, you are helping them to repair, restart, and recover.

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[Aaron Betsky](#): The 2020s "will see the return of the real": ...architects in the new decade will focus on reuse, flexible spaces and earthy materials: Our agenda must be to stop the waste of natural resources we cannot renew, stop the pollution, and reuse, rethink, reimagine, and relive our present... Memes will be more effective than monuments...I wonder whether this will be the decade in which the very notion of architecture as the production of buildings will dissolve...the days of the monolithic discipline and profession finally seem numbered...we should not repeat the High Modernist mistake of throwing out the historical baby with the fluidity of the modern bathwater. - Dezeen

[Australian architects offer pro-bono design services to those impacted by bushfire crisis](#): Over 100...studios have formed...Architects Assist...will offer free design and planning assistance to help people "rebuild their lives"...It will also offer support to small businesses or communities to replace structures such as shops, halls, churches or theatres..."we are ready when they need us"...Airbnb is...providing free temporary housing for people who have been displaced... -- Atelier Jiri Lev - Dezeen

[San Clemente Finalizes Sea Level Rise Report in hopes of establishing a Coastal Program](#): ...aims to show the California Coastal Commission that [it] needs funding and approval to develop its program...program contains the ground rules for future development and protection of coastal resources...In the past, [it] has elected to bring in loads of sand to restore its beaches and is planning to use this method again...Surfrider Foundation advocated for methods like pairing the living shoreline with managed retreat... - Voice of OC (Orange County, California)

[Roberta Brandes Gratz: How New York Is Zoning Out the Human-Scale City](#): By no logic...does demolition of 270 Park Avenue make sense...exemplifies how a



Architecture Magazine Library
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vital aspect of the urbanism on which this city has evolved and excelled over decades is now being dangerously eroded...I weep for my city; it is committing urban suicide...supertall towers that are spreading like kudzu...an increasingly visible disgrace...reflects how real estate owns and controls a city... -- Jane Jacobs; Natalie de Blois/Gordon Bunshaft/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- New York Review of Books

Karrie Jacobs: The Missed Opportunities of MoMA's Expansion: the good (a new curatorial approach) and the regrettable (an overlooked genre-busting move): ...I arrived with baggage...angry at the museum ever since it tore down the American Folk Art Museum...My first visit to the newly expanded MoMA did little to counter that feeling...it had become a better museum but a worse building...despite moments of high-ceilinged grandeur - amorphous and bland...I returned a few weeks later...I came to appreciate aspects of the architecture...Still, [it] has become one of those buildings - like a major airport terminal...as it's grown, it's become less distinct. -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Gensler; Philip L. Goodwin; Edward Durell Stone; Philip Johnson; César Pelli; Yoshio Taniguchi; Yoshio Taniguchi- Architect Magazine

Vladimir Belogolovsky: Insisting on Being Modern: the new MoMA in New York: ... the experience brings me a genuine sense of pleasure...it feels like exploring a real city - crowded, loud, fascinating, surprising...But as far as architecture, I am unsettled...a missed opportunity. I want to know why...we will not recognise MoMA's history of six major expansions. There are still bits and pieces...There seems to be an urge...to rewrite history every time...Everything is sacrificed towards turning the building into...a mere flexible space for display. Nothing is quite special, intimate, and magical...everything is impressive, grand, and impersonal...there are wonderful moments...but they...can be easily missed. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Gensler; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Yoshio Taniguchi; Cesar Pelli; Philip Johnson- STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)

Renovations jeopardize [Central Atlanta Library's] shot at making National Register of Historic Places: Chiseling windows into the final work of...Marcel Breuer is creating some issues: ...thanks largely to the \$50 million renovations underway at the well-known Brutalist structure...with the Cooper Carry-designed updates...the architecturally significant library's chances of earning a place on the NRHP are slipping...construction [includes] holes chiseled into the facade for windows...historic designation likely wouldn't have spared the library from exterior changes. - Curbed Atlanta

Planning Permissions Granted for Zaha Hadid Architects' Timber Stadium in England: The world's greenest football stadium....will be built in Gloucestershire...a second attempt to gain permissio...ZHA had to modify the design, and introduce new strategies that could potentially "make up for" the destruction of the original plot and its green fields...Transportation and infrastructure were also tackled differently...to reduce noise and traffic...Home for the Forest Green Rovers football club...5,000-seat timber stadium, will be entirely powered by renewable energy sources... - ArchDaily

John Gendall: The Coolest Architecture on Earth Is in Antarctica: Who said a polar research base had to be ugly? Gradually, designers are rethinking how to build for the world's harshest environment: [Brazil's] new Comandante Ferraz Research Station...could be mistaken for an art museum or a boutique

hotel...Construction in Antarctica, long the purview of engineers, is now attracting designer architects looking to bring aesthetics...to the coldest neighborhood on Earth. -- Estudio 41; Hugh Broughton Architects; bof architecten; OZ Architecture- New York Times

Toyota to build prototype city of the future in Japan: ...to build a prototype "city of the future" at the base of Japan's Mt. Fuji, powered by hydrogen fuel cells and functioning as a laboratory for autonomous cars, "smart homes," artificial intelligence and other technologies...audacious plan for..."Woven City"...aimed at creating safer, cleaner, more fun cities...commissioned BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group to design the community...open to partnerships with other companies...to use the project as a testing ground for technology. (Reuters)- Place / Thomson Reuters Foundation

Julia Ingalls: Activating the Urbane Village: Architects and designers redefine the ski town in a tech-utopian Utah community: How do you translate a "TED meets Burning Man" vibe into the design of a year-round property - as the investors behind Utah's...Summit Powder Mountain are attempting to do...The trick is to create a population density that can support amenities like restaurants, grocery stores, and public gathering areas...for year-round inhabitants to successfully activate the village. MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects, Olson Kundig, Marmol Radziner, Studio Ma, JVA Arkitekter, and Tom Wiscombe Architecture are among the architects who have signed on... -- OFFICEUNTITLED- The Architect's Newspaper

Emily Conklin: Canada gives utopia a chance with The Orbit: ...a smart city master plan in Innisfil, just north of Toronto...While PARTISANS does admit to Garden City inspiration, their reasons for departure from the framework are weak: The design claims to use a unique street grid form the firm has called "squircles"...But really, they just replace 19th-century jargon with 21st-century jargon, and instead of idyllic lawns for children to play on, the plan speaks to more efficient and environmentally friendly suburbanization patterns...following in the footsteps of...Sidewalk Labs...their main drawback is that they are digital master plans, and their biggest ideas...require the intervention and cooperation of many different parties...undermine the authoritative leadership proposed by a utopian plan and jeopardize the guarantees the designers see...- The Architect's Newspaper

Owen Hatherley: High-tech now looks very much like another post-imperial delusion: High-tech architecture aligned with the revival of Victorian values in the 1980s, but did not end up producing the factories of a new period of British creativity: In the end, the main high-tech contribution to industrial design was some see-thru vacuum cleaners....In theory...the high-tech architects should have spent the Thatcher era designing the new factories, bridges, power stations...Of course they didn't... High-tech architects showed little affinity for urban complexity...it's unsurprising that they've tended instead towards either the business park, or the theme park.- Dezeen

Donald Schmitt: Canadian architects are taking on the world: [They] aren't just winning more work beyond our borders; we're designing iconic work for a few of the world's pre-eminent institutions...the most creative architects from elsewhere also see Canada's growth as an opportunity for them too...There was a time when Canadian architects feared this competition. But now, we welcome

excellence from anywhere because it makes us stronger competitors everywhere...There's something else uniquely Canadian that gives us a competitive edge, though...teams work...a set of values that celebrates collaboration...and an eagerness to use design as a competitive advantage. -- Diamond Schmitt Architects; KPMB Architects; Hariri Pontarini; Foster + Partners; WilkinsonEyre; 3XN; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Snohetta; MJMA Architects - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Roger Scruton: a year in which much was lost - but more gained: Despite everything, I have so much to be grateful for: My 2018 ended with a hate storm, in response to my appointment as chair of the government's Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission...The Spectator...interview is duly published - a mendacious concoction of out-of-context remarks and downright fabrications...I obtain an apology...By that time the damage has been done. I have been dismissed from the Commission...[Brokenshire's]apology leads to my reinstatement, and even the architectural press...ceases to repeat the fantastic and fabricated...During this year much was taken from me...But much more was given back... - The Spectator (UK)

Three new chapters of "Guides for Equitable Practice" available online: Guides provide an educational resource to architects and firms on equity, diversity and inclusion issues: ...final set of chapters focus on developing employee career paths; building and involving authentic community engagement and measuring firm progress in developing equitable practices. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Notre Dame rector: Fragile cathedral might not be saved: ...there's a "50% chance" the structure might not be saved, because scaffolding...is threatening the vaults of the Gothic monument...restoration work isn't likely to begin until 2021...Some 50,000 tubes of scaffolding crisscrossed the back of the edifice at the time of the fire...Removing them without causing further problems is one of the toughest parts of the cleanup effort. - Associated Press/AP

ANN feature: Peter Piven, FAIA: Cultural Fit: What is cultural fit when design firms merge or acquire, and how do you achieve it? - ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: JoAnn Locktov: Venice Gift Guide for the Venetophile in your life! Many Venetian artisans and small businesses suffered extensive damages in the unprecedented acqua alta flooding in November, so when you invest in their creativity, you are helping them to repair, restart, and recover. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, January 8, 2020

- [Kinder Institute](#) for Urban Research Director Fulton pays eloquent tribute to urban affairs journalist Neal Peirce, "probably the most important person of the last half-century in moving forward a conversation about urbanism" with "an unstoppable and infectious optimism" (ANN has linked to his Citiscope over the years).
- [Anderton](#), Hodgetts, and SCI-Arc's Young remember the prescient "visual futurist" Syd Mead, of "Blade Runner," "Aliens" and other films, and "his influence on science fiction, real technology, and the growing discipline of world building."
- [Kennicott](#) parses the demise of the Newseum that has died "in the days of fake news - the building had a gee-whiz enthusiasm for technology," and it "got a lot of things right," but "messages got mixed. More ominously, forces in American culture long hostile to journalism gained the upper hand."
- [Moore considers](#) the gardens, waterfalls, and parks growing in "exotic new airports": "There have been large and dramatic airports before. The difference now is that sensation and artifice have overtaken the appearance of functionality. If you want to be dystopian, airports are prototypes for sinister societies of the future" (oh joy).
- [Hilburg](#) reports that, after a two-year hiatus because of a payment dispute, construction of Calatrava's World Trade Center church is "finally back on track" - aiming for completion in the next two years.
- [King considers](#) two new apartment towers in Oakland, California, that are "so-so on the skyline, but one soars on the street in a way that suggests it's a place where you might want to linger."
- [Morgan cheers](#) a new plan for the 1928 Providence Arcade, "one of America's earliest (and now longest surviving) shopping arcades," now being "converted to condominiums in an effort to secure its future."
- [Baldwin](#) brings us Chicago's Lakeview Low-Line by PORT Urbanism that "makes infrastructure pop" under a stretch of the city's "L" tracks.
- [Walker looks](#) into how "Oslo saw zero pedestrian and cyclist deaths in 2019, and, while "several U.S. cities are reckoning with a troubling increase in pedestrian and cyclist fatalities," others "saw glimmers of success."

That was the year/decade that was - and what the new year/decade will be:

- [Lange & Lamster](#) look back at "the ups and downs (mostly downs)": At "the end of the misbegotten decade we revisit our past prizes, pairing our initial write-ups with new commentary" and "how, if at all, our views have changed" (Golden Blowtorch for Poor Community Relations included - a must read!).
- [Moore mulls](#) the best architecture of 2019 (and one turkey): "There are valiant examples of architects' irrepressible desire to do a lot with a little" ("Can I really include in the top five a building as mind-bendingly ugly as this? Yes.").
- [King, Fougeron](#), and Saitowitz talk to Pace re: the decade in architecture: "Do the new buildings present an architectural vision? And how do these projects play into San Francisco's ongoing struggle to address issues like homelessness, affordable housing, and global warming?"
- [Litt looks](#) at "the sweet & sour" in Cleveland's 2019 architecture and planning: "The year was full of pushback over residential projects, and public griping among local architects about not getting enough work - the main

legacy may be the bland, neo-modern apartment buildings going up."

• [Walsh looks](#) at "how architecture responded to climate change in 2019," and "how architecture can be used as a tool to help the planet" (bee-friendly bus stops included).

• [Wainwright](#) rounds up his architecture picks for 2020: "Rem Koolhaas is bored of the city" (and much, much more!).

• [Crook picks](#) "12 buildings to look forward to in 2020."

• [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Peter Piven: Cultural Fit: What is cultural fit when design firms merge or acquire, and how do you achieve it?

• [ANN feature](#): JoAnn Locktov: Venice Gift Guide: Many Venetian artisans and small businesses suffered extensive damages in the unprecedented acqua alta flooding in November, so when you invest in their creativity, you are helping them to repair, restart, and recover.

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Obituary by William Fulton: Remembering a pioneering proponent of cities' power to improve prosperity: Kinder Institute for Urban Research Director recalls the optimism and influence of his mentor, the urban affairs writer and journalist Neal Peirce, 86: If you're interested in cities, then you probably spend a lot of time online reading content that discusses urban issues...But you may not have heard of...the guy who started this conversation...How he did it is a remarkable story...[he] was probably the most important person of the last half-century in moving forward a conversation...about urbanism and how cities can help make people's lives better...An unstoppable and infectious optimism. - CityLab; NextCity; Citiscope; Richard Florida; Joel Kotkin - Kinder Institute for Urban Research / Rice University Urban Edge

Frances Anderton: Remembering "visual futurist" Syd Mead, 86: He envisioned vehicles, streetscapes and gadgets for Blade Runner, Tron, Aliens and many other films: DnA gives props...and explores his influence on science fiction, real technology and the growing discipline of world building...influence extended into architecture schools...Many admirers credit him with prescience about the vehicular and robotic technologies are now real...his gift was to inspire. -- Craig Hodgetts/Mithun | Hodgetts + Fung; Liam Young/SCI-Arc; Elon Musk- KCRW (Los Angeles)

Philip Kennicott: Born in the age of high hopes, the Newseum dies in the days of fake news: ...\$450 million palace on Pennsylvania Avenue...[closed]...Its future is unknown...Obituaries for the Newseum as a Washington cultural behemoth must include purely pragmatic considerations. It opened across the street from the National Gallery of Art, which...is free...it struggled to find a compromise between being authoritative and being accessible...the building...had a gee-whiz enthusiasm for technology...Messages got mixed...More ominously, forces in American culture long hostile to journalism gained the upper hand...Despite its problems, the Newseum got a lot of things right. -- Ralph Appelbaum Associates; James Polshek - Washington Post

Rowan Moore: Gardens, waterfalls, parks - what is happening to our airports? From Beijing to Istanbul, exotic new airports are symbols of prestige for strongman leaders. But the environmental cost is massive: There have been large and dramatic airports before...The difference now is that sensation and artifice have overtaken the appearance of functionality. These are buildings that

want to put on a show...offer you a kind of hyper-nature...a new version of the sublime...If you want to be dystopian, airports are prototypes for sinister societies of the future... -- Norman Foster/Foster + Partners; Renzo Piano; Richard Rogers; Zaha Hadid; Grimshaw; Moshe Safdie; SOM - Observer (UK)

Jonathan Hilburg: Construction of Santiago Calatrava's disputed World Trade Center church is back on: Two years after a payment dispute between Skanska USA and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America shut down construction at the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, things are finally back on track...construction will be overseen by the new, 13-member nonprofit board...aiming to have the church finished in the next two years. - The Architect's Newspaper

John King: Oakland's new housing towers: So-so on the skyline, but one soars on the street: Each is a tailored slab set atop a parking-filled podium. Could be better, could be worse. Down on the ground is where things get more interesting...intriguing about Zo, no matter how stark the tower might be at first glance...engages with the street in a way that suggests it's a place where you might want to linger...Oaktown's aura of gritty authenticity is played up throughout...What you won't find are apartments priced at below-market rates... -- Perkins & Will; Solomon Cordwell Buenz - San Francisco Chronicle

William Morgan: New Plan for Providence Arcade Offers More Stability: ...will be converted to condominiums in an effort to secure its future. One of America's earliest (and now longest surviving) shopping arcades, it has struggled financially since it opened in 1828...Its most successful reiteration has been under Granoff, who five years ago had the brilliant idea of fashioning the upper two floors into micro-lofts...demonstrates an understanding of its role in the commercial life of the city...condominium conversion may provide tenants additional incentive to commit to this glorious space. -- Russell Warren & James Bucklin - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Eric Baldwin: Chicago's Lakeview Low-Line makes infrastructure pop: PORT Urbanism designed [it] to be a community art space...developing the underutilized right-of-way and Chicago Transit Authority maintenance path along the city's "L" tracks...created a series of bright yellow rectangular boxes, or "cubbies," as a new take on public furnishing...take cues from the interiors of the "L" train cars and the shape of the tracks overhead. - The Architect's Newspaper

Alissa Walker: Oslo saw zero pedestrian and cyclist deaths in 2019. Here's how the city did it: ...the city has taken dramatic steps to reduce vehicular traffic in its downtown, including replacing nearly all on-street parking with bike lanes and sidewalks. Major streets have been closed to cars, and congestion pricing raised the fee...also lowered the speed limit...several U.S. cities are reckoning with 2019 figures that show a troubling increase in pedestrian and cyclist fatalities...saw glimmers of success... - Curbed

Alexandra Lange & Mark Lamster: The decade in architecture: The good, the bad, and the capitalism: 10 years of atypical design awards: ...at the end of the misbegotten decade, we must ask: What exactly did it all come to, and who is responsible? ...we revisit our past prizes, pairing our initial write-ups with new commentary that reflects on...how, if at all, our views have changed...the ups and downs (mostly downs)...9/11 Memorial. We still have our qualms, but next

to Hudson Yards it feels like the Place des Vosges...Golden Blowtorch for Poor Community Relations. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Shigeru Ban; MASS Design Group; Emmanuel Pratt/Sweetwater Foundation; Frank Gehry; Ada Louise Huxtable; Peter Zumthor; Thomas Heatherwick; Amale Andraos/WORKac; Rem Koolhaas; Mark Hogan/OpenScope Studio; Santiago Calatrava; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; David Adjaye; West 8; Mathews Nielsen; Sidewalk Labs; Kate Wagner/McMansionHell; Steven Holl; Eero Saarinen; William Rawn; Florence Knoll; I.M. Pei; Cesar Pelli; Kevin Roche- Curbed

Rowan Moore's best architecture of 2019: From hemp and cork buildings to energy-efficient council housing, the climate crisis got us thinking laterally: The Stirling prize went to Goldsmiths Street...an affirmation that this country should aim high...A curious phenomenon this year was a mania for biennials and triennials...sprawling festivals...it has to be asked what is achieved by having so many...there are valiant examples of architects' irrepressible desire to do a lot with a little. + Top 5 buildings of 2019 & 1 Turkey -- Architects Declare; Ted Cullinan; Charles Jencks; 6a architects; Pricegore and Yinka Ilori; Mikhail Riches & Cathy Hawley; Populous; Practice Architecture; Ben Adams Architects - Observer (UK)

City visions: San Francisco: The decade in architecture: Do the new buildings present an architectural vision? Is our transformed skyscape a sign of changes to the character of our city? And how do these projects play into San Francisco's ongoing struggle to address important social issues like homelessness, affordable housing and global warming? -- Joseph Pace; John King/San Francisco Chronicle; Anne Fougeron/Fougeron Architecture; Stanley Saitowitz/Natoma Architects - KALW Local Public Radio (San Francisco)

Steven Litt: From Hyperloop to Top of the Hill, sifting the sweet & sour in 2019 architecture and planning: The year was full of pushback over residential projects designed to add density to urban neighborhoods, and public griping among local architects about not getting enough work...there's no guarantee any...upcoming projects will rise to the level of the best buildings of the city's past...main legacy of the present moment...may be the bland, neo-modern apartment buildings going up... -- Peter van Dijk; DLR Group; Cesar Pelli; I.M. Pei; Norman Krumholz; S9 Architecture; William Eberhard; LDA Architects; LAND Studio; Hargreaves Associates; Norman Foster; SHoP Architects; Rossetti; Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Bialosky Cleveland - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Niall Patrick Walsh: How Architecture Responded to Climate Change in 2019: ...saw a continued mobilization of ideas, opinions, and actions on how architecture can be used as a tool to help the planet...these developments will undoubtedly be accelerated as intensity to tackle climate change grows. The Environmental Cost of Cement; 4 Ways Architects can Deliver on Climate Change; NYC's Radical Answer to Rising Sea Levels & Plan to Ban New Glass Skyscrapers; Architects Declare Movement; 10 Tips to Design Landscape Infrastructure: Not All Parks Should be Green; etc. - ArchDaily

Oliver Wainwright: Palette cleansers: our photography, art and architecture picks for 2020: Rem Koolhaas is bored of the city. His next frontier? The countryside [Guggenheim Museum, NYC]; The Architecture Foundation; Academy Museum of Motion Pictures by Renzo Piano; Munch Museum, Oslo,

by Juan Herreros; Bee'ah headquarters, Sharjah, by Zaha Hadid; Noel house & restaurant by Junya Ishigami; Grand Egyptian Museum by Heneghan Peng; Taipei Performing Arts Centre, by OMA - Guardian (UK)

Lizzie Crook: 12 buildings to look forward to in 2020 -- Kengo Kuma; Foster + Partners; Es Devlin; Zaha Hadid; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Amanda Levete/AL_A; MAD Architects; OMA; MVRDV; Snøhetta; Heatherwick Studio-Dezeen

ANN feature: Peter Piven, FAIA: Cultural Fit: What is cultural fit when design firms merge or acquire, and how do you achieve it? - ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: JoAnn Locktov: Venice Gift Guide for the Venetophile in your life! Many Venetian artisans and small businesses suffered extensive damages in the unprecedented acqua alta flooding in November, so when you invest in their creativity, you are helping them to repair, restart, and recover. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, January 9, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, January 14. In the meantime, be sure to check out the Wolf Moon tomorrow night (first full moon of the year - with a penumbral lunar eclipse!).

- [ANN Feature](#): David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform (ANN's 600th feature!).
- [Okamoto](#) delves into social equity, which "was supposed to be central to sustainability from the start. What happened?" "Equity" is too often "based on checklist systems that prioritize process over results."
- [Zacks takes](#) a deep dive into why, if we're "to build for resilience, we'll need to design with - not against - nature - the militaristic insistence on repelling and withstanding 'nature' reveals itself to be a pathology."
- [Wheeler](#) on bushfire design: "Now is not the time to discuss climate change and bushfires. The right time was 25 years ago - it's only going to get worse and we don't have a plan" (and offers 3 ways to ameliorate bushfires by design).
- [King considers](#) the king tides "heading to California shorelines this weekend" - and the public events in the Bay Area intended "to show people the dangers posed by sea level rise."
- [Sidewalk](#) Labs' Quayside project in Toronto "faces a new, fairly surprising, hurdle" not related to data collection and privacy concerns, but to the choice of wood as a building material for towers up to 30 stories, "five times the current limit."
- [Sisson parses](#) a new Trump Admin. rule that could repeal the Obama Admin.'s "effort to promote housing desegregation," claiming it "imposes unnecessary burdens on development - some have even called it a form of social engineering" (oh, really?!?!?).
- [Saffron](#) gives thumbs-up (and down) to the Philadelphia Science Center as it "struggles to be more than another generic innovation district," but uCity Square lacks innovation, even though it "dutifully checked off every item on the urbanist to-do list - one potential bright spot promises to be the public school" (by Rogers Partners).
- [Second time](#) is a charm: Snøhetta revises its design of the public garden at Johnson Burgee's AT&T building/550 Madison "after a major backlash" - and gets the green light to go ahead.
- [BIG, WXY](#), and MNLA have "playful" plans to redevelop the 370-acre Downtown Brooklyn public realm (per comments, a bit too "playful," perhaps).
- [H&deM's](#) massive, "mountainous" (and "eye-catching") Grand Canal Museum is set to rise along the banks of the world's longest (and ancient) canal in Hangzhou, China, that includes a shimmering, watery facade.
- [Welton reports](#) on a new website dedicated to the "meticulously restored" (and on the National Register of Historic Places) 1973 Douglas House on Lake Michigan, launched in anticipation of an forthcoming foundation established to "allow others to benefit from its pristine architecture" (full disclosure: Welton is author of the site's text, and yours truly was editorial consultant).

- [AIA 2020](#) Regional & Urban Design Awards go to four (cool!) projects by Interboro Partners, Sasaki, SWA/Balsley and Weiss/Manfredi, and SOM that represent "the best in urban design, regional and city planning and community development."
- [Winners](#) of Wallpaper* Design Awards 2020 include Sabine Marcelis, New York City (Best City - we couldn't agree more!), and Adjaye Associates.

Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) Nominations: TCLF's Landslide 2020: Women Who Shaped the American Landscape, a report and exhibition to highlight at-risk landscapes created by and associated with women.
- [Call for](#) entries: 6th International LafargeHolcim Awards for Sustainable Construction (\$2 million in prizes!).
- [Call for](#) entries: Circular City 2020 (international) to help NYC work toward a more sustainable, equitable, and accessible future (sponsored by New Lab & NYCEDC).
- [Call for](#) entries (deadline looms!): 2020 North American Copper in Architecture Awards (projects must be located in the U.S. or Canada).
- [Call for](#) Papers & R+B/Research + Business Presentations for 22nd Design Management Institute/DMI: Academic Design Management Conference in Toronto in August.
- [Call for](#) Applications: 2021 ORTE Lower Austrian Architecture Network Artist in Residence (international) - housing and stipend for 1-3 months in Krems, Austria.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Peter Piven: Cultural Fit: What is cultural fit when design firms merge or acquire, and how do you achieve it?
- [ANN feature:](#) JoAnn Locktov: Venice Gift Guide: Many Venetian artisans and small businesses suffered extensive damages in the unprecedented flooding in November, so when you invest in their creativity, you are helping them to repair, restart, and recover.



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[ANN Feature: David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and how to plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

[Katie Okamoto: If You Are Serious About Sustainability, Social Equity Can't Be Just Another Add-On: Social impact was supposed to be central to sustainability from the start. What happened? Social impact thinking...needs to be introduced in the early stages of forming a design brief...What "equity" means...often based on checklist systems that prioritize process over results...a slew of broader-scaled sustainability rating systems are gaining momentum...though the jury is still out on their effectiveness. -- NAACP; International Living Future institute \(ILFI\); Social Economic Environmental Design/SEED Network; Heather Rosenberg/Arup; BREEAM; U.S. Green Building Council \(USGBC\); LEED ND; International WELL Building Institute; Angie Brooks/Brooks + Scarpa; Anderson Mason Dale Architects; Anthony Brower/Gensler; Mindy Fullilove - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Stephen Zacks: Long-Term Plans: To Build for Resilience, We'll Need to Design With - Not Against - Nature: Moving away from its early exclusive focus on natural disasters, resilient architecture and design tackles the much tougher challenge of helping ecosystems regenerate: ...the militaristic insistence on repelling and withstanding "nature" reveals itself to be a pathology: It overrides](#)



concerns about ecology, landscape, or sociology that otherwise inform the best resilient practices and policies being developed today. -- re:focus partners; Frederick R. Steiner/UPenn Stuart Weitzman School of Design; Ian McHarg/Design With Nature; Sustainable SITES Initiative; Perkins and Will; John Lyle; Resilient by Design; Anna Rubbo/Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD); Koning Eizenberg; OLIN; Gehry Partners; Iñaki Alday/Tulane; James Corner Field Operations; AECOM- Metropolis Magazine

Tone Wheeler On Bushfire Design: Now is not the time to discuss climate change and bushfires...The right time was 25 years ago...now is not the time...because it's only going to get worse and we don't have a plan...If we can't discuss the causes, maybe we can discuss the effects, ameliorating bushfire by design. Which we can do in 3 ways: designing the bush, designing the buildings, designing the protection. -- Environa Studio; Australian Architecture Association/AAA- Architecture & Design (Australia)

John King: Friday's Bay Area king tides offer a hint of what rising sea levels look like: King tides, a naturally occurring phenomenon that received a common name only a decade ago, are heading to California shorelines this weekend - and with them, a series of public events to show people the dangers posed by sea level rise [and] to explain why they're likely to swell higher and higher in the decades to come...Because of the anticipated tides, Caltrans has closed a park-and-ride lot located there until Tuesday. - San Francisco Chronicle

Toronto's smart city faces a new, fairly surprising, hurdle: Alphabet's Sidewalk Labs has had its fair share of criticism, mostly around data collection and privacy concerns. There's one part of the proposal that hasn't gotten much notice, and that's the issue with using a common building material: wood...chosen as part of the project for its sustainability aspects...includes developing buildings that are made of timber that rise more than 30 storeys - five times the current limit..."We're trying to push as far as we can with the mass timber," Karim Khalifa...said that hybrid buildings would also be discussed if necessary to satisfy the code. -- Waterfront Toronto; Quayside- Mortgagebrokernews.ca /

Patrick Sisson: New Trump rule could repeal Obama effort to promote housing desegregation: A proposed change to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule has heightened debates over the best way to promote housing equity: ...rule has divided housing advocates along ideological lines...Conservatives argue that abiding by the 2015 rule...imposes unnecessary burdens on development - some have even called it a form of social engineering - that makes it harder to build more units..."suffocating investment"... - Curbed

Inga Saffron: Philadelphia Science Center struggles to be more than another generic innovation district: Innovation districts are supposed to be places where people think differently. So why do the...designs for West Philadelphia's uCity Square lack innovation? Already, you can see...a new Drexel-sponsored public school rising...university is setting aside an asphalt lot...for a new art museum, the Philadelphia Contemporary. Thanks to that museum and school, the plan...is more diverse and ambitious than...other current innovation districts...[will] feel more integrated into the city...dutifully checked off every item on the urbanist to-do list...The one potential bright spot promises to be the public school. -- Johnston Marklee; Rogers Partners; Andropogon; Jonathan Alderson Landscape Architects; ZGF Architects; Sidi Gomes; Lessard Design; Ballinger-Philadelphia Inquirer

Snøhetta gets go ahead for public garden at Phillip Johnson's AT&T building: ...at New York's 550 Madison, which forms part of its overhaul of the postmodern tower...part of an updated proposal that the firm revealed in 2018, after a major backlash against its initial design...The firm is still awaiting permission to complete exterior renovation work...privately-owned public space (POPS) ...modelled on "pocket parks" elsewhere in the city... -- Gensler; John Burgee - Dezeen

BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group and WXY Architects unveil "playful" transformation of Downtown Brooklyn: ...aims to improve the area's pedestrian experience with playful furniture, expanded sidewalks and improved crossings...to redevelop the 370-acre (149-hectare) Downtown Brooklyn public realm... -- MNLA [Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architecture]- Dezeen

Mountainous museum complex to rise next to world's longest canal: Herzog & de Meuron's eye-catching new museum complex in Hangzhou, China...defined by a glazed facade that's meant to bring to mind a river...Grand Canal Museum Complex exhibition areas will measure 50,000 sq m (roughly 538,000 sq ft)...the large mountain-inspired building at the center will host a conference center and hotel. - New Atlas (formerly Gizmag)

J. Michael Welton: A Website Dedicated to the Douglas House: Now that owners Michael McCarthy and Marcia Myers have meticulously restored their [1973 house] on Lake Michigan, they're seeking to preserve it for posterity. The home is considered a masterpiece of late-20th-century architecture...[they] now intend to establish a foundation that will...allow others to benefit from its pristine architecture. -- Richard Meier & Partners; Tod Williams - Architects + Artisans

AIA Announces the Winners of the 2020 Regional & Urban Design Awards: ...recognized four projects by Interboro Partners, Sasaki, the team of

[SWA/Balsley and Weiss/Manfredi Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \(SOM\) that represent "the best in urban design, regional and city planning and community development."](#) - Architect Magazine

[Wallpaper* Design Awards 2020: Sabine Marcelis: Wallpaper* Designer of the Year 2020; New York City: Best City; Adjaye Associates' Ruby City Art Centre: Best New Public Building](#) - Wallpaper*

[Call for Nominations: Landslide 2020: Women Who Shaped the American Landscape, a Report and Exhibition to Highlight At-Risk Landscapes Created by and Associated with Women: ...timed to centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment... which guaranteed women the right to vote; deadline: May 1](#) - The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

[Call for entries: 6th International LafargeHolcim Awards for Sustainable Construction: ideas with the highest potential to tackle today's challenges to increasing urbanization and to improve quality of life; \\$2 million in prizes; no fee; deadline: February 25](#) - LafargeHolcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction

[Call for entries: Circular City 2020 \(international\): focusing on New York City's future of energy efficiency in the built environment to help NYC work toward a more sustainable, equitable and accessible future; deadline: February 14](#) - New Lab / New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC)

[Call for entries: 2020 North American Copper in Architecture Awards for outstanding application of architectural copper alloys; projects must be located in the U.S. or Canada; deadline: January 31](#) - Copper Development Association/Canadian Copper & Brass Development Association

[Call for Papers & R+B/Research + Business Presentations for 22nd Design Management Institute/DMI: Academic Design Management Conference/ADMC20: Impact the Future by Design, Toronto, August 5-6; deadline for abstracts: January 29; deadline for R+B submissions: March 25](#) - Design Management Institute (DMI)

[Call for entries: Applications for 2021 ORTE Lower Austrian Architecture Network Artist in Residence \(international\): housing and stipend for 1-3 months in Krems, Austria; open to architects, urban planners, landscape architects, etc.; deadline: May 31, 2020](#) - ORTE Architektturnetzwerk Niederösterreich (ORTE Lower Austrian Architecture Network)

[ANN feature: Peter Piven, FAIA: Cultural Fit: What is cultural fit when design firms merge or acquire, and how do you achieve it?](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

[ANN feature: JoAnn Locktov: Venice Gift Guide for the Venetophile in your life! Many Venetian artisans and small businesses suffered extensive damages in the unprecedented acqua alta flooding in November, so when you invest in their creativity, you are helping them to repair, restart, and recover.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, January 14, 2020

- [Brussat](#) pays tribute to Roger Scruton, former chair of the U.K.'s Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission: "His ideas will improve and beautify the world for everyone, whether they like it or not." [Scruton co-authored ANN's Lesson Plan #3: Beauty and Sustainability in Architectural Education: <http://www.archnewsnow.com/features/Feature583.htm>]
- [Dalrymple's](#) tribute to Scruton, who "showed great moral courage throughout his career, swimming against the intellectual tide of his time."
- [Kimmelman](#) parses revised plans for Hudson Yards phase two that no longer includes a promised park - instead, there's a 700-foot-long, 2-story-high "structure overshadowing the High Line" (yikes - hopefully, City will intervene).
- [Kamin explains](#) why a "LaSalle Street 'High Line' is not the way to confront the central Loop's looming vacancies" - it would "be more wanna-be cool than the real thing."
- [de Monchaux](#) puts forth "a new idea in architecture - no new buildings. We are accustomed to thinking of the natural environment as a critical resource. Maybe we can accustom ourselves to thinking of the unnatural environment in the same way."
- [Sisson considers](#) sustainable supertalls - if there is such a thing - "part of being more sustainable is changing not just what we know about these buildings, but the way the industry and culture evaluate, and elevate, skyscrapers."
- [Walsh rounds](#) up 9 case studies that illustrate "how cities are using architecture to combat flooding."
- [Two luxury](#) lakeside residential towers in Kerala, India, are demolished for environmental violations. Residents (about 2,000!) "watched as their homes and investments imploded in seconds."
- [Buenos Aires'](#) "bold slum renewal" program moves along "amid hopes and concerns" - urban experts say "authorities prioritized fast development instead of reaching a consensus about development plans" (and "lacks an overall vision").
- [Smith minces](#) no words about what she thinks of Toyota's "creepy new 'prototype town'" by BIG - "a real-life Westworld" near Mt. Fuji. "The creepy feeling comes from a sense of the development acting like Big Brother."
- [ODA wins](#) the international competition to design the master plan to regenerate post-industrial sites just outside of Moscow.
- [Henning](#) Larsen plans Copenhagen's first all-timber neighborhood (on a former dump) for 7,000 residents, with "birdhouses and animal habitats integrated within the building façades."
- [Cole considers](#) Case Study Houses and says "this might be a good time to look back at housing that was affordable, easily built, family-friendly and beautifully designed."
- [Barcelona's](#) female mayor with a feminist agenda gives us an idea of what cities imagined by women would look like.
- [Landscape](#) architect Dorothée Imbert tapped to lead Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University.
- [Six winners](#) of 2020 Richard Rogers Fellowship at Wimbledon House "will pursue research on a variety of

issues" (hearty congrats to Henry Grabar!).

• [Teams from](#) The Netherlands, Spain, and Egypt lead the shortlist in Archstorming's competition to design a pre-school school for disabled children in Mozambique.

• [ICYMI: ANN](#) Feature: David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform.

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Obituary by David Brussat: Sir Roger Scruton, 75, RIP: He was the world's deepest thinker on architecture and aesthetics, which were embedded in the conservatism of his broader philosophy: ...his conservatism stretched way beyond aesthetics, architecture and classicism...His ideas will improve and beautify the world for everyone, whether they like it or not. - Architecture Here and There

Obituary by Theodore Dalrymple: Swimming Always Against the Tide: Sir Roger Scruton, 75, the British conservative philosopher...showed great moral courage throughout his career, swimming against the intellectual tide of his time regardless of the deprecation, insult, denunciation, and even hatred directed at him...the intelligentsia refused to believe that a highly gifted and knowledgeable man could also be a conservative. - City Journal/The Manhattan Institute

Michael Kimmelman: Hudson Yards Promised a Park. They Didn't Mention the Giant Wall: For phase two, the developer imagines a 700-foot-long structure overshadowing the High Line: ...to bring millions more square feet of towering private, high-end office and residential construction...creating an immense wall...next to the High Line and towering some two stories above it...turning Related's development into a man-made promontory [and] make the High Line seem the equivalent of an old city fire escape: a piece of aged infrastructure stuck to a wall...City Hall retains the capacity to intervene... -- Zaha Hadid; Thomas Heatherwick; Robert A.M. Stern; Nelson Byrd Woltz; Robert Hammond - New York Times

Blair Kamin: Want to stop the central Loop exodus? A LaSalle Street 'High Line' is not the answer: Beware the urban design flavor of the month: LaSalle Street walkway would be...more wanna-be cool than the real thing...It's radical elective surgery that would mar a singular ensemble of skyscrapers...the way to confront the central Loop's looming vacancies is to build carefully on existing strengths, rather than reach desperately for a hideous quick fix that would destroy one of the city's great urban spaces. -- Frank Botello - Chicago Tribune

Thomas de Monchau: A New Idea in Architecture? No New Buildings: The energy already embodied in the built environment is a precious unnatural resource. It's time to start treating it like one: Average life spans of buildings...are declining, to around 70 years in America and as few as 30 years in Japan. This is not progress...We are accustomed to thinking of the natural environment as a critical resource - to be conserved and consumed with care. Maybe we can accustom ourselves to thinking of the unnatural environment in the same way. -- Clive Wilkinson Architects; DEGW; Schaum/Shieh; Kiel Moe; Chetwoods; Paul Hinkin; David Benjamin/The Living; Lacaton & Vassal; Christophe Hutin; Frédéric Druot; Assemble; Flores & Prats - Metropolis Magazine

Patrick Sisson: In the supertall era, is the sustainable skyscraper a myth? The prolific pace of skyscraper construction comes as architects and advocates are increasingly concerned about sustainability: ...new generation of towers...showcase great feats of engineering. But...can this type of construction...ever approach sustainability? The answer...is complicated, mostly because of a lack of data...part of being more sustainable is changing not just what we know about these buildings, but the way the industry and culture evaluate, and elevate, skyscrapers. -- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH); Perkins + Will; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Christopher Drew/Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill - Curbed

Niall Patrick Walsh: How Cities are Using Architecture to Combat Flooding: ...9 examples showcasing differences in scale and approach, as well as unique methods of using flood defenses as agents of social change, and urban regeneration. -- Boston/SCAPE Landscape Architecture; Brooklyn/BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group/James Corner Field Operations; Copenhagen/THIRD NATURE/IBF/ACO Nordic; Faaborg, Denmark/Kjellander Sjöberg; Hamburg/HafenCity; Hoboken, New Jersey/OMA; New York City; Seoul; Venice/MOSE - ArchDaily

India demolishes Kerala skyscrapers over environmental violations: ...demolished two luxury lakeside apartment complexes...Residents...watched as their homes and investments imploded in seconds...some 343 flats - home to about 2,000 people - were expected to be destroyed...in what has been described as one of India's largest demolition drives involving residential buildings. - BBC News

Buenos Aires bold slum renewal forges ahead amid hopes and concerns: Some residents fear development projects are going to push those with fewer resources out of the area which sits on prime real estate: Home to about 43,000 people...Villa 31 has become a symbol of the deep divide between rich and poor...authorities have invested in projects to give formal land titles to local residents...According to urban experts, authorities prioritized fast development instead of reaching a consensus about development plans...and the project lacks an overall vision. - Place / Thomson Reuters Foundation

Lilly Smith: Toyota's creepy new 'prototype town' is a real-life Westworld: ...a "personal 'Field of Dreams'" - a new techno-utopia in Japan - and enlists...BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group to build it: ...Woven City...near Mt. Fuji...The city's look is somewhat similar to corporate campuses you might find in Silicon Valley...an opportunity for the company to test autonomous technology and smart city infrastructure...The creepy feeling comes from a sense of the development...acting like Big Brother. - Fast Company

ODA Designs Master Plan to Regenerate Post-Industrial Sites in Moscow: ...won an international competition to create MAZD...3 million square feet...intended to stimulate industrial zones just outside of the city...Putting together public and recreational spaces with residences and offices, the project will reinforce the missing sense of place. - ArchDaily

henning larsen plans fælledby, copenhagen's first all-timber neighborhood: ...to accommodate 7,000 residents as well as 40% undeveloped nature...with individual buildings featuring birdhouses and animal habitats integrated within

the building façades. the proposal transforms a former dumping ground site...into a model for sustainable living balancing human priorities with a strong commitment to the natural surroundings...developed in collaboration with biologists and environmental engineers from MOE... - designboom

Regina Cole: The Case Study House: When Great Design Married Affordable Housing: The scarcity of affordable housing vexes American communities...while cranes loom over cities, creating ever more glamorous residential architecture...When there is housing available for under skyrocketing market prices, it is, most often, substandard, poorly built and of banal and dispiriting design. This might be a good time to look back at the Case Study Houses...housing that was affordable, easily built, family-friendly and beautifully designed. -- Richard Neutra; Raphael Soriano; Craig Ellwood; Charles and Ray Eames; Pierre Koenig; Eero Saarinen; A. Quincy Jones; Edward Killingsworth; Ralph Rapson - Forbes

What Can Cities Imagined by Women Look Like? The Case of Barcelona: With a female mayor onboard and a feminist agenda, for the past four years, Barcelona has been undergoing major transformations on this subject...In BBC podcast, Stephanie Hegarty...discusses design strategies with Punt 6, a feminist collective of urban designers, she argues the use of public space with Equal Saree, a design trio, and she converses with Janet Sanz about the superblock initiative + 6 ways that can improve a city for women. - ArchDaily

Landscape architect Dorothee Imbert picked to lead Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University: ...will follow in the footsteps of Michael B. Cadwell, FAIA, the current director who has served for nine years...she as served as landscape architecture faculty at the school since 2013...as the inaugural Hubert C. Schmidt '38 Chair in Landscape Architecture. - Archinect

Announcing winners of 2020 Richard Rogers Fellowship, the Wimbledon House's residency program for architectural and urban research: ...six fellows...They will pursue research on a variety of issues, including allocation of parking around new buildings in London, the formal consequences of building booms on the city's urban fabric, and the civic imaginaries that may be gleaned from building code. -- Timothy Ivison; Emma Letizia Jones; Sean Canty; Michelle Chang; Thomas Shay Hill; Henry Grabar - Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Archstorming Announces Winning Designs for Mozambique Preschool: ...a school for disabled children in Xai-Xai. and the winning proposal will be built...Judges selected the five winners and ten honorable mentions. -- Xavier Silva/Manuel Villalaín/Hazem Elshafei, The Netherlands; Lucía Ulla/Alejandro Ayala/Cristina Sanchez/Adrián López, Spain; ADD Architects, Egypt - ArchDaily

ANN Feature: David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and how to plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, January 15, 2020

- [Elbein takes](#) a deep dive into the growing popularity of mass timber skyscrapers that have "a particular utopian appeal among a certain set of architects and designers," but it "depends on something that is disappearing: a steady climate and forests - can we grow enough trees to keep pace?" (fascinating - spend the time on this one!).
- [Kamin rates](#) "Chicago's "remarkable collection of new public spaces by the three 'E's: They're better on entertainment and ecology than equity - they've had a greater impact on daily life than knock-your-eyes-out buildings that have gone up," but "they sometimes emerged as disruptive forces - accelerants for gentrification and displacement."
- [Dallas landscape](#) architect Kevin Sloan explains how, "if Chicago can rewild its river, we can too," but it seems "Dallas can't find the will to do," even though rewilding "is sweeping the world - you and I are the ones who can do it."
- [Litt lauds](#) Cleveland's Red Line Greenway trail that "shows great promise, despite ugly duckling start - it will benefit more than 50,000 residents in poor and middle-class neighborhoods" (not all are thrilled).
- [Recently](#) released data shows NYC ferries have "been a plaything of the rich almost from the jump. Ferries help the poor? That's rich."
- [Moore, on](#) a brighter note, cheers OMA's Brighton College Sports and Science Centre ("for jocks and nerds") - "Hogwarts meets George Lucas. You would not expect it because no English private school has built anything quite like this before" (with a few quibbles).
- [FMZD "imagined](#) a vertical street to replace the traditional packed shopping mall" in transforming a concrete structure in Tehran into a "contextual" mall.
- [Breuer's](#) building in New Haven, Connecticut, to become a boutique hotel and conference center that "celebrates the design of the tower," be "all-electric," and the first in the U.S. to meet Passivhaus standards.
- [Welton walks](#) us through the evolution of the Carolina School of architecture that started with "a chance encounter between Frank Harmon and Harwell Hamilton Harris" that "became the genesis of our own genre of regional modernism," and parses "three generations of Carolina modernists leaving their imprints on the Triangle for decades to come."
- [Mafi rounds](#) up "the 11 most anticipated buildings of 2020 - while we are still searching for the sky's upper limits, new focus has narrowed on designing eco-friendly structures, and more affordable housing."
- [A great](#) round-up of "the best-designed travel destinations for 2020 in Kampala, Marrakech, Los Angeles, Brussels, Belgium, Tbilisi ("welcome to the new Berlin"), Glasgow, Tokyo, and Zurich.
- [Glancey](#) introduces us to the John Laing photo archive that captures "a bygone era when builders wore jacket and tie to work," now being digitized by Historic England - with the first batch available online this week.
- [The Chicago](#) Architecture Center's "Girls Build" program is "aimed at inspiring young girls interested in science, engineering and technology."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) Feature: David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform.

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Saul Elbein: Will the skyscrapers of the future be made out of wood? Wood products that are nearly as strong as steel are going into more high-rises, locking up carbon. But can we grow enough trees to keep pace? Mass timber has a particular utopian appeal among a certain set of architects and designers...depends on something that is disappearing: a steady climate and forests...threatened by the very climate crisis that makes carbon-sucking buildings seem appealing...promises to replace a material that releases huge amounts of carbon...don't just use less carbon than concrete or steel, they lend themselves better to modern architecture. -- John Klein/MIT; cross-laminated timber (CLT); glu-lam; LVL - aminated veneer lumber - National Geographic

Blair Kamin: Rating Chicago's latest wave of parks and public spaces by the three 'E's: They're better on entertainment and ecology than equity: Beginning with the triumphant opening of Millennium Park in 2004, a remarkable collection of new public spaces has sprung up...they've had a greater impact on daily life than knock-your-eyes-out buildings that have gone up in the same period...And yet...they have sometimes emerged as disruptive forces, acting as accelerants for gentrification and displacement...Despite such flaws, the new parks and public spaces are a major achievement...Yet there's a catch... -- Frederick Law Olmsted; Alex Krieger; Sally Chappell/"Chicago's Urban Nature"; Carol Ross Barney; Ernie Wong/site design group; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Maurice Co-Chicago Tribune

Kevin Sloan: How rewilding available land in Dallas could make us happier, healthier and wealthier: If Chicago can rewild its river, we can too: Chicago is doing what Dallas can't find the will to do. The Wild Mile...is turning a mile-long section of the polluted Chicago River into a wildlife sanctuary...an example of a larger phenomenon that is sweeping the world: rewilding...With the bad news of devastated ecologies, increasing climate change, declines in bird populations, mass extinctions, etc., rewilding can be an important part of the solution. And you and I are the ones who can do it. -- Blair Kamin; Kevin Sloan Studio - Dallas Morning News

Steven Litt: Red Line Greenway trail shows great promise, despite ugly duckling start: Trees need to be cut. Stumps need to be pulled. Earth needs to be moved. Despite such raw beginnings, new trails in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County...are vibrant sources of regional pride...The greenway...will benefit more than 50,000 residents in poor and middle-class neighborhoods scarred by railroad lines and Interstate 90. -- Michael Baker International; Crosby Schlessinger Smallridge - Cleveland Plain Dealer

New York City knew ferries have been for the rich since day one, documents reveal: Ferries help the poor? That's rich. Mayor Bill de Blasio has insisted that his administration's heavily-subsidized ferry service would help poor New Yorkers get around, but newly revealed data shows it's been a plaything of the rich almost from the jump - figures the city sat on for months...internal survey...found that the median rider's income ranges between \$100,000 and \$150,000...The average income of a New York City bus commuter is under \$30,000... - New York Post

Rowan Moore: Brighton College's Sports and Science Centre - Hogwarts meets George Lucas: In a departure from the gothic image of English private schools, [the] new building, designed by OMA, is an expression of global ambition: You would not expect it because no English private school has built anything quite like this before... "We are not too good at pitched roofs," says Ellen van Loon... There's a secret romance within the building's severity... that connects it... to its gothic forebears, based on the pleasure of exploring its complicated inner landscape... There are a few cavils. -- Rem Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture; Hopkins; Eric Parry; Allies and Morrison; George Gilbert Scott - Observer (UK)

FMZD Transforms an Existing Concrete Structure in Tehran into a Contextual Shopping Mall: The Tehran Eye... consisted of redesigning a façade and reorganizing a large existing structure into an integrated entity in the city... Farshad Mehdizadeh Design imagined a vertical street to replace the traditional packed shopping mall. - ArchDaily

Marcel Breuer building in Connecticut sold to become hotel: ... developer and architect Bruce Becker [of] Becker and Becker, purchased the Pirelli Tire Building in New Haven from [IKEA] for \$1.2 million (£1 million)... intends to create a boutique hotel and conference centre that celebrates the design of the tower... completed in 1970... to make the hotel zero net energy... "all-electric" and the first in the U.S. certified with low-energy design standard, Passivhaus. - Dezeen

J. Michael Welton: The Carolina School: Distinct Modern Architecture in the Triangle: A chance encounter between Frank Harmon and Harwell Hamilton Harris became the genesis of our own genre of regional modernism... Harmon began to investigate principles Harris had learned from Rudolph Schindler... part of a larger, cutting-edge cadre of regional modernists... follow similar principles, but like artists, they work from their own palettes... I expect to see these three generations of Carolina modernists leaving their imprints on the Triangle for decades to come. Others will follow... The result will be place-making that's unlike any other, anywhere else on earth. -- Ellen Cassilly; Arielle Schechter; Vinny Petrarca/Katherine Hogan/onic Design/Build; Matt Griffith/Erin Lewis/in situ studio; Robby Johnston/Craig Kerins/Raleigh Architecture Company; Larry Scarpa/Brooks + Scarpa; Marlon Blackwell; Don Kranbuehl/Clark Nexsen - Walter magazine (Raleigh, North Carolina)

Nick Mafi: The 11 Most Anticipated Buildings of 2020: In the words of architect Robert Venturi, we believe these buildings will allow you to "see familiar things in an unfamiliar way": ... while we are still searching for the sky's upper limits with our buildings, new focus has narrowed on designing eco-friendly structures, and more affordable housing... -- Zaha Hadid Architects (Dubai); Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill (New York City); Ma Yansong/MAD Architects (Paris & Beijing); Annabelle Selldorf (Beijing); Annabelle Selldorf/Selldorf Architects (Beijing); Herzog & de Meuron (Hong Kong); Studio Gang (Chicago); Steven Holl Architects (Houston); OMA (Manchester, U.K.); Diller Scofidio + Renfro (Colorado Springs); Kengo Kuma (Tokyo) - Architectural Digest

Brave new world: the best-designed travel destinations for 2020: From treetop cycle paths to a micro hotel, we guide you through new design marvels around the globe: Kampala, Uganda: a tour of tropical modernism; Marrakech, Morocco:

where the ancient meets the modern; Los Angeles: new frontier town for design; Brussels, Belgium: take a ride through outdoor art; Tbilisi, Georgia: welcome to the new Berlin; Glasgow, Scotland: DIY and the spirit of innovation; Tokyo, Japan; Zurich, Switzerland: cutting-edge and cool precision. -- Doreen Adengo; Manuel Herz; Studio KO; Paul Sinoir; Tom Parker/Fettle Design; Eames; Frank Lloyd Wright; Axel Vervoordt; Charles Rennie Mackintosh; Hiroe Tanaka/Trunk Atelier; Kume Sekkei; David Chipperfield Architects; Le Corbusier - Observer Design (UK)

Jonathan Glancey: These photos show the can-do spirit that rebuilt postwar Britain: Photographs from the John Laing archive capture a bygone era when builders wore jacket and tie to work: ...[he] treated his staff - 10,000 strong by the mid-'50s - as an extended family and... recorded their achievements in loving detail. From at least 1910, photographers were hired to document the making of each new [building]...company entrusted the John Laing Photographic Collection, comprising 230,000 images, to...Historic England...This week, around 2,000 of these pictures [are] available to the public...first batch of around 10,000 images...part of a new initiative called Breaking New Ground... - Telegraph (UK)

"Girls Build" program inspires next wave of Chicago female architects: At the Chicago Architecture Center, a new program is inspiring future female architects in the city...aimed at inspiring young girls interested in science, engineering and technology..."We've tackled anything from affordable housing and what does affordability mean, urban planning, parks and green spaces," CAC manager Angela Esposito said. - WGN-TV (Chicago)

ANN Feature: David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and how to plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, January 16, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, January 21.

- [ANN feature](#): Building Abundance #6 by Edward McGraw: Q&A with Binghamton University President Dr. Harvey Stenger: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now" - his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis.
- ["With](#) as many as 10,000 buildings damaged, AIA Puerto Rico chapter kicked into gear immediately behind search and rescue teams to help assess damage - the Puerto Rico Engineers and Surveyors Association is also assisting with the inspections."
- [Andrews](#) takes a deep dive into the affordable housing crisis - politicians think public housing is the solution - "but policy experts say it isn't."
- [Paybarah](#) reports that Hudson Yards' developer "has backed off a plan that would have put a giant wall next to the High Line" because of the backlash (but claiming reports were misinformation). "Residents and officials rejoiced" (w/link to Kimmelman's report - if you missed it earlier this week).
- [ASLA cheers](#) the introduction of the Residential Energy and Economic Savings/TREES Act incentivizing tree-planting programs, with "special attention to environmental justice and equity concerns by giving priority to projects in underserved and disadvantaged areas."
- [Eyefuls](#) (and a video of) Zaha Hadid Architects' exhibition and conference center, ZHA's first building nearing completion for Unicorn Island, a gigantic, ecologically sustainable mixed-use project in Chengdu, China.
- [BOMA International](#), in partnership with ULI and RMI, releases "Unlocking Hidden Value in Class B/C Office Buildings," the first study of its kind that "offers guidance and strategies for implementing energy efficiency and green leasing measures."
- [Gamolina's](#) (great) Q&A with Andrea Steele re: starting her own firm, post-TEN Arquitectos, "juggling multiple identities, and advising young architects to find the learning and the humor in things": "Make new mistakes, not the same ones."
- [One we \(sadly\)](#) couldn't resist: Months after historic flooding, the canals of Venice are nearly dry - "boats and gondolas were beached at the bottom of the canals, which resembled trenches instead of waterways" (with pix to prove it).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) Feature: David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform.

Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries: 2020 Radical Innovation in Hospitality Awards.
- [Call for](#) entries (deadline looms!): 8th Annual Architizer A+Awards for Architecture & Products.

- [Call for](#) Nominations: inaugural ASLA Emerging Professional Medal.
- [Call for](#) entries (deadline looms!): ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarships: \$5,000 + travel to ASLA conference in October.
- [Call for](#) Presentations (deadline looms!): 2020 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, Miami Beach, October 2 - 5.

Weekend diversions:

- ["State of Extremes"](#) at the Design Museum Holon in Israel includes works by international and Israeli designers and studios that "put a spotlight on how opposites are represented through design - it is political, innovative, critical, and hopeful all at once."
- [Mohamed Elshahed](#), "the architect ensuring Cairo's buildings are never forgotten," has an installation at the UAE's Sharjah Architecture Triennial, and curating "Cairo Modern" at NYC's Center for Architecture in March, based on his upcoming book, "Cairo Since 1900: An Architectural Guide."
- [14 architects](#) and artists have contributed to Mimi Zeiger's "Soft Schindler" at Rudolph Schindler's house in West Hollywood, California, that "takes the fraught relationship between the architect and his wife as its theme" (pink walls ensued).
- [In Paris](#), James Casebere's photographs in "On the Water's Edge" depict "fictional refuges emerging from flooded landscapes to draw attention to the need for humans to respond creatively to the threat posed by rising sea levels" and climate change.

Page-turners:

- [Rybczynski](#) parses Lam & Livesey's "Canadian Modern Architecture: 1967 to the Present" (with some "quirky" selections), and "the climate-inspired pragmatism of our northern neighbors (and why you should hire a Canadian)."
- [LeCavalier](#) cheers Osman's "Modernism's Visible Hand: Architecture and Regulation in America" that explores "the relationship between regulation, data, and the built environment - beyond offering a brilliant reassessment of the emergence of modern architecture, it also, like the best history, illuminates our contemporary condition."
- [Ravenscroft](#) cheers Hagan-Guirey's "Le Corbusier Paper Models: 10 Kirigami Buildings to Cut and Fold" - the lesser-known Villa Sarabhai in India, is Hagan-Guirey's favorite" ("you can't help but smile at the inkling of irreverence").



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[ANN feature: Building Abundance #6: An Interview with Dr. Harvey Stenger, President of Binghamton University: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now." So says Stenger. Read on to learn more about his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis. By Edward McGraw, AIA, LEED AP BD+C - ArchNewsNow.com](#)

[Groups Help Puerto Rico With Earthquake Relief Efforts: With as many as 10,000 buildings damaged...the American Institute of Architects' Puerto Rico chapter kicked into gear immediately behind search and rescue teams to help assess damage...AIA Puerto Rico will be putting together training for its safety assessment program Friday, with the goal of getting more volunteers to assist with the initiative...Puerto Rico Engineers and Surveyors Association is also assisting with the inspections. - Associations Now](#)

[Jeff Andrews: Affordable housing is in crisis. Is public housing the solution?](#)



Democrats on the left have proposed a huge expansion of public housing, but policy experts say it isn't the answer: ...could other measures - such as expanding Section 8 vouchers for private housing rentals - be more effective at creating affordable housing in integrated neighborhoods? - Curbed

Azi Paybarah: They Were Going to Build a Wall at Hudson Yards. Then Came the Backlash: The developer of Hudson Yards has backed off a plan that would have put a giant wall next to the High Line: Related said it had long understood that "our open space needs to work well with the High Line and the Hudson River." Any talk about them intending to build a wall was simply "misinformation." Residents and officials rejoiced at the announcement. -- Michael Kimmelman; Robert Hammond - New York Times

ASLA Applauds Introduction of TREES Act: The Residential Energy and Economic Savings Act...incentivizes tree-planting programs...pays special attention to environmental justice and equity concerns by giving priority to projects in underserved and disadvantaged areas...ASLA worked closely with congressional staff in drafting language for this legislation... - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

The first building of Zaha Hadid Architects' 'Unicorn Island' nears completion in Chengdu, China: ...67-hectare site will provide a huge mixed-use program...developed as an ecologically sustainable civic, business and residential center for China's technology and research sectors...to accommodate 70,000 researchers, office staff, residents and visitors...also developed to enhance the wellbeing of its community by integrating generous amounts of green areas and wetlands. - designboom

New Report Details How to Unlock Hidden Value in Class B and C Office Buildings: Research Reveals Energy Efficiency and Green Leasing Measures Could Boost Savings: BOMA International [releases] new research report created in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and the Urban Land Institute (ULI)...The first study of its kind, "Unlocking Hidden Value in Class B/C Office Buildings" offers guidance and strategies for implementing energy efficiency and green leasing measures... [link to report] - Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)

Julia Gamolina: Achieving Alignment: Andrea Steele on Testing the Waters, Design Excellence, and Sharing Learning: ...she talks about her experience starting offices and juggling multiple identities, advising young architects to find the learning and the humor in things: "Sometimes that learning is learning to

laugh. Make new mistakes, not the same ones." -- Andrea Steele Architecture (ASA); Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; TEN + W; Barbara Wilks/W Architecture & Landscape Architecture - Madame Architect

Venice canals nearly dry, months after historic floods: ...after suffering some of its worst floods in more than 50 years, its famous canals have now dried up, leaving them unnavigable thanks to low tide. The boats and gondolas that draw millions to the city each year were beached at the bottom of the canals, which resembled trenches instead of waterways... - FOXNews.com

Call for entries: 2020 Radical Innovation Awards: Professional & Student categories: Radical Hospitality Design, Concept or Product, either new or existing (no entry fee for students); finalists in the Concept/Design category will be flown to New York City to compete in a live event in fall 2020; cash prizes; deadline: April 23 - John Hardy Group / Global Allies

Call for entries: 8th Annual Architizer A+Awards for Architecture & Products (international); deadline: February 14 - Architizer

Call for entries: Nominations for the inaugural ASLA Emerging Professional Medal: nominee must be a landscape architect within the first 10 years of their career; deadline: February 7 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Call for entries: ASLA Council of Fellows Scholarships: \$5,000 + travel to ASLA conference, Miami Beach, October 2 - 5, for up to four students; applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens who are Student ASLA members and 3rd- to 5th-year undergraduates (graduate students not eligible); deadline: February 1 - Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF)

Call for Presentations: 2020 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, Miami Beach, October 2 - 5: select from 14 tracks that represent topics most relevant to the practice of landscape architecture and cross-sector collaborations today; deadline: January 23 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Can our differences unite us, asks new design exhibition: "State of Extremes" at Design Museum Holon includes over 70 works by international and Israeli designers and studios: ...[show] puts a spotlight on how opposites are represented through design...exhibit is political, innovative, critical, and hopeful all at once...touching on political, environmental, social and scientific ideas...proves that these extremes are what make our society cohesive and colorful at the same time. thru May 9 -- Aric Chen; Maya Dvash; Azinta PlantengaTadaf Maksimovas; Lucy McRae; Stephan Bogner; Phillip Shmitt; Jonas Voig - ISRAEL21c

Cementing Cairo's place in history: the architect ensuring the city's buildings are never forgotten: "If the buildings are not documented or photographed, it's like they never existed at all," says Mohamed Elshahed: "Cairo Since 1900: An Architectural Guide"...a rebuke against how we think of heritage. It explores 226 buildings...They are not necessarily masterpieces...all architecturally interesting...Elshahed curating "Cairo Modern" exhibition at the New York Centre for Architecture, March 26 - July 11...currently in the UAE...as part of the Sharjah Architecture Triennial. -- Zaha Hadid; Muhammad Ramzy Omar;

Charles Ayrout - The National (Abu Dhabi)

"Soft Schindler" installation of works by architects and artists contrasts modernist at The Schindler House, West Hollywood, California: ...takes the fraught relationship between the architect and his wife as its theme...14 architecture studios and artists add softness to or contrast with the [1922] house...curated by architecture critic Mimi Zeiger, who...came up with the idea after learning about the relationship between Schindler and his wife Pauline... thru February 16- Dezeen

James Casebere's photographs depict fictional refuges emerging from flooded landscapes: ..."On the Water's Edge" to draw attention to issues relating to climate change and, in particular, the need for humans to respond creatively to the threat posed by rising sea levels...abstract refuges reference the work of...Herzog & deMeuron, Japan's Akihisa Hirata and Costa Rican firm Studio Saxe...In particular, Paul Rudolph... Galerie Templon, Paris, thru March 7- Dezeen

Witold Rybczynski: A Brief History of Recent Canadian Architecture: ...on the climate-inspired pragmatism of our northern neighbors (and why you should hire a Canadian): "Canadian Modern Architecture: 1967 to the Present" [Elsa Lam, Graham Livesey, editors] is a bulky little tome...essays by 17 different authors...its selections can be quirky...makes for a somewhat perplexing bouillabaisse...One trend...Canada did not foster a traditionalist movement...Canadian architects have generally toed the Modernist line, preferring to leave radical experimentation to others...If you want a flashy clickbait building, hire one of the usual suspects; if you want something well-put-together that does the job over the long haul, get a Canadian. - Architect Magazine

Jesse LeCavalier: "Modernism's Visible Hand: Architecture and Regulation in America" reveals how regulatory governance has shaped American architecture: Thermostats, refrigerators, dioramas, slide rules...are some of the elements Michael Osman scrutinizes...the ways...an emerging regulatory imagination at the turn of the 20th century shaped...the relationship...between regulation, data, and the built environment - especially relevant in our current political and technological moment...beyond offering a brilliant reassessment of the emergence of modern architecture, also, like the best history, illuminates our contemporary condition. -- Aggregate; Albert Kahn - The Architect's Newspaper

Tom Ravenscroft: Marc Hagan-Guirey uses kirigami to recreate Le Corbusier's buildings in paper: ...for his book "Le Corbusier Paper Models: 10 Kirigami Buildings to Cut and Fold"...contains some of the Swiss-French architect's best known buildings...Of all the buildings in the book it is the lesser-known Villa Sarabhai in India, which is Hagan-Guirey's favourite..."you can't help but smile at the inkling of irreverence." - Dezeen

ANN Feature: David Brussat: Lesson Plan #8: Petition of the British Architecture School Inmates: Students are taught how to tinker with computers and how to plug into a corporate design culture that aids and abets precisely what drives the petitioners to seek reform. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, January 21, 2020

- [Lau & Keane](#) pose "8 questions you'll hear when proposing zero-carbon design and tried-and-true responses from seasoned experts who have fielded these FAQs," and "are eager to help you manage the pushback."
- [Cuozzo x 2](#): 2 World Trade Center version 3.0: BIG is out, Foster is back: "Foster's old vision might be too stodgy for today's market. BIG's, meanwhile, may be too esoteric" (no word on when we'll see revised design).
- [He takes](#) on "Hudson Yards haters" (including Kimmelman) who "have lost their minds - over a fake wall - there was never the remotest chance of the monstrosity being built. So what's to hate? Ah, 'exclusivity.'"
- [The Trump](#) Administration says it will help L.A. with its homeless crisis, but it "may come with strings attached" - what might they be? HUD's Ben Carson "suggested that harsh measures might be needed - officials needed to 'uncuff law enforcement'" (such a humane string).
- [Wall x 2](#): In the U.K., "controversial reforms have led to a flurry of poor-quality office to residential conversions" with developers building apartments with no natural light," which "poses a threat to physical and mental health" ("It feels almost like prison").
- [He parses](#) a University College London report that found "serious design flaws in many housing estates" because homebuilders "are not investing enough in good design. 'The cumulative effect makes it a miserable place to try to exist.'"
- [Ing parses](#) a Bartlett School of Planning study that found most new housing is "so poorly designed it should not have been built" - planning permits for 20% of 140 developments "should have been rejected outright."
- [Betsky surveys](#) "MoMA 5.0," NYC's "temple to high Modernism" and at the same time, "the aircraft carrier of Modernism": It "now actually feels as if it is part of the city," but it's "still a mess of a building. Surprisingly, all of that makes the experience of going to MoMA more fun than it has been in a long time."
- [Ryder delves](#) into how, "thanks to architects, designers, and museum curators" from London to California, "children's voices are now a surprisingly strong force in the revitalization of previously dusty institutions."
- [Kamin x 2](#): He reports on the "preservationists trying to save the controversial" Helmut Jahn's Thompson Center, creating a piñata version "stuffed with written memories and impressions of the building many Chicagoans love to hate and probably wouldn't mind beating with a stick" - which will happen Thursday, with comments on view through Friday morning.
- [He explains](#) why he hopes a proposed "bird-friendly design law takes wing" but finding "compromises that will satisfy both bird lovers and BOMA - there's plenty of ironing to do."
- [Snøhetta](#) tapped "to develop a new visual identity for the Wikimedia Foundation," the nonprofit that operates Wikipedia ("the project can be followed at [brandingwikipedia.com](#)").
- [Gamolina's](#) fascinating Q&A with Kim Holden, a founding principal of SHoP re: "what she's learned from building a wildly successful practice," and, after almost 30 years, "her transition from architect to doula, advising those just starting their careers to fiercely guard their 'special sauce.'"
- [Toronto's](#) Art, Architecture and Design Film Festival kicks off tomorrow and runs through Sunday, and includes post-screening Q&As.

- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Building Abundance #6 by Edward McGraw: Q&A with Binghamton University President Dr. Harvey Stenger: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now" - his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis.

Winners all:

- [Brusssat](#) cheers Thai architect Ong-ard Satrabhandhu winning the Driehaus Prize for work that "demonstrates innovation within tradition" (lots of pix!), and Clem Labine, founder of several traditional building publication, taking home the Henry Hope Reed Award.
- [Seven take](#) home AIA 2020 Interior Architecture Awards.
- [The Royal](#) Academy Architecture Prize 2020 goes to Madrid-based installation artist and sculptor Cristina Iglesias for "work inspires new ways for thinking about architecture" + profiles of the four finalists.

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[Wanda Lau & Katharine Keane: Eight Questions You'll Hear When Proposing Zero-Carbon Design: And, more importantly, tried-and-true responses from seasoned experts who have fielded these FAQs: The time to design carbon-neutral or carbon-positive architecture is now. But change is tough, and any tweaks...will invariably drum up concerns from your clients or supervisors...environmentally oriented designers and firms are eager to help you manage the pushback. -- Stephanie Carlisle/KieranTimberlake; Tenna Florian/Lake|Flato Architects; Marsha Maytum/Bill Leddy/Gwen Fuertes/Leddy Maytum Stacy - Architect Magazine](#)

[Steve Cuozzo: 2 World Trade Center getting revamped Norman Foster design: Get ready for Two World Trade Center, Version 3.0...Foster's old design was scrapped in 2015 for an edgier one by Bjarke Ingels...when it appeared that two media companies...would become the anchor tenants...But now that BIG's quirky tower of stacked boxes has no takers...if Silverstein wants a tenant first, a new Foster design might be just the thing to land one. Foster's old vision might be too stodgy for today's market. BIG's, meanwhile, may be too esoteric. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Foster + Partners - New York Post](#)

[Steve Cuozzo: Hudson Yards haters have lost their minds - over a fake wall: Absent any sensible reason to condemn Hudson Yards...innumerable detractors came up with a laughably hypothetical one...Photos of a model surfaced...which indeed included a wall...That didn't stop...Michael Kimmelman from inveighing against it. But, in fact, there was never the remotest chance of the monstrosity being built...So what's to hate? Ah, "exclusivity." - New York Post](#)

[Trump officials say they'll help on homelessness. But only if L.A. meets these conditions: A sweeping proposal...may come with strings attached...raised advocates' hopes that federal aid is on its way. However...the government expects changes...some fear that demands to alter policing policies to clear more encampments...could run afoul of several legal settlements and federal court rulings. It also could anger local leaders. If L.A. loosens rules around the construction of affordable housing, neighborhood groups or unions also are likely to push back...Ben Carson suggested that harsh measures might be needed, saying officials needed to "uncuff law enforcement"... - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Tom Wall: 'It feels almost like prison': the developers building homes with no](#)

natural light: Planning reforms have allowed developers to create housing in spaces that might not previously have been permitted - but at what risk to tenants' health? ...under controversial reforms...to convert offices to flats without full planning permission...have led to a flurry of poor-quality office to residential conversions across the country...developers are taking advantage of the lack of controls to build flats in basements...inadequate natural light poses a threat to physical and mental health. -- Julia Park/Levitt Bernstein- Guardian Cities (UK)

Tom Wall: Serious design flaws in many housing estates, University College London report claims: New developments lack basic amenities such as shops and playgrounds: ...housebuilders are not investing enough in good design...unconnected to surrounding areas, with few public transport links...The architecture is standardised and undistinctive... "The cumulative effect...make it a miserable place to try to exist"...Local planning departments don't always have the resources to challenge the worst schemes...badly designed schemes should not be getting through the planning system... -- Mark Pearson/Pearson Lubbock Architects; Architecture Centre Devon and Cornwall- Observer (UK)

Will Ing: Most new housing so poorly designed it should not have been built, says Bartlett report: The vast majority of new housing developments should not have been built due to their shoddy design, according to an audit by the Bartlett School of Planning: Damage is being done to the environment and to residents' health and quality of life through some of the poor schemes being built...study looked at 140 developments across England built since 2007 and found that 20% should have been rejected outright by planning authorities. A further 54% should have been rejected...and only built if the developer came back with 'significant improvements' in the design.- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Aaron Betsky: Building on MoMA's Bones: the revamped version of the museum improved but still fundamentally flawed: The best thing about the Museum of Modern Art 5.0 is what is around it...the place now actually feels as if it is part of the city, while the experience of viewing art now has spaces and mechanisms for the social act it is. Having said that, this is still Mother MoMA...remains...a place of confusion. Put simply, this is still a mess of a building...There are now so many circulation routes...that the place makes no sense. Perhaps that is deliberate...Surprisingly, all of that makes the experience of going to MoMA more fun than it has been in a long time...the new mix offers surprises and aperçus. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R); Gensler; Cesar Pelli- Architect Magazine

Bethan Ryder: 'Part-science lab, part-playground': how kids made museums take fun seriously: From London to California, architects are helping museums provide interactive learning experiences that can't be found on screen: Thanks to architects, designers and museum curators, children's voices are now a surprisingly strong force in the revitalisation of previously dusty institutions. -- Geoff Shearcroft/AOC Architecture; Rafael Viñoly Architects; Liza Fior/Muf; Alan Maskin/Olson Kundig; Dinah Bornat/ZCD Architects; Andrés Ros Soto; Ken Kirton/Hato- Observer Design (UK)

Blair Kamin: A piñata version of the Thompson Center is coming, but don't expect candy to fall out: ...a building many Chicagoans love to hate and probably wouldn't mind beating with a stick...three historic preservationists trying to save the controversial state office building [opened] an exhibition...that

actually presents it as a piñata...Instead of being filled with candy...[it is] stuffed with written memories and impressions of the center...preservationists are using humor to draw attention to their cause...Despite the whimsy of the exhibition...the preservationists are deadly serious...Aiming to make the building a protected city landmark... -- Helmut Jahn; Elizabeth Blasius; A.J. LaTrace; Jonathan Solomon; Chelsea Lombardo - Chicago Tribune

Blair Kamin: Chicago's skyline is beautiful but it's killing birds. New York has taken action. So must we: I'm 100% behind the drive to mandate bird-friendly building design in Chicago, but I'm also frustrated by the lack of progress...proposed Bird Friendly Design ordinance...has yet to emerge from the City Council's zoning committee. It still requires compromises that will satisfy both bird lovers and...Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago [BOMA]...there's plenty of ironing to do...Let's hope the bird-friendly design law takes wing. I can see the benefits right in my backyard. - Chicago Tribune

Snøhetta to develop a new visual identity for the Wikimedia Foundation: The collaboration will examine how strategic branding and digital design can influence engagement and promote cross-cultural knowledge sharing...the nonprofit that operates Wikipedia...The project can be followed at brandingwikipedia.com. - Archinect

Julia Gamolina: Doula x Design: Kim Holden on Her New Practice, Birth Empowerment, and Advocating for Women and Girls: ...one of the founding principals of SHoP Architects...After almost 30 years in the design world, Kim switched careers, founded Doula by Design...Q&A re: what she's learned from building a wildly successful practice, and her transition from architect to doula, advising those just starting their careers to fiercely guard their "special sauce." - Madame Architect

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, Toronto, to Host Art, Architecture and Design Film Festival, January 22 - 26: The inaugural Festival will screen 11 documentaries celebrating the contributions of world-renowned architects, artists and designers. It will feature post-screening Q&As with special guests and directors. "City Dreamers"/Phyllis Lambert; Blanche Lemco van Ginkel; Cornelia Hahn Oberlander; Denise Scott Brown; "The Maestro and The Master: Building the New Mariinsky"/Diamond Schmitt Architects; etc. - Canadian Architect

David Brussat: Driehaus Prize for Thai architect: "The work of Ong-ard Satrabhandhu demonstrates innovation within tradition"...That he was able to reach classicism from his modernist initiation bespeaks an independence of mind that...distinguishes the architecture school of Notre Dame...Henry Hope Reed Award...was bestowed upon Clem Labine, the founder of several influential journals dedicated to traditional building. -- Ong-ard Architects; Old-House Journal; Traditional Building; Period Homes magazines - Architecture Here and There

AIA selects recipients for the 2020 Interior Architecture Awards: ...program celebrates the most innovative interior spaces...based on...sense of place and purpose, ecology and environmental sustainability and history. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Thomas Phifer and Partners; Gensler; ZGF Architects; Bruner/Cott Architects; LMN Architects - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Royal Academy Architecture Prize 2020: Cristina Iglesias: ...she invites us to look, not just at buildings, but at the spaces between them...Her work inspires new ways for thinking about architecture...jury recognised the vital tradition of public art in enhancing the quality of open civic spaces + Four finalists: RA Dorfman Award honoring an emerging architect, practice or collective... -- AAU Anastas (Palestine); AOR Architects (Finland); BCKJ Architects (China); WHBC Architects (Malaysia) - Royal Academy of Arts (U.K.)

ANN feature: Building Abundance #6: An Interview with Dr. Harvey Stenger, President of Binghamton University: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now." So says Stenger. Read on to learn more about his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis. By Edward McGraw, AIA, LEED AP BD+C - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, January 22, 2020

- [OMA's Reinier](#) de Graaf explains how "the emotional and economic impacts of cities are closely connected, but this is lost in a proliferation of meaningless phrases like 'healthy placemaking' and 'human-centric design' - what ails do panacea like [these] even aim to cure?"
- [Norman Day](#) takes a deep dive into "unbuilding" and "reverse building" (and some techniques being developed) as high-rises "reach their use-by date" - instead of being "reduced to dust and mud by destruction."
- [Hugo Chan](#), of Cracknell & Lonergan Architects, says that, too often, "our discussions around sustainable architecture are grounded in the new - new materials, new technologies, new systems" - adaptive reuse broadens our understanding of sustainability - "reminding architects that the past holds a plethora of potential to suit present needs and concerns."
- [Dow Jones](#) Architects' Biba Dow minces no words: "The profession's failure to embrace retrofits is a macho hangover of Modernism," and too often, she senses "a professional arrogance" and "condescension towards practice that engages with existing buildings."
- [Welton brings](#) us a stylish adaptive reuse in Rotterdam, where a long-vacant 1950s newspaper office building has been given "new life" as a 78-room boutique hotel - the designers were "careful not to repeat the 1950s," but took "their cues from that forward-looking time period, now long gone."
- [A proposed](#) adaptive reuse project we couldn't resist: a proposal to turn a Grade II-listed Victorian gas holder in London into alligator park as part of a housing development (reptile experts would be involved).
- [Kim delves](#) into "what the Hudson Yards wall kerfuffle says about the problem with private developers building public spaces. It was a public design fail that took all of five days to get resolved" (Kayden, Gratz, and others weigh in).
- [Wainwright](#) hangs out at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel, a "gaudy \$1.5bn colossus in the Florida swamps" that "takes the roadside architecture of the Las Vegas strip to the ultimate extreme" - but also "stands proudly as a huge guitar-shaped middle finger up to the white man who tried to eradicate their entire race" (an al fresco shower on the balcony of Beyoncé Suite penthouse included - great read - and video of crazy light show!).
- [OMA returns](#) to the Denver Art Museum, this time to design galleries as part of the phased reopening of the newly renovated Gio Ponti-designed Martin Building (formerly North Building).
- [Pressman](#) ponders whether we should be "excited" about a new terminal at Reagan National Airport that means "no more rain-soaked runs to and from the shuttle bus. While the design is sleek, well planned, and beautifully detailed - it will look more like the lobby of a large hotel than the audacious architectural statement it could have been. What if..."
- [Snug Architects'](#) Wall of Answered Prayer, "a 50-meter-tall Möbius strip made from a million bricks, wins the RIBA competition for a national prayer landmark on the outskirts of Birmingham (pix of finalists' designs, too).
- [Morgan cheers](#) Union Studio's Tiverton Public Library in Rhode Island that says, "Please Touch": It's "neo-traditional aesthetic might border on the cute" but it's actually "a good balance of nostalgia, fancy, and functionalism."
- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on Bjarke Ingels meeting Brazil's right-wing president to "change the face of tourism in

Brazil" that has drawn criticism from architects and critics, including Woodman, Griffiths, and Goldberger (and miles of critical comments!).

- [Q&A](#) with Liz Diller, who offers "intriguing and personal insight into the current issues facing architecture": "Architecture has a danger of becoming obsolete."

- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Building Abundance #6 by Edward McGraw: Q&A with Binghamton University President Dr. Harvey Stenger: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now" - his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis.

Winners all:

- [Pakistan's](#) first female architect Yasmeen Lari wins the Jane Drew Prize, and Spanish-American critic Beatriz Colomina wins the Ada Louise Huxtable Prize in the 2020 AJ/AR W Awards (formerly Women in Architecture Awards).

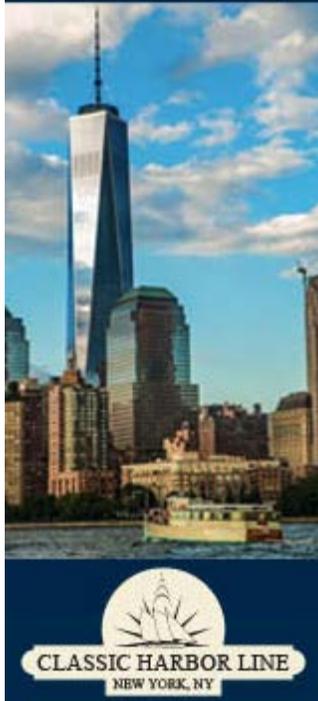
- [Impressive](#) shortlists for the W Awards 2020 Moira Gemmill Prize for Emerging Architecture and the inaugural MJ Long Prize for Excellence in Practice.

- [Winners](#) of the Paris Affordable Housing Challenge are all students!

- [Winners](#) of the Archhive Books' Portable Reading Rooms competition hail from Italy, Brazil, and China.

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Reinier de Graaf: Too much is at stake to leave architecture to architects: The emotional and economic impacts of cities are closely connected, but this is lost in a proliferation of meaningless phrases like "healthy placemaking" and "human-centric design": Happiness, well-being and (mental) health are the predominant terms in which it is being discussed, their prolific use indicative of the scale of the perceived problem...what ails do panacea like "healthy placemaking" or "happiness-based interventions" even aim to cure? What if the insistence to discuss the built environment in emotive terms is not at odds with its economic significance, but intimately related to...yes, even part of it? -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA; AMO - Dezeen

Norman Day: Unbuilding cities as high-rises reach their use-by date: The problems of demolishing high-rise buildings in busy cities point to the need to prepare for unbuilding at the time of building. We'd then be much better placed to recycle building materials: Reverse building... Things that might normally have been reduced to dust and mud by destruction are instead usefully salvaged and recovered... What has interested those involved with this work is the capacity of building designers (let's call them architects) to creatively improve their buildings in terms of life after use-by date. Techniques are being developed... -- Natalie de Blois/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Norman Foster - The Conversation

Hugo Chan/Cracknell & Lonergan Architects: Buildings are not lifeless objects, it's time to treat them as such: So often, our discussions around sustainable architecture are grounded in the new - new materials, new technologies and new systems... Adaptive reuse brings a broadened understanding of sustainability to the table... reminding architects that the past holds a plethora of potential... to suit present needs and concerns... Only by breaking the current destructive cradle-to-grave approach of building and demolition and moving to closed-loop cycles of adaptation and change can architecture truly be a foundational pillar in our ecologically and culturally sustainable future. - The Fifth Estate (Australia)



Architecture Magazine Library
Masters Gallery
Podcast

Biba Dow: Profession's failure to embrace retrofits is a macho hangover of Modernism: ...why William Morris was wrong about reusing old buildings and why the profession needs to stop obsessing over macho new builds: I have always perceived a condescension...towards practice that engages with existing buildings...a professional arrogance which prizes entirely new buildings as more valued architectural statements...I am so happy to support the AJ's RetroFirst campaign. My only problem is with the name; working with buildings as part of an existing context...is about looking forward. -- Dow Jones Architect- The Architects' Journal (UK)

J. Michael Welton: In Rotterdam, New Life for a Newspaper Office: ...when an influential socialist paper of record folded a few years back...Now it's revitalized as a 78-room, boutique hotel [The Slaak Rotterdam] grafted onto Modernist roots from the 1950s - an optimistic, Post WWII time of rebuilding the city...The designers walked a fine line...careful not to repeat the 1950s, but to take their cues from that forward-looking time period, now long gone. -- Vahid Kiumarsi/HDVL Design Makers- Architects + Artisans

Developer proposes turning London gas holder into alligator park: ...has acquired a Grade II-listed Victorian gas holder...exploring plans to turn it into a habitat for alligators as part of a housing development...A visitor centre and educational facilities would also be part of the alligator park and Avanton has assured those concerned about the animal's welfare that the attraction will only go ahead with the consultation of reptile experts..."also looking at the option of turning it into a large lido and leisure deck complex [or] an artistic garden with water features." -- Farrells; Maccreanor Lavington; Patel Taylor- Dezeen

Elizabeth Kim: What The Hudson Yards Wall Kerfuffle Says About The Problem With Private Developers Building Public Spaces: It was a public design fail that took all of five days to get resolved...wall or no wall, the flare-up has proven to be a public relations headache for Related, compounding the overall design criticism of its unprecedented 28-acre private development...how do city officials ensure that private developers...will create something that truly has the public interest at heart. -- Michael Kimmelman; Jerold Kayden; Roberta Gratz; Philip Winn/Project for Public Space; Alexander Garvin- Gothamist (NYC)

Oliver Wainwright: Strummer holidays! The guitar-shaped hotel where the party never stops: It's got laser-beam strings, balcony showers and a 13-acre pool. But this gaudy \$1.5bn colossus in the Florida swamps is also a triumph of Native American resistance: ...the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel - a building that, more than any other, embodies the end-of-the-world hedonism of the new roaring 20s...\$1.5bn complex takes the roadside architecture of the Las Vegas strip to the ultimate extreme...it is all the more remarkable given that it has been built by a community that was almost hounded from existence...the brash swagger of the new hotel...stands proudly as a huge guitar-shaped middle finger up to the white man who tried to eradicate their entire race... -- Klai Juba Wald Architecture + Interiors- Guardian (UK)

Denver Art Museum Partners with OMA New York to Realize New Design Galleries as Part of Major Renovation: Part of larger campus transformation,

DAM to debut new exhibitions and hands-on studio: ...part of the phased reopening of the newly renovated Gio Ponti-designed Martin Building (formerly North Building)...Part of an overall campus reunification and building renovation project led by Machado Silvetti and Fentress Architects... -- Shohei Shigematsu-Denver Art Museum

Andrew Pressman: Gate Expectations: How Excited Should We Be About Reagan National Airport's Upcoming New Terminal? Nobody will miss the current setup: Gate 35X: Just the mention of this infamously congested departure lounge...evokes dread and despair in the minds of commuter-flight travelers...\$374-million terminal... 14 gleaming gates...no more rain-soaked runs to and from the shuttle bus...While the design is sleek, well planned, and beautifully detailed...[it] will look more like the lobby of a large hotel than the audacious architectural statement it could have been...What if... -- PGAL; AECOM- Washingtonian Magazine

Snug Architects lodges plans for prayer landmark: ...national prayer landmark on the outskirts of Birmingham. The Southampton-based practice beat four other finalists...Wall of Answered Prayer...a 50m tall Möbius strip made from a million bricks, each one representing an answered prayer... Stefano Baseggio; Quattro Design Architects; Mathias Bank Stigsen/Asbjørn Staunstrup Lund/Thomas Sigsgaard Jensen; Luke Macnab/Andrew Wardrope/Thu Nguyen-Phuoc/FCBS-BD/Building Design (UK)

Will Morgan: Rhode Island's Newest Library Says, "Please Touch": ...Tiverton Public Library and community center...is one of the most joyful new civic structures built in this state in ages. Union Studio...have created a landmark that evokes Tiverton's agricultural and maritime history - combining the spirit of a 19th-century railroad station, a Gilded Age seaside cottage, and a Rhode Island barn - with the amenities of a 21st-century library...neo-traditional aesthetic might...border on the cute. But at Tiverton, the result is a good balance of nostalgia, fancy, and functionalism. -- Traverse Landscape Architecture-GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Tom Ravenscroft: Bjarke Ingels meets Brazil's president Jair Bolsonaro to "change the face of tourism in Brazil": ...part of a trip with investors from Mexican company Nômade Group...which plans to invest in sustainable tourism in Brazil...Meeting "extremely productive"...Ingels' meeting with right-wing president...has drawn criticism from several Brazilian architects and critics... Sean Griffiths added: "How embarrassing for him"...Paul Goldberger questioned whether the meeting would lead to any clients stopping working with the architect. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group- Dezeen

Liz Diller interview: 'Architecture has a danger of becoming obsolete': Q&A re: the changing role of the architect to the studio's future projects, Diller gave an intriguing and personal insight into the current issues facing architecture: "We're always going to need shelter, but do we need architects? So how do we guard against obsolescence in physical structures, and still produce architecture with distinction, not generic...It's about asking the right questions, rather than trying to answer bad ones." -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- designboom

Yasmeen Lari and Beatriz Colomina announced the winners of the Jane Drew and Ada Louise Huxtable Prizes 2020: Pakistan's first female architect and

[Spanish-American critic have been recognised by this year's AJ/AR W Awards \[formerly Women in Architecture Awards\].](#) - The Architectural Review (AR) / The Architects' Journal (UK)

[W Awards 2020 shortlists revealed: This year's shortlists for the Moira Gemmill Prize for Emerging Architecture and the inaugural MJ Long Prize for Excellence in Practice bring together architects under 45 from around the world and promote excellence in practice in the UK.](#) -- Simona Della Rocca/BDR bureau; Mariam Kamara/Atelier Masomiz; Stefanie Rhodes/Gatti Routh Rhodes; Francesca Torzo/Francesca Torzo Architetto; Emma Fairhurst/Collective Architecture; Alice Hamlin/Mole Architects; Tracy Meller/Rogers Stirk Harbor + Partners; Nicola Rutt/Hawkins\Brown - The Architectural Review (AR) / The Architects' Journal (UK)

[Paris Affordable Housing Challenge winners announced \[all students!\]: ...conceptual ideas...for sustainable solutions that could be replicated in any location across the city of lights.](#) -- Neno Videnovic/SCI-Arc (U.S.); Neno Videnovic/SCI-Arc; Chiara Quintanal Rivacoba & Bianca Ludovica Palmieri/Politecnico di Torino (Italy) - Bee Breeders (formerly HMMD/Homemade Dessert) / ARCHHIVE Books

[Archhive Books' Portable Reading Rooms winners announced: ...rooms that could be easily assembled and disassembled in cities around the world...to promote reading and establish community spaces with free...accessible libraries for adults and children alike.](#) -- Lorenzo Sizzi & Müge Yürüten (Italy); Renata Wuerkert (Brazil); Wenhao Nie (China) - Bee Breeders (formerly HMMD/Homemade Dessert) / ARCHHIVE Books

[ANN feature: Building Abundance #6: An Interview with Dr. Harvey Stenger, President of Binghamton University: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now." So says Stenger. Read on to learn more about his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis. By Edward McGraw, AIA, LEED AP BD+C](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, January 23, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, January 28.

- [ANN feature](#): INSIGHT: Gensler's Shah & client ELA Advertising's Filip talk about how architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space.
- [MIT Technology Review](#)'s James Temple minces no words: "The U.S. has become terrible at building big things," which "bodes terribly for our ability to grapple with the coming dangers of climate change - perhaps we could spark a modern, sustainable public works boom."
- [Plan to](#) spend some time with Architect Magazine's Carbon Issue, co-edited with Edward Mazria and Architecture 2030, "meant to help architects get CO2 out of their systems, for the health, safety, and welfare of us all."
- [The World](#) Green Building Council launches a new digital case study library "showcasing examples of cutting-edge sustainable buildings" - including "game changers" (with link to submission form for the library).
- [Kamin hopes](#) that "help is on the way" for Chicago's labyrinthine underground Pedway that now "feels like a rat maze" as the powers-that-be "finally are poised to start making it a vital piece of civic infrastructure" (could soon hire a design firm).
- [Just when](#) you thought you'd heard it all (ya gotta see it to believe it!): Pop star Akon is set to break ground on Akon City, a 2,000-acre sustainable tourism city in Senegal (and AKoins are the currency).
- [ICYMI: ANN feature](#): Building Abundance #6 by Edward McGraw: Q&A with Binghamton University President Dr. Harvey Stenger: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now" - his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis.

Winners all:

- [Eyefuls](#) of the 8 "stunning projects that have won the AIA 2020 Architecture Awards.
- [Global Design Initiative for Refugee Children](#) and Robert Silman Associates Structural Engineers win the AIA 2020 Collaborative Achievement Awards.
- [The Society of Architectural Historians](#) \$55,000 H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowship goes to Iraqi-born, L.A.-based architect Sundus Al-Bayati - she "will focus on cities that have experienced war or urban conflict and observe the ways in which they have reconstructed and recovered."

Weekend diversions:

- ["Nivola in New York | Figure in Field"](#) at The Cooper Union in NYC spotlights Italian sculptor Costantino Nivola (1911-1988), known for his large-scale projects created in collaboration with architects.
- [Seesaws](#) take over a block in NYC's Garment District in Canadian experimental design practice Lateral Office's "Impulse."

- ["Single-Story Project"](#) at NYC's Center for Architecture presents Adam Friedberg's photos that "highlight the disappearing single-story buildings of the East Village and Lower East Side."

Page-turners:

- [Brownell](#) cheers Ming Hu's "Net Zero Energy Building: Predicted and Unintended Consequences" in which she "convincingly demonstrates the extent to which our current understanding of net-zero energy is wholly inadequate and misleading - and offers a resolution for a more universal understanding."
- [Budds digs](#) into Julia Watson's "Lo-TEK: Design by Radical Indigenism" that "dives into the history, philosophy, and engineering behind climate-resilient infrastructure developed by indigenous people" and "explores what we can learn."
- [Sebastián](#) Pinto talks to KPF's Gene Kohn, "calling from what seemed like a natural environment for the man: the back of a cab on his way home from the airport," and parses "A World By Design: The Story of a Global Architecture Firm," a memoir that "reads variously as a corporate drama, a pitch-deck, and a well-aired rolodex" (and "his penchant for metaphors").
- [Betsky parses](#) Nicholas Adams' "Gordon Bunshaft and SOM: Building Corporate Modernism" that "portrays him as the epitome of the architecture CEO - an intensely private and cantankerous man" who "was the salesman, in-house critic, guiding light - who "made SOM into the very epitome of the modern corporate architecture firm."
- In ["Paul Rudolph: Inspiration and Process in Architecture,"](#) by "legendary editor" John Morris Dixon, offers "a new take" on Rudolph's Brutalist architecture "through a man who knew him well."
- ["Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon"](#) by Kelly Starling Lyons is a new children's book that "chronicles his unexpected path toward architecture."



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[ANN feature: INSIGHT: Incorporating Form, Function & Culture: Designing for Commercial Office Success: Commercial interior design looks beyond form and function. Architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space. By Jaimelynn Shah, Assoc. AIA, CID, LEED AP, Gensler, and Andre Filip, CEO, ELA Advertising-ArchNewsNow.com](#)

[James Temple: Climate change means the U.S. must start building big things again: Sorry if it blocks your views: Nearly every giant infrastructure project suffers from massive delays and cost overruns, when they aren't shut down altogether. The US has become terrible at building big things, and negligent in even maintaining our existing infrastructure...bodes terribly for our ability to grapple with the coming dangers of climate change, because it is fundamentally an infrastructure problem...we can't afford to take decades to build - much less not build - a single project...perhaps we could spark a modern, sustainable public works boom.- MIT Technology Review](#)

[The Carbon Issue: Meeting the urgent need for climate action, with decarbonization strategies for materials, design, practice, and policy: This special issue of ARCHITECT, edited in partnership with the nonprofit Architecture 2030 and its founder and CEO, Edward Mazria, FAIA, is meant to help architects get CO2 out of their systems, for the health, safety, and welfare of us all.- Architect Magazine](#)

[World Green Building Council Launches Digital Library of Sustainable Buildings:](#)



WorldGBC has released a new digital case study library showcasing examples of cutting-edge sustainable buildings...as a net zero carbon building or across different areas of health and wellbeing...also features industry “game changer” projects... [link to submission form for the case study library]- Canadian Architect

Blair Kamin: Chicago’s Pedway is a confusing underground labyrinth. But help is on the way: ...feels like a rat maze...Now, after years of talk and study, city officials and the nonprofit Environmental Law & Policy Center finally are poised to start making the Pedway a vital piece of civic infrastructure rather than a humdrum way to get from Point A to Point B...could soon...hire a design firm that will develop new signs and navigational tools...Trouble is, there’s no Pedway czar to enforce common operating hours and maintenance standards. - Chicago Tribune

Antonio Pacheco: Pop star Akon set to break ground on Senegal's first LEED-certified crypto-city: ...readying to break ground on a new ground-up 2,000-acre sustainable tourism city near the country's capital, Dakar...Akon City...to run entirely on renewable energy...will also make use of a proprietary cryptocurrency called AKoin as part of a pilot project...venture marks the latest effort by the artist to branch out into development and humanitarian-oriented endeavor... -- Hussein Bakri; BAD Consultant; Semer Group - Archinect

AIA Announces Winners of Its 2020 Architecture Awards: 8 stunning projects [in the U.S., Canada, India, U.K., China, and Denmark] show the world the range of outstanding work architects create and highlight the many ways buildings and spaces can improve our lives. -- Snøhetta/DIALOG; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill 9SOM); John Ronan Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF); Thomas Phifer and Partners; Atelier FCJZ; HGA; Pei Cobb Freed & Partners- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

AIA Names Winners of Its 2020 Collaborative Achievement Awards: The

American Institute of Architects selected the Boston-based Global Design Initiative for Refugee Children and New York City-based Robert Silman Associates Structural Engineers- Architect Magazine

Society of Architectural Historians Announces Winner of the 2019 H. Allen Brooks Travelling Fellowship: Iraqi-born and Los Angeles-based architect Sundus Al-Bayati...\$55,000 award that allows a recent graduate or emerging scholar to study by travel for one year...[she] will focus on cities that have experienced war or urban conflict in their recent history and observe the ways in which they have reconstructed and recovered- Society of Architectural Historians

"Nivola in New York | Figure in Field": ...Italian sculptor Costantino Nivola (1911-1988), known for his large-scale bas-reliefs, murals, and free-standing sculptural installations created in collaboration with architects...exhibition is the first-ever to tell the story of Nivola's built New York City projects...NYC is home to the largest gathering of Nivola's public artworks. Cooper Union School of Architecture, New York City, thru March 15- Cooper Union (New York City)

Playful Urban Design Intervention by Lateral Office Takes Over New York City's Garment District: ...Canadian experimental design practice...installed 12 seesaws..."Impulse"...between 37th and 38th Streets...closed completely for vehicular traffic...urban space is transformed into a playground with the introduction of one of the most famous games for kids...Through sound and light, the installation and the public realm are animated and "alive." thru January 31 -- CS Design- ArchDaily

Photo exhibit highlights the disappearing single-story buildings of the East Village and Lower East Side: In 2015, photographer Adam Friedberg...began a project to photograph all the single-story buildings throughout the changing...neighborhoods and the negative space they created...now on view at [NYC's] Center for Architecture in "Single-Story Project"...came about thanks in part to Alan G. Brake.[who] curated the exhibit...through February 29. - 6sqft (New York City)

Blaine Brownell: The Challenge of Defining "Net-Zero": "Net Zero Energy Building: Predicted and Unintended Consequences" by Ming Hu...she details the various interpretations of net-zero construction and offers a resolution for a more universal understanding: ...more than 70 different definitions for reduced or net-zero energy are currently in use...Hu argues that we must establish a holistic framework for the consistent calibration of net-zero energy goals moving forward...convincingly demonstrates the extent to which our current understanding of net-zero energy is wholly inadequate and misleading.- Architect Magazine

Diana Budds: The world's oldest design techniques might be the most radical: A new book explores what we can learn from people who have mastered living with the land for millennia: "Lo-TEK: Design by Radical Indigenism" by Julia Watson dives into the history, philosophy, and engineering behind climate-resilient infrastructure developed by indigenous people..."traditional ecological knowledge" - the "TEK"...could unlock more sustainable solutions to solve crises of housing, resource management...and more...analyzes the building techniques and philosophical underpinnings of indigenous communities through the lens of architecture...- Curbed

Juan Sebastián Pinto: Gene Kohn And The Rise Of A Global Architecture Practice: ...he steered KPF towards its future as rainmaker and strategic lead..."A World By Design: The Story of a Global Architecture Firm"...a memoir in the lightest sense of the word. It reads variously as a corporate drama, a pitch-deck, and a well-aired rolodex...a welcome change...from your run-of-the-mill architectural monograph...he is less like a name-dropper than a wide-eyed child admiring the places where his profession has taken him...[he] is plainspoken and direct. If anything in his personality ties him to the architect archetype, it's his penchant for metaphors. -- A. Eugene Kohn/William Pedersen/Sheldon Fox/Kohn Pedersen Fox; John Carl Warnecke and Associates - Forbes

Aaron Betsky: The Perfect Corporate Architect: A biography of Gordon Bunshaft portrays him as the epitome of the architecture CEO: ...Nicholas Adams' "Gordon Bunshaft and SOM: Building Corporate Modernism"...by all accounts an intensely private and cantankerous man, was the salesman, in-house critic, guiding light, and corporate executive who, more than anybody else, made Skidmore, Owings & Merrill into the very epitome of the modern corporate architecture firm...[He] was not a creative genius. He was not even an artist. He was more of a collector...he collected commissions and the people with which to fulfill those jobs. -- Florence Knoll; Nathalie DuBois - Architect Magazine

A New Take on the Brutalist Architecture of Paul Rudolph: Legendary editor John Morris Dixon shares his own recollections and taps the Library of Congress: Get to know one of 20th-century architecture's most idiosyncratic practitioners...through a man who knew him well..."Paul Rudolph: Inspiration and Process in Architecture" - Architect Magazine

Antonio Pacheco: A new children's book tells Phil Freelon's story: "Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon" by Kelly Starling Lyons and illustrated by Laura Freeman...highlights [his] upbringing in an arts-saturated Philadelphia home...and chronicles Freelon's unexpected path toward architecture...he gravitated toward a focus on socially relevant work...That fateful decision brought Freelon a great deal of success... -- Freelon Group; David Adjaye; Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup - Archinect

ANN feature: Building Abundance #6: An Interview with Dr. Harvey Stenger, President of Binghamton University: "We have the solutions to climate change and they can be implemented right now." So says Stenger. Read on to learn more about his hopeful prognosis for the climate crisis. By Edward McGraw, AIA, LEED AP BD+C - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, January 28, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for late posting - we're dealing with a flooded basement. But rescuers have arrived. Should we not post tomorrow, you'll know it's because we're still bailing out the water (oh joy).

- [Obituary](#) by Peter Lang pays detailed tribute to Superstudio co-founder Adolfo, whose passing "brings to a close an incredibly productive career. Given the major impact Natalini Architects had - something also should be said about his larger opus" (lots of great images).
- [Ingels explains](#) his meeting with Brazil's far-right president, calling "for critics to move beyond binary ways of seeing the world" - "the places that can really benefit from our involvement are the places that are further from the ideals that we already hold - we need active engagement, not superficial clickbait or ignorance."
- [Wainwright](#) x 2: He talks to Ingels and others re: the "'despot dilemma,' and whether architects should 'boycott or engage oppressive leaders - most believe their projects can make everyday life a bit better for the people who live there' ('The idea that a single building is going to be emancipatory for a whole totalitarian state is ridiculous,' sayeth Till)."
- [He takes](#) issue with "proposed changes to regulations" that "will make buildings less energy efficient - leading architects and engineers describe government plan as 'a step backwards' - a building that would fail to meet the current regulations would pass under the new system."
- [Schneider](#) talks to experts re: "why is it so hard for the Bay Area to build megaprojects," where they've "gone wrong, and what they can do differently in the future" (don't try to reinvent the wheel).
- [Porter](#), on a more hopeful note, reports on a "\$100 million bet" that a research center in Portland, Maine, will make the small city "a magnet for innovation," and "could provide a template" for other cities "struggling to share in the nation's prosperity. The initiative is rowing against a powerful tide. And yet it makes sense."
- [Hassell](#) SF's Mullane & RCH Studios' Kochanowski discuss "what we can learn about resilience," and how "communities in Australia and California share connected experiences as they face climate-related threats, especially fire" ("The current situation in Australia is the future of California made present."
- [Sitz reports](#) on Blackwell's lawsuit claiming that his design for an Arkansas casino and resort was "stolen" and that his firm has not been paid for the work done.
- [The next](#) big idea to protect Venice's St. Mark's basilica from future flooding: build a four-foot glass wall - the plan has been approved by city officials (but more bureaucratic approvals are needed).
- [Kamin talks](#) to Chicago architects re: the toll the coronavirus outbreak is taking on their "big workloads in China. Many American businesses are affected by the impact - but architects are among the most visible and vulnerable to its disruption."
- [Mafi, meanwhile](#), talks to Gensler's Crispino re: China building a 1,000-bed hospital in 10 days - specifically to deal with the coronavirus, and "what the design must get right."
- [Fazzare](#) x 2: She talks to Sharon Davis re: how her "do-good architecture firm" is redesigning a hospital "to bring off-the-grid care" to a remote district in Nepal, where "patients have had to travel up to seven days to reach a doctor" (rammed earth involved - "locals needed some convincing").

- [She explains](#) how "looking up through the light well of the double-helix staircase gives a clear clue to Ando's inspiration" for the He Art Museum in China's Foshan City, Guangdong Province (cosmology involved).
- [The Powerhouse](#) Company has designed the new HQ for the Global Center on Adaptation, a timber structure that will literally float in Rotterdam's port Rijnhaven (outdoor terrace and swimming pool included) - and can easily be demounted and re-used elsewhere.
- [The L.A.](#) Department Of Cultural Affairs launches the free, online Hollyhock House Archive, which includes hundreds of FLW's "original drawings, blueprints, and ephemera, from 1918 through the early 21st century."
- [Stinson](#) brings us luscious eyefuls of Sauvage's 1902 Villa Majorelle in Nancy, France, that is reopening after a meticulous restoration of the "iconic Art Nouveau house - a gorgeous example of the ornate style" (gorgeous, indeed!).
- [Five finalists](#) now vie to design FIGMENT/ENYA/SEAoNY's 2020 City of Dreams pavilion on Roosevelt Island in NYC.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: INSIGHT: Gensler's Shah & client ELA Advertising's Filip talk about how architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space.

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Obituary by Peter Lang: Adolfo Natalini's final vanishing act: ...brings to a close an incredibly productive career...co-founded Superstudio...Given the major impact Natalini Architects had...something also should be said about his larger opus...Superstudio continued to profane modernist architecture by putting out ever more stunning critiques, striking against the profession's socially maladroit, poorly mass-produced, and increasingly environmentally destructive practices...would carry on through 1978..."I would like to vanish into my buildings"...I think Natalini has found his peace at last. -- Cristiano Toraldo di Francia - The Architect's Newspaper

Bjarke Ingels issues statement explaining meeting with Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro: ...he called for critics to move beyond binary ways of seeing the world: "...the places that can really benefit from our involvement are the places that are further from the ideals that we already hold...If we want to positively impact the world, we need active engagement, not superficial clickbait or ignorance...We have to engage and embrace our differences if we want to dare to imagine a different future." - The Architect's Newspaper

Oliver Wainwright: The despot dilemma: should architects work for repressive regimes? Bjarke Ingels is the go-to golden boy for Big Tech - and now Brazil's Bolsonaro wants a bit of his magic. But should architects boycott oppressive leaders? Do their buildings glorify their ideology? Whenever the topic of ethics comes up, most architects who work in repressive climates believe their projects can transcend the abuses of the host regimes and make everyday life a bit better for the people who live there. The dilemma is whether to boycott or engage..."The idea that a single building is going to be emancipatory for a whole totalitarian state is ridiculous." -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Zaha Hadid; Jean Nouvel; Rem Koolhaas; Jacques Herzog; Jeremy Till - Guardian (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: Proposed changes to regulations 'will make buildings less energy efficient': Damning assessment by group of leading architects and engineers describes government plan as 'a step backwards': London Energy Transformation Initiative (Leti)...calling for radical changes to how building energy consumption is assessed...new changes to the regulations would



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remove [a standard], meaning...a building that would fail to meet the current regulations would pass under the new system. -- Clara Bagenal George; Joe Giddings/Architects Climate Action Network (Acan) - Guardian (UK)

Benjamin Schneider: Why is it so hard for the Bay Area to build megaprojects? Major infrastructure projects are necessary to address climate change and keep its growing population moving: ...recurring difficulties...are seized upon as ammunition by opponents...Curbed SF spoke to experts...to better understand where...megaprojects have gone wrong, and what they can do differently in the future..."Don't, unless absolutely necessary, try to invent anything new. Look at what is being done in other places where costs are low and performance is high, and just copy it." -- Karen Trapenberg Frick; Jonathan English - Curbed San Francisco

Eduardo Porter: A \$100 Million Bet That Vacationland Can Be a Tech Hub, Too: A benefactor's big gift will create a research center in Portland, Maine, testing a small city's ability to prosper as a magnet for innovation: Hoping to draw itself into the high-tech orbit, Portland is about to become a test case...could provide a template for the many American cities struggling to share in the nation's prosperity...David Roux...a Silicon Valley investor...is giving \$100 million to Northeastern University to establish a graduate school and research center...initiative is rowing against a powerful tide. And yet it makes sense...perhaps a few more benefactors like Roux, might help solve America's regional disparities. - New York Times

Richard Mullane/Hassell San Francisco & Greg Kochanowski/RCH Studios: What we can learn about community resilience: Communities in Australia and California share connected experiences as they face climate-related threats, especially fire. Different continents, connected climates, same challenges. Here are views from two people who had close contact with recent fires: "We share frustration living under federal governments that still dispute climate change"..."The current situation in Australia, as I see it, is the future of California made present." -- Rios Clementi Hale Studios - The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Miriam Sitz: Arkansas Lawsuit Seeks Protection of Intellectual Property: In late December 2019, Marlon Blackwell Architects filed a lawsuit...alleging that...HBG Design and representatives of the Quapaw Nation...have stolen MBA's architectural designs and failed to pay [the] firm for its work on the Saracen Casino Resort, currently under construction in Pine Bluff, Arkansas...HBG declined to discuss any specifics of the suit. - Architectural Record

Venice Considers Building a Glass Wall to Protect Against Floodwaters: ...a four-foot glass wall to protect the historic St. Mark's basilica from future flooding: The plan...has already been approved by city officials would hopefully protect the church from erosion, similar to what it experienced in November when floods...salt brought in with the waters eating away at the church's marble, mosaics and floors...proposal still needs approval from the Venice heritage authority and public works committee... - MSN.com

Blair Kamin: Virus outbreak disrupts Chicago architects with big workloads in China: In Wuhan, epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak...a mass of concrete and steel...soon will become the city's tallest building...[by] Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture...Many American businesses are affected by the impact...but architects are among the most visible and vulnerable to its disruption...in 2008...China became an economic lifeline for many American architects...Even today...some American firms...get an estimated one third of their annual billings from China. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); James Zhen/Paul De Santis/Goettsch Partners; Gensler; Stantec; VOA Architects ; bKL Architecture; Perkins+Will- Chicago Tribune

Nick Mafi: China's Building a Hospital in 10 Days - This Is What the Design Must Get Right: AD speaks to Gensler...on what Chinese officials must do to ensure that their rushed hospital design can keep the the deadly coronavirus in check: ...a 1,000-bed hospital...built with prefabricated materials...Though [it] is being called a hospital, it certainly won't be a traditional one. "[It] is intended to isolate people," says James Crispino..."Since that's its only purpose, it is not a hospital in the conventional sense"... "In the U.S., we do have the talent, tools, and technologies to do this if need be." -- Wuhan Huoshenshan Hospital- Architectural Digest

Elizabeth Fazzare: Sharon Davis Redesigns a Hospital for a Community in Need: ...teams with nonprofit Possible Health to bring off-the-grid care to Nepal's Achham district: ...patients historically have had to travel up to seven days to reach a doctor. Thanks to a new project by the do-good architecture firm...high-quality health care just got closer to home...not sufficient grid reliability to support a traditional heating and cooling system...Davis turned to rammed earth, a low-cost heat-storing material...locals needed some convincing... "this project is a model of how vernacular materials can be utilized to create modern architecture." - Architectural Digest

Elizabeth Fazzare: Tadao Ando Reveals Design for the He Art Museum: The first art museum dedicated to celebrating southern China's regional culture will open to the public in March: Looking up through the light well of the double-helix staircase...gives a clear clue to Ando's inspiration...capped by an oculus: a physical representation of ancient Chinese cosmology...Though the architecture may be a cosmopolitan combination of Chinese design styles, the grounds are drawn directly from traditional Lingnan landscape. - Architectural Digest

Floating sustainable office planned for Rotterdam: ...courtesy of Powerhouse Company...Floating Office Rotterdam...located in [the] Rijnhaven port and will serve as a new headquarters for the Global Center on Adaptation, which aims to prepare communities, cities and countries for the disruptive effects of climate change...led by former UN-Chairman Ban Ki-moon, Bill Gates, and [IMF's] Kristalina Georgieva...[it] will be prefabricated and made primarily from wood...will also host a restaurant with a large outdoor terrace and a swimming pool...it can easily be demounted and re-used...will remain in use for 5 to 10 years, after which time it may host another tenant or be moved to another location... -- Nanne de Ru- New Atlas (formerly Gizmag)

City Of Los Angeles Department Of Cultural Affairs Launches Online Archive For Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House: ...[it] is free and open to the public, encompasses over 500 works that include original drawings, blueprints, and

ephemera, which date from 1918 through the early 21st century...complements the recent UNESCO World Heritage Site Designation. - Broadway World

Liz Stinson: Iconic Art Nouveau house Villa Majorelle will soon reopen for tours:...a gorgeous example of the ornate style [in Nancy, France]: Sauvage designed the rooms with classic Art Nouveau flair - decorative scenes are painted on the curved walls in the dining room...In the salon, a commanding fireplace is adorned with colorful glass from Morocco. -- Henri Sauvage (1902)- Curbed

Finalists announced for 2020 City of Dreams pavilion on Roosevelt Island: The ultimate goal...is to design a pavilion with a net-zero impact on the environment that can become a prototype for an innovative and sustainable future in design and construction. Past winners have constructed their entries from metal grain bins and recycled cans. -- FIGMENT; Emerging New York Architects Committee (ENYA); American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY); Structural Engineers Association of New York (SEAoNY); Murr Architecken; Guilia Ma/Space Travellers/Michele Versaci/Ilaria Bellotti/Masoud Khodadadi; Ying Qi Chen/Ryan Somerville; Parsa Khalili; Ana Moricillo Pallares/Jonathan Rule/Olaia Chivite Amigo/Maria Arquero de Alarcón - 6sqft (New York City)

ANN feature: INSIGHT: Incorporating Form, Function & Culture: Designing for Commercial Office Success: Commercial interior design looks beyond form and function. Architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space. By Jaimelynn Shah, Assoc. AIA, CID, LEED AP, Gensler, and Andre Filip, CEO, ELA Advertising- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Bad/sad news first:

- [Kamin reports](#) that, after 88 years, FLW's School of Architecture at Taliesin in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the Spring Green, Wisconsin, campus will close their doors in June - a "gut-wrenching" decision" by the board (Betsy blames the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation - and vice versa, of course).
- [Bernstein](#) considers whether America is "poised for another World's Fair embarrassment": "The U.S. will have a pavilion at the 2020 Dubai Expo" - thanks to the Emirati government paying for it, "but the design remains an open question" (by an unnamed Australian firm with U.S. offices, perhaps).
- [Architects](#) react to Trump naming Blanton as "Architect" of the Capitol - he "is neither trained nor licensed as an architect" (though he is a licensed engineer).
- [Caulfield](#) considers what the Hawaii Government is doing about sea level rise - legislation is under consideration "similar to bills that failed to pass last session," but "there is no set game plan, despite the fact that a 2017 report urged immediate preparation for 3.2 feet of sea level rise by 2060."
- [Ing x 2](#): Legal finger-pointing begins as the insulation manufacturer claims "Studio E 'knew' Grenfell Tower cladding could fail" - Studio E says that, "at the time," it didn't know "the products used on the tower were unsafe" ("contradicted by Celotex's evidence").
- [He reports](#) that "WeWork confirms under-fire Bjarke Ingels is no longer chief architect - amid mounting criticism" of his affiliation with the far-right Brazilian president - Ingels responds.

Good/great news:

- [Saleem profiles](#) the four founders of U.K.-based Black Females in Architecture: "The issues they are tackling are wide ranging, relevant, progressive and urgent - this is an initiative that has the potential to speak for many."
- [UNStudio's](#) "100 Homes Project," a "unique Dutch initiative for a future living," intends to create the "smartest neighborhood in the world" that will include an Ethics Council to oversee data ownership, privacy, regulation, etc. (shades of Sidewalk Toronto issues?).
- [Moore cheers](#) Grafton Architects' new library and dance center for Kingston University that offers "sociability on a grand scale. It has a town hall's sobriety that allows the playfulness of what is a great grownup climbing frame to flourish."
- [Wainwright](#) calls the new library/dance center a "£50m love nest - a stirring, open-plan library where students can 'meet and fall in love,'" and a "majestic multileveled theatre of higher education."
- [Wells](#) "showed up for the unveiling of the design for the new Ottawa library with a certain defensive curmudgeonliness. Fortunately," Diamond Schmitt "favors buildings you can use, and want to be in" (quite a cheeky take on architecture in Ottawa - read!).
- [Eyefuls](#) of ZHA's competition-winning design for Chinese smartphone maker OPPO HQ - almost 2 million square feet in four interconnected towers (a "Sky Plaza" and a rooftop "Sky Lab" included - click 1st pix for lots of

images).

- [Lee parses](#) Dreyfuss + Blackford's "thoughtful and subtle" makeover of its own 1959 office building in Sacramento by the firm's next generation, so that it "shines again."
- [Davidson's](#) (great!) Q&A with Gehry: "Nearly 91, the starchitect with the soul of an artist does not know how to retire" - from his office mezzine looking down on some dollhouse-scale Gehryland, he clearly relishes the sense of inventiveness and bustle."
- [TCLF's 16th](#) in the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Oral History Project series is Birnbaum's 2007 interview with the late Robert Royston re: his "extraordinary life and career."
- [Your eye](#) candy for the day: Stunning(!) images of the winners of CIOB's Art of Building Photographer of the Year 2019 Awards.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: INSIGHT: Gensler's Shah & client ELA Advertising's Filip talk about how architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space.

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[Blair Kamin: Founded by Frank Lloyd Wright, famed School of Architecture at Taliesin is closing at the end of June: ...the board made the "gut-wrenching" decision...\[it\] was unable to reach an agreement with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation...the foundation appeared to shift blame...to the school's board...Aaron Betsky, responded that the school had come up with a sustainable business model and accused the foundation of making unreasonable financial demands...school is working out an agreement with a design school at Arizona State University that will let the \[30\] students transfer credits... - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Fred A. Bernstein: Is America Poised for Another World's Fair Embarrassment? The U.S. will have a pavilion at the 2020 Dubai Expo thanks to a last-minute gift, but the design remains an open question: ...the Emirati government announced that it would pay for the U.S. pavilion...allows both countries to avoid a major embarrassment: namely, an empty lot where the American pavilion would have been...Now the trick is getting the pavilion built...Fentress dropped out. According to various sources, the new architect is an Australian firm with offices in the U.S. The company declined to comment. - Architect Magazine](#)

[Architects React to Trump's New 'Architect' of the Capitol: ...appointment of engineer J. Brett Blanton has sparked conversation within the profession of architecture: While Blanton, the deputy vice president for engineering at the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, is a licensed engineer, he is neither trained nor licensed as an architect. - Architectural Record](#)

[Claire Caulfield: Are We Doomed? What Is Hawaii Government Doing About Sea Level Rise? There isn't a definitive list of priorities...but legislation is under consideration and Oahu is preparing its plans for local action: ...there is no set game plan, despite the fact that a 2017 report urged immediate preparation for 3.2 feet of sea level rise by 2060...bills...were introduced in the first week of the 2020 legislative session. While many are similar to bills that failed to pass last session, this year 36 lawmakers formed an environmental caucus, and adapting to sea level rise is one of their top priorities. - Honolulu Civil Beat](#)

[Will Ing: Studio E 'knew' Grenfell Tower cladding could fail, inquiry told: Email exchanges show \[they\] 'appear to have known' the cladding panel...would fail in](#)



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a fire, according to the lawyer for insulation manufacturer Celotex: Studio E said it did not have any knowledge at the time that the products used on the tower were unsafe – and that it could not reasonably have been expected to know the products were unsafe. But this appears to be contradicted by Celotex's evidence. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Will Ing: WeWork confirms under-fire Bjarke Ingels is no longer chief architect: ...shared office space giant has revealed amid mounting criticism of the Danish architect...Ingels caused a Twitter storm when he was pictured with far-right Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro after travelling to the country 'to gather background information' for a tourism masterplan he is drawing up for an area in north-east Brazil...[He] responded to criticism by saying that "creating a list of countries or companies that BIG should shy away from working with seems to be an oversimplification of a complex world." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Shahed Saleem: BFA works for pride, not prejudice, for black women architects: Racial and gender diversity is an acknowledged issue in the profession. Four young black architects have taken it on and their organisation, Black Females in Architecture, is gathering pace: ...the issues they are tackling...are wide ranging, relevant, progressive and urgent. BFA...emerged through the chance meetings of Setufe, Neba Sere, Akua Danso and Alisha Morenike Fisher... as much as race and gender-based inequalities, they were also raising questions about the nature and experience of architectural education and practice itself...the industry does not represent the society it serves... this is an initiative that has the potential to speak for many... -- Crystal Design Studios; Elsie Owusu Architects; Public Practice; Penoyre and Prasad; Scott Brownrigg; Arcadis - RIBA Journal (UK)

UNSense Develops an Adaptive Neighborhood of 100 Homes, part of UNStudio Brainport Smart District Foundation Master Plan: ..."100 Homes Project"...puts in place 1,500 permanent and 500 temporary homes, greenery and 12 hectares of a business park...The unique Dutch initiative for a future living is based on 4 main guidelines...will integrate technology...housing will take on an intelligent and adaptive design...an Ethics Council will serve as an advisory body on...data ownership, privacy, regulation and financial gain for the end-user. -- Felixx Landscape Architects - ArchDaily

Rowan Moore: Town House, Kingston University - sociability on a grand scale: ...expansive new library and dance centre, designed by Dublin's Grafton Architects, invites students to engage with each other - and the neighbourhood: [It] stands or falls on its ability to be in some way public... Six generous storeys...amply furnished with the architecture of sociability...The stakes are high: if the students don't show up, the building loses a lot of its point...[It] imparts a sense of care and thought. It has a town hall's sobriety that allows the playfulness of what is a great grownup climbing frame to flourish...early signs are that [it] is working exactly as it should...It is, in fact, a public building. -- Yvonne Farrell; Shelley McNamara - Observer (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: The £50m lovenest: Kingston's new library is a place to find books - and romance: Grafton Architects...about to take the RIBA gold medal, have unveiled...a stirring, open-plan library where students can 'meet and fall in love': A raucous urban dance extravaganza might not be every librarian's idea of a welcome backdrop to their bookshelves. But then not every library is conceived like Town House...majestic multilevelled theatre of higher education...In a brave departure from most security-conscious university buildings, there are no turnstiles or swipe-card access gates... Above all, it feels social, designed to encourage encounters...there's a slight danger it might prove too popular for its own good. - Guardian (UK)

Paul Wells: If a building isn't a disaster, how can we be sure it's in Ottawa? The city unveiled the design for its new library - and Ottawans might actually like it: ... it was with a certain defensive curmudgeonliness that I showed up for the unveiling of the design for the new Ottawa library...Fortunately the project architect for the OPL-LAC JF [Ottawa Public Library and the Library and Archives Canada] is...Diamond Schmitt Architects...will not satisfy observers for whom a library should resemble a spaceship or a crystal...[DSA] favours buildings you can use, and want to be in...spent 2019 running a public consultation process...The results are - well, they're not spectacular so much as reassuring...a building that... suggests it will work best when you're actually in it. - Maclean's (Canada)

Zaha Hadid Architects' Oppo HQ comprises four interconnected towers: ...new headquarters for Chinese smartphone maker... will host a landscaped plaza, an art gallery, stores, and restaurants. A "Sky Plaza" will contain leisure and entertainment facilities on the 10th floor, while a rooftop "Sky Lab" will also serve as a public viewing point. There will also be a direct link to Shenzhen's subway network...ZHA won the job...following an international architecture competition - New Atlas (formerly Gizmag)

Lydia Lee: A 1959 Modernist Office in Sacramento Shines Again: The building's midcentury architecture was historically significant, so Dreyfuss + Blackford Architecture's upgrades had to be thoughtful and subtle: The Sacramento Municipal Utility District building was originally designed by Albert Dreyfuss and Leonard Blackford...Roughly 60 years later, the next generation...was hired to update the facility, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places (and much beloved by the local architecture community). - Metropolis Magazine

Justin Davidson: In Conversation: Frank Gehry Nearly 91, the starchitect with the soul of an artist does not know how to retire: Standing on the mezzanine of his vast Los Angeles studio, looking down on...some dollhouse-scale Gehryland, he clearly relishes the sense of inventiveness and bustle...he's mostly omnipresent...Are you doing stuff that's really different? "I hope so. I think so...I like figuring out how to take tightly budgeted commercial projects and turn them into architecture. I've always done this"...How? "Technology..." - New York Magazine

Robert Royston Oral History: The extraordinary life and career of landscape architect Royston (1918-2008) are the subject of the sixteenth oral history in the award-winning Pioneers of American Landscape Design Oral History Project series: After working for the offices of Thomas Church in the 1940s, Royston partnered with Garrett Eckbo and Edward Williams to form Eckbo, Royston &

[Williams...He started a new firm in 1958 with partners Asa Hanamoto and David Mayes, which ultimately became Royston, Hanamoto, Alley & Abey...interviewed by Charles A. Birnbaum with J.C. Miller in August 2007.](#) - The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

[The art of buildings: After thousands of public votes, the winners of the Art of Building Photographer of the Year 2019 have been announced: The competition, run by the Chartered Institute of Building \(CIOB\), celebrates the creativity of the construction industry and the built world around us. The Public Choice Award went to Alexandr Bormotin for his striking image of a metro station in Moscow.](#) - BBC News

[ANN feature: INSIGHT: Incorporating Form, Function & Culture: Designing for Commercial Office Success: Commercial interior design looks beyond form and function. Architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space. By Jaimelynn Shah, Assoc. AIA, CID, LEED AP, Gensler, and Andre Filip, CEO, ELA Advertising-ArchNewsNow.com](#)

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Today's News - Thursday, January 30, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, February 4. (February 2: Happy Groundhog Day!)

- [Saffron](#) gives (mostly) thumbs-up to BLT's renovation of Kling & Chung's 1974 Centre Square, Philadelphia's "biggest, baddest Brutalist complex. While some changes are stunningly awful" (a DuBuffet sculpture treated like "a potted plant"), "the renovation still offers useful lessons for others trying to adapt Brutalist buildings to modern tastes."
- [Micallef](#) makes the case for why Toronto's 1974 Sheraton Centre "is modernism worth preserving - like any building nearing 50 years old, it could use additional updates [to] this sleek beast," then "give it proper heritage protection."
- [Green's](#) Q&A with Meg Calkins, a founding member of the Sustainable SITES Initiative, re: "how much progress have we made towards achieving sustainable landscapes, the major gaps, and what emerging material technologies she is most excited about."
- [After 28](#) years at Rios Clementi Hale Studios, Julie Smith-Clementi and Frank Clementi launch their own firm: "The pair agreed that establishing an independent studio was the best way to reconnect with their craft."
- [The new](#) tech start-up Higharc "seeks to do away with 'expensive, architect-designed plans that take forever to produce.'"
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: INSIGHT: Gensler's Shah & client ELA Advertising's Filip talk about how architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space.

Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) Expressions of Interest/EOI: Harry Butler Institute Environmental Education Centre 2-Stage International Design Competition; Murdoch University, Perth, Australia.
- [Call for](#) entries (deadline extended - no fee!): Urban Confluence Silicon Valley international open ideas competition for activating the most critical urban park in San Jose and Silicon Valley (\$150,000 stipends for 3 finalists!).
- [Call for](#) entries: ASLA 2020 Professional & Student Awards (international) for innovative landscape architecture projects.
- [Call for](#) entries: Benchmark 2020 International Design Competition: "challenge and transform the idea of the 'common' bench and create landmarks along Winnipeg's trail systems" (registration fee: \$25 CDN).

Weekend diversions:

- [Kimmelman](#) cheers "Housing Density" at NYC's Skyscraper Museum that is "timely and thought-provoking - many people think 'density' means crowded neighborhoods and greedy developers," but this show "tells a

different story:"

● [Davidson](#) cheers "Fringe Cities" at NYC's Center for Architecture that "documents the mid-century misfire of urban renewal - it is studiously dispassionate but also charged with rage. MASS tries valiantly to end this demoralizing show on a note of optimism, spotlighting the work of tireless activists and grassroots organizers."

● ["Sea Change: Flood Resilient Architecture for the 21st Century"](#) at Roca London Gallery "showcases projects - proposed and realized - by leading architects in the field of flood resilient architecture."

Page-turners:

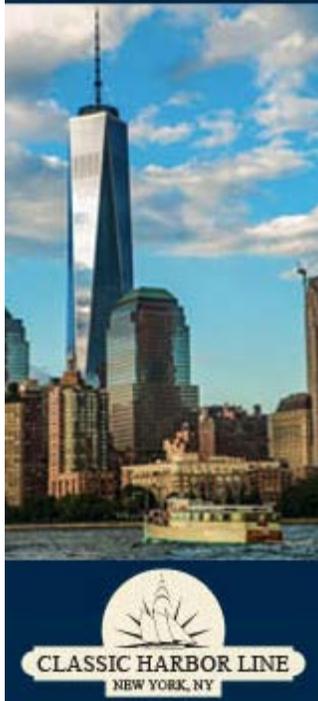
● [Weinstein](#) cheers Krieger's "City on a Hill: Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present" that is "carefully argued and cinematically sweeping - an invigorating study, rich in the history of ideas about what American urban settlements might have been and still may become."

● [Caldwell's](#) Q&A with "Ezra Stoller" author Serraino re: "how Stoller photographed modernity": "The image makers have an ethical role in what they photograph, and Stoller was an extremely ethical photographer. He had almost a moral sense" about his work.

● [Sieira parses](#) Colomina's "X-Ray Architecture": "It's a debunking of modernist myths [and] a feminist critique - her work brings us to the modern canon through novel approaches that make us see it anew."

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Inga Saffron: The 'Clothespin' is liberated. Now can Centre Square's renovations make us love Brutalist design? Philadelphia's biggest, baddest Brutalist complex has always been too big to fail...new owner...wrapping up the latest effort to take the brutal out of the Brutalist design. While the results are far from perfect, and some changes are stunningly awful, the renovation still offers useful lessons for others trying to adapt Brutalist buildings to modern tastes. -- Vincent Kling & Eric Chung (1974); BLT Architects; Ground Reconsidered-Philadelphia Inquirer

Shawn Micallef: Toronto's mid-century Sheraton Centre is modernism worth preserving: ...an old-school mother ship that goes deep into the earth and high in the sky...meant as a companion to new city hall...Any city that is sincere about its commitment to mitigating climate change would strongly resist tearing down buildings...Respectful renovation, not tear downs, is the only moral choice at this scale...Still, like any building nearing 50 years old, it could use additional updates...All of it can be fixed...The prefab concrete looks as good as it did when it opened. Correct the sidewalk level of this sleek beast, give it proper heritage protection. -- Viljo Revell; John B. Parkin Associates (1974); J. Austin Floyd Landscape Architect- Toronto Star

Jared Green: Interview with Meg Calkins: The Case for Sustainable Landscape Materials: ...department head and professor of landscape architecture at North Carolina State University...a founding member of the Sustainable SITES Initiative: how much progress have we made towards achieving sustainable landscapes? "In general, we have made strong progress"...Where are the major gaps? "Product manufacturers do not provide information...habitat and cultural impacts of raw material extraction are often an out of sight out of mind issue...balancing carbon onsite is a critical aim..." - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Shane Reiner-Roth: Julie Smith-Clementi and Frank Clementi launch



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independent design firm Smith-Clementi: ...[formerly] of...Rios Clementi Hale Studios have announced that they will be stepping out into their own..."Its like starting at the beginning again"...original firm was established in 1985...and has since "tried to preserve a small office culture," said Frank. "But as it grew, it had to satisfy big office expectations." The pair agreed that establishing an independent studio was the best way to reconnect with their craft- The Architect's Newspaper

A new start-up wants to use AI and algorithms to replace "expensive, architect-designed" homes: Higharc's system is "faster than existing best-in-class design software...algorithms...continuously determining crucial details that typically take hours of manual effort." -- Finch 3D - Archinect

Call for Expressions of Interest/EOI: Harry Butler Institute Environmental Education Centre Design Competition (international); Murdoch University, Perth: Stage 2 competitors will be paid an honorarium; teams must be led by an Australian architect and must include at least one architect registered in Western Australia; registration deadline: February 24 - Bustler

Call for entries (deadline extended - no fee!): Urban Confluence Silicon Valley international open ideas competition (professional & student): A New Iconic Landmark for Silicon Valley: ideas for activating the most critical urban park in the City of San Jose' and Silicon Valley; 3 finalists (individuals or teams) will each receive a stipend of \$150,000 to refine their proposals; deadline: April 3 - Urban Confluence Silicon Valley

Call for Entries: ASLA 2020 Professional & Student Awards (international): honor the best and most innovative landscape architecture projects from around the globe; new award category: Urban Design; Professional Awards deadline: February 21; Student Awards deadline: May 4 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Call for entries: Benchmark 2020 Design Competition (international): challenge and transform the idea of the 'common' bench and create landmarks along Winnipeg's trail systems; registration deadline: February 6 (submissions due February 20) - Storefront Manitoba/StorefrontMB / Winnipeg Trails Association

Michael Kimmelman: Everything You Think You Know About Housing Is Probably Wrong: In cities, many people think "density" means crowded neighborhoods and greedy developers, but a new show at the Skyscraper Museum tells a different story: "Housing Density," a timely and thought-provoking show...Density is not one size fits all. Urbanism isn't a mere kit of parts...some of the community pushback...derives from a lack of collaborative planning and architecture...Solving what ails American cities requires urbanists and activists to acknowledge that not all real-estate development is automatically bad. It demands rethinking some anti-densifying rules and regulations. And it will depend on a shared understanding of what density actually means. "Housing Density" is not a bad place to start. -- Nicholas Dagen Bloom; Matthias Altwicker/Studio A+H - New York Times

Justin Davidson: Slum Clearance Tore Down More Than Temements: "Fringe

Cities" at the Center for Architecture documents the mid-century misfire of urban renewal: ...focuses on smaller, frailer places...Curated by the idealistic nonprofit firm MASS Design Group...exhibit is studiously dispassionate but also charged with rage...traces the march of insane rationalism...MASS tries valiantly to end this demoralizing show on a note of optimism, spotlighting the work of tireless activists and grassroots organizers who are laboring to put their cities back together... - New York Magazine

"Sea Change: Flood Resilient Architecture for the 21st Century": ...showcases projects - proposed and realised - by leading architects around the world in the field of flood resilient architecture. Solutions include: developing floating buildings; improving flood barriers and turning them into recreational space; and elevating a range of public and private buildings. Roca London Gallery, thru May 16 -- Marlies Rohmer Architects; KCAP; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Zaha Hadid Architects; SLA - Roca London Gallery

Norman Weinstein: "City on a Hill: Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present": Alex Krieger's focus is on how our nation's thinkers have reacted positively and negatively to utopian city visions...carefully argued and cinematically sweeping history...In a field crowded with detailed histories of this kind, the book stands out as an invigorating study, rich in the history of ideas about what American urban settlements might have been and still may become.- Architectural Record

Kenneth Caldwell: A Space of Perceptual Stillness: How Ezra Stoller Photographed Modernity: Pierluigi Serraino, author of the new volume "Ezra Stoller," shares insight into the legendary photographer's work: "[Writing the book] made clear to how paramount the role of photography is in establishing the iconicity of the building...The image makers have an ethical role in what they photograph, and Stoller was an extremely ethical photographer. He had almost a moral sense, like Mies had about his own architecture...he would be very cautious about using people, which is the total opposite of what Julius Shulman was doing... - Metropolis Magazine

Maria Sieira: "X-Ray Architecture" asks us to reimagine building materiality: Wilhelm Röntgen called his accidental discovery "X" rays because he didn't know what they were...The discovery coincided with the beginning of Modern architecture, and Beatriz Colomina uses the chronological alignment to theorize how this new way of seeing could be used to reread the modern canon; Loos, Mies, Neutra...Le Corbusier, all make an appearance...It's a debunking of modernist myths...It's also a feminist critique...[her] work brings us to the modern canon through novel approaches that make us see it anew. - The Architect's Newspaper

Shane Reiner-Roth: "Lair" puts a spotlight on the homes of famous movie villains: Chad Oppenheim [and] Andrea Gollin...shine a spotlight on the homes...that lurk in the shadows to draw an undeniable connection between low morale and high design..."Lair: Radical Homes and Hideouts of Movie Villains" pries open 15 of the most diabolical abode...exquisitely illustrated by Carlos Fueyo...About a third of the 15 lairs are owned by various Bond villains...The sensuous architecture of...John Lautner makes more than a few cameos... - The Architect's Newspaper



ANN feature: INSIGHT: Incorporating Form, Function & Culture: Designing for Commercial Office Success: Commercial interior design looks beyond form and function. Architects and designers are creating spaces that promote company culture and go well beyond the physical design of a space. By Jaimelynn Shah, Assoc. AIA, CID, LEED AP, Gensler, and Andre Filip, CEO, ELA Advertising- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Of buildings, beauty, and affordability (mass timber & upzoning included):

- [McGuigan](#) parses what "appears to be a preliminary draft" of "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" - an executive order that would declare "the classical architectural style shall be the preferred and default style" for federal buildings, and "decries the quality of architecture" under the GSA's Design Excellence Program (President's Committee for the Re-Beautification of Federal Architecture - oh joy).
- [Mehaffy](#) & Salingaros decry "Colonialist Modernism" and the "profoundly negative" results of the 1933 Charter of Athens and the 1964 Venice Charter on the Conservation of Monuments and Sites: Will we "continue to allow an outmoded century-old ideology to cause the degradation of cities?" (with ink to ICOMOS/EU proposal).
- [Birnbaum](#) parses the process that indicates the Trump Administration could be "the Obama Presidential Center's most unexpected ally" with "a confounding interpretation" of the responsibilities of the federal agency overseeing the review process ("stunning irony" included).
- [Moore](#) "truly hopes" that the U.K.'s Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission succeeds, but "the suspicion is that talk of 'beauty,' using Scruton's erudite but superficial understanding, will only be a dressing on the not beautiful realities of government-approved, developer-led housing."
- [Dougherty](#), on the other hand, considers "how beauty could help solve the housing crisis - Scruton believed that beauty was part of the solution. It's up to the rest of us to carry it on."
- [Make up](#) your own mind - check out the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission's report "Living with beauty" that proposes "a new development and planning framework, which will: Ask for Beauty; Refuse Ugliness; and Promote Stewardship."
- [Budds delves](#) into the cities and states that "are proposing new upzoning laws to combat the housing crisis," and considers whether they will work ("Oregon and Minneapolis are going to be our guinea pigs").
- [Walker wades](#) into whether a 35-story, mass timber tower proposed by Sidewalk Labs "might make building homes cheaper and more climate-friendly - CLT construction "could reduce the cost by 20%, but first, "what's essentially a brand-new construction method" must be developed.

Taliesin tales, tears, and finger-pointing:

- [Kamin considers](#) how FLW's Taliesin campuses were more "a community, not just an academy" that some "characterized as artistic communes of the highest order," while others thought they "were not-so-benign dictatorships. However one perceives the campuses - the school's absence will likely be keenly felt."
- [Scavnicky](#), a former Taliesin teaching fellow, minces no words: "Shame on the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. The architecture community needs to be cognizant of the potential impact outsiders can have on our field who fetishize and exploit the genius of our heroes."
- [Lynn & Schweiker](#) "want to set the record straight" about closing: The school's governing board "did not feel comfortable putting our staff, students and board members in the position of providing their expertise and deep wells of knowledge to help the Foundation establish a new non-accredited program."

- [Graff, president](#) & CEO of the FLW Foundation, has a different take: The decision to close "could be made only by the school itself, and not by the Foundation," which is now considering "potential partners to create a new and sustainable educational model - we will announce those plans when they are finalized."

On (much needed!) brighter notes:

- [Wainwright](#) cheers "Captain Scarlet," a.k.a. Ab Rogers, and his new "uplifting Maggie's Centre full of zing and zest - a cheery foil to the jumble of large institutional buildings that form the rambling warren" of the Royal Marsden hospital (spoiler alert: he likes red!).
- [Orlando](#) on MoMA's makeover: "The finished structure exhibits a formal purity that Corbu would have admired: there are no decorative elements to interfere with the bare engineering. This new MOMA is exhausting - and serene, and thrilling."

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Cathleen McGuigan: Will the White House Order All Federal Architecture To Be Classical? RECORD has obtained what appears to be a preliminary draft...“the classical architectural style shall be the preferred and default style” for new and upgraded federal buildings...“Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again”...decries the quality of architecture under the General Service Administration’s Design Excellence Program...last week, the GSA’s Chief Architect and Director of the Design Excellence Program, David Insinga, resigned...[draft] declaring that Brutalist and Deconstructivist styles...“shall not be used”...The mechanism for the radical upending...would be a President’s Committee for the Re-Beautification of Federal Architecture. -- Morphosis; Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects; Arquitectonica; Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society; James C. McCrery II; Duncan G. Stroik- Architectural Record

Michael W. Mehaffy & Nikos Salingaros: Colonialist Modernism Strikes Again: ...1933 Charter of Athens...it is difficult to over-state the impact on the human environment...The results...have been profoundly negative...The idea that everything must be radically new...the enormity of that restriction...is hard to grasp... this ideology persists is in the 1964 Venice Charter on the Conservation of Monuments and Sites...will non-architects, and others not specialists in conservation, continue to allow an outmoded century-old ideology to cause the degradation of cities...Or will we see a continued (and increasing) uprising...demanding...a new generation of more humane, more historically rich human environments?- ArchDaily

Charles A. Birnbaum: Is Donald Trump the Obama Presidential Center’s Most Unexpected Ally? ...a revised Assessment of Effects with a laundry list of ...“adverse effects”...Under normal circumstances, the Federal Highway Administration...would now seek to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those adverse effects...instead, the agency is creatively applying a Trump-era policy position - as yet unapproved changes to the National Environmental Policy Act...to ignore the OPC’s harm to the parkland. Between the lines...is the stunning irony that the OPC’s proponents...now asserting that after two years of review under the National Historic Preservation Act, the OPC is not subject to the Act’s requirements...a confounding interpretation of the FHWA’s responsibilities.- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF)

Rowan Moore: Is housing design and planning safe in the Tories' hands?

Inspired by the late philosopher Roger Scruton, the government talks about beauty, but promotes ugly development. If they're serious about good design, they need a theory that's not skin-deep: Scruton treated architecture as a thing observed rather than lived...Adequate play space is...more important than the detail of an Ionic portico, but [his] philosophy could only speak of the latter...I truly hope that [Building Better, Building Beautiful commission] succeed. But...the suspicion is that talk of "beauty", using Scruton's erudite but superficial understanding, will only be a dressing on the not beautiful realities of government-approved, developer-led housing. - Observer (UK)

Michael Brendan Dougherty: How Beauty Could Help Solve the Housing Crisis: Roger Scruton's ideas about architecture are...worth considering: ...we have a strong obligation to make beautiful things that naturally draw out the devotion and protection of our children...In his entertaining documentary on beauty, he shows deftly that by building machines exclusively for one purpose, modern architects ended up creating useless buildings...This was a strong argument against progressive architectural theory...beauty requires humility...But its upside is enormous...He believed that beauty was part of the solution to the housing crisis...It's up to the rest of us to carry it on. - National Review

Living with beauty: report of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission: Independent report on how to promote and increase the use of high-quality design for new build homes and neighbourhoods: ...we propose a new development and planning framework, which will: • Ask for Beauty: We do not see beauty as a cost • Refuse Ugliness: ugliness is a social cost that everyone is forced to bear • Promote Stewardship: Our built environment and our natural environment belong together. Both should be protected and enhanced for the long-term benefit of the communities -- Roger Scruton; Nicholas Boys Smith - U.K. Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Diana Budds: Will upzoning neighborhoods make homes more affordable? Cities and states...are proposing new upzoning laws to combat the housing crisis. Will they work? ...upzoning, which means changing single-family zoning codes to allow taller and denser housing...it's important to know how single-family zoning became perceived as the norm for housing - and how that's fueling the affordability crisis..."Oregon and Minneapolis are going to be our guinea pigs"...the definition of success in upzoning is subjective...there is a research gap in how much regulations impede development...Who supports and who opposes upzoning? ...gentrification and displacement shows why comprehensive planning, and not just rezonings, are needed. - Curbed

Alissa Walker: Could a 35-story, all-wood skyscraper cut housing costs? A "pure timber" proposal from Sidewalk Labs might make building homes cheaper and more climate-friendly: Mass timber is a major component of the...\$1.3 billion...Sidewalk Toronto...one major challenge is that [it] is thought to have height limitations...team...ended up borrowing...from traditional tall-building construction - a cross-brace frame...of cross-laminated timber (CLT)...could reduce the cost...by 20%...might inform...Google...\$1 billion investment to build 20,000 new homes...to help ease [California's] housing shortage...For any cost savings to pencil out...[it] must first develop and streamline what's essentially a brand-new construction method. -- Michael Green Architecture; Gensler; Perkins and Will; Dan Doctoroff - Curbed

Blair Kamin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin was a community, not just an academy. That's why many mourn the architecture school's loss: ...some have characterized the Taliesin campuses as artistic communes of the highest order. A less sympathetic take is that the compounds...were not-so-benign dictatorships...However one perceives the campuses, they were, like Wright himself, utterly unconventional...Aaron Betsky...tried to infuse it with new ideas...Why it all came apart is the subject of finger-pointing...Whoever is right, Tuesday was a sad day for architectural education...While activities like public tours...will continue, the school's absence will likely be keenly felt. -- John Howe; Tim Quigley; Brad Lynch; John Eifler - Chicago Tribune

Taliesin Opinion #1: Ryan Scavnicky, former teaching fellow: Shame on the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation: The gift shop at Taliesin West tells you everything you need to know about the closure of the School of Architecture at Taliesin...One can smell the Foundation cashing in on the aesthetic legacy...on the heels of receiving a full eight-year accreditation...the school...was thriving. Why then, the decision to close? The failure of the [School] to agree to terms with its landlord, the FLW Foundation, is a real tragedy and we must learn from it...The architecture community needs...to be cognizant of the potential impact outsiders can have on our field who fetishize and exploit the genius of our heroes. -- Aaron Betsky; Chris Lasch - The Architect's Newspaper

Taliesin Opinion #2: Jacki Lynn & Dan Schweiker, Governing Board of the School of Architecture at Taliesin: A sad day for Frank Lloyd Wright's legacy: We want to set the record straight...The decision to close the venerable school...came only after our Governing Board exhausted all options in trying to craft an agreement with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation...did not feel comfortable putting our staff, students and board members in the position of providing their expertise and deep wells of knowledge to help the Foundation establish a new non-accredited program...Board did present some new funding options to extend our operating agreement with the Foundation. - The Architect's Newspaper

Taliesin Opinion #3: Stuart Graff, president & CEO, Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation: [FLW's] Legacy will continue at Taliesin: School of Architecture at Taliesin announced that it...would be closing its doors...That decision could be made only by the school itself, and not by the Foundation...In the frenzy of the announcement, some misinformation has been spread...Let's set the record straight...the Foundation sought a plan to transform the School for the 21st Century; the SoAT board voted instead to close...Since the announcement, we have welcomed and opened dialogues with potential partners to create a new and sustainable educational model...we will announce those plans when they are finalized. -- Dan Schweiker; Aaron Betsky - The Architect's Newspaper

Oliver Wainwright: Captain Scarlet! Ab Rogers brings a rhapsody of red to a hospital car park: It was the first hospital in the world dedicated to cancer. Now Royal Marsden is home to an uplifting Maggie's Centre full of zing and zest. Ab Rogers clearly shares his dad Richard's love of colour: It is a cheery foil to the jumble of large institutional buildings that form the rambling warren of the hospital, providing an optimistic, welcoming presence for patients...Rogers...has come up with one of the clearest embodiments of [Maggie's] principles to date. -- Maggie Keswick Jencks; Charles Jencks; Piet Oudolf - Guardian (UK)

Jordan Orlando: The Once and Future MoMA: The museum's current renovation is built around a paradigmatic curatorial shift: For 90 years, MoMA has stood as a monument to the paradoxical alignment of capital and counterculture...The finished structure exhibits a formal purity that Le Corbusier would have admired: there are stylistic and aesthetic nuances throughout, but no decorative elements to interfere with the bare engineering...This new MOMA is exhausting - and serene, and thrilling... -- Elizabeth Diller/Charles Renfro/Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R); Philip Johnson; Philip L. Goodwin; Edward Durell Stone; César Pelli; Yoshio Taniguchi; Jean Nouvel; Tod Williams Billie Tsien - The New Yorker

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Today's News - Wednesday, February 5, 2020

- [Leigh weighs](#) in on "why America needs classical architecture" - the GSA's "Design Excellence program's results have been anything but excellent - architects like Mayne and Phifer have no business designing federal buildings. Uncle Sam needs to put classicists to work."
- [Taliesin](#) Opinion #4: former Visiting Teaching Fellows García & Frankowski ponder: "Why, at the moment when the school seemed so vivid, the student work so exciting, and the educational programs so transcendental are we facing this fate?" - and offer five points about what will be lost. #5: "Closing the school is an attack on architectural education."
- [Taliesin](#) Opinion #5: Students react to the School of Architecture at Taliesin's closing: "To discontinue 88 years of an alternative pedagogical model is at least as destructive as the demolition of a physical architectural masterwork. Beyond losing our school we are losing our home" (click "Yesterday's News" for Taliesin Opinion #1-3).
- [The 2020](#) U.S. Transportation Climate Impact Index ranks "the top 100 metro regions around key transportation metrics and for their contribution to greenhouse gases - high-level information for cities aiming to explore policy directions to reduce greenhouse gases."
- [Sisson sizes](#) up "how Paris became a cycling success story. The City of Light became the City of Bike, and U.S. cities should take notice. Think big, and don't be afraid to talk about climate change and transportation" (bike use in Paris rose 54% in just one year!).
- [Davidson](#) ranks "a baker's dozen" of the "schemes, renderings, misfires, and good intentions" to fix Penn Station over the last 4 decades, listed "from worst to better. 'Best' is still out of reach" (one is "a masterpiece of urbanism by rubber band and wishful thinking").
- [Walsh offers](#) 10 examples of how architects have used energy infrastructure "as an artistic platform - a new approach to harvesting energy" that is "lighting up architectural imaginations" (turning NIMBYs into YIMBYs).
- [Cole prowls](#) "the dark, dripping sewers of Brussels" ("the capital of passive house architecture") to find out why "the city's energy experts' minds are in the gutter - harnessing the heat of a sewer system" that "could supply up to 35% of the city with completely renewable heat. Other cities have their own pilot schemes."
- [Gonchar](#) cheers Gorlin's transformation of Saarinen's Bell Labs in a New Jersey suburb into the 2 million-square-foot Bell Works, "a 'metroburbs' containing all the elements of a thriving downtown" that "offers an intriguing model for repurposing America's many vacant office parks - some of which have thrilling architecture."
- [Anderton](#) talks to those involved in setting up house for NeueHouse, a shared working space and social club in L.A.'s "storied" Bradbury Building - "a popular filming location for half a century, and a must-see stop for tourists and architecture buffs" noted for its "explosion of balconies and stairs and Victorian elevators."
- [A video](#) profile of Robert P Madison, "founder of first black-owned architecture firm in Ohio - and only the 10th registered African-American architect in the nation who reimagined the entire skyline of Cleveland. Despite retiring in 2016, he's still active at 96 years young."
- [Ponsford](#) profiles Mphethi Morojele of Johannesburg-based MMA Design Studio, whose Freedom Park in Pretoria, South Africa, "made him arguably the most influential architect and design thinker of the country's

democratic decades" by "combining neuroscience with animism, and layering landmarks and urban infrastructure with emotional nuances."

● [Hill parses](#) Beatrice Galilee's inaugural The World Around summit: It was an impressive line-up of speakers, but "the curatorial format needs to embrace interaction - the audience is passive - just watching - turn the annual summits into events for engagement, not just inspiration "

Deadlines:

- [Request](#) for Qualifications/RFQ: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia 2-Stage International Design Competition.
- [Request](#) for Qualification/RFQ: Parliamentary Precinct Block 2 Architectural Design Competition to redevelop a city block immediately south of Parliament Hill in downtown Ottawa.

Winners all:

- [The Architectural](#) League of New York announces winners of the 2020 Emerging Voices Awards - 8 emerging practices "with distinct design voices and the potential to influence the disciplines of architecture, landscape design, and urbanism" (great presentation).
- [Winners](#) of the Iceland Volcano Museum competition for "a landing point for visitors to the Hverfjall Volcano" hail from New Zealand, Denmark, and Poland.
- [Winners](#) of the Laka Competition 2020: "Architecture that Reacts" hail from the U.S., Italy, U.S./China, and the U.K. (great presentation).
- [Keskeys](#) parses the winners of the One Rendering Challenge 2020, whose "winning renderings tell architectural stories in highly intriguing and unexpected ways."



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[Catesby Leigh: Why America Needs Classical Architecture: The design of federal buildings should be guided by the traditional principles that produced our greatest civic landmarks: With the inauguration of the Design Excellence program in 1994, the GSA aimed to raise its cultural profile and has since commissioned scores of buildings from prominent architects...the program's results have been anything but excellent...GSA's principles...should be rewritten \[and\] enforced...architects like Mayne and Phifer are not fundamentally concerned with civic ideals \[and\] have no business designing federal buildings... our classicists face overwhelming indifference, if not outright opposition...Uncle Sam needs to put these classicists to work... -- David Insinga; Richard Meier; Thom Mayne; William Rawn Associates; Arthur Brown, Jr.; John Russell Pope; Thomas Phifer - City Journal/The Manhattan Institute](#)

[Taliesin Opinion #4: Cruz García & Nathalie Frankowski: To close The School of Architecture at Taliesin is to kill the experimental legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright: Why, at the moment when the school seemed so vivid, the student work so exciting, and the educational programs so transcendental are we facing this fate? ...one thing remains unclear: what would be lost if the school closes? ...five points about what will be lost with the closure \[the school\]...5: Closing the school is an attack on architectural education. -- Aaron Betsky; Chris Lasch - The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Taliesin Opinion #5: Students react to the School of Architecture at Taliesin's closing: The imminent closure...has left its student body stunned and deeply distraught. To discontinue 88 years of an alternative pedagogical model is at](#)



least as destructive as the demolition of a physical architectural masterwork...Beyond losing our school we are losing our home...From our perspective, the destruction of this profound legacy and jewel in the American cultural landscape is a preventable disaster...We are exceedingly grateful to all...who have reached out...However, we feel that there is no replacement for what will be lost in closing the school... - The Architect's Newspaper

Study Measures U.S. Cities on Transportation, Climate Impact: The 2020 U.S. Transportation Climate Impact Index by StreetLight Data ranked the top 100 metro regions around key transportation metrics and for their contribution to greenhouse gases: ...data is intended to serve as high-level information for cities aiming to explore policy directions to reduce greenhouse gases. - GovTech.com (Government Technology)

Patrick Sisson: How Paris became a cycling success story - and built a roadmap for other cities: The City of Light became the City of Bike, and U.S. cities should take notice: Plan Velo...will be one of the lasting legacies of Mayor Anne Hidalgo...Think big, and don't be afraid to talk about climate change and transportation...success in Paris has come in large part from presenting a bold, citywide plan, instead of the gradual way many U.S. cities add such infrastructure, upgrading corridors one at a time...It's all part of her wider climate policy...providing subsidized public transit for children, expanding public transit, and greening the city with new parks and urban forests. - Curbed

Justin Davidson: Every Plan to Fix Penn Station, Ranked: More than 30 years worth of schemes, renderings, misfires, and good intentions: Fixing Penn has been a fond dream for decades, but each attempt has foundered on the shoals of inertia, conflicting agendas, and shortsightedness...the catalogue of plans has seesawed between thinking big and making do...a baker's dozen plans...organized from worst to better. "Best" is still out of reach. -- McKim, Mead & White; Adrian Untermeyer; Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (now HOK); Rafael

Viñoly; SHoP Architects; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); James Carpenter Design Associates; ReThink Studio; Vishaan Chakrabarti/Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU); FX Collaborative-
New York Magazine

Niall Patrick Walsh: The Powerful New Architecture of Clean Energy: Energy infrastructure has historically been met with a “Not in My Back Yard” response...the architecture of energy infrastructure has traditionally been [in] isolated locations creating little need for architectural beauty... a new approach to harvesting energy has heralded a new architecture to accompany it...lighting up architectural imaginations...10 examples of how architects and designers have used energy plants as an artistic platform to celebrate, and instigate, a greener future. -- Vincenzo Cangemi Architectes; UD Urban Design AB + Gottlieb Paludan Architects; monovolume; Snøhetta; Matteo Thun & Partners; C.F. Møller; Forgas Arquitectes; Manthey Kula Architects; becker architekten; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group - ArchDaily

Laura Cole: Can we heat buildings without burning fossil fuels? ...the dark, dripping sewers of Brussels seem an unlikely place for anything particularly valuable to be hidden...The volume of fluids and, crucially, their temperature are the reason that the city’s energy experts’ minds are in the gutter...Harnessing the heat of a sewer system is just one way of reducing the carbon footprint of heating...[Brussell's] system could supply up to 35% of the city with completely renewable heat ..Other cities...have their own pilot schemes. -- Bere:Architects; Sebastian Moreno-Vacca/A2M Architects - BBC Future Planet (UK)

Joann Gonchar: Bell Works by Alexander Gorlin Architects: The renovation of a storied Eero Saarinen building in Holmdel, New Jersey, brings a bit of the city to suburbia: ...Bell Labs...an immense mirrored-glass box...threatened with demolition...transformed into a mixed-use facility...a “metrourb”...containing all the elements of a thriving downtown...made economically viable by selling some of the original site’s outlying property for a subdivision of neocolonial houses...despite the unfortunate architectural disconnect...metrourb idea seems to have legs...plans a 170-room hotel on the roof...using prefabricated pods...offers an intriguing model for repurposing America’s many vacant office parks - some of which have thrilling architecture... -- Sasaki, Walker and Associates; Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates; G3 Architecture; IA Interior Architects; NPZ Style+Decor - Architectural Record

DnA/Frances Anderton: NeueHouse moves into the storied Bradbury Building: A storied Victorian-era building in downtown L.A. has opened its doors to a new tenant: the private shared working space and social club NeueHouse. The marvelous Bradbury Building [has] been a popular filming location for half a century, and a must-see stop for tourists and architecture buffs. The Romanesque Revival-style building is noted for its interior...an “explosion of balconies and stairs and Victorian elevators”... -- Linda Dishman/LA Conservancy; Anwar Mekhayech/DesignAgency; Avishay Artsy/DnA: Design and Architecture; Josh Wyatt/NeueHouse CEO - KCRW (Los Angeles)

Pioneering 96-Year-Old African-American Architect Leaves Lasting Legacy: Founder of first black-owned architecture firm in Ohio, Robert P Madison International, and only the 10th registered African-American architect in the nation;;[he] reimagined the entire skyline of Cleveland with his pre-stressed

concrete designs. Despite retiring in 2016, he's still active at 96 years young. [video]- ENR/Engineering News Record

Matthew Ponsford: How African 'feng shui' can shape the continent's cities of the future: When Mphethi Morojele [MMA Design Studio] began designing Freedom Park in Pretoria, South Africa...he took the unconventional step of handing over the plans to a group of spiritual healers...to create a sort of "heat map or a spiritual map of the site"...[the park] made [him] arguably the most influential architect and design thinker of the country's democratic decades...He is keen to now connect more analytic and spiritual approaches...combining neuroscience with animism, and layering landmarks and urban infrastructure with emotional nuances... -- David Adjaye;n Diébédo Francis Kéré; Juhani Pallasmaa - CNN Style

John Hill: The World Around NYC: The inaugural The World Around summit...Curated by Beatrice Galilee, the day-long event brought together a strong lineup of architects, artists, designers, and other thinkers...Diversity is key, meaning that anyone watching the presentations...would have seen something new and inspiring...But I'd argue that the curatorial format...needs to embrace interaction...the audience is passive...just watching...in our interconnected age...it's hard to fathom live presentations that do not welcome outside voices or input...turn the annual summits into events for engagement, not just inspiration. -- Elizabeth Diller/Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R); Catherine Ince - World-Architects.com

Request for Qualifications/RFQ: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia 2-Stage International Design Competition: ...on the Halifax Waterfront; RFQ deadline: February 18- Canadian Architect

Coming Soon: Request for Qualification/RFQ: Parliamentary Precinct Block 2 Architectural Design Competition: redevelop the existing property and buildings that comprise the city block immediately south of Parliament Hill in downtown Ottawa; endorsed by the RAIC - Canadian Architect

The Architectural League of New York Announce Winners of the 2020 Emerging Voices Awards: ...8 emerging practices...based in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico with distinct design voices and the potential to influence the disciplines of architecture, landscape design, and urbanism. -- Marc Blouin, Catherine Orzes/Blouin Orzes architectes, Montreal; Andrew Wells, Brandon Dake/Dake Wells Architecture, Missouri; Lazbent Pavel Escobedo Amaral, Andrés Soliz Paz/Escobedo Soliz, Mexico City; Casper Mork-Ulnes/Mork Ulnes Architects, San Fransisco & Oslo, Norway; Olalekan Jeyifous, NYC; Miriam Peterson, Nathan Rich/Peterson Rich Office, NYC; Christopher Marcinkoski, Andrew Moddrell/PORT, Chicago & Philadelphia; Bryan Young/Young Projects, NYC - Architectural League of New York

Iceland Volcano Museum competition results: a multi-purpose exhibition hall with café and informational space, as a landing point for visitors to the Hverfjall Volcano. -- Balint Iszak & Csenge Gyorgyi (New Zealand); Christian Kamp & Adrian Hildrum (Denmark); Artur Chyra & Malwina Wojcik (Poland) - Bee Breeders (formerly HMMD/Homemade Dessert)

Results of the Laka Competition 2020: "Architecture that Reacts": architectural,

urban, technological, or product design that is capable of dynamic interaction with its social, natural, or built surroundings. -- Safia Dziri, Megan Stenftenagel, Matt Turlock, Emiel Cockx (U.S.); Aasish Janardhanan (Italy); Zhiyi Chen (USA/China); Joseph Shenton (UK) - Laka Foundation

Paul Keskeys: One Rendering Challenge 2020: Competition Winners Announced! The winning renderings tell architectural stories in highly intriguing and unexpected ways: ... 2 top winners...along with 10 fantastic runners-up. -- Carlotta Cominetti/Tamás Fischer/Camelia Ezzaouini; Brandon Bergem/University of Toronto - Architizer

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Today's News - Thursday, February 6, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, February 11.

- [Pogrebin](#) & Rogers on the "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" draft executive order, "spearheaded" by the National Civic Art Society, which "favors classical design for buildings": architects say it's ""absurd" and "would give Trump broad power to make aesthetic appraisals, something critics say he knows nothing about."
- [Smith talks](#) to SVA's Heller re: the draft executive order: "There is reason for alarm in the rhetoric that the king of tasteless glitz is attempting to impose his personal brand on the physical manifestation of this nation" ("dictator chic' could be the nation's new official look").
- [The AIA](#) weighs in on the draft order: it "strongly opposes uniform style mandates for federal architecture," while "classicism-loving groups" accuse "the organization of being opposed to 'beauty and tradition.'"
- [In brighter](#) news: The recently launched Living Future Collaborative South Africa supports the Living Building Challenge, and "aims to organize events centered around what it means to go Net Zero Water/Energy, introducing the concepts at schools, and advocating to bring transformation in policy."
- [London's](#) Architectural Association launches the AA Wood Lab, "a research center to transform the future of timber - an exciting step in shedding light on a long-underestimated material" (now accepting applications for research fellows and team members).
- [Gamolina's](#) great Q&A with Kirsten Sibilia, managing principal of Dattner Architects, on "catalyzing change": "I learned then what a small industry we're in, and how, by putting your best foot forward, having integrity, and being open to things, opportunities would come."
- [Stromberg](#) on "the bizarre story behind the newspaper ads criticizing LACMA's expansion plan" with the slogan "saveLACMA FROM TANKING": The ads were not from the non-profit Save LACMA, but placed by Goldin and Giovaninni's Citizens Brigade to Save LACMA ("They've been told repeatedly to cease and desist").
- [Paletta](#) delves into how Bucharest became the "Paris of the East" (it doubles as Paris in movies): "The city has an air of dilapidation that's charming - but somewhat alarming" (now on the World Monuments Fund Watch).
- [Hall has](#) a high time visiting Niemeyer's Brasília at 60 "to reassess" the "sort of" Brazilian Corbu's "incredibly welcoming and open city."
- [Landscape](#) architect Darryl Jones says "be still your hearts" - Larson's "The Devil in the White City" is "finally coming to the silver screen" (with DiCaprio producing and playing "the mysterious murderer-protagonist H.H. Holmes"), and imagines who would play Burnham, Sullivan, and Ferris

Weekend diversions:

- [A good reason](#) to find yourself in Palm Springs next week: it's Modernism Week!
- [If only](#) for a day, don't miss USModernist's annual benefit for the nonprofit at Modernism Week on Feb. 19 - at Wexler's 1954 Kirk and Anne Douglas House (RIP, Kirk).

- ["Critical Care"](#) at Berlin's DAZ offers "architecture for a broken planet" and "proves that architecture and urbanism can bring the planet back to life. The repair of the future has begun."
- [RIBA's "Forest of Fabrication"](#) show "asks if timber is the new concrete," with dRMM projects that demonstrate "novel forms and ways of building achieved with timber which may not be immediately obvious or apparent."
- [Ross-Southall](#) cheers "Charlotte Perriand: Inventing a New World" in Paris - a "magnificent and comprehensive" show that illustrates how "design, architecture, and art were always synchronized in her mind and work."
- [Gormley's](#) "New York Clearing" in NYC's Brooklyn Bridge Park is an 11-mile continuous "line" of square aluminum tubing that loops and coils nearly 50 feet at its tallest point - "part of a global art initiative launched by the Korean boyband BTS."
- [Langjahr](#) cheers Fiona Tan's "Archive / Ruins" at NYC's Peter Freeman gallery: Her "cinematic musings on the material future of architectures lays bare the delicacy of both structure and image in the face of our eternal, ever-evolving, unavoidably-mediated future."

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Katie Rogers & Robin Pogrebin: Draft Executive Order Would Give Trump a New Target: Modern Design: ...“Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again,” favors classical design for buildings...has drawn opposition from architects: ...spearheaded by the National Civic Art Society...architects say it would...give President Trump broad power to make aesthetic appraisals, something critics say he knows nothing about...approval of one school of architectural thought over another would create a dangerous and even cynical precedent for architects... -- Marion Smith; Roger K. Lewis; Benjamin Forgey; John Russell Pope; I.M. Pei; Amale Andraos; Sarah Dodge/AIA; Justin Shubow; Thom Mayne- New York Times

Lilly Smith: Trump’s executive order would impose classical style on federal buildings. Should we be worried? “There is reason for alarm in the rhetoric that the king of tasteless glitz is attempting to impose his personal brand on the physical manifestation of this nation” [Steven Heller, SVA]: “Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again” indicates that the Trump administration may be finding an architectural common ground with autocratic regimes of yesteryear too...Paul Goldberger tweeted, "It's what dictatorships do, not democracies"...Politico once called Trump's design taste "dictator chic"...[it] could be the nation's new official look. -- David Insinga; School of Visual Arts-Fast Company

AIA rejects Trump’s draft order for uniform federal architecture style: The American Institute of Architects issued a response to the potential executive order that could force all future federal buildings to be designed in the neoclassical style...[new rule] would change the core value of the General Service Administration’s Design Excellence Program...Numerous classicism-loving groups...called out the AIA for showing its “true colors,” accusing the organization of being opposed to “beauty and tradition.”- The Architect’s Newspaper

Living Future Collaborative in South Africa: The South African built environment faces numerous challenges and risks...The Collaborative believes in the Living Building Challenge philosophy and comprehensive approach...[It] aims to organise quarterly events centred around...what it means to go Net Zero Water/Energy, introducing the concepts of sustainability at schools, and advocating to bring transformation in policy. -- International Living Future



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Architectural Association School of Architecture launches experimental AA Wood Lab: ...a research center in which scientists and practitioners will come together to transform the future of timber...will function as part of Hooke Park, the AA's woodland campus in Dorset, U.K...recently opened applications for research fellows and team members... an exciting step in shedding light on a long-underestimated material... -- Zachary Mollica; John Makepeace/Parnham College; Frei Otto; Richard Burton; Ted Happold - The Architect's Newspaper

Julia Gamolina: Setting the Tone: Kirsten Sibilica on Her Own Way and Catalyzing Change: Q&A re: growing up in the industry and thinking strategically about firm evolution, advising young architects to appreciate where they work and to get involved: "I learned then what a small industry we're in, and how, by putting your best foot forward, having integrity, and being open to things, opportunities would come." - Madame Architect

Matt Stromberg: The Bizarre Story Behind the Newspaper Ads Criticizing LACMA's Expansion Plan: ...full-page ads appeared in both the New York Times and Los Angeles Times with the slogan "saveLACMA FROM TANKING": ..."The ad...was not created by Save LACMA"...The ads were actually placed by "The Citizens Brigade to Save LACMA" founded by Greg Goldin and Joseph Giovaninni..."They've been told repeatedly to cease and desist"...Rob Hollman contacted both the [NYT and LAT] to issue retractions. -- Peter Zumthor; Michael Govan - Hyperallergic

Anthony Paletta: How Did Bucharest Become 'Paris of the East?' It's not the only city to lay claim to that title, but the long overlooked Romanian capital is actually a treasure trove of French influences: ...a stock of French Renaissance Revival, neoclassical, and Beaux-Arts buildings to put almost any city outside of the French capital to shame...[It] doubles as Paris not infrequently in media... a huge number of Romanian architects studied at the École des Beaux-Arts...Romanian architecture schools...were heavily influenced by the Beaux-Arts model... the city has an air of dilapidation that's charming...but somewhat alarming...[It] was included on the 2016 World Monuments Fund Watch. -- Albert Ballu; Ion Mincu; Alexandru Savulescu; Paul Gottereau; Felix Xenopo; Arghir Culina; Alexandru Orascu; Nicolae Gregorescu; Albert Galleron; Charles Garnier; Bernard and Galleron; Louis Blanc; Jean Berthet; Walter Froy; Louis Weeks; I.D. Berindey - The Daily Beast

Chris Hall: A vision in concrete: Oscar Niemeyer's Brazil: As Brasília turns 60, it's time to reassess the legendary modernist architect on a visit to the Brazilian capital and Rio de Janeiro: Niemeyer was a sort of Brazilian Le Corbusier...and the more pictures I saw of his exotic modernism and the more I read about his socialist utopian vision, the more I wanted to see them...I worried before I visited...that it could be a little sterile, lacking in atmosphere, yet it's an incredibly

welcoming and open city...For an atheist, Niemeyer has made what must be one of the most beautiful churches in the world...Concrete jungle? Give me the concrete savannah any day. -- Paulo Niemeyer; Lúcio Costa - Observer (UK)

[Landscape architect]Darryl Jones: If We Are Lucky, New Film Could Boost Landscape Architecture: ...be still your hearts, because Frederick Law Olmsted is finally coming to the silver screen. Erik Larson's page-turner "The Devil in the White City," the compelling true story of the building of the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 and the vicious murders carried out in the shadows of its construction, is going to be made into a major motion picture. Leonardo DiCaprio...whose production company Appian Way purchased the screen rights...announced that [he] will produce the film and play the mysterious murderer-protagonist H.H. Holmes. -- Daniel Burnham; Louis Sullivan; George Ferriss - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Architecture Extends to Landscape Design: Modernism Week offers a series of presentations, book signings and its always-popular Modern Garden Tour, focused on midcentury and contemporary landscape architecture and design. - Palm Springs Life

A Magical Evening at the Kirk and Anne Douglas Estate [Donald Wexler, 1954], February 19: Nonprofit USModernist annual benefit for the nonprofit at Modernism Week in Palm Springs, California. - USModernist.org

"Critical Care" Exhibition on Architecture for a Broken Planet: ...presents 21 current projects from around the world...[the show] proves that architecture and urbanism can bring the planet back to life. The repair of the future has begun. DAZ / Deutsches Architektur Zentrum, Berlin, thru March 22 - DAZ / Deutsches Architektur Zentrum (Berlin)

A new RIBA show asks if timber is the new concrete: ...perhaps it's an old friend which will be the most help to architects amid the climate catastrophe: wood..."Forest of Fabrication" showcases 24 projects from dRMM, each represented primarily as wood models...demonstrates novel forms and ways of building achieved with timber which may not be immediately obvious or apparent. thru April 11 -- Alex de Rijke/dRMM (de Rijke Marsh Morgan); cross-laminated timber (CLT) - The Architect's Newspaper

Mika Ross-Southall: Charlotte Perriand's Prescient Designs for Modern Living: While working with Le Corbusier and his cousin, Pierre Jeanneret, for 10 years, Perriand advanced her vision of modern living: ...magnificent and comprehensive exhibition "Charlotte Perriand: Inventing a New World" at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris...visitors can walk into mock-ups of the spaces she created, sit on the furniture, and feel the materials...design, architecture, and art were always synchronized in her mind and work. thru February 24 - Hyperallergic

"New York Clearing" highlights the East River, with help from K-pop band BTS: Antony Gormley's large-scale installation at Brooklyn Bridge Park...consists of an 11-mile continuous "line" of square aluminum tubing that loops and coils without a beginning or endpoint. Standing nearly 50 feet at its tallest point...part of CONNECT, BTS, a global art initiative launched by the Korean boyband...a collaboration with curators across five cities on four continents... thru March 27 -

- [Daehyung Lee](#)- The Architect's Newspaper

[Kathleen Langjahr: The shadow of history looms large at Peter Freeman gallery: Fiona Tan's animated video installation "Archive"...Rendered in silent 3D...just one piece of a concise selection of works in "Archive / Ruins"...](#)Tan's cinematic musings on the material future of architectures lays bare, with her usual deftness, the delicacy of both structure and image in the face of our eternal, ever-evolving, unavoidably-mediated future. New York City, thru February 15.-
The Architect's Newspaper

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Today's News - Tuesday, February 11, 2020

- [Giovannini's](#): LACMA, Part I: "It's much worse than you think - the county and the museum, both evidently co-conspirators to keep hidden the galloping cost escalation [and] the deception about size - the spendthrift plan enshrines dysfunction" (and "a major architectural let-down" to boot).
- [Eck takes](#) issue with architects complaining "that our profession is somehow out of touch" and "irrelevant. Is there room for improvement? Always. But we have much to offer for a better world - we need to keep prodding and educating about what we do."
- [Nolle takes](#) issue with the School of Architecture at Taliesin becoming a non-accredited program - no one from the school or the FLW Foundation "has indicated what has changed to suddenly prefer a non-accredited program" - it seems that "neither entity is truly aligned with their mission statement or the legacy they have been entrusted to protect."
- [Taliesin](#) student Martinec makes the case that "the greatness of this place exists not in the buildings, but in the profound ideas that created them" - perhaps it's time to "start somewhere else" - if there's someone "with great means and fortitude" to support "a just cause and a great passion to continue - otherwise this is the end of FLW's way of learning architecture."
- [Betsky on](#) architectural history and "the move towards a more complex and global approach to teaching the past - treating your classes more like a collage than a hierarchical and focused body of knowledge can liberate us from the focus on the new and monumental."
- [Crosbie](#) on his approach to "teaching an appreciation for architecture through film. Might a cinematic experience offer non-architecture majors a way to access architecture in its most visceral ways?"
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: a Cherokee-red Frank Lloyd Wright-designed cat house finds a forever home at Ohio's Feline Historical Museum: "It may not be the most expensive FLW home ever sold, but it's certainly the cutest."

"Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again": take a deep breath before continuing (two thumbs-ups included):

- [Kimmelman](#): The draft executive order is "a shiny object, Twitter bait" that "provokes inevitable allusions to authoritarian regimes. Just to have this argument feels demeaning, like so much else about American public discourse today."
- [Davidson](#) says the plan proposed by "Trump's dumb grumps" is "boneheaded. But not worth the outrage. This administration's attack on the natural environment is far more dire - aesthetic arguments devolving into juvenile attacks on other people's taste" is "a losing game."
- [Leigh, no](#) surprise, says the draft executive order "has caused an uproar in the modernist-dominated architectural community - a sign that the draft is on the right track" (the High Line's "freak show of architectural novelties" included).
- [Brussat](#): "To most people, this looks like a long-overdue corrective - a start at reintegrating beauty and civility into a field where every aspect of city making has been the fiefdom of the few, to the dismay of the many."
- [Kamin's](#) advice: "Rip it up. Less than six weeks into 2020, we already have a leading candidate for the year's most misguided architectural idea" that "appalled some ardent classicists I contacted."

- [The Chicago Sun-Times Editorial Board](#): "The fear of an open society is palpable" - the order is "another intellectually shallow and self-aggrandizing move" that "belongs in the ashcan of history. One of marble, with domes and columns, if that helps."
- [King](#): "Scary thing is, the taste police might get their wish. When cultural zealots court a cynical politician, all bets are off - self-appointed design czars are guilty of the same fault they ascribe to modernists - an elitism that views any differing opinions with disdain."
- [Cramer](#): "Authoritarianism isn't a good look. Instead of playing politics over style, we should be working toward an architecture with zero-net carbon emissions, and the survival of civilization as we know it."
- [Wagner considers](#) "the ignorance and racism behind the right-wing push for 'classical' federal buildings" that "reflect the architectural philosophies of online white supremacists, a developer-president, and a right-wing think tank - it's so cheap that it's hard to ascribe any real morality to it" ("nincompoops" included).
- [Kolson Hurley](#): "A fringe group of traditionalists persuades the White House to take its side - rewriting Moynihan's guidelines would be draconian. A classicism mandate would signal to architects that innovation and progress are subversive" (and trad and mod are not really opposites).
- [Kennicott](#): The "Ozzie-and-Harriet document doesn't look terribly professional - risible" and "so old-fashioned - it's that over-the-top angry about issues most people simply don't argue about anymore."
- [Lamster](#): "Let's be clear about what it is: a waste of time, a needless distraction at a moment when the profession has far more serious issues to address. Let's focus on those challenges, and not waste our most precious architectural commodity: time."
- [Dickinson](#): "Dictating the terms of 'beauty' is a very slippery slope - there is no one true way, no Church of Architecture. There is no war in architecture, but there should be meaning and beauty."
- [Knowlton](#) School's Gannon: "With their thumb firmly on the scale from the outset, the authors' message is clear - the American debate on beauty is settled - entirely on the side of entrenched authority."
- [American Institute of Architects](#): "Given that the specific type of architecture preferred can increase the cost of a project (to up to three times as much) - to be borne by U.S. taxpayers, this is not an inconsequential concern - political appointees as the arbiters of architectural taste sets a dangerous precedent" and "thumps its nose at societal needs."
- [National Organization of Minority Architects](#): "We have a duty to advocate for design that reflects the values of the people we serve: ALL of the people. The Executive Order would signal the perceived superiority of a Eurocentric aesthetic. This notion is completely unacceptable."
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#): "The draft order would put at risk federal buildings that represent our full American story - to impose a narrow set of styles based on the architectural tastes of a few individuals will diminish, now and for the future, our rich legacy of federal architecture."
- [Docomomo US](#): The executive order would "set a dangerous precedent for how we value our nation's architectural diversity and history."
- [American Society of Landscape Architects](#) "believes that the public interest is best served by a collaborative place-based process that continues to produce federal projects that reflect the unique needs and values of each community and its citizens."



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[Joseph Giovannini: LACMA, Part I: Going Rogue: It's much worse than you think over at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art...the smoking email...the county and the museum, both evidently co-conspirators...to keep,,hidden the galloping cost escalation, thus perpetuating the near total lack of transparency that has characterized the project since its inception - even though the public is ultimately the client...There's also the deception about size...the loss of 54% of linear wall](#)



space...spendthrift plan is amateurish enough...enshrines dysfunction as a daily operational fact...a major architectural let-down. -- William Pereira; Norman Pfeiffer; Michael Govan; Peter Zumthor; Museum Associates- Los Angeles Review of Books

Jeremiah Eck: We Can't Get No Respect: Architects often complain that there is something wrong with the profession. Is there? The claim seems to be that our profession is somehow out of touch and...more and more irrelevant. Or: Future architects...are being hoodwinked and even cheated out of any future success...I'd argue that architects are more relevant than ever, that schools of architecture are doing a pretty good job...So why aren't architects more a part of the process? Architects too often blame themselves first...the answer lies in a larger cultural context...Sadly, we live in a kind of new Dark Age...devoid of any real artistic understanding...Is there room for improvement? Always. But we have much to offer for a better world...we need to keep prodding and educating about what we do... -- Eck|MacNeely Architects- Common Edge

Gabriel Nolle: Can the School of Architecture at Taliesin Still Be Saved? ...Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation would like to pursue a non-accredited education program...Non-accredited architecture programs...are great ways to introduce concepts and hopefully inspire future architects, but they do not have the rigor or legal ability to credential graduates. Only an accredited degree in architecture can do that...no one from either institution has indicated what has changed to suddenly prefer a non-accredited program...In the desire for each...to control the narrative...it is becoming increasingly obvious that neither entity is truly aligned with their mission statement or the legacy they have been entrusted to protect. -- Stuart Graff; Aaron Betsky - Archinect

Alex Martinec, student, School of Architecture at Taliesin: Is it a greater offense to destroy all of the buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, or the ideas he established? ...the greatness of this place exists not in the physical embodiment of the buildings themselves, but in the profound ideas that created them...Maybe it is time that Taliesin changes...We fully embody the nature of this place and start somewhere else...If there is anyone with great means and fortitude...we have a just cause and a great passion to continue now and for the generations to come. But the time is now, otherwise this is the end of FLW's way of learning architecture. -- Aaron Betsky - Dezeen

Aaron Betsky: The Opening of our Architectural History: the move towards a more complex and global approach to teaching the past: ...abandon...the historical progression and the spatial sweep that a true survey class would necessitate...treating your classes - and, by extension, the history of art and architecture - more like a collage than a hierarchical and focused body of knowledge...can liberate us from the focus on the new and monumental...and the political, social, and economic status quo. This is a necessary enterprise not only as we contemplate architecture's past, but also its future.- Architect Magazine

Michael J. Crosbie: Teaching an Appreciation for Architecture Through Film: A course for undergraduates aimed at inspiring an awareness of the built environment: Might a cinematic experience offer non-architecture majors a way

to access architecture in its most visceral ways? "Architecture In Film" invites students to experience architecture as a character that might propel a film's narrative, symbolize certain people in the movie, or transport us to worlds that we can grasp only through architecture. - Common Edge

Frank Lloyd Wright's Mid-century cat house has a perfect home of its own: It may not be the most expensive [FLW] home ever sold, but it's certainly the cutest. A 1.2sqm cat house, designed...during the building of Cincinnati landmark Tonkens House in 1954, awaits visitors to Ohio's Feline Historical Museum...has a prowling platform and is painted in Wright's favourite Mid-century colour: Cherokee Red... "Residents for Felis Catus" (sic)...came up for auction with online decor traders 1stDibs. They paid US\$14,000 (NZ\$21,600). - Stuff (New Zealand)

Michael Kimmelman: MAGA War on Architectural Diversity Weaponizes Greek Columns: The Trump administration may impose a classical style on new federal buildings, a proposal aimed at the heart of modernism and diversity: ... "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...would take aim at various forms of modernism and seeks to undo the widely admired Design Excellence Program of the [GSA]...it almost seems conceived to provoke supporters of both modern architecture and architectural diversity. It's a shiny object, Twitter bait...provokes inevitable allusions to authoritarian regimes...Just to have this argument feels demeaning, like so much else about American public discourse today. -- David Adjaye; David Insinga; National Civic Art Society; Thomas Phifer; Ross Barney - New York Times

Justin Davidson: Trump's Classical-Architecture Edict Is Dumb - But Not Worth the Outrage: It's boneheaded. But it doesn't censor architects or stifle creativity in the country at large: I'm saving my outrage. ...idea cooked up by a crackpot cabal of ideologues who hate not just modern architecture but modernity itself...This administration's attack on the natural environment is far more dire...It doesn't portend architectural apocalypse...not a crushing burden compared with the more mundane restrictions architects contend with every day...aesthetic arguments...devolving into juvenile attacks on other people's taste. It's a losing game. - New York Magazine

Catesby Leigh: Make Architecture Classical Again: Trump should give traditional idioms priority in the design of federal buildings: ...[draft executive order] has caused an uproar in the modernist-dominated architectural community...a sign that the draft is on the right track...The nation would benefit handsomely if the federal government made it a policy to offer humanistic alternatives to the dehumanized anomie afflicting our contemporary architecture...modernism has yielded not norms but extreme stylistic instability...Such instability lies at the heart of the deeply impoverished stylistic "diversity" that the AIA advocates... - City Journal/The Manhattan Institute

David Brussat: Bring diversity to fed design: "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" leads with its chin...it is no surprise that ranks of establishment architects have stumbled over each other to criticize the proposal...To most people, this looks like a long-overdue corrective...Should there be an official style? Probably not...But there has been an official style...and it has uglified cities and towns since time immemorial. A federal boost for classicism...would be a long-overdue start at reintegrating beauty and civility into a field where...every aspect of city

making [has] been the fiefdom of the few, to the dismay of the many. -- National Civic Art Society - Architecture Here and There

Blair Kamin: A plan mandating classical and traditional design for federal buildings could be heading for Trump's desk. My advice: Rip it up: Less than six weeks into 2020, we already have a leading candidate for the year's most misguided architectural idea... "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...only deems certain styles "beautiful"...would force architects to drape federal buildings in classical or traditional garb instead of allowing local communities to decide...[proposal] appalled some ardent classicists I contacted...Trump could do the right thing and kill the plan, which would cement for decades an architectural legacy that is profoundly anti-democratic. -- Michael Lykoudis/University of Notre Dame School of Architecture; Aric Lasher/HBRA Architects - Chicago Tribune

John King: Trump's next target could be his most cynical yet - modern architecture: San Francisco Federal Building...a poster child for a handful of people who hate modern architecture - hate it so much they want Trump to pretty much ban any new federal buildings that don't look like they were designed in 1903. Scary thing is, the taste police might get their wish. When cultural zealots court a cynical politician, all bets are off...self-appointed design czars are guilty of the same fault they ascribe to modernists - an elitism that views any differing opinions with disdain...Realistically, I can't imagine Trump caring one way or another...Architecture doesn't have the power to right larger wrongs. But federal buildings should...not try to pretend somehow that the 21st century does not exist. -- National Civic Art Society; Thom Mayne/Morphosis - San Francisco Chronicle

Ned Cramer: An Executive Order on Federal Architecture Is Serious Business: Where government buildings are concerned, what matters is not taste, but the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens: "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...would overturn the government's 58-year-old prohibition against an official architectural style...Authoritarianism isn't a good look...Instead of playing politics over style, we should be working toward an architecture with zero-net carbon emissions, and the survival of civilization as we know it. -- David Insinga; Marion Smith/National Civic Art Society - Architect Magazine

Kate Wagner: Duncing About Architecture: The ignorance and racism behind the right-wing push for "classical" federal buildings: ...new executive order - spearheaded by the National Civic Art Society...reflects the architectural philosophies of online white supremacists...a developer-president and a right-wing thinktank...a "President's Committee for the Re-Beautification of Federal Architecture"...would exclude "artists, architects, engineers, art or architecture critics, members of the building industry...this is insane and borderline-totalitarian...Claiming to speak for the aesthetic tastes of the Everyman is a trick tucked up the sleeve of both Don Draper and Albert Speer; it's so cheap that it's hard to ascribe any real morality to it. -- Justin Shubow; Catesby Leigh; Marion Smith; McMansionHell - The New Republic

Amanda Kolson Hurley: Trump's Bizarre Plan to Make Architecture Classical Again: A fringe group of traditionalists persuades the White House to take its side: ...rewriting Moynihan's guidelines...would be draconian. It would effectively exclude many working architects from federal projects...classicism and

modernism...exist on a continuum, and choosing between them is unnecessary...Style has almost nothing to do with the qualities of architecture that really matter...A classicism mandate would signal to architects that innovation and progress are subversive... -- Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society; Louis Kahn; David Adjaye; Frank Gehry - The Atlantic

Philip Kennicott: Why Trump shouldn't be allowed to dictate how federal buildings are designed: Proposed executive order...points to a design group gaining power: ...draft document...doesn't look terribly professional...offers broad and clumsy definitions of architectural styles...carefully tailored to a particular grievance-ridden form of populism...would limit the flexibility of architects to find efficient solutions to basic problems...this isn't about giving the public what it wants. It's about...making it seem as if there is no middle ground between liking traditional architecture and liking contemporary architecture...risable...so old-fashioned...it's that over-the-top angry about issues most people simply don't argue about anymore. -- Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society - Washington Post

Mark Lamster: Hope you like Greek columns: Trump order would mandate classical architecture for Federal buildings: ...would mandate public review panels explicitly barring architects, engineers...in the postwar years...the U.S. turned specifically to modern architecture...as expressions of American transparency, optimism and technical prowess...let's be clear about what it is: a waste of time, a needless distraction at a moment when the profession of architecture has far more serious issues to address...Let's focus on those challenges, and not waste our most precious architectural commodity: time. -- David Insinga; Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society; Albert Speer - Dallas Morning News

Duo Dickinson: The Insanity of a State Sanctioned Style for Architecture: Dictating the terms of "beauty" is a very slippery slope: Treating architecture as civic wallpaper - with "Traditional" and "Modern" veneers viewed as criteria for moral judgment - has been a battle between true believers of both sides for a century...There is no heresy in architecture, because architecture has no Canon...Whether it's Architectural Record, the AIA, or the President's Committee for the Re-Beautification of Federal Architecture, there is no one true way, no Church of Architecture...There is no war in architecture, but there should be meaning and beauty. Dictating the terms of beauty, sanctioning a state style, is the essence of authoritarianism. -- Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society - Common Edge

Todd Gannon: On beauty, value, and justice in federal architecture in America: In American society, beauty, value, and justice are determined...through often-contentious debates...American society is not based on timeless values, religious doctrine, or ancient edicts. It is based on mutual agreement...With their thumb firmly on the scale from the outset, the authors'...message is clear...the American debate on beauty...is settled...The authors of "Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" thus work entirely on the side of entrenched authority, and rightly recognize the federal buildings of Breuer, Morphosis, Scogin, Elam, and others as subtly subversive. These works signal that the brilliance of American democracy issues from its accommodation of periodic reinvention... -- Ohio State University Knowlton School - The Architect's Newspaper

AIA issues letter to President Trump opposing proposed executive order: AIA 2020 President Jane Frederick, FAIA, and EVP/CEO Robert Ivy, FAIA, issued the following letter: We appreciated meeting with your staff (Mr. James Sherk) on January 15...it was our understanding that this draft executive order was not moving forward. We were shocked and disappointed to hear that it is still in circulation...Given that the specific type of architecture preferred...can increase the cost of a project (to up to three times as much)...Since these costs would have to be borne by U.S. taxpayers, this is not an inconsequential concern. ..political appointees as the arbiters of architectural taste...sets a dangerous precedent...It thumbs its nose at societal needs... - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Special Statement on Executive Order: ...the idea that all Federal architecture would be restricted to neoclassical expression is particularly troubling in its cultural exclusivity and imposition of substantial limitations on design thinking...Given the historical significance of NOMA, rooted in the African-American experience, we are especially cognizant [that] such buildings in certain contexts stand as symbols and painful reminders of centuries of oppression and the harsh realities of racism...We have a duty to advocate for design that reflects the values of the people we serve: ALL of the people. The Executive Order...would signal the perceived superiority of a Eurocentric aesthetic. This notion is completely unacceptable... - National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)

National Trust for Historic Preservation Opposes Proposed Executive Order Mandating "Traditional" Architectural Styles for Federal Buildings: ...architecture is a record of the American lived experience, and our work at the NTHP is to ensure that a record of places that matter is retained as a recollection of our journey as a people...The draft order would put at risk federal buildings...that represent our full American story, and would have a chilling effect on new design...to impose a narrow set of styles for future federal projects based on the architectural tastes of a few individuals that will diminish, now and for the future, our rich legacy of federal architecture. - National Trust for Historic Preservation/NTHP

Society of Architectural Historians Letter in Opposition to Proposed Executive Order "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again": While we appreciate and encourage the attention paid to new federal [buildings]...we nonetheless remain convinced that the dictation of style - any style - is not the path to excellence in civic architecture...America's best can be embodied in an architectural expression that is monumental, permanent, community-centered, and beautiful. - Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

Docomomo US Response to Draft Executive Order: ...would roll back Federal architectural policy by nearly 60 years and set a dangerous precedent for how we value our nation's architectural diversity and history...decision could create long standing issues with new and also existing facilities that have achieved significance since the 1960s. - DOCOMOMO US

ASLA Opposes Executive Order on Design Mandates: Designers of the built environment should not be confined by arbitrary constraints that would limit federal building projects to a single style. ASLA believes that the public interest is best served by a collaborative place-based process that continues to produce federal projects that reflect the unique needs and values of each community and

 [its citizens.](#) - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

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Today's News - Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Let's get "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" and other disturbing news over with first

- [Kamin's](#) second take on the "profoundly misguided proposal" that "is devolving into a superficial style war. No style has a monopoly on quality. Both sides need to take off ideological blinders. The point is choice, and maintaining the ability to choose."
- [Lykoudis](#) of Notre Dame School of Architecture: "Trump's plan for federal buildings is a bad idea" that "potentially reduces an entire architectural philosophy to a caricature. Arbitrarily pasting columns and arches on a building doesn't make the building classical" (it's also "pretentious").
- [Brussat's](#) second take: "The classicists have formed a classic circular firing squad," with some "willing to play into the modernists' weak hand - popular preference for classical and traditional architecture gives classicists a big advantage. If we have the courage to fight this battle."
- [In other](#) dark news, Darke delves into Idlib, Syria's "ancient, ruined riches - endangered and largely forgotten amid the bombs."
- [Venice is](#) "choking on its own pollution" with diesel-powered vaporetti spewing out tons of carbon - a prototype hydrogen-powered vaporetto sits idle "because Italian law doesn't allow boats powered by alternatives to fossil fuel to sail."
- ["Controlled](#) blasting" inside Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, "home to sacred Native American burial sites," has begun to make way for a border wall "without consultation from the Native American nation."

Now for some good news

- [Johannesburg-based](#) Counterspace Architects, the youngest-ever Serpentine Pavilion designers (3 partners turn 30 this year), is planning a pavilion "based on and inspired by places where people gather across London."
- [Betsky](#): cheers small design-build projects that "offer an alternative to the profession's focus on the big and profitable. It is the small projects that give me hope."
- [Morgan gives](#) thumbs-up (and down) to Fox Point, "one of the most intriguing areas of Providence undergoing some remarkable changes" - too bad there's "a near frenzy of domestic construction" with row houses being "replaced by vanilla plain boxes - [they] are cheap and they look it - threatening the very character that makes the neighborhood so appealing in the first place."
- [Eyefuls](#) of projects by "architects obsessed with turning cities into forests to combat climate change. These unreal photos show that the extraordinary idea actually works - biophilia should be used to bridge the gap between 'the haves and the have nots.'"
- [Nicholas](#) de Monchaux appointed to lead the Department of Architecture at the MIT School of Architecture and Planning "at a time of rapid technological change, enormous environmental challenges, and equally sweeping social shifts."

- [Rice parses](#) former Architect of the Capitol Stephen T. Ayers' 22-year "legacy of leadership," who is now "leading AIA through the study, design and renovation of its headquarters building in Washington, D.C."
- [Landscape](#) educator, historian, and curator John Beardsley is selected to curate the inaugural Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize (\$100,000 purse).

Winners all:

- [CTBUH announces](#) the winners of its Lifetime Achievement Award, 2020 Fellows, and 10-Year Award of Excellence winners.
- [Nine projects](#) take home the 2020 Innovative Design in Engineering and Architecture with Structural Steel Awards (IDEAS2).
- [Winners](#) of the 2020 U.S. WoodWorks Wood Design Awards announced.
- [Eyefuls](#) of the MICROHOME 2019 - Small Living, Huge Impact! design competition that is "spearheading the Small Scale Architecture Appreciation Movement" (see Betsky above).

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Blair Kamin: Don't impose classicism on federal buildings - but don't demonize it either. Let communities choose what kind of architecture they want: ...the debate over a profoundly misguided proposal...is devolving into a superficial style war - a new front in the culture wars roiling Donald Trump's America...Style wars invariably fail to address the underlying characteristics...that render architecture and urban design worthy or not. No style...has a monopoly on quality. The problem [is] the imposition of classicism...from a single central authority...Both sides...need to take off ideological blinders...The point is the choice, and maintaining the ability to choose. -- National Civic Art Society; Richard H. Driehaus - Chicago Tribune

Michael Lykoudis: I teach architecture. Trump's plan for federal buildings is a bad idea: Even though I have devoted my career to teaching generations of students the importance and relevance of classical architecture, I read with great dismay...about a potential presidential executive order...“Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again” potentially reduces an entire architectural philosophy to a caricature. Arbitrarily pasting columns and arches on a building...doesn't make the building classical....many government buildings are unappealing to the eye, bland at best and sometimes outright hostile...But the solution isn't the imposition of a uniform style by the executive branch. Architecture does not belong to one political faction or another - it transcends them all. -- University of Notre Dame School of Architecture; David M. Schwarz Architects; Marc & Nada Breitman; Merrill, Pastor & Colgan Architects - Washington Post

David Brussat: Unify in the fight for beauty: The draft executive order to encourage classical architecture for federal buildings...has shifted the world of architecture on its axis...What has happened since Feb. 4...is that the forces of modernism have coalesced in a high and mighty dudgeon of opposition...In response, the classicists have formed a classic circular firing squad...some classicists seem so willing to play...into the modernists' weak hand..widespread popular preference for classical and traditional architecture...gives classicists a big advantage. If we have the courage to fight this battle. So, please, let us unify. If we don't, there will be no second chance. - Architecture Here and There



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Diana Darke: Syria war: Forgotten amid the bombs: Idlib's ancient, ruined riches: The haunting beauty of Syria's so-called Dead Cities, once seen, is never forgotten. Here on the wild and magical hills of the north-west nestles the world's richest repository of 4th, 5th and 6th Century churches - over 2,000: ...today...they are endangered and largely forgotten...So forgotten were they, that...Unesco only recognised as them as a World Heritage Site in June 2011...Confusion over what to call them remains, but beyond doubt is their astonishing state of preservation...The ancestor of France's beloved Notre-Dame Cathedral still stands... - BBC News

Stopping Venice choking on its own pollution: It is well-known that Venice is drowning as global sea levels rise because of climate change. Less well-known is that it is also choking on its own pollution. Hundreds of diesel-powered vaporetti - commuter boats or water buses - spew out tonnes of carbon as they zigzag through the city's canals...But some...believe they have at least a partial answer...an alternative vaporetto powered...by hydrogen, a fuel that emits only water vapour...Still, [it] won't be taking to Venice's waters anytime soon...A prototype...is sitting idle...because Italian law doesn't allow boats powered by alternatives to fossil fuel to sail. - BBC (UK)

Arizona national monument, home to sacred Native American burial sites, is being blown up for the border wall: "Controlled blasting" inside Arizona's Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument began without consultation from the Native American nation...land is also a designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve...many people are concerned with how the unnatural barrier will irreparably impact [the] unique habitat...Trump administration has waived dozens of laws - including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Environmental Protection Act - in its bid to construct the border wall. - CBS News

Counterspace Architects to be Youngest Serpentine Pavilion Designers: South African firm will celebrate London communities in the Serpentine Galleries' 50th year: ...led by Sumayya Vally, Sarah de Villiers and Amina Kaskar. Each will be 30 this year...pavilion to be based on and inspired by places where people gather across London, particularly migrant and other peripheral communities. - Guardian (UK)

Aaron Betsky: A Movement in Miniature: Small design-build projects in communities around the globe offer an alternative to the profession's focus on the big and profitable: It is the small projects that give me hope...architects and activists are working with communities to develop structures that house people in not just decent, but beautiful ways; they are building...centers for learning and healing. They are experimenting with materials that are local, recycled, or easily reusable. They are offering alternative careers for nascent architects...The roots of such activities lie in the "tactical urbanism"... -- Scarcity and Creativity Studio; Urban Think Tank; Rural Studio - Architect Magazine

William Morgan: Fox Point Success Story: ...one of the most intriguing areas of

Providence, and one that is undergoing some remarkable changes...Part of [its] extraordinary renaissance is the surge of restaurants and businesses...[and] a near frenzy of domestic construction that is at once hopeful and alarming...row houses are being torn down and replaced by the lowest-end real estate...vanilla plain boxes that make almost no attempts to ameliorate the blandness of their shape...[they] are cheap and they look it...Alas, the success...is threatening the very character that makes the neighborhood so appealing in the first place. -- Jeff Pivorunas; Laura Briggs & Jonathan Knowles/Briggs Knowles Architecture + Design - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Radical architects are obsessed with turning cities into forests to combat climate change. These unreal photos show that the extraordinary idea actually works: Biophilic design has become popular among architects wanting to combat air pollution...Singapore's Supertrees, Amazon's Spheres, and indoor cloud forests are just some examples of how architects and botanists are working together...biophilia should be used to bridge the gap between "the haves and the have nots." -- Patrick Blanc; Stefano Boeri; Laura Gatti; Margaret Montgomery/NBBJ; WilkinsonEyre - Business Insider

Nicholas de Monchaux appointed to lead the Department of Architecture at the MIT School of Architecture and Planning: ...renowned scholar, educator, designer, architect, urbanist, and public intellectual, [he] will bring extensive experience and a broad perspective to leading the department at a time of rapid technological change, enormous environmental challenges, and equally sweeping social shifts. -- Kathryn Mol/modern - MIT School of Architecture and Planning

Justin Rice: Former Architect of the Capitol, Stephen T. Ayers, Leaves Legacy of Leadership on Capitol Hill: ...worked for the AOC for 22 years, including 11 as the agency's leader...only the 11th person to hold the position...established in 1793...oversaw the upkeep and preservation of more than 17.4 million sq ft of facilities and 580 acres of grounds on the Capitol campus...[he] is a consultant and project executive...leading AIA through the study, design and renovation of its headquarters building in Washington, D.C. -- J. Brett Blanton; Bill Bonstra/Bonstra | Haresign Architects - ENR/Engineering News Record

Landscape educator and historian John Beardsley selected to curate inaugural Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize: The prize, which is set to be awarded for the first time in 2021 and will come with a \$100,000 cash award...Beardsley is an influential writer, curator, historian, and professor who has taught and worked at the intersection of landscape and culture for decades. -- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) - Archinect

CTBUH Names Lifetime Achievement Award Winners, 2020 Fellows & 10-Year Award of Excellence Winners: Lynn S. Beedle Lifetime Achievement Award: Moshe Safdie, Safdie Architects Fazlur R. Khan Lifetime Achievement Award: Wuren Wang, CITIC Heye Investment Co.; 5 CTBUH Fellows: Guo-Qiang Li, Tongji University; James Parakh, City of Toronto Planning Division; Javier Quintana de Una, IDOM UK; Irene Wai, Kai Shing Management Services; Carol Willis, The Skyscraper Museum - Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

Nine structures honored in 2020 IDEAS2 Awards for innovative steel design: 2020 Innovative Design in Engineering and Architecture with Structural Steel

Awards (or IDEAS2 for short)...regarded as the highest honor in in the U.S. structural steel industry. -- ROSSETTI; ISTUDIO Architects; ikon.5 architect; DLR Group; AC Martin Partners; SmithGroup; HOK; Ross Barney Architects; Little Diversified Architectural Consulting; American Institute of Steel Construction - Archinect

2020 U.S. WoodWorks Wood Design Awards winners -- Hacker; Leers Weinzapfel Associates; modus studio (AOR); Mackey Mitchell Architects; Neumann Monson Architects; LEVER Architecture; SOM/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Opsi Architecture; Rowell Brokaw Architects (AOR); Jones and Jones; HGA; Siegel & Strain Architects; eytc. - The Architect's Newspaper

MICROHOME 2019 - Small Living, Huge Impact! design competition results: ...spearheading the Small Scale Architecture Appreciation Movement...winning entries were innately hopeful in nature, offering sustainable, small housing solutions with many possibilities for use and implementation. -- Jerry Liu & Jesse Basran (Canada); Bilyana Apostolova & Slavena Todorova (Bulgaria); Raina Kanari (Sweden) - Bee Breeders (formerly HMMD/Homemade Dessert)

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Today's News - Thursday, February 13, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, February 18.

- [ANN feature](#): Design Workshop's MacRae & Ficht offer three trends in landscape architecture that they see growing this year: converting antiquated roadways into green infrastructure systems; addressing cultural and ecological inequities; and tackling air quality as part of climate change.
- [Kamin cheers](#) a "beautifully remade" former Chicago public housing project that he wants to "label a great success," but is it - when it will have 525 fewer affordable units.
- [The New](#) York Botanical Gardens has "backed away" from plans to build a housing/hotel project in the Bronx "in favor of a project that's more closely aligned with the needs of the neighborhood" - instead, it will be affordable housing (no architect named).
- [The Brooklyn](#) Botanic Garden, on the other hand, is in a "Fight for Sunlight" after the NYC mayor gets behind a massive mega-project that the BBG fears would cause "serious injury to its collection of rare and exotic plants - a result of shadows cast by the development's 39-story towers."
- [Mortice](#) delves into designing affordable housing in African American neighborhoods, and how "architects navigate class, race, identity, and community in a privatized system - many don't think we can deal with today's housing crisis - let alone tomorrow's - in the current policy regime."

Speaking of African-American neighborhoods - it's Black History Month

- [The Library](#) of Congress offers fab photographer Camilo J. Vergara's fab archive of images of African American communities going back to the 1970s "that bear witness to discrimination, hardship, perseverance, ingenuity and pride."
- [A look at](#) "10 Black architects whose work has shaped America" - despite "extreme disadvantages. Their recognition is long overdue."
- [A Q&A](#) with Francis Kéré re: "insights into his creative process, preferred materials, and the importance of education."
- ["Hollywood's](#) Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story" is a new feature-length documentary about his "wildly prolific career," now on PBS channels and streaming online.

More meditations on the "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" draft executive order

- [Betsky says](#) the mandate is "misguided - quality matters more than style. Let Trump have his GRFC columns and pediments. Good architects can use any style. Let's argue for openness, sustainability, and the deep beauty that comes from building truly democratic structures instead."
- [Gutschow](#) of Carnegie Mellon mulls "why so many architects are angered" by the order: "As a historian of modern architecture, I share their suspicions" - the classical style doesn't always symbolize democratic ideals of

self-governance - restricting designs to one particular style rejects the diverse tastes and ideals of the American people."

- [Phineas Harper](#) of the U.K.'s Architecture Foundation is "a defender of traditional architecture" - but ponders: "What ethical blind spots have allowed the arguments of traditional architecture to be co-opted by political extremists? For too long, fans of traditional architecture have ignored the darker side of our movement."

- [Postrel](#) ponders "the faux populism of Trumpified architecture" that "replaces one set of insiders with an even snootier one" - the National Civic Art Society's "formerly obscure views are now enjoying the world's largest megaphone - classicism itself is no guarantee of good civic architecture."

- [Casey is](#) glad that "San Antonio's new federal courthouse is well underway," else "it might have to be radically redrawn. Should Texans be restricted to structures that require Corinthian columns and arches? Why not also require our state senators to wear togas?"

Weekend diversions:

- [A good reason](#) to head to Phoenix next week: the 13th annual Meeting of the Minds summit - "the best place to find actionable, replicable, and scalable solutions to urban challenges, and to build the partnerships needed for their implementation."

- [Evan Nicole Brown](#) explains "why architecture should have won a best supporting role in 'Parasite'" for being "an extraordinary study in how our built environments create narratives - using design as an allegory for class tension and human fallibility."

- [Jung tells](#) the fascinating story of how the dwellings in "Parasite" were "built from scratch - four different sets mixed together in postproduction. Much like the movie itself, a minimalist façade belies a devilish complexity - and shows us how foolish we were to have been lulled by its beauty."

- [Wainwright](#) has a great conversation with "the seer of sizzling city architecture" Koolhaas, prior to his "Countryside, The Future" opening at the Guggenheim, who "explains his epiphany" (a brothel outside of Reno involved): "Is this epic exhibition his swan song? 'Am I going to retire?' he barks, incredulously, before changing the subject to a new kind of tractor" (video trailer included).

- [Marcus Field](#) cheers "Art Deco By The Sea" at the U.K.'s at the Sainsbury Centre that "feeds our hunger for glam" and "that gloriously optimistic design movement that revolutionised British holiday resorts" (great pix!).

Page-turners:

- [Budds considers](#) Chayka's "The Longing for Less: Living With Minimalism" that traces how the term "has become an 'oppressive gospel' - what was once a useful concept for provoking mindfulness has become a superficial style," and explores "how we might establish a healthier relationship with it."

- [Welton x 2](#): He talks to Kamin, who "credits an art history course at Amherst College for turning his head toward architecture criticism," about his latest tome "Amherst College: The Campus Guide." is designed to be read at home or taken out for a stroll around campus...photography by Ralph Lieberman is crisp, telling and descriptive...It may have started small, but it would eventually soar - architecturally and academically.

- [He continues](#) his conversation with Kamin re: his new book about Amherst that "paints a telling picture of his alma mater."



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[ANN feature: INSIGHT: Jim MacRae & Jason Ficht: 2020 Trends in Landscape Architecture: Three trends we anticipate growing this year: addressing air quality as part of climate change; cultural and ecological inequities; and converting antiquated roadways into green infrastructure systems.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com



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Blair Kamin: A former North Side public housing project is beautifully remade, but at what cost? ...former Julia C. Lathrop Homes...once was the antithesis of the Chicago Housing Authority's high-rise hells, but later spiraled into physical decay and worse....touring the...transformation, I was tempted to label [it] a great success...But there's a catch: When the remake is done, [it] will have...1,116 housing units, but just 400...will be public housing - 525 fewer than before.....is it smart policy? [CHA] has yet to fully make good on its promise to replace [the] 525 lost public housing...The architecture and landscape...deserve high praise. But it's too early to tell if the architects of public policy have succeeded... -- Michael Van Valkenburgh; Jens Jensen; McGuire Iglewski & Associates; HED; JGMA; bKL Architecture - Chicago Tribune

New York Botanical Gardens plans Bronx affordable housing project: The project would bring 450 below-market rate apartments to Bedford Park: ...two 12-story residential buildings...The NYBG has mulled development for the land since at least 2016 when it sought to build housing and a hotel...has since backed away from a hotel in favor of a project that's more closely aligned with the needs of the neighborhood... - Curbed New York

Mayor de Blasio supports development poised to devastate Brooklyn Botanic Garden: ...threw his hat into the "Fight for Sunlight" controversy...undermined the expert opinion of professional green thumbs, architects, and executives at BBG...when he suggested that building a massive residential complex a stones throw away from the beloved horticultural museum would cause no serious injury to its collection of rare and exotic plants...Garden stewards have maintained a firm opposition to the...[1,578-unit] mixed-use complex...half of which would be...so-called "affordable"...[BBG] fearing the destruction of plant life as a result of shadows cast by the development's 39-story towers. - Brooklyn Paper

Zach Mortice: A Seat at the Table: To design affordable housing in African American neighborhoods, architects navigate class, race, identity, and community in a privatized system. But can things get better? ...architects, especially when working with marginalized people, need to...push themselves beyond their own lived experiences in order to help grow communities organically...many architects working in affordable housing don't think we can deal with today's housing crisis - let alone tomorrow's - in the current policy regime...Sorkin says: "A sensitive government working with good architects could definitely pull it off. We could do it." -- Michael Sorkin Studio/Terreform; Jack Schroeder/Landon Bone Baker; Juan Moreno/JGMA; Davila Parker-Garcia/Weinstein A+U; Rico Quirindongo/DLR Group; Kimberly Dowdell/National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) - Architect Magazine

African American Communities in America's Cities: Photographs by Camilo J. Vergara: He has photographed America's cities since the 1970s...images that bear witness to discrimination, hardship, perseverance, ingenuity and pride. - Library of Congress

10 Black Architects Whose Work Has Shaped America: Under extreme disadvantages, black architects have played a pivotal role in construction across the US. Their recognition is long overdue: The existence of black architects

today is part of an arduous and continuing process, fueled by gradual socio-political change...due to pioneering individuals... -- Robert Robinson Taylor; Julian Abele; Vertner Woodson Tandy; Paul Revere Williams; Norma Merrick Sklarek; Moses McKissack III; Beverly Loraine Greene; Clarence W. 'Cap' Wigington; Allison Williams; Roberta Washington - Architizer

10 Questions With ... Francis Kéré: His work often blurs the line between architecture and art. Q&A re: insights into his creative process, preferred materials, and the importance of education..."if you have people that know the rules of architecture or the art of architecture and are compelled to think outside the box, you could create great things...my dream project is to work with a client who is visionary enough to work with [me] and allow things to happen." -- Kéré Architecture. - Interior Design magazine

Paul R. Williams gets the star treatment in new PBS documentary: [His] career...was defined by glitz, glam, and a remarkable triumph over adversity that helped pave the way for countless architects to follow. Now, Williams and his work will at long last celebrated in a new feature-length documentary film, "Hollywood's Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story"...blazed previously impassible trails...wildly prolific career spanned over 50 years...[film] can now be viewed on PBS channels nationwide and streamed online here. - The Architect's Newspaper

Aaron Betsky: Mandating Classicism for Government Buildings is Misguided, But So What? The dust up over the proposed executive order and why quality matters more than style: ...it is ridiculous to enforce the use of any kind of style for the design of public buildings in a reputed democracy...let's instead fight for what matters: quality government contributions to our democratic built environment...The bigger problem is that we are not building what we really need...Let Trump have his Classicism. Good architects can use any style. Let's argue for openness, sustainability, and the deep beauty that comes from building truly democratic structures instead. - Architect Magazine

Kai Gutschow: Why so many architects are angered by "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again": As a historian of modern architecture, I share their suspicions...I fear that it will ultimately stifle innovation and reverse recent federal support for architectural experimentation...drafted by the National Civic Art Society...considers modernist architecture to be "a failure"...the classical style doesn't always symbolize democratic ideals of self-governance...often masks a fondness toward traditional European culture - and, by extension, an aversion to "the other"...restricting designs to one particular style rejects the diverse tastes and ideals of the American people. - The Conversation

Phineas Harper: Traditional architecture has frequently been leveraged to support violent political agendas: A draft executive order...is the latest example of how traditional architecture is used to disguise racist agendas: "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" edict...What ethical blindspots have allowed the arguments of traditional architecture to be co-opted by political extremists? Traditional architects have a responsibility to think and act more critically when it comes to how their work is used and abused by others...For too long, fans of traditional architecture have ignored the darker side of our movement...We now need to become ferocious defenders of threatened communities, whatever style of housing they live in. -- Architecture Foundation - Dezeen

Virginia Postrel: The Faux Populism of Trumpified Architecture: An order for designing federal buildings replaces one set of insiders with an even snootier one: [National Civic Art Society's] formerly obscure views are now enjoying the world's largest megaphone...draft executive order establishes a President's Committee for the Re-Beautification of Federal Architecture...specifically excluding "artists, architects, engineers, art or architecture critics"....anyone who knows what they're talking about. Architects and critics were apoplectic...The response demonstrates how...Trump manages to effectively troll snooty elites...classicism itself is no guarantee of good civic architecture. -- Catesby Leigh - Bloomberg Opinion

Rick Casey: In Governance and Architecture, Let's Not Regress 2,000 Years: Good thing San Antonio's new federal courthouse is well underway, because if it was still on the drawing board it might have to be radically redrawn: "Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...classical style would be promoted and at least partly policed by a new entity, the President's Committee for the Re-Beautification of Federal Architecture...The "self-governing ideals" of the U.S....don't include subjecting our built environment to the whims of a crusty, musty Washington board...Should Texans...be restricted to structures...that require Corinthian columns and arches? Why not also require our state senators to wear togas? -- Lake Flato Architects - Rivard Report (San Antonio, Texas)

Meeting of the Minds Annual Summit, Phoenix, Arizona, February 19-21: ...now in its 13th year, brings together experts working on innovations in urbanism and gives them a platform to share their blueprints to others in the field...the best place to find actionable, replicable, and scalable solutions to urban challenges, and to build the partnerships needed for their implementation. - Meeting of the Minds

Evan Nicole Brown: Why architecture should have won a best supporting role in "Parasite": The Academy Award-winning movie masterfully uses design to reveal the intricacies of class and inequality: ...architecture is used for its aesthetic value and also for its power as a storytelling device, making this film an extraordinary study in how our built environments create narratives...with an added element of psychology built into his sets...using design as an allegory for class tension and human fallibility. - Fast Company

E. Alex Jung: The House That "Parasite" Built (From Scratch): Much of the shock and thrill in Bong Joon Ho's genre-flexible movie...hinges on the fictional house built by a fictional architect...What appears to be a mansion is just an elaborate world built to the director's exact specifications...four different sets...mixed together in postproduction...Much like the movie itself, a minimalist façade belies a devilish complexity. It's so metaphorical...the moment Mun-Kwang rings the doorbell...is a fulcrum, when the house suddenly breaks open and shows us how foolish we were to have been lulled by its beauty. - New York Magazine

Oliver Wainwright: 'The countryside is where the radical changes are': Rem Koolhaas goes rural: The seer of sizzling city architecture now says the countryside is where the future is being built - and it's a 'toxic mix'. Ahead of a major Guggenheim show, he explains his epiphany: It was while visiting a brothel on the outskirts of Reno, Nevada....For him, these [fulfilment centres] embody a new kind of sublime...a sprawling exhibition, momentarily titled

"Countryside, The Future"...Five years in the making, and drawing on a decade of research...will this detached observer's deadpan study of disparate rural phenomena translate into a meaningful exhibition? Is this epic exhibition his swan song..."Am I going to retire?" he barks, incredulously, before changing the subject to a new kind of tractor. -- AMO; Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA - Guardian (UK)

Marcus Field: "Art Deco By The Sea" celebrates the revival and restoration of glorious architecture: Art Deco is back for the new Roaring Twenties. But was it ever really out of fashion? A new exhibition feeds our hunger for glam: ...that gloriously optimistic design movement that came to define the Jazz Age...major exhibition at the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich...sets out to explore how the movement revolutionised British holiday resorts. thru June 14 -- Oliver Hill - Evening Standard (UK)

Diana Budds: Has minimalism gone too far? Misunderstood as an aspirational home design aesthetic, minimalism is due for a reappraisal, according to "The Longing for Less: Living With Minimalism": Kyle Chayka...has traced how the term has become a global aesthetic, an "oppressive gospel," and a self-help phenomenon...what was once a useful concept for provoking mindfulness has become a superficial style...[He] explores the history of minimalism, what we get wrong about it, and how we might establish a healthier relationship with it...the concept can be redeemed if we think about it more as a mindset and less as a lifestyle brand. - Curbed

J. Michael Welton: From Blair Kamin, a Tour of Amherst College: [He] credits an art history course at Amherst College for turning his head toward architecture criticism..."I'm looking at the broader importance of these buildings." He's talking about a new guide...he's penned. "Amherst College: The Campus Guide" is designed to be read at home or taken out for a stroll around campus...photography by Ralph Lieberman is crisp, telling and descriptive...It may have started small, but it would eventually soar - architecturally and academically. - Architects + Artisans

J. Michael Welton: An Architectural History of Amherst College: Blair Kamin's newest book, "Amherst College: The Campus Guide," paints a telling picture of his alma mater - with the buildings that populate it..."The effect on approach to the campus is like a miniature version of the Chicago Fair of 1893, with all the buildings alongside and talking to each other." -- Herzog & de Meuron; Frederick Law Olmsted; Arthur Shurcliff; McKim Mead & White; Putnam & Cox; Benjamin Thompson - Architects + Artisans

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Tuesday, February 18, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Happy 18th ANNiversary! ArchNewsNow.com launched this day - in 2002 (and we don't feel a day over 97!). Interestingly, in reviewing early newsletters, it seems that these 18 years are book-ended by "style wars." 2002: debates re: what to do at Ground Zero. 2020: debates re: "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" (which continue below).

- [Bennes explains](#) why, even though Shanghai's West Bund Museum "isn't a lamentable building, it certainly doesn't speak of Chipperfield at his restrained, luxurious best" - blame the Centre Pompidou's "exacting specifications - the architects had to reconfigure their own structure post-completion."
- [Holmes delves](#) into "how the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures went \$100 million over budget. Renzo Piano's design is certainly elaborate, but he can't be blamed for all of the mounting costs."
- [Mazumder](#), a Canadian therapist in community mental health, talks about "how urban design affects mental health, what makes a happy city, and how to build people-centered cities."
- [Koziarz](#) reports on The 78, a \$7 billion, 62-acre mega-development on a long-vacant stretch of riverfront in Chicago, master planned by SOM.
- [Massengale](#) & Norquist make the case for not replacing a stretch of the collapsing Brooklyn-Queens Expressway: NYC "would own several new blocks of land for affordable housing" and traffic would decrease (and, while we're at it, pedestrianize the Brooklyn Bridge).
- [Morgan makes](#) the case that, instead of demolishing a dilapidated railroad bridge in Providence, an international design competition could transform the superstructure "into an urban design success story" (think High Line).
- [As Kamin's](#) "Amherst College" hits bookstores today, he delves into some stories that "lurk beneath the gloss of many campus buildings" (including Mies's Crown Hall). "Buildings are repositories of tales - some innocently forgotten, others willfully ignored - that have the capacity to illuminate our past, inform our present and shape our future."
- [Brown brings](#) us ARO's \$30 million renovation of Houston's Rothko Chapel and campus intended "to better reflect the artist's [and Philip Johnson's] original design for it."
- [Architect](#) and historic preservationist Krishna cheers old, empty churches being repurposed in up-and-coming neighborhoods, but is particularly taken by two Buffalo churches transformed into an Islamic mosque and a Buddhist temple - "this phenomenon can preserve historic architecture and strengthen burgeoning communities."
- [The Architecture](#) & Design Film Festival kicks off at the United Nations in New York today, and puts out its 2020 tour dates.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Design Workshop's MacRae & Ficht consider three trends they see shaping landscape architecture.

[Giovannini's 3-part lament for LACMA \(we ran Part 1 last week, but included here so they're all together\):](#)

● [LACMA, Part I](#): "It's much worse than you think - the county and the museum, both evidently co-conspirators to keep hidden the galloping cost escalation [and] the deception about size" (and is "a major architectural let-down" to boot).

● [LACMA, Part II](#): Spamming the Public: "In a slow-motion but breathtaking campaign of spin, cover-ups, disinformation, and fabrications, the museum has gaslighted Angelenos" (Govan is "a camera-ready, charismatic Elmer Gantry on a mission").

● [LACMA, Part III](#): The Way Forward: "One deceptive pronouncement about the Zumthor project followed another - there are three corrective measures that can be undertaken now, and each would prove a better solution" (including reviving Renzo Piano's 2003 master plan).

More thumbs-up than thumbs-down meditations on the "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" draft executive order:

● [Pedersen](#): The mandate is "a recipe for really bad buildings" and "for most architects under 40, these aesthetic battles are an old man's game - they've got bigger fish to fry, like survival of the species. Classical architecture deserves a better fate."

● [Curry, dean](#), USC School of Architecture: "Within each genre of architecture there are examples of mediocre and exceptional works. Elevating the quality of architecture should be our common goal, not singling out a particular style to represent the nation."

● [Kunstler](#): "The mandarin uber-class among the elite, especially the Pooh-Bahs in the architecture schools, can't bear the thought that things are tending this way. Modernism doesn't care about truth and beauty; it cares about power, especially the power to coerce - to separate us from nature."

● [Semes](#): "[There](#) was little or no consultation with those most directly affected: classical architects - hold off on any further official moves pending a more comprehensive conversation. On the plus side, architecture is now a subject of public interest and debate for the first time in decades. Let's seize the opportunity to get this right."

● [Mehaffy](#), Salingaros & Sussman each weigh in: "Architectural bullies protest restricting their ability to terrorize everyone else," sayeth Salingaros.

● [Dalrymple](#) explains that it's the Modernists who are totalitarian: "There is no reason why good, classical buildings cannot be built, except for the arrogance, tastelessness, inhumanity, egotism, incompetence, persistence in crime and megalomania of the architects who want to show off to each other."



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[Crystal Bennes](#): With the Opening of the West Bund Museum, Reflecting on Shanghai's Cultural Mega-Developments: The Chipperfield-designed, Pompidou-affiliated arts space fits into a unique but precarious spatial and development context: ...because of the Pompidou's exacting specifications...the architects had to reconfigure their own structure post-completion...it's little wonder that the most engaging aspects...are those with no direct relationship to the exhibition spaces...While [it] isn't a lamentable building, it certainly doesn't speak of Chipperfield at his restrained, luxurious best. Even [he] described the structure as having a "generic feeling"... -- Alexander Schwarz/David Chipperfield Architects Berlin; Open Architecture; Sou Fujimoto; Atelier Deshaus - Metropolis Magazine

[Helen Holmes](#): How the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures Went \$100 Million Over Budget: ...previously projected to open in 2016, would finally open to the public on December 14...has faced frequent development woes associated with cost and its elaborate design...projected costs...have leapt from \$388 million to \$482 million...How exactly did this happen? Renzo Piano's design is certainly



elaborate, but he can't be blamed for all of the mounting costs...only time will tell whether the [museum] is a runaway hit or a total flop. - Observer.com (U.S.)

How urban design affects mental health: When working with people with schizophrenia at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, [occupational therapist in community mental health] Robin Mazumder noticed that there were some neighbourhoods where they felt more distress, and other parts of the city that seemed to make them happier...He [speaks] about how to build people-centred cities, the psychological experience of navigating Canadian cities as a pedestrian and why he considers sidewalk snow clearance a human rights and accessibility issue. - CBC Radio (Canada)

Jay Koziarz: The 78 megadevelopment prepares to break ground, starting with U of I innovation center: The massive project essentially creates a new neighborhood on Chicago's Near South Side: The 62-acre riverfront megadevelopment...will be anchored by a University of Illinois-affiliated research facility...the Discovery Partners Institute...Phase one calls for 3 million square feet of buildings and includes a mix of apartments, student housing, and commercial space. Masterplanned by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)...\$7 billion development is zoned for a whopping 13 million square feet... -- STL Architect- Curbed Chicago

John Massengale & John Norquist: Buck the BQE: The city should not replace a key stretch of the cantilevered Brooklyn-Queens Expressway: Studies show that when city highways disappear, a lot of traffic disappears with them...cities all over the world removed expressways, and in every instance, traffic distribution improved...If we removed the ramps and reduced the number of cars, New York City would own several new blocks of land for affordable housing...The pending collapse of the BQE is an opportunity to go in a better direction for all. - New York Daily News

William Morgan: Saving the Bascule Bridge: The reaffirming but not so surprising success of the new pedestrian bridge over the Providence River should give encouragement to finally doing something about saving the bascule bridge over the Seekonk River...let's stop asking how we can hold off its demolition. We should be asking is how can we NOT rescue the bascule...what it represents is a glorious opportunity for Providence to show just how innovative we are...renovation should offer more - something larger, bolder, and more fun, something as dramatic as New York's High Line...[it] offers a superstructure

waiting to be transformed into an urban design success story... - GoLocalProv.com
(Providence, Rhode Island)

Blair Kamin: How buildings tell a story: [He] returns to the New England college that launched him on a journey to Chicago: "Amherst College"...a storybook slice of New England...a private liberal arts institution...stories lurk beneath the gloss of many campus buildings, including some in Chicago...IT tore down [Mecca Flats] in 1951...for Crown Hall doesn't compromise Mies' achievement, but it does complicate the building's back story...Buildings are repositories of tales - some innocently forgotten, others willfully ignored - that have the capacity to illuminate our past, inform our present and shape our future. -- Joel Upton; McKim, Mead & White; Mies van der Rohe - Chicago Tribune

Evan Nicole Brown: See the \$30 million renovation of Houston's multifaith Rothko Chapel: The sanctuary has updated its campus to better reflect the artist's original design for it: ...commissioned by...John and Dominique de Menil in 1964 and dedicated in 1971..."Opening Spaces" seeks to return the structure and the surrounding grounds to its earliest iteration, as intended by Mark Rothko and Philip Johnson. -- Architecture Research Office (ARO) George Sexton Associates; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects - Fast Company / Co.Design

Ashima Krishna: A new solution for America's empty churches: A change of faith: In up-and-coming neighborhoods, old churches are often converted to apartments or offices. But what about the vacant or underused churches in areas that aren't attractive to developers? In Buffalo, NY, two empty Roman Catholic churches were recently converted...into other places of worship...an Islamic mosque [and] a Buddhist temple. As an architect and historic preservation planner, I was drawn to this phenomenon...the conversion of vacant Christian churches into new places of worship can preserve historic architecture and strengthen burgeoning communities. -- Enjoli Hall - CNN Style

Architecture & Design Film Festival Announces 2020 Tour Dates: New this year will be collaborations with UN-Habitat and NYCxDesign and talks that discuss societal issues, such as homelessness, affordable housing, and social inclusion: ...kicks off at the United Nations, in New York today. - Architect Magazine

Joseph Giovannini: LACMA, Part I: Going Rogue: It's much worse than you think over at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art...the smoking email...the county and the museum, both evidently co-conspirators...to keep,, hidden the galloping cost escalation, thus perpetuating the near total lack of transparency that has characterized the project since its inception - even though the public is ultimately the client...There's also the deception about size...the loss of 54% of linear wall space...spendthrift plan is amateurish enough...enshrines dysfunction as a daily operational fact...a major architectural let-down. -- William Pereira; Norman Pfeiffer; Michael Govan; Peter Zumthor; Museum Associates - Los Angeles Review of Books

Joseph Giovannini: LACMA, Part II: Spamming the Public: Michael Govan was overheard speaking with Peter Zumthor..."There was some dissent by minor people who don't matter"...perhaps the single most honest comment...during the entire 12-year march of deceptions...In a slow-motion but breathtaking campaign of spin, cover-ups, disinformation, and fabrications (some verging on outright fraud), the museum has gaslighted Angelenos...into thinking, well, yes, I guess,

it's a good idea to unravel the County Museum of Art as we know it...[His] snide comment best explains his indifference toward, and even contempt for, the public, an arrogant attitude that has led to the fiasco that has now engulfed LACMA - Los Angeles Review of Books

Joseph Giovannini: LACMA, Part III: The Way Forward: ...calling black white is no longer just a D.C. disease...One deceptive pronouncement about the Peter Zumthor project followed another...that became the Ponzi scheme on which this failed project is founded...Perhaps the most flagrant deception...is Michael Govan's claim that the museum has gained lots of square footage on his watch...there are three corrective measures that can be undertaken now, and each would prove a better solution...Renzo Piano's 2003 master plan...could be resurrected...There is no reason to go forward with what we already know will be a failure, a building that will be hated - the building that killed LACMA. - Los Angeles Review of Books

Martin C. Pedersen: Why classical architecture would actually suffer under Trump's executive order: The proposed mandate is nothing but a turnoff for many architects: ...given the president's penchant for thuggish rhetoric, there was something chilling about the proposed edict...Mandating a state-sanctioned style [is] a recipe for really bad buildings...saner heads in the classical architecture community have distanced themselves...For most architects and designers under 40, these aesthetic battles are...an old man's game...with little or no relevance to them or their futures...they've got bigger fish to fry, like survival of the species...Classical architecture deserves a better fate. -- Justin Shubow; National Civic Art Society - Fast Company

Dean Milton S. F. Curry Response to draft White House Executive Order, "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again": At USC Architecture, we teach our students to become 'Citizen Architects,' to move fluidly between theory and practice to inclusively design for broad constituencies and contexts...Within each genre of architecture - classical, brutalist, modern, postmodern, deconstructivist - there are examples of mediocre and exceptional works. Elevating the quality of architecture should be our common goal, not singling out a particular style to represent the nation. The nation is not one person or one style. - USC School of Architecture / University of Southern California

James Howard Kunstler: Executive Order: ...the mandarin uber-class among the elite, especially the poohbahs in the architecture schools, can't bear the thought that things are tending this way. Their theology of... "the cutting edge," is all about fashion. That things go out of fashion has given them the opportunity to create and cash-in on ever more new fashions...We're going to need buildings that don't go out of style...classicism links us to nature and to our own humanity...Modernism doesn't care about truth and beauty; it cares about power, especially the power to coerce...to separate us from nature - Kunstler.com

Steven W. Semes: Let's Talk About Federal Patronage and Classical Architecture: Instead of knee-jerk screeds...let's take this moment to foster a more thoughtful discussion: My problem is not with the document but the strategy. There was little or no consultation with those most directly affected: classical architects...How might this have been handled differently? The U.K. offers a useful model...Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission..."Living with Beauty"...product of a transparent and public consultative process...We can

turn this crisis into a teaching opportunity...hold off on any further official moves pending a more comprehensive conversation...On the plus side, architecture is now a subject of public interest and debate for the first time in decades. Let's seize the opportunity to get this right. -- Justin Shubow; National Civic Art Society; Roger Scruton - Common Edge

Michael W. Mehaffy, Nikos A. Salingaros & Ann Sussman: Three comments on the Executive Order "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again": 1) It is interesting to hear some architects howling over this proposed action, at the same time that they have often sought to impose their own preferred style; 2) Architectural Bullies Protest Restricting Their Ability to Terrorize Everyone Else; 3) Classical and Traditional Buildings Fit Human Biology: Modern Architecture Doesn't, and that Matters for Building a Healthy Future - Archtexturez Imprints

Theodore Dalrymple: Is Trump's Classical-Architecture Policy Authoritarian? Far from being dictatorial, the order is profoundly liberating for clients, architects, and public alike: The squeals of outrage by the architectural profession...were entirely predictable...But they're mistaken...The order will give renewed courage to patrons of architecture, who...have been cowed by the architects' mastery of high-sounding verbiage and gobbledygook to promote their inhuman work...There is no reason why good, humanistic classical buildings cannot be built: except...for the arrogance, tastelessness, inhumanity, egotism, incompetence, persistence in crime and megalomania of the architects who want to show off to each other. - The American Conservative

ANN feature: INSIGHT: Jim MacRae & Jason Ficht: 2020 Trends in Landscape Architecture: Three trends we anticipate growing this year: addressing air quality as part of climate change; cultural and ecological inequities; and converting antiquated roadways into green infrastructure systems. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, February 19, 2020

- [An odd news](#) story to start the day: A 56-story luxury residential tower in NYC, designed by Elkus Manfredi, may have to remove 20 (or more) floors after judge rules it "exceeds the allowed zoning envelope for the site."
- [Meanwhile](#), in Toronto, Hariri Pontarini's 95-story SkyTower, "just yards away from CN Tower," is set to be Canada's tallest residential tower.
- [The French](#) government is not mandating a "style" for public buildings, but is proposing that they "be built with 50% wood or other natural materials" - and plans to "invest €20 million to construct 100 urban farms in city suburbs - among "a number of other eco-friendly initiatives."
- [This cheered](#) the science & environmental geek in us: A new green technology "creates electricity from moisture in the air" that is "non-polluting, renewable and low-cost" (all started by a microbe discovered in Potomac River mud more than 30 years ago!).
- [A new "video](#) gives the first full, sweeping view" of the "massive \$50M expansion" of Detroit's Motown Museum, designed by P+W's Freelon and Hamilton Anderson.
- [Sitz reports](#) that NBBJ has acquired ESI Design - the "staff will be retained, and six of the studio's design leaders will become NBBJ principals" (including Edwin Schlossberg).
- [After three](#) years flat-packed in storage ("along with buckets of bolts and screws") in Palm Springs, Albert Frey's 1931 Aluminaire House may finally find a permanent home at the Palm Springs Art Museum or on the College of the Desert campus.
- [A call for](#) Mid-century Modern history to include more women architects - "while there's increasing parity for women, there are still fewer women being celebrated, compared to men, or rising into leadership roles - looking at raw numbers isn't enough to combat sexism in the field."
- [Black History](#) Month x 2: Dorris highlights 10 pioneering African American architects - men and women who "were among the first in their field and, thanks to their increasingly recognized accomplishments, far from the last."
- [A profile](#) of Donald White, Michigan's first licensed black architect, who "broke new ground" - even though many of his buildings "have been torn down - a byproduct of so-called urban renewal projects in the 1950s and 60s."
- [A good reason](#) to head to Cape Town next week: Themed "A Better World Through Creativity," Design Indaba 2020 celebrates "a 25-year milestone" of being "crucial to the growth of the design and entrepreneurial industries in South Africa."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Design Workshop's MacRae & Ficht consider three trends they see shaping landscape architecture.

Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries: Reimagining Brooklyn Bridge international design competition: create unconventional designs for the iconic walkway that respect and enhance the bridge's landmark status (cash prizes).

- [Call for](#) entries: CTBUH 2020 International Research Seed Funding; no fee; \$20,000 prize.
- [Call for](#) entries: CTBUH 2020 Student Research Competition (international); no fee; \$20,000 prize.
- [Call for](#) applications: Be Original Americas Student Design Fellowship, open to 2nd- or 3rd-year undergraduate students studying in the U.S. (must be U.S. citizen or have legal resident alien status).
- [Call for](#) entries: 3rd Q-City International Young Designer Competition: Quality City: Development Guided by New Technology (Handan City; China) - open to young designers & students; no fee; cash prizes.

And yet more thumbs-ups and -downs for the "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" (just when you thought it was safe to go outside):

- [Volner](#): The "provocative" order is "a putative fatwa on modern design - reigniting a tiresome 1980s Style War, pitting pop historicists against high-minded modernists - it has tended to obscure some of the creepier implications of the incipient decree."
- [NYC-based](#) architect Colette Arredondo, on the other hand: "Ignore the critics - the executive order is a great step toward restoring beauty in government buildings. Beauty calls us to something higher than ourselves."
- [Brussat](#): "Enough time has passed to declare modern architecture a failed experiment in federal placemaking. To need an 'official style' is surely regrettable," but "the draft order may have the effect of slowing down the atrophy of our civic life."
- [Blair gets](#) feedback from both sides of the fence: National Civic Art Society's Marion Smith, AIA's Robert Ivy, and HBRA Architects' Aric Lasher (who calls it "preposterous").
- [Critics](#) say "the government should simply not be deciding what is and isn't beautiful," including NOMA President Kimberly Dowdell classicism "carries a legacy of oppression"), HBRA's Lasher, and Carol Ross Barney - "the first woman to design a federal building."



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[Ruling could force developer to demolish top 20 floors of Manhattan luxury tower: ...56-story luxury residential skyscraper in New York City designed by Elkus Manfredi Architects...New York Supreme Court Justice...found that the property at 200 Amsterdam Avenue on the city's Upper West Side was being developed in excess of its allowed zoning... the portions of the building that exceed the allowed zoning envelope...will have to be removed...20 floors could be removed...The number could also be higher. - Archinect](#)

[Canada's tallest residential tower revealed for downtown Toronto: ...at just over 1,027 feet tall...the 95-story project...will be part of a three-tower luxury condo development called Pinnacle One Yonge...SkyTower...will anchor the 4.4-million-square-foot waterfront site...Hariri Pontarini Architects conceived the masterplan and designed the trio of high-rise buildings...just yards away from CN Tower...One Yonge will be connected to a revamped public transit system and include improved pedestrian and cycling access...- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[French public buildings to be built with 50% wood: ...or other natural materials...proposal aligns with France's Sustainable City plan \[and\] drive for the country to be carbon-neutral by 2050...French government will also invest €20 million \(£16.8 million\) for the imminent construction of 100 urban farms in city suburbs...follows a number of other eco-friendly initiatives in recent months...-- Populous; Egis- Dezeen](#)

[New green technology generates electricity 'out of thin air': Scientists at the](#)



University of Massachusetts Amherst have developed a device that uses a natural protein to create electricity from moisture in the air...could have significant implications for the future of renewable energy, climate change and in the future of medicine.: "Air-gen. or air-powered generator...is non-polluting, renewable and low-cost..."For example, the technology might be incorporated into wall paint that could help power your home." - Phys.org

New Motown Museum animation reveals how massive \$50M expansion will really be: ...you can at last get a full look at the planned expansion of the historic Detroit site...video gives the first full, sweeping view of the charted 50,000-square-foot project - and shows how the landmark Hitsville, U.S.A., house will fit into the bigger installation. -- Phil Freelon/Perkins and Will; Hamilton Anderson Associates - Detroit Free Press

Miriam Sitz: NBBJ Acquires ESI Design: ...a new partnership highlights the growing importance of multidisciplinary collaboration...NBBJ and ESI have worked together in the past...All ESI staff will be retained, and six of the studio's design leaders will become NBBJ principals. -- Edwin Schlossberg - Architectural Record

New plans in the works to exhibit Albert Frey's Aluminaire House in Palm Springs: Three years after arriving in pieces [it] has yet to find its permanent home...a decision could be coming soon...It may be reconstructed at the Palm Springs Art Museum or the upcoming...campus of College of the Desert...In the meantime, the pieces are stacked up in flatpacks in storage, along with buckets of bolts and screws...[in 1931] prefab structure made of metal and glass was erected in 10 days... -- Lawrence Kocher (1931); Alan Hess - The Desert Sun (Palm Springs)

Modernism Week 2020: Why midcentury modern history should include more women architects: ...the writing of history in architecture...has a bias toward male narratives...while there's increasing parity for women in architecture, there

are still fewer women being celebrated...compared to men, or rising into leadership roles...From Eileen Gray [to] Zaha Hadid, the world is speckled with significant works from female architects...looking at raw numbers of women's participation isn't enough to combat sexism in the field. -- Charlotte Perriand; Michela O'Connor Abrams/Moca+; Jane Hall/Assemble; Charles and Ray Eames; Marion Mahony Griffin; Pearl McCallum McManus; Helena Arahuete; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Michelle Kaufman - The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California)

Jesse Dorris: 10 Pioneering African American Architects and the Legacy Buildings They Designed: Each were among the first in their field and, thanks to their increasingly recognized accomplishments, far from the last. -- Robert Robinson Taylor; Julian Abele; Vertner Woodson Tandy; Paul R. Williams; Clarence W. "Cap" Wigington; Beverly Loraine Green; John Warren Moutoussamy; John S. Chase; Norma Merrick Sklarek; Wendell J. Campbell- Interior Design magazine

Donald White, Michigan's first licensed black architect, broke new ground: Many of White's buildings have been torn down over the years, a byproduct of so-called urban renewal projects in the 1950s and 60s...his work influenced another prominent black architect in Detroit: Nathan Johnson. He's possibly best known for designing the People Mover. -- Karen Burton/Noir Design Parti- NPR / Michigan Radio

Design Indaba 2020 Releases Program as it Celebrates a 25-Year Milestone: ...multidisciplinary platform guided by the principle of "a Better World Through Creativity"...in Cape Town, February 26-28...known for showcasing ideas that become real-world solutions creating a better world for all...has been crucial to the growth of the design and entrepreneurial industries in South Africa.- ArchDaily

Call for entries: Reimagining Brooklyn Bridge international design competition: rethink the iconic walkway...create unconventional designs that respect and enhance the bridge's landmark status, think inclusively about mobility and access, and accommodate commuters, visitors, and vendors; six finalist teams awarded cash prizes; deadline: April 5- Van Alen Institute / New York City Council

Call for entries: CTBUH 2020 International Research Seed Funding: Research proposals should directly relate to the tall building typology and/or urban habitat; no fee; \$20,000 prize; deadline: April 18- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

Call for entries: CTBUH 2020 Student Research Competition (international): Proposals should directly relate to the 2020 topic of "Sustainable Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat"; open to students under the guidance of a professor; no fee; \$20,000 prize; deadline: April 18- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

Call for applications: Be Original Americas Student Design Fellowship, June 15 - July 17: open to 2nd or 3rd year undergraduate students, studying at an accredited college/university in the U.S.; must be U.S citizen or have legal resident alien status; deadline: March 27 - Be Original Americas

Call for entries: 3rd Q-City International Young Designer Competition (Handan City, Hebei Province, China): Quality City: Development Guided by New

Technology; open to young designers & students; no fee; cash prizes; registration deadline: June 1 (submissions due June 15) - Urban Environment Design (UED) Magazine (China) / Hebei Provincial Department of Housing & Urban-Rural Development, Dept. of Natural Resources of Hebei Province / Handan Municipal People's Government

Ian Volner: Trump Can't Make Architecture Great Again Without an Infrastructure Plan: ...provocative new executive order...a putative fatwa on modern design...Appearing under the snappy title "Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again...although the future of the proposal remains unclear, the Greco-Romano-Colonial camp can claim a partial victory. They shouldn't...reigniting a tiresome 1980s Style War, pitting pop historicists against high-minded modernists - it has tended to obscure some of the creepier implications of the incipient decree. -- National Civic Art Society; Catesby Leigh - Art in America

Colette Arredondo: Making Federal Architecture Great Again: Ignore the critics: ...executive order is a great step toward restoring beauty in government buildings: ...one of the essential complications in the shift to modern architecture was a shift in the idea of beauty...not only a shift in aesthetic, but also in power, from client to architect...This is a very different approach from the one classical architecture takes...Classicism is the language of humanism, and a universal sense of beauty that is based on that humanism. Humanism is what America is...Beauty calls us to something higher than ourselves. - National Review

David Brussat: Parsing classical creativity: Enough time has passed to declare modern architecture a failed experiment in federal placemaking...To need an "official style" is surely regrettable...modernists have hauled out the usual old chestnuts ..[two arguments are] more serious and proponents of the design change...must address...that classical architecture stifles innovation and that modern architecture is scientific...springing from a historically narrow definition of innovation and creativity...the draft order may have the effect of slowing down the atrophy of our civic life... -- National Civic Art Society; Nikos Salingaro; Ann Sussman; Roger Scruton - Architecture Here and There

Elizabeth Blair: 'Just Plain Ugly': Proposed Executive Order Takes Aim At Modern Architecture: The architectural world is reeling over..."Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" takes an out-with-the-new, in-with-the-old approach to architecture...National Civic Art Society... has been the driving force behind the [order]. Marion Smith believes Americans want the kind of neoclassical architecture that he says is designed to inspire the ideals of American democracy...Others feel differently...it would be "preposterous" for the government to dictate any style of architecture... -- Robert Ivy/American Institute of Architects (AIA); Aric Lasher/HBRA Architects - NPR / National Public Radio

Draft Executive Order Would Make 'Federal Buildings Beautiful Again': ... [it] has been met with widespread condemnation. Critics say the government should simply not be deciding what is and isn't beautiful...Kimberly Dowdell/National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) says [it] isn't just creatively limiting...it also carries a legacy of oppression...Aric Lasher/HBRA Architects says the Tuscaloosa courthouse shouldn't be used as an ideological pawn, but instead as a celebration of architecture that's reflective of its local culture..."A one-size-fits-all [is] contrary to the whole American ideal"...Carol Ross Barney...the first woman to...design a federal building..."The level of

[security...you have to provide ...the Parthenon just wouldn't do it."](#) - WTTW
Chicago / PBS

[ANN feature: INSIGHT: Jim MacRae & Jason Ficht: 2020 Trends in Landscape Architecture: Three trends we anticipate growing this year: addressing air quality as part of climate change; cultural and ecological inequities; and converting antiquated roadways into green infrastructure systems.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Thursday, February 20, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, February 25.

- [ANN feature](#): Bloszies brings back Left Coast Reflections with #6: Charrette: The word has evolved and taken on a new meaning - one that belies its origins. Some Beau-Arts terms have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office.
- [Blander](#) considers the driverless city, and whether it's "a road to nowhere," and presents speculative plans by SWA, Sorkin, Ratti, Gensler, Snøhetta and others - "some are rather fanciful, others demonstrate a more measured response."
- [Holland](#) considers whether "the wooden skyscraper revolution" has finally arrived with "a growing body of evidence that timber can provide a sustainable alternative to concrete and steel - there remain very practical barriers: building regulations."
- [Bozikovic](#) cheers Provencher_Roy's renovation of Taillibert's Montreal Olympic Tower that has sat empty for 30 years, now repurposed as a workplace for 1,300 - "Taillibert's sinuous architecture captures the big dreams of mid-century in concrete."
- [We are sad](#) to learn that, "after nearly a decade of planning," the Lowline, "an ambitious project to transform a disused trolley terminal" in NYC "into a subterranean park is dead."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Walker, Plitt & Spivack map "New York City's best places to cry in public" (IKEA Brooklyn is a hoot!).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Design Workshop's MacRae & Ficht consider three trends they see shaping landscape architecture.

Weekend diversions:

- [Kimmelman](#) and Koolhaas talk about "Countryside, The Future" at the Guggenheim: Some might "find it exhilarating or shambolic" - the "huge, text-heavy show may invite charges of slumming by a world-famous architect who, it is said, often gives off the imperious, slightly impatient impression that he has something better to do."
- [Shaw re](#): "Countryside: The Future": The familiar layouts and fonts make the exhibition seem more like the work of a signature architect or firm, not a global coalition. No, but seriously, folks, go see the show!"
- [Michaelsen](#) catches up with Koolhaas in Milan for a Q&A that is both insightful - and strange: he "hardly lifted his eyes for two hours. Instead, he drew labyrinths, roman numbers" ("This is a typical tabloid question, but I'll still give you an answer.")
- [Zeiba x 2](#): Q&A with Eyal Weizman re: "Forensic Architecture: True to Scale," opening today at the Museum of Art and Design in Miami, "changes of the past decade, the power of technology, and the importance of forensics in a 'post-truth' era."
- [He reports](#) that Weizman was preparing to fly to Miami, but "received an email from the U.S. Embassy

informing him that his visa had been revoked - an 'algorithm' had identified him as a security threat" (huh???) + Weizman's full statement that will be read at the opening tonight.

● [10 \(stunning\)](#) highlights from The Morgan Library & Museum's "Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect. Drawings from the Bibliothèque nationale de France" - from "otherworldly sphere temples to impossibly complex dairy barns" (self-portraits are wild!).

Page-turners:

● [Bierig](#): Kelbaugh's "The Urban Fix: Resilient Cities in the War Against Climate Change, Heat Islands and Overpopulation" - the "book's sprawling attempts - each well-intentioned if inadequate - provide one indication of the immense complexity of the problems we face."

● [Bell delves](#) into Owen Hopkins' "Postmodern Architecture: Less is a Bore": "PoMo was declared flippant and frivolous. Yet many ignored the critics and persisted" - the book "shows us why we should be grateful that they did" (PoMo's "giddy eclecticism shines through").

● [C. Davidson](#) re: "The Museum Is Not Enough" by Canadian Centre for Architecture: "If the first-person voice is atypical for an institution, so is the introspective narrative. Is the need for relevance the reason for this introspective book?"

● [Anderton](#) talks to Libeskind, "a bubbly, optimistic and entertaining soul," about "Edge of Order": "While his book is part-memoir and part-overview of his work, it's also a cheerful, highly readable call to readers to tap into their inner architect."

● [Eyefuls](#) from "Container Atlas" that "establishes itself as a sound authority on the typology by providing a clear 'how to' guide, as well as being a beautifully illustrated addition to any booklover's collection."

● [Morgan cheers](#) "Williams College: The Campus Guide" that is "more than a tour of the distinguished liberal arts college. This biography is told as a family epic: A complicated life, full of intrigue, might-have-beens, and triumphs."

● [Noe cheers](#) British photographer Wiper's "Unintended Beauty" that reveals "his capacity for capturing the almost terrifyingly organized beauty" of industrial spaces - "the accidental aesthetics, sublime complexities and rich details of our machines."



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ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: [Left Coast Reflections #6: Charrette: The word "charrette" has evolved and taken on a new meaning - one that belies its origins. In 19th-century Paris, charrettes were not at all collaborative. Some Beaux-Arts terms are still used in architectural parlance, and many have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

[Akiva Blander: In the Driverless City, How Will Our Streets Be Used? A glut of speculative plans reimagine the future streetscape. But is it a road to nowhere? Urban design and architecture firms like SWA are racing to conceive new...schemes that imagine a near future oblivious to the needs of the private car...The changes associated with driverless cars also touch on issues of privacy. As with other features of the smart city, AVs rely on the massive collection and trafficking of personal data...Here we present several speculative plans...some are rather fanciful...others demonstrate a more measured response to specific contexts and challenges. -- Kinder Baumgardner/SWA; Michael Sorkin/Terreform; Carlo Ratti Associati; AnnaLisa Meyboom; Gensler; Snøhetta and Plomp; HOK - Metropolis Magazine](#)



Oscar Holland: Has the wooden skyscraper revolution finally arrived? Surrounded by farmland and with a population of under 10,000 people, the Norwegian town of Brumunddal might seem like an unlikely setting for a record-breaking high-rise...the 280-foot-tall Mjøstårnet tower became the world's tallest timber building when it opened last year. The 18-story structure...has added to a growing body of evidence that timber can provide a sustainable alternative to concrete and steel...thanks to...cross-laminated timber, or CLT...A slew of new timber high-rises is set to break ground or open in 2020...there remain very practical barriers to the realization of such projects: building regulations. -- Øystein Elgsaas/Voll Arkitekter; Shigeru Ban; Acton Ostry Architects; Michael Green Architecture; Sidewalk Labs; PLP Architecture; White Arkitekter - CNN Style

Alex Bozickovic: Provencher_Roy Renovates Roger Taillibert's Montreal Olympic Tower: In 1976, Montreal hosted the Summer Olympics, and the games left a wild architectural legacy. The showpiece was the main stadium...Empty for 30 years...has now been repurposed as the workplace for 1,300 employees of the...financial institution Desjardins...pays tribute to Taillibert's sinuous architecture...This thoughtful use of the tower is part of the resurgence of the Olympic site, which was troubled from the start...it captures the big dreams of midcentury in concrete...in an ordinary workday, such architectural drama can't help but lift the spirit a bit higher. -- Richard Noël; Claude Provenche - Architectural Record

The Lowline, billed as the world's first underground park, is no more: After nearly a decade of planning, an ambitious project to transform a disused trolley terminal on the Lower East Side into a subterranean park is dead... struggled to secure steady funding for the pricey project...estimated to cost at least \$80 million... -- Signe Nielsen/MNLA - Curbed New York

By Ameena Walker, Amy Plitt & Caroline Spivack: New York City's best places to cry in public, mapped: Because sometimes life comes at you fast: ...it's okay to weep in public. (There's even a website, NYC Crying Guide)...from the Staten Island Ferry to the fancy bathrooms in Bryant Park. - Curbed New York

Michael Kimmelman: Why Rem Koolhaas Brought a Tractor to the Guggenheim: The architect...turns a spotlight on the countryside in a sprawling new exhibition

about the other 98% of the world: We'll see how "Countryside, The Future"...is received...whether museumgoers find it exhilarating or shambolic...It looks to be a huge, text-heavy, dizzying affair...the sort of show that may invite charges of slumming by a world-famous architect who, it is said, often gives off the imperious, slightly impatient impression that he has something better to do...the hope [is] that...whatever criticism it provokes, ignites debate, gets people to think about developments and places that demand attention because city and country, urban and rural, are ultimately not separate issues. -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture; OMA; Samir Bantal/AMO; Troy Conrad Therrien; Niklas Maak; Irma Boom; Petra Blaisse - New York Times

Matt Shaw: Rem Koolhaas sets a global non-urban agenda with "Countryside: The Future" at the Guggenheim: Rem is not the first person to do research on the rural. But he has the resources (5 partner schools and AMO), the storytelling ability, and the platform (an entire museum in NYC) to reorient the conversation...this broad survey of the rural...operates politically in a context where the countryside, and those who live in it are a marginalized group, at least culturally...the familiar layouts and fonts make the exhibition seem more like the work of a signature architect or firm, not a global coalition. No, but seriously, folks, go see the show! thru August 14 - The Architect's Newspaper

Sven Michaelsen: Town vs. Country with Rem Koolhaas: His Love For Public Pools and Why the Countryside Is the Future of the World: ...[he] hardly lifted his eyes for two hours. Instead, he drew labyrinths, roman numbers...: Bernard Arnault, Francois Pinault or Miuccia Prada are the Medicis of our time. "Stop! I am not in the mood to contribute to simplifying caricatures"...What are the frustrations and audacities of working for a fashion empire like Prada? "We have collaboratively realized...bold and experimental projects. It would be absurd to tell you something negative..."Countryside: Future of the World": "the countryside has been changing more rapidly and more radically than cities...architects focus 90% of their attention on city planning and related issues. The exhibition at the Guggenheim is supposed to help change this." - Ssense

Drew Zeiba: AN talks to Eyal Weizman about tech in truth-telling ahead of Forensic Architecture's first U.S. survey: ...has garnered a significant reputation...for their work reconstructing violent events... using architectural tools and emerging technologies..."Forensic Architecture: True to Scale" [opens today] at the Museum of Art and Design at Miami Dade College. Q&A re: changes of the past decade, the power of technology, and the importance of forensics in a "post-truth" era. thru September 27 - The Architect's Newspaper

Drew Zeiba: Eyal Weizman barred from U.S. ahead of Forensic Architecture retrospective: ...opens its first major U.S. exhibition today at Miami Dade College's Museum of Art and Design. However, as the collective's [London-based] founder, Weizman was preparing to fly to Miami...received an email from the U.S. Embassy informing him that his visa had been revoked and he would not be allowed to travel to the United States...an "algorithm" had identified him as a security threat...full statement, which will be read by his partner professor Ines Weizman at the MOAD tonight, and was sent to AN by Weizman via email. - The Architect's Newspaper

10 Highlights from The Morgan Library & Museum's "Jean-Jacques Lequeu:

Visionary Architect. Drawings from the Bibliothèque nationale de France": From otherworldly sphere temples to impossibly complex dairy barns, Leque envisioned unconventional buildings and interiors, transferring them onto paper with mathematical precision and poetic craftsmanship...vivid imagination that defied engineering and architectural limits. Predating Surrealism in his utilization of subliminal visual cues -and therefore misunderstood by his peers... thru May 10- Interior Design magazine

Aleksandr Bierig: "The Urban Fix: Resilient Cities in the War Against Climate Change, Heat Islands and Overpopulation" by Douglas Kelbaugh: Fixing, to fix...is a striking word and concept within architecture, planning, and design...architect, planner, and former dean...argues that cities are a frontline in the "war" against climate change...he reviews current research...then passes over scores of strategies that would provide respite...The book's sprawling attempts - each well-intentioned if inadequate - provide one indication of the immense complexity of the problems we face...It is hard to fix the problem when the problem is itself so fixed.- Architectural Record

Jonathan Bell: Delve into the drama of Postmodern architecture: "Postmodern Architecture: Less is a Bore" by historian and curator Owen Hopkins...delves into the drama and thought behind architecture's postmodernism movement through case studies and a catalogue of examples from across the globe: ...at the end of the 1970s and 80s, the sputtering indignation of the modernist establishment was heard loud and clear. PoMo was declared flippant and frivolous...Yet many ignored the critics and persisted... [book] shows us why we should be grateful that they did...[PoMo's] giddy eclecticism shines through.- Wallpaper*

Cynthia Davidson: "The Museum Is Not Enough" by Canadian Centre for Architecture: Not enough for what? ...new questions being imposed on architecture today...are not easily shown in a museum context. So what is the architecture museum's role? If the first-person voice is atypical for an institution, so is the introspective narrative...This "personification" of the institution suggests new ways of thinking of the museum as an actor rather than a place for archives and exhibitions...CCA has always surpassed the usual expectations...Is the need for relevance the reason for this introspective book? ...new thinking and new actions are required on all fronts. -- Mirko Zardini; Giovanna Borasi; Phyllis Lambert; Mark Wigley; Kieran Long; Kalle Lasn - Architectural Record

DnA/Frances Anderton: Daniel Libeskind is at the "Edge of Order": For him, architecture...offers a means to navigate "between authoritarianism and chaos"...For someone who spends a lot of time and intellect giving shape to collective trauma, he is a bubbly, optimistic and entertaining soul...While his book is part-memoir and part-overview of his work, it's also a cheerful, highly readable call to readers to tap into their inner architect...He shares fascinating insights, like "why an architect needs to be like a camel in the desert" and the importance of not working for dictators. - KCRW (Los Angeles)

"Container Atlas" charts the evolution of shipping container architecture: ...second edition, documenting the innovative ways containers have been used in the past decade...from container offices to off-grid cabins, to the more experimental designs, readers are taken on an inspiring journey through a wide variety of precedents...also serves as a practical manual for professionals and

laypeople...establishes itself as a sound authority on the typology by providing a clear 'how to' guide, as well as being a beautifully illustrated addition to any booklovers collection. -- Han Slawik; Julia Bergmann Matthias Buchmeier; Sonja Tinney - designboom

William Morgan: "Williams College: The Campus Guide" unearths hidden New England gems: ...more than a tour of the distinguished liberal arts college...It is rather a scholarly history and informed analysis of the school's buildings and their role in shaping the visual identity of a hitherto architecturally undocumented place...What makes [it] exceptional is that the authors and the photographer [Eugene J. Johnson, Michael J. Lewis, Ralph Lieberman] are respected architectural historians with decades of teaching experience at Williams....This biography...is told as a family epic: A complicated life, full of intrigue, might-have-beens, and triumphs. - The Architect's Newspaper

Rain Noe: Alastair Philip Wiper's "Unintended Beauty" Photo Book of Industrial Spaces: Fascinated with the intersection of industry, science and architecture, British photographer has visited his share of factories and industrial facilities...photos revealing his capacity for capturing the almost terrifyingly organized beauty of them...new book documenting the best of them...the accidental aesthetics, sublime complexities and rich details of our machines- Core77

ANN feature: INSIGHT: Jim MacRae & Jason Ficht: 2020 Trends in Landscape Architecture: Three trends we anticipate growing this year: addressing air quality as part of climate change; cultural and ecological inequities; and converting antiquated roadways into green infrastructure systems. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, February 25, 2020

- [Pacheco](#) reports on the passing of visionary architect Yona Friedman 96, "known for his imaginative paper architecture visions that blended Metabolist, High-Tech, and Futurist tendencies to envision massive technological tapestries that brought a certain type of utopian urbanism to life."
- [Flint tours](#) Foster's Masdar City in Abu Dhabi: "Beacon of hope, feeble experiment, or fig leaf of green for one of the world's leading polluters? [It] is made for walking. The problem is, there aren't many pedestrians to enjoy all the friendliness."
- [O'Sullivan](#) parses Paris mayor's plan for a "15-minute city" in "a radical overhaul of the city's mobility culture - it's an idea that other cities are likely to watch with great interest."
- [Kamin on](#) Chicago's slow-walking building code changes to allow mass timber construction: The city "is known worldwide [for] structural innovation. But when it comes to having examples of this latest design trend within its borders, it is a follower, not a leader."
- [Snyder parses](#) why and how a new generation of architects in Paraguay has made it "an unexpected locus for architectural innovation - scarcity and isolation have allowed them to produce an awe-inspiring architecture of poverty, made from affordable materials and archaic technologies cobbled into structures of acrobatic grace and defiant imagination."
- [Goody Clancy's](#) Ferriss makes the case that without a new understanding of Net Zero that includes embodied carbon, the profession will not hit its critical 2030 goals (embodied carbon reduction strategies included).
- [Miranda](#) crunches LACMA's debt-load numbers and compares them to 7 other arts institutions - it doesn't look great - "Zumthor's complicated building isn't making things any easier."
- [Lubell on](#) LACMA's "teardown bug. But Zumthor's plan is a return to an outmoded form of architecture and urbanism" - LACMA's strength is that it's more like a "vibrantly messy" city. "What if the museum combined the best of old and new? Why not preserve its boisterous, jumbled, urban feel?"
- [Davidson](#) sees "a bittersweet success" in L.A.'s "beguiling idea" to "reshape" Crenshaw Boulevard "to set down a marker of blackness in a zone that is gradually changing complexion - it's difficult to disentangle the processes that are raising people up from those that are pushing them out."
- [Cep takes](#) a deep - and fascinating - dive into efforts to preserve African-American history, and the activists and preservationists who are "helping communities identify 'adaptive reuses' that can lead to an afterlife - preservationists in communities of color have become more creative about what constitutes conservation."
- [13 notable](#) NYC projects designed by black architects, and how "groups like NYCOPA/NOMA have worked to shine a spotlight on these pioneering creatives who've left an indelible mark on New York's built environment."
- [Holder on](#) Raleigh, North Carolina's decision to dismantle its Citizen Advisory Councils that critics say "function largely as a stronghold for NIMBYs" - a new Office of Community Engagement will "develop new forms of participatory democracy," part of a "nationwide effort to reimagine CACs - and what should take their place."
- [Sisson says](#) "public meetings are broken - outsized power of those who espouse an anti-development, NIMBY mentality is a national issue" - and parses what some cities are doing to get things right.
- [Walker &](#) Lange make the case that competitions "to fix everyday urban issues create spectacles instead of

solutions" - ideas that have worked elsewhere don't need to be juried or prototyped. "They just need to be done."

• [Finch bemoans](#) the architectural world becoming "infected by the message bug" when it comes to awards. "The moment you start arguing that a project should be premiated because it is by a small practice/woman/BAME/LBGTQ+ architect is simultaneously insulting to the 'minority' and destructive of the whole idea of architectural excellence."

• [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Bloszies' Left Coast Reflections #6: Charrette: The word has evolved and taken on a new meaning. Some Beaux-Arts terms have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office.

Winners all:

• [Adjaye and Guo-Qiang](#) win the 2020 Isamu Noguchi Award, given to those who "share Noguchi's spirit of innovation, global consciousness, and commitment to East/West cultural exchange."

• [Eyefuls](#) of the winners of the ArchDaily Building of the Year 2020 Awards, who "are a reflection of the vast outreach of the profession."

• [Eyefuls](#) of the two 2020 City of Dreams Pavilion Competition winners - alas, .because of "time, space, and fundraising constraints," only one will be assembled on NYC's Roosevelt Island this summer.

• [AIA announces](#) the recipients of the 2020 Young Architects and Associates Awards (our congrats to all!).

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Obituary by Antonio Pacheco: Visionary architect Yona Friedman, 96: ...the Hungarian-born French Jewish architect who helped develop the concept of "mobile architecture" in the 1960s and 70s...He is widely known for his imaginative paper architecture visions that blended Metabolist, High-Tech, and Futurist tendencies to envision massive technological tapestries that brought a certain type of utopian urbanism to life...Later, he expanded this notion to the urban scale "Spatial City" (Ville Spatiale) concept... He worked with the UN and UNESCO to create disaster and self-built housing...always pushing toward his concept of the Utopies Réalisables, or "feasible utopias." - Archinect

Anthony Flint: What Abu Dhabi's City of the Future Looks Like Now: At the UN's World Urban Forum...attendees toured Masdar City, the master-planned eco-complex designed to show off the UAE's commitment to sustainability: Beacon of hope, feeble experiment, or fig leaf of green for one of the world's leading polluters? [It] is made for walking...a pocket of Greenwich Village-style urbanism...The problem is, there aren't many pedestrians to enjoy all the friendliness...the entire utopia is little more than one full city block in Midtown Manhattan. There's no shame in starting small to demonstrate feasibility...But current reality keeps imposing in jarring ways. -- Foster + Partners- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Feargus O'Sullivan: Paris Mayor: It's Time for a '15-Minute City': In her re-election campaign, Mayor Anne Hidalgo says that every Paris resident should be able to meet their essential needs within a short walk or bike ride: ...leading a radical overhaul of the city's mobility culture...would require a sort of anti-zoning...mixing as many uses as possible within the same space challenges much of the planning orthodoxy of the past century...“hyper proximity”...is driving many of the world's most ambitious community planning projects...As a rethink of the way cities should be planned - and exactly who they should serve, and how - it's an idea that other cities are likely to watch with great interest. - CityLab



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Blair Kamin: Nearly 150 years after the Great Fire, the city steps, gingerly, into innovative 'mass timber': Wood is having a moment in the world of architecture. Other cities...are going all-in...the biggest reason behind the surging interest in the material may be its perceived environmental benefits...Chicago's building code...barely cracks open the door to the material...Chicago is known worldwide [for] structural innovation...But when it comes to having examples of this latest design trend within its borders, [it] is a follower, not a leader. -- Korb + Associate; Carol Ross Barney; cross-laminated timber/CLT; Todd Snapp/Mark Walsh/Perkins+Will; Michael Green Architecture; DLR Group - Chicago Tribune

Michael Snyder: Paraguay's Response to Modernist Architecture? Clay, Mud and Timber: A new generation...is devising daring structures that celebrate natural materials, push for eco-consciousness - and argue for a more democratic future: ...daring, low-cost buildings...have made [it] an unexpected locus for architectural innovation...scarcity and isolation have allowed...architects...to produce a national vernacular...an awe-inspiring architecture of poverty, made from affordable materials and archaic technologies cobbled into structures of acrobatic grace and defiant imagination...[It] now finds itself at the international vanguard not in spite of its late arrival to modernity but because of it. -- José Cubilla; Javier Corvalán/Laboratorio de Arquitectura; Lukas Fúster; Solano Benítez/Gloria Cabral/Gabinete de Arquitectura; Jenaro Pindú; Javier Rodríguez Alcalá; Ramiro Meyer; Taller E; Viviana Pozzoli/Horacio Cherniavsky/Equipo de Arquitectura; Francisco Tomboly & Sonia Carisimo - New York Times T Magazine

Lori Ferriss/Goody Clancy: The New Net Zero: Climate change is the existential crisis of our time. The design and construction industry has responded to this challenge...However, we are...not seeing the whole picture...practices must be dramatically and immediately reshaped to drive down emissions associated with all stages of a building's life...in order to meet critical global climate goals...By rethinking our approach to building materials and life cycle carbon, the built environment can become an asset in combatting climate change rather than a liability. - BSA - Boston Society of Architects/AIA

Carolina A. Miranda: Can LACMA afford its massive re-design? A look at the numbers: Michael Govan responds to critics who say...Peter Zumthor-designed complex will leave the museum swimming in debt. With demolition just weeks away, we look at LACMA's...current debt load: Govan says...fears are wildly overblown...there is still the question of the museum's existing debt, and what it might mean to add even more...LACMA's total debt...almost \$443 million...does raise a red flag on the issue of additional debt...Zumthor's complicated building isn't making things any easier. -- Greg Goldin; Joseph Giovannini; William L. Pereira & Associates; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer - Los Angeles Times

Sam Lubell: LACMA caught the teardown bug. But the architectural cure isn't a bulldozer: DS+R's careful approach [to MoMA] is quite the opposite of Peter Zumthor's plan...His building is a return to an outmoded form of architecture and urbanism...[it] is just a building. The strength of LACMA...is its complexity; it's more like a city, and a vibrantly messy one at that...a true urban environment, not a newly manufactured one...What if...the museum combined the best of old and new? Why not preserve its boisterous, jumbled, urban feel? MoMA and

LACMA...both contain outdated thinking about the city around them. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; William L. Pereira & Associates; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer; Renzo Piano; Bruce Goff; Michael Govan - Los Angeles Times

Justin Davidson: L.A.'s Beguiling Idea: An African-American Arts Destination: In South Los Angeles - formerly known as South Central - Destination Crenshaw will be an elevated park amid the traffic arteries: ...to reshape...Crenshaw Boulevard, into a place where people want to linger, take pride, and spend money...construction is about to start on...an optimistic, uncertain stretch of public art, parks, plazas, and memorials...to mix pragmatic, cultural, and even spiritual commitments - to set down a marker of blackness in a zone that has gradually changing complexion...upcoming groundbreaking a bittersweet success, because the same accomplishment that can help anchor a fragile community might also wind up memorializing it...it's difficult to disentangle the processes that are raising people up from those that are pushing them out. -- Zena Howard/Perkins & Will; Studio MLA - New York Magazine

Casey Cep: The Fight to Preserve African-American History: Activists and preservationists are changing the kinds of places that are protected: The struggle over the physical record of slavery and uprising in Richmond, Virginia, is part of a larger, long-overdue national movement to preserve African-American history. Of the more than 95,000 entries on the National Register of Historic Place...only 2% focus on the experiences of black Americans...part of the work...involves helping those communities identify "adaptive reuses"...that can lead to an afterlife that not many would recognize as preservation...preservationists in communities of color have become more creative about what constitutes conservation. -- Brent Legg/African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund; National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) - The New Yorker

13 notable NYC projects designed by black architects: ... in recent years, groups like NYCOBA/NOMA have worked to shine a spotlight on these pioneering creatives...who've left an indelible mark on New York's built environment...from museums to memorials to apartment buildings. -- David Adjaye; J. Max Bond, Jr./Davis Brody Bond Aedas; Rodney Leon Architects; Roberta Washington; Percy C. Ifill/Ifill Johnson Hanchard; Vertner Woodson Tandy; John Lewis Wilson, Jr.; Sarah Caples/Everardo Jefferson/Caples Jefferson; Yolande Daniels/StudioSUMO - Curbed New York

Sarah Holder: Raleigh Wants to Raze and Rebuild the Community Meeting: Facing a housing shortage, the North Carolina city is dismantling its Citizen Advisory Councils, which have shaped development decisions since 1974: ...critics have long complained that the councils function largely as a stronghold for...NIMBYs...progressive lawmakers...voted to dismantle the CAC system entirely...require the city to...create an Office of Community Engagement to develop new forms of participatory democracy...nationwide...effort to reimagine CACs is part of an often painful conversation about how community meetings enable restrictive policies, and what should take their place..."This isn't about taking things away - this is about doing it better." - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Patrick Sisson: Public meetings are broken. Here's how to fix them: Neighborhood planning is governed by a biased, unrepresentative system:

...public meetings we hold today...haven't shifted very far from that original [1630s] format. Sadly, that includes the part about older, white males, especially homeowners, tending to have outsized power...the overrepresentation...of those who espouse an anti-development, NIMBY...mentality is a national issue...Officials need to convince people their voices will actually be heard...architects and designers need to connect with the community before such an event to truly claim they have community buy-in. -- Sara Aye/Greater Good Studio; Damon Rich/Hector - Curbed

Alissa Walker & Alexandra Lange: Design competitions won't solve your city's problems: Contests to fix everyday urban issues create spectacles instead of solutions: New York City's American Idol for garbage is the latest in a long string of efforts by city leaders to jury, select, study, brand, pilot, and prototype shiny branded solutions to urban problems instead of picking a perfectly serviceable solution already in existence...city competitions end up ignoring what the public might actually need...with the most outrageous entries generating the most publicity...Ideas that have been proven to work elsewhere don't need to be juried...They don't need to be prototyped. They just need to be done. - Curbed

Paul Finch: Awards should be about excellence, not messages: Giving prizes to social housing in Norwich at the expense of Grimshaw's London Bridge triumph shows how the architectural world has become infected by the message bug: Look at the wailing and gnashing of teeth when the Bloomberg headquarters won the Stirling Prize...By contrast, happiness all round when...Norwich Goldsmith Street council-housing...won the Stirling in 2019. Plenty of architects have told me they did not think this scheme should have won...but would never dare say so in public for fear of being branded as enemies of social housing...The moment you start arguing that a project should be premiated because it is by a small practice/woman/BAME/LGBTQ+ architect is simultaneously insulting to the 'minority' and destructive of the whole idea of architectural excellence. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

David Adjaye and Cai Guo-Qiang Win 2020 Isamu Noguchi Award: ...annual prize given to those who "share Noguchi's spirit of innovation, global consciousness, and commitment to East/West cultural exchange." -- Adjaye Associates - Artforum

Winners of the ArchDaily Building of the Year 2020 Awards: Highlighting a wide range of interventions, typologies, scale, material and locations, the winners are a reflection of the vast outreach of the profession. -- REM'A; COBE; Studio KO; gad; Kengo Kuma & Associates; MUDA-Architects; Aires Mateus; Sou Fujimoto Architects + Nicolas Laisné + OXO architects + Dimitri Roussel; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; X+Living; SelgasCano; Safdie Architects; John Pawson; El Sindicato Arquitectura; Marc Mimram - ArchDaily

Two winning designs selected in the 2020 City of Dreams Pavilion Competition: "The Pneuma" by Los Angeles-based Ying Qi Chen and Ryan Somerville and "Repose Pavilion" by Brooklyn-based architect and educator Parsa Khalili...envisioning a temporary gathering place while also considering the environmental impact of their designs and the full life-cycle of their materials...time, space, and fundraising constraints only allow for one design to be assembled on New York City's Roosevelt Island this summer, the choice ultimately fell on "The Pneuma." -- Karpf Khalili Architects; WAZEONE;

[FIGMENT](#); [ENYA](#); [AIANY](#); [SEAoNY](#) - Archinect

[AIA selects recipients for the 2020 Young Architects and Associates Awards: Young Architects Award honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the architecture profession early in their careers...Associates Award is given to individual Associate AIA members to recognize outstanding leaders and creative thinkers for significant contributions to their communities and the architecture profession.](#) - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

[ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #6: Charrette: The word "charrette" has evolved and taken on a new meaning - one that belies its origins. In 19th-century Paris, charrettes were not at all collaborative. Some Beaux-Arts terms are still used in architectural parlance, and many have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, February 26, 2020

- [Ravenscroft](#) reports that Milan's Salone del Mobile furniture fair is postponed because of the coronavirus - ditto the Light + Building fair in Frankfurt, and the Design Shanghai and Festival of Design in China.
- [On to brighter](#) news: Simek cheers the "20-minute neighborhoods" trend (15 minutes in Paris - see "Yesterday's News") that "could solve many of Dallas' urban problems in one fell swoop" - though, with sprawl written into the city's DNA, would it work?
- [Reiner-Roth](#) reports on "Resilient Houston," a "multi-billion-dollar resiliency master plan pushed forward thanks to the recent appointment" of Chief Resilience Officer Aho (who helped craft L.A.'s resiliency plan).
- [Toussaint](#) x 2: How New Orleans nuns are working with Waggoner & Ball to "turn their convent into a 25-acre beautiful, flood-preventing urban wetland" that "will be one of the country's largest urban wetlands" - though not yet built, it is looked at as a model project for other cities.
- [She brings](#) us NH Architecture's Burwood Brickworks shopping center in Melbourne being "touted as the most sustainable in the world," boasting a rooftop farm, renewable energy generation, wastewater recycling - and "aiming to achieve Living Building Challenge certification."
- [Barragan](#) hopes Pershing Square news that "the concrete 'fortress'" in L.A. is "'officially' headed for a makeover we've been waiting for" - but "transforming the park in phases leaves the project in a vulnerable position."
- [Simek cheers](#) the news that DS+R has been tapped to re-imagine Frank Lloyd Wright's 1959 Kalita Humphreys Theater, a "long-neglected architectural gem" in Dallas.
- [Stephens'](#) post-occupancy evaluation of Tod Williams Billie Tsien's makeover of Centerbook's Hood Museum at Dartmouth College that "drastically altered Charles Moore's venerated artifact" - the "flow" is much better. "Even so, nothing is perfect."
- [FXCollaborative](#) has towering plans for a supertall to rise above Macy's Manhattan flagship (with Nordstrom's flagship now nestled into AS+GG's supertall Central Park Tower a new trend to save retail, perhaps?).
- [The artist](#) known as Mr. Brainwash is turning Meier's 1996 - now vacant - Paley Center in Beverly Hills into his own museum - it already has all the amenities expected in a museum, "from a library to, of course, a gift shop."
- [Polyzoides](#) of Moule & Polyzoides Architects (and CNU co-founder) is appointed dean of Notre Dame's School of Architecture.
- [Q&A](#) with OMA's Shigematsu re: "the future of urban landscapes and the difference between iconic spaces and iconic architecture" ("he thinks architecture needs a refresh").
- [Welton brings](#) us eye-fuls of Hollyhock House's new digital archive of FLW's "aspirational and inspirational masterpiece - what would Wright think? 'I would say he would be absolutely tickled pink because he was such a self-promoter,'" sayeth curator Herr.
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Seoul to improve living conditions for 1,500 households living in semi-basement apartments depicted in "Parasite."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Bloszies' Left Coast Reflections #6: Charrette: The word has evolved and taken on a new

meaning. Some Beaux-Arts terms have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office.

Deadlines:

- [The Society](#) of Architectural Historians launches the SAH Data Project, 3 surveys "to determine where and in what ways the field of architectural history is expanding, receding, or holding steady" in higher education.
- [Wanted:](#) AIA members to take the AIA/Center for WorkLife Law's 10-minute survey "to learn more about your experiences at work."
- [Call for](#) entries: Tamayouz International Award 2020 for Graduation Projects, open to final year students worldwide (1st Prize: 2-year scholarship to the University Polytechnic of Milan; 2nd & 3rd Prize: travel scholarships).

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Tom Ravenscroft: Milan's Salone del Mobile furniture fair postponed until June due to coronavirus: ...was due to take place April 21-26...Other events impacted by the spread of coronavirus include the Light + Building fair in Frankfurt, which has been postponed until September. In China, several design events, including Design Shanghai and Festival of Design, have also been postponed. - Dezeen

Peter Simek: 20-Minute Neighborhoods Could Solve Many of Dallas' Urban Problems: Cities around the world are trying to adopt new measures to ensure that everything their residents need is available within a 20-minute walk or bike: ...a new trend...is incredibly simple, and yet it promises to solve many of these problems...in one fell swoop....But while 20-minute neighborhoods sound, at first, like convenient, fun places to live, their implications are much more profound. That's because the idea...strike directly at the cause of so many urban issues: land use...could a city like Dallas, for which sprawl is written into the DNA...attempt to adopt a commitment... - D Magazine (Dallas, Texas)

Shane Reiner-Roth: Houston launches multi-billion-dollar resiliency master plan: "Resilient Houston" elaborates on methods the coastal city can adopt to become better prepared for future storms, sea-level rise, and the urban heat island effect...To address the 667-square-mile city as a whole, [it] is divided into five scales: people, neighborhoods, bayous, the city, and the region...plan was pushed forward...thanks to the recent appointment of Marissa Aho as the City's Chief Resilience Officer...Aho previously helped craft a resiliency plan for Los Angeles... - The Architect's Newspaper

Kristin Toussaint: How these New Orleans nuns helped turn their convent into a beautiful, flood-preventing urban wetland: The 25-acre Mirabeau Water Garden will be one of the country's largest urban wetlands, managing stormwater and easing the workload of the city's current drainage system - all thanks to the Sisters of St. Joseph: It's the largest parcel in New Orleans under single ownership...part of Waggonner & Ball's Living with Water initiative...Even though it's not even built yet, the design has already been used as an example for other cities...as a model project... - Fast Company

Kristin Toussaint: Check out the Australian shopping center that's touted as the most sustainable in the world: Malls are struggling, but this one at least has a rooftop farm, renewable energy generation, and wastewater recycling - and

should be a model for how buildings can be designed for a sustainable future: Burwood Brickworks...in Melbourne...\$120 million venture...met with some fanfare when it opened in December (and since) thanks in part to those eco-initiatives...aiming to achieve Living Building Challenge certification... -- Living Future Institute of Australia; NH Architecture- Fast Company

Bianca Barragan: Is this the Pershing Square news we've been waiting for? Long ignored amid Downtown LA's big building boom, the concrete "fortress" is "officially" headed for a makeover: It's almost impossible to believe at this point, but after five years...officials say work will finally get underway...but did not provide a specific date...first two phases would cost \$25 million and were fully funded...total price tag is estimated to be \$110 million...transforming the park in phases leaves the project in a vulnerable position. -- Henri Bava/Agence Ter-Curbed Los Angeles

Peter Simek: Architect Chosen to Re-Imagine The Kalita Humphreys Theater: Properly executed, a reconfiguration of Dallas' long-neglected architectural gem could be boon for city, theater community: ...tricky spacial configurations have left the [1959] Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Kalita languishing...Diller Scofidio + Renfro to draft a new master plan for the 9-acre site...will also design two new theaters...a re-imagined theater and campus should help reintegrate the neglected Kalita into the core of the city's cultural scene... - D Magazine (Dallas, Texas)

Suzanne Stephens: Post-Occupancy Evaluation of the Remodeled Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire: A year ago, [it] reopened after a major remodeling by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects...AR wrote then, this was indeed a radical transformation of a 34-year-old Postmodernist artifact by Charles Moore and Chad Floyd of Centerbrook. We suggested that an assessment of the controversial project should wait until [it] had been functioning for a bit. Now it's time...caused a stir. In 2016...the design drastically altered Moore's venerated artifact...the reworking..."made them flow much better than we thought could happen...Even so, nothing is perfect. - Architectural Record

FXCollaborative designs a skyscraper for Macy's Manhattan flagship: A new supertall is coming to New York...1.5-million-square-foot skyscraper...boxy glass building would rise atop Macy's National Register of Historic Places-listed store...would boost the building's status and turn it into part of one of the largest and tallest in the city...Macy's has indicated that it will provide other improvements to the Herald Square neighborhood including subway enhancements. -- Kevin Kannon Architects; Studio V Architecture- The Architect's Newspaper

Mr. Brainwash to open Los Angeles museum: The vacant Paley Center for Media in Beverly Hills will be transformed into a space for both his own and other artists' work: Thierry Guetta...is temporarily turning the former Paley Center...designed by Richard Meier in 1996 - into his own museum...3-storey building was originally constructed as the Los Angeles outpost of the Museum of Television & Radio, later the Paley Center...has all the expected museum facilities already, from a library...to, of course, a gift shop... - The Art Newspaper (UK)

Stefanos Polyzoides appointed dean of Notre Dame's School of Architecture:

"Stefanos brings to Notre Dame an international reputation for architectural work informed by tradition and moral purpose" ...[with] several colleagues developed a set of principles for community land use and architectural planning called the Ahwahnee Principles. The 15 principles — which stress walkability, sustainability, diversity and neighborhood and district design - laid the groundwork for the 1993 founding of the CNU... -- Moule & Polyzoides Architects and Urbanists; Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) - Notre Dame News (Indiana)

Shohei Shigematsu Wants to Create Iconic Spaces: The OMA architect talks food, fashion and designing museums: He thinks architecture needs a refresh. "Architecture globalized quickly and became very generic everywhere... [Architects] need to stay relevant in society. In order to do that we have to develop our own way of looking at the world...Q&A re: the future of urban landscapes and the difference between iconic spaces and iconic architecture..."...If a building is loved, it will last longer. It's not about the material." - Hypebeast

J. Michael Welton: Hollyhock House Launches Digital Archives: ... Frank Lloyd Wright's first [project] in Southern California, is an aspirational and inspirational masterpiece...Now that [the drawings] are available to anyone practically, what would Wright think? "I would say he would be absolutely tickled pink because he was such a self-promoter," curator Jeffrey Herr says...."I can't believe he'd be anything but thrilled that his work at Hollyhock House was available to the public." - Architects + Artisans

Seoul to improve living conditions in semi-basement apartments depicted in "Parasite": ...government will financially support 1,500 households...to improve their living conditions...Together with the Korea Energy Foundation, the Seoul Metropolitan Government will offer up to 3.2 million won [approx. US\$2,628] per household to enhance heating systems, replace floors, and install air conditioners, dehumidifiers, ventilators, windows and fire alarms. - Korea Herald

Society of Architectural Historians Launches Surveys for Study of Architectural History in Higher Education: The aim of the SAH Data Project is to determine where and in what ways the field of architectural history is expanding, receding, or holding steady, and to consider the structural or cultural factors behind such trends...The three surveys for academics will remain open through May 15- Society of Architectural Historians (SAH)

Wanted: AIA members: The Center for WorkLife Law at the University of California Hastings College of the Law is partnering with the AIA on a 10 minute survey to learn more about your experiences at work. - AIA / Center for WorkLife Law, University of California Hastings College of the Law

Call for entries: Tamayouz International Award 2020 for Graduation Projects: open to final year students worldwide; First Prize: 2-year scholarship to the University Polytechnic of Milan; 2nd & 3rd Prize: travel scholarships; early registration (save money!): April 30 (submissions due August 15) - Tamayouz Excellence Award

ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #6: Charrette: The word "charrette" has evolved and taken on a new meaning - one that belies its

origins. In 19th-century Paris, charrettes were not at all collaborative. Some Beaux-Arts terms are still used in architectural parlance, and many have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, February 27, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, March 3.

- [Waite reports](#) that, despite the coronavirus, MIPIM will "go ahead as scheduled" in Cannes in two weeks - the event has "increased its hygiene measures," but "on social media, there appeared to be growing unease about attending the fair."
- [Kamin calls](#) on Chicago's "aesthetic busybodies" to stop attempts "to restrict free speech" in Millennium Park, and cheers a federal judge who "rightly blasted the city's restrictions and issued a preliminary injunction."
- [On a brighter](#) note, in Palo Alto, California, "a daughter's disability" and the "ingenuity" of "two enterprising women started a movement that's poised to go global" - the Magical Bridge playground that values "all members of a community equally" has already appeared in Davos and the Cooper Hewitt.
- [King offers](#) "short and mostly sweet snapshot critiques" of 7 new additions to the Bay Area's urban landscape.
- [As San Francisco's](#) Golden Gate Park gears up for its 150th anniversary, "a range of park lovers, from the chiefs of top institutions to people with dirt under their fingernails," offer "their vision of the park's future."
- [Rahul Mehrotra](#) is appointed Chair of Harvard GSD's Department of Urban Planning and Design and Professor in Housing and Urbanization - "he hopes to bring a renewed focus to the intersections between design and planning programs."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Bloszies' Left Coast Reflections #6: Charrette: The word has evolved and taken on a new meaning. Some Beaux-Arts terms have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office.

Just when you thought it was safe to go outside - yet more thumbs-ups and -downs for the "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again":

- [Salingaros](#): The "incredibly nasty fight," "extreme polarization," and "unfortunate tone" re: the proposed executive order "is leading to greater distance rather than conciliation. It is very important to settle the issue in an intelligent, not ideological manner. A scientific resolution circumvents the present polemics."
- [Speaking](#) of science, Chatterjee, an MD and Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, reports on his research into and his "findings on the psychological and neural responses to architectural interiors - people's experience of beauty of these interiors was correlated with neural activity."
- [Rosenblum](#): "I have done academic research in classical architecture. So when the style elicited national debate, I hoped for a happier discussion than the one we have gotten - the 'classical: good; modern: bad' correlation would seem simply dumb and outdated today were it not still chillingly evil."
- [Cohen](#): "[On](#) one level, this proposed executive order is sensible. In a world of brutalism and ugliness, why not invest in the grace and elegance? Why not believe in beauty? The problem is that it leaves little room for variety, novelty, or originality" and "smacks of authoritarianism."

Weekend diversions:

- [Davidson](#) re: "Countryside, the Future," Koolhaas's "romp" at the Guggenheim: "This is what you might get if you asked a celebrated European philosopher-architect to reinvent the Iowa State Fair" - reading hundreds of speculative questions "is like hanging around an 8-year-old with a sugar high and a Ph.D. - the perfect representation of hogwash masquerading as reason" (ouch!).
- [Abrahams](#): "By opening an exhibition about the countryside in the heart of Manhattan, Koolhaas has been judged by a jury of his inferiors of both having his cake and eating it. He's been on thin ice for a while," but "at some point we are going to have to accept that he has a point" that would be a mistake to ignore.
- [Gorlin](#): "Countryside, The Future" is "a torrent of words, images, and artifacts. This hot mess of a show is at once provocative, fascinating, enraging, disturbing, barely hopeful, and contradictory" (farmer Barbie dolls and "a robust gift shop" included).
- [Belogolovsky](#) sees "Countryside, The Future" as "a warning. What Koolhaas is really worried about is that architects have lost their control in the cities and there is now evidence that the countryside can be developed without them as well. He wants to challenge that and save the profession in the process."
- [Meanwhile](#) at MoMA, Keh calls "Neri Oxman: Material Ecology" a "compelling retrospective of the scientist's 20-year career - the breadth of her work has not been easy to quantify, that is until now."
- ["Villages of West Africa,"](#) opening today at San Francisco's Center for Architecture + Design, presents over 500 "evocative photographs" by Steven and Cathi House of House + House Architects that celebrate "the artisanship of indigenous people who use building methods that are both practical and ingenious and that respond to the needs of the inhabitants with poetic insight."
- [Theodore](#) cheers Jean-Louis Cohen's "Building a new New World" at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, an "elegant" show that "covers design writ large to examine the cultural, political, economic and, sometimes, architectural, relations between America and Russia over the last two centuries."
- [Budds cheers](#) "Radical Italian Design: 1965-1985, The Dennis Freedman Collection" at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, that puts the spotlight on the designers who "fought consumerism, inequality, and sexism through furniture and design - much of it speaks to the same social and political turbulence that we're experiencing today."
- ["Gae Aulenti: A Creative Universe"](#) at the Vitra Design Museum puts the spotlight on "one of the women who - alongside Cini Boeri and Nanda Vigo - made a significant contribution to the myth of Italian design."
- [Brown parses](#) PBS's new documentary "Hollywood's Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story" that "highlights his remarkable career and the obstacles he faced" (and why drew upside down).



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[Richard Waite: Coronavirus: MIPIM will 'go ahead as scheduled', say organisers: The annual international property fair in south-east France, will go ahead \[in Cannes March 10-13\] despite concerns over the spread of coronavirus across Europe...MIPIM director Ronan Vaspart said the event had increased its hygiene measures...on social media, there appeared to be growing unease about attending the fair... - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Blair Kamin: Millennium Park isn't an art gallery - it's a park. So the city should stop its attempt to restrict free speech there: It is indeed a new kind of town square - one where aesthetic busybodies from the city of Chicago and the foundation that supports the park are trying to severely limit the time-honored right to free speech in public spaces...U.S. District Judge...rightly blasted the city's restrictions and issued a preliminary injunction...the city and foundation contend that \[it\] should have different free speech rules than the rest of Grant Park...allowing people to leaflet, evangelize or demonstrate...seriously disrupts](#)



its character as a “space of refuge” from the surrounding city. All that is plainly ludicrous. - Chicago Tribune

A daughter's disability. A mother's ingenuity. And the playground that's launching a revolution: How two enterprising women started a movement that's poised to go global: Since the Magical Bridge opened [in 2015], it has gained attention..including at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in 2019 [and] at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum's "Access+Ability" exhibition...Olenka Villarreal and...Jill Hoffspiegel Asher...see playgrounds not as islands, but as the clarion calls in a movement for valuing all members of a community equally...ADA rules only required "accessibility" and not the actual usability of the playground equipment. -- Peter Jensen/Groundswell Design - Palo Alto Weekly (California)

John King: Seven urban landscape features you can't ignore: The Bay Area's ongoing boom continues to bring new buildings and spaces...a tour of those that deserve some extra attention: Alterations to skylines or familiar streets can bring pleasure or dismay, as well as surprise...7 snapshot critiques of fresh additions to our landscape. Short and mostly sweet... -- Lisa Iwamoto/IwamotoScott Architecture; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Fougerson Architecture; Hornberger + Worstell architects; Emily Rylander/Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture; VTBS Architects - San Francisco Chronicle

Golden Gate Park is Turning 150. Here's What Park People Want Next: To start the celebration, we ask how we can improve our city's crown jewel for next generations. Some of the answers (a pickleball court!) might surprise you: There's a big celebration on April 4, the park's actual birthday...we've asked a range of park lovers, from the chiefs of top institutions to people with dirt under their fingernails, for their vision of the park's future. -- Phil Ginsburg/SF Recreation & Parks Department; Thomas Campbell/Fine Arts Museums of SF; Amber Hasselbring/Nature in the City; Drew Becher/SF Parks Alliance - The Frisco (San Francisco)

Rahul Mehrotra Appointed Chair of Harvard Graduate School of Design's Department of Urban Planning and Design: ...also appointed the John T. Dunlap Professor in Housing and Urbanization at the GSD...succeeding Urban Design Professor Alex Krieger...He is also the founder of the firm RMA Architects, based in Boston and Mumbai...he hopes to bring a renewed focus to the intersections between design and planning programs. - The Harvard Crimson

Nikos Salingaros: If Science Truly Won, The Era Of Modernist Architecture

Would Be Over: Perhaps we are at a 'Sputnik moment,' when we finally realize how anti-scientific the business of building the living habitat has become: ...an incredibly nasty fight...revolves around a proposed executive order...a re-orientation towards more classical and traditional styles of design as an antidote to this expensive ugliness...extreme polarization...unfortunate tone is leading to greater distance rather than conciliation...It is very important to settle the issue in an intelligent, not ideological manner...A scientific resolution...circumvents the present polemics...Unfortunately, dominant architectural culture either ignores these findings, or attempts to misuse them. - The Federalist

Anjan Chatterjee MD, FAAN: How the Brain Responds to Architecture: Architects are making forays into discussing neuroscientific applications to their craft...Is it possible to conduct a neuroscience of architecture, and frame these ideas experimentally? As an example of experimental neuroarchitecture...our findings on the psychological and neural responses to architectural interiors...we showed that people's experience of beauty of these interiors was correlated with neural activity...showing that the aesthetic experience of architectural interiors draws on the same reward systems that are associated with the pleasure we experience in gazing at beautiful faces [and] satisfying primary appetites such as food and sex. - Psychology Today

Charles Rosenblum: Trump's 'Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again' undermines exactly what makes architecture beautiful in the first place - its diversity: I have done academic research in classical architecture...So when the style elicited national debate...I hoped for a happier discussion than the one we have gotten...the "classical: good; modern: bad" correlation...would seem simply dumb and outdated today were it not still chillingly evil...architects need to battle back...The government should mandate all kinds of things in federal architecture, and it does...But it must not silence expertise or wield any kind of architecture with authoritarian tactics. -- David Insinga - Pittsburgh City Paper

Andrew Cohen: Authoritarianism, architecture and Washington power politics: The U.S. capital has a consistency...that defies age and exudes authority. But it shouldn't snuff out artistic creativity: On one level, this proposed executive order is sensible. In a world of brutalism and ugliness, why not invest in the grace and elegance...Why not believe in beauty? That's one way of looking at it: an effort to resist the ugliness of modernism...The problem with ["Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"] is that it leaves little room for variety, novelty or originality...smacks of authoritarianism. -- National Civic Art Society - The London Free Press (Canada)

Justin Davidson: Farm Livin' Is the Life for Me, Ja? Rem Koolhaas Tries Out Country Life: Welcome to "Countryside, the Future": This is what you might get if you asked a celebrated European philosopher-architect to reinvent the Iowa State Fair. No mess, no smells, just acres of color printouts, cryptic homilies...a couple of pesticide-spraying drones...hundreds of speculative questions...Reading them is like hanging around an 8-year-old with a sugar high and a Ph.D...doesn't have much time for the people who sweat...the perfect representation of hogwash masquerading as reason...How frustrating that the Guggenheim couldn't force a little more intellectual rigor on this romp. thru August 14 -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) - New York Magazine

Tim Abrahams: Rem Koolhaas and AMO offer a biennial of the new non-urban

economy: Although guilty of prioritising text over exhibit, AMO's ambitious Guggenheim exhibition "Countryside, the Future" carries some important warnings: By opening an exhibition about the countryside in the heart of Manhattan, [he] has been judged by a jury of his inferiors of both having his cake and eating it...He's been on thin ice for a while...with [the show]...he has quite simply gone beyond the pale...[it] is certainly not an easy exhibition to love...begins inauspiciously...At some point we are going to have to accept that [he has] a point - and that we are making a mistake by ignoring them. -- OMA-Icon (UK)

Alexander Gorlin: Rem to the Rescue: "Countryside, The Future": ...at the Guggenheim Museum raises more questions than it answers: Working with lots of live ammo from AMO...his posse takes off to four continents...to study ways to save Mother Earth. The result is a torrent of words, images, and artifacts...Don't expect any conclusions or answers, since Rem and team struggled mightily...ultimately drowning in the writhing serpents of data...This hot mess of a show is at once provocative, fascinating, enraging, disturbing, barely hopeful, and contradictory...All hell breaks loose in the political section. thru August 14 -- AMO; Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) - Architectural Record

Vladimir Belogolovsky: "Countryside, The Future" by Rem Koolhaas, Guggenheim Museum, New York City: The inexhaustible material plunges us into the world of countryside - what it used to be, what it has become, and what to expect from it in the near future...a warning - what will happen if the countryside keeps developing without architects? What he is really worried about is that architects have lost their control in the cities and there is now...evidence that the countryside can be developed without them as well. He wants to challenge that and save the profession in the process. -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Samir Bantal/AMO; Troy Conrad Therrien-STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)

Pei-Ru Keh: Neri Oxman on designing our own natural ecology: ...'Material Ecology' at Museum of Modern Art in New York, a compelling retrospective of the scientist's 20-year career: Known for her groundbreaking research in materials, buildings and construction processes, the breadth of her work has not been easy to quantify, that is until now...The most dramatic articulation of her research is undoubtedly the show's centrepiece, 'Silk Pavilion II' - a site-specific commission for the museum... "Neri Oxman: Material Ecology" at MoMA thru May 25 - Wallpaper*

"Villages of West Africa: an intimate journey across time": With over 500 evocative photographs by Steven and Cathi House of House + House Architects, this anthology of West African culture celebrates the artisanship of indigenous people who use building methods that are both practical and ingenious and that respond not just to local climate, materials, and topography, but also to the needs of the inhabitants with poetic insight, creating environments that are stimulating and sustainable. With their clarity, function, and beauty, these villages are living models of what community life can be. thru April 20 - AIA San Francisco / Center for Architecture + Design

David Theodore: "Building a new New World": ...uses design to examine the cultural, political, economic and, sometimes, architectural, relations between America and Russia over the last two centuries...Jean-Louis Cohen presents

selected highlights...covers design writ large, spanning from architecture and urbanism - incorporating everything from film posters to tractors to skyscrapers...several compelling mini-scenarios, each with a simple story, striking artifacts, and captivating images...Cohen opts for description rather than causal accounts - more "what" than "how" or "why." But the "why" is the most intriguing question. Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, thru April 5 -- Noëmi Mollet/Reto Geiser/MG&Co. - Canadian Architect magazine

Diana Budds: The Italian radicals who imagined utopia: They fought consumerism, inequality, and sexism through furniture and design: The phrase "Made in Italy" conjures up...a sophisticated industrial aesthetic that began to be forged in the 1950s. But in the late 1960s and 1970s things got weird...kitschy, strange, and irreverent designs..."Radical Italian Design: 1965-1985, The Dennis Freedman Collection" at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston...presents some of the rarest and most eccentric furniture from the movement...much of it speaks to the same social and political turbulence that we're experiencing today...objects were about ideas more than functionality. thru April 26- Curbed

"Gae Aulenti: A Creative Universe" at the Vitra Design Museum: [She] gained international renown for her transformation of a Parisian train station into the Musée d'Orsay...[she] encompasses not only architectural projects and design objects, but also interiors, set and costume design, as well as exhibitions...one of the women who - alongside Cini Boeri and Nanda Vigo - made a significant contribution to the myth of Italian design. thru October 11 - Vitra Design Museum (Weil am Rhein, Germany)

Evan Nicole Brown: Why Paul Williams, Hollywood's most prolific black architect, drew upside down: A new documentary [on PBS] highlights his remarkable career...and the obstacles he faced: "Hollywood's Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story" chronicles the design work of a man who desegregated California's architecture industry...[he] developed a style of drawing his design sketches in an inverted fashion, because it allowed him to sit across from his white clients, knowing they'd prefer to not sit next to him...speaks to the flattening many black creators feel forced to perform on themselves to take up less space, even while...doing work they've been sought out to do. -- Royal Kennedy Rodgers; Kathy McCampbell Vance; Karen Hudson - Fast Company

ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #6: Charrette: The word "charrette" has evolved and taken on a new meaning - one that belies its origins. In 19th-century Paris, charrettes were not at all collaborative. Some Beaux-Arts terms are still used in architectural parlance, and many have retained their original meanings - "atelier" is often used as a pretentious substitute for office. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, March 3, 2020

It's a Pritzker Prize kind of day!

- [Wainwright](#) cheers Grafton's Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara winning the 2020 Pritzker Prize: "Their work is an apt reflection of architecture's current mood. The choice is a welcome decision, but it looks rather like playing catch-up."
- [Holland](#) hails the "Irish duo's win" that "marks rare victory for women in the 'Nobel of architecture' - the jury recognized that architecture remains a 'male-dominated profession'" - Farrell and McNamara "were awarded the 2020 RIBA Gold Medal, another major architecture award that has faced criticism for its dearth of female winners."

In other news:

- [Mattern](#) mulls "questions about what it means to 'participate' in civic design" on a visit to Sidewalk Toronto's "experimental work space" - is it just "engagement theater"? "Beware folksy exercises in collaborative design that create a semblance of public process while ultimately endorsing a predetermined outcome."
- [McGuigan](#) follows up on the "fallout from a disastrous" proposed executive order that would make classical architecture "the preferred and default style - we have seen the politicization of architecture to an extent that few of us imagined possible - objections came from some surprising corners."
- [Betsky x 2](#): "The LACMA debacle keeps getting worse. What was previously just a bad design has become, in my humble opinion, even uglier. Govan claims that it would be too expensive and impractical to renovate and expand - yet how could such an approach cost more than a billion dollars?"
- [He offers](#) a "defense of Bjarke Ingels" and his "PR problem - a large part of the problem is his personality - the hipster Howard Roark. He does not deserve to be the lightning rod for problems that are systemic."
- [Giacobbe](#) delves into "how conservationist designers are reacting to climate change. The unbuilt world is ground zero for the unfolding crisis" - one approach "entails thinking about rural areas even when designing urban ones."
- [Madtla](#) profiles Mariam Kamara and her sustainable design practice Atelier Masomi that "is masterminding a sustainable future for Niger," and how her 2018 Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative program with mentor Adjaye "allowed her to realize her dream."
- [Alter cheers](#) a "prefab dream - KieranTimberlake and Lake|Flato team up with Bensonwood to offer OpenHomes" to make "green, modern prefab designed by talented (and usually expensive) architects available, accessible and affordable."
- [Boston is](#) about to get a net-zero, CLT apartment complex: Generate's plans for Model-C have been certified by PassivHaus, and will be "one of the least energy-intensive buildings in America."
- [Morgan bemoans](#) the design of a new hotel planned for Newport, Rhode Island, that "is neither iconic nor sophisticated - doesn't a national architectural treasure house like Newport deserve better than just competent value engineering?"

- [Winners](#) of the Rethinking The Future Awards 2020 for excellence in Architecture and Design dealing with the contemporary global challenges span more than 50 categories.

Coronavirus impact - or not:

- [The Venice](#) Architecture Biennale 2020 will proceed as scheduled, kicking off on May 23 with "114 participants from 46 countries - a notable increase from the 71 participants in 2018."
- [A deep dive](#) into how the impacts of the Coronavirus "could have a ripple effect on the U.S. construction industry - from labor shortages and tariffs to an upcoming presidential election - the worst part is not knowing how long the crisis will continue."
- [Financial](#) institutions want "to pour more money into multifamily," but "rising construction costs, and the potential pandemic going global" increasing those costs could hurt - along with "local regulations that aim to take on the affordable housing crisis but actually present impediments for developers."
- [China](#) "races to boost major project construction amid the epidemic," with "a string of regions" rolling out "lists of major projects to be constructed or that are currently under construction" (300 in Beijing; 152 in Shanghai; 980 in Henan Province).

An FLW kind of day

- [A new petition](#) aims to save the School of Architecture at Taliesin (over 7,800 signatories as of this posting).
- [Plans to](#) relocate Frank Lloyd Wright's 1913 Booth Cottage to a park in the Wright-designed Ravine Bluffs subdivision in in Glencoe, Illinois, "has drawn criticism from some of the park's neighbors" who have concerns about parking, flooding, and congestion.
- [Nayeri](#), on a brighter note, reports that the FLW-designed Pittsburgh office for Fallingwater client Kaufmann is being restored and will go on view at the new V&A East London branch opening in 2023.



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[Oliver Wainwright: Women win Pritzker prize, architecture's highest honour: Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, who run Grafton Architects, are just the fourth and fifth women to win the prize in its 41-year history: ...new building for the London School of Economics...promises to embody many of the characteristics for which the Dublin duo's work has become renowned...celebrating the "free gifts" that architecture can provide to the public, beyond merely fulfilling a client's brief...The choice is a welcome decision, but it looks rather like playing catchup...Their work is an apt reflection of architecture's current mood. -- Zaha Hadid; Kazuyo Sejima; Carme Pigem; Denise Scott Brown - Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Oscar Holland: Pritzker Prize 2020: Irish duo's win marks rare victory for women in the 'Nobel of architecture': Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara...only the fourth and fifth women to claim architecture's equivalent to the Nobel Prize in its 41-year history....co-founders of Dublin-based firm Grafton Architects...marks a significant step for an award long criticized for its lack of female representation...jury...recognized that architecture remains a "male-dominated profession"... recently awarded the 2020 RIBA Gold Medal, another major architecture award that has faced criticism for its dearth of female winners. -- Zaha Hadid; Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa; Carme Pigem; Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu; Denise Scott Brown - CNN Style](#)



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Shannon Mattern: Post-It Note City: A visit to the smart-city-in-progress at Sidewalk Toronto prompts questions about what it means to “participate” in civic design: For some...Quayside...conjures up a surveillant dystopia...but you wouldn't know it from a visit to...this “experimental work space” to co-create and learn. The vibe is resolutely low tech, sort of underground-arts-venue-meets-elementary-school...It embodies a commitment to messy improvisation...Paper and ink, models and maps: these are the accessible tools of civic engagement - and corporate self-defense...The too-much-ness...adds up to a form of “engagement theater”...Beware folksy exercises in collaborative design that create a semblance of public process while ultimately endorsing a predetermined outcome. -- Waterfront Toronto; Luc Bouliane/Lebel & Bouliane; MASS LBP; Daily tous les jours; Daniel Doctoroff; Quilian Riano/DSGN AGNC-Places Journal

Cathleen McGuigan: Fallout from a Disastrous Federal Proposal: In the past month, we have seen the politicization of architecture to an extent that few of us imagined possible: ...proposed executive order...would dictate that “the classical architectural style shall be the preferred and default style”...response from the media, architects, and professional organizations was immediate...objections came from some surprising corners...The narrow interpretation of “classical” as a style is just one serious problem...no matter what your predilections in architecture may be. -- Michael Lykoudis/University of Notre Dame School of Architecture; Justin Shubow/National Civic Art Society; Catesby Leigh-Architectural Record

Aaron Betsky: The LACMA Debacle Keeps Getting Worse: the museum's misguided and wasteful new building: What was previously just a bad design...now promises to become even more of a white elephant...proposed new building has become, in my humble opinion, even uglier...The unanswered questions raised by the seemingly illogical design are endless...the most important question...why the new building, which necessitates the demolition of close to 140,000 square feet of existing space, is necessary in the first place. Michael Govan claims that it would be too expensive and impractical to renovate and expand...yet how could such an approach cost more than a billion dollars? -

- Joseph Giovannini; Michael Govan; Peter Zumthor - Architect Magazine

Aaron Betsky: In Defense of Bjarke Ingels: Why does everybody hate Bjarke Ingels? ...these days I would be hard-pressed to find anybody who has anything nice to say about him or his work. The latest dust-up...a photograph of [him] with the president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro...Ingels was in Brazil not to work with him, but with local officials of a different party...on an eco-resort...photo has made him even more of pariah among the chattering class than he was before. Other architects can apparently get away with working for dictators and truly repressive regimes...a large part of the problem is his personality...the hipster Howard Roark...a PR problem...I still think he is one of the best architects producing large buildings today...He does not deserve to be the lightning rod for problems that are systemic... - Architect Magazine

Alyssa Giacobbe: How Conservationist Designers Are Reacting to Climate Change: The unbuilt world is ground zero for the unfolding crisis - here's what experts in wildlife, parks, waterways, and more are attempting to do through design: Rewilding is a movement - part science, part design - that involves applying large-scale conservation and ecological restoration efforts to wilderness, ocean, and rural areas. It requires...designing and protecting such areas, and widespread buy-in...Humans now have just 10 years to reduce their global carbon dioxide output...individual efforts are simply not enough...Connecting wilderness areas both to one another and to the people who surround them is key...entails thinking about rural areas even when designing urban ones... -- Ten Eyck Landscape Architects; Bishop Land Design; Stanford d.school - Architectural Digest

Neo Maditla: How architect Mariam Kamara is masterminding a sustainable future for Niger: ...2018 Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative...two-year program...saw her working under the guidance of British-Ghanaian architect David Adjaye, and allowed her to realize her dream of designing an arts center in capital city [Niamey Cultural Center]. But it also exposed her to her most formidable and outspoken critics yet: a group of high school students...founded sustainable design practice Atelier Masomi in 2014...now splits her time between Niger and Providence, Rhode Island... -- Yasaman Esmail; united4design - CNN Style

Lloyd Alter: The prefab dream: Talented architects working with a great builder offering original designs: KieranTimberlake and Lake|Flato team up with Bensonwood to offer OpenHomes: ...making green, modern prefab designed by talented (and usually expensive) architects available, accessible and affordable. -- Resolution 4; Steve Glenn; Living Homes; Plant Prefab; Tedd Benson - TreeHugger.com

A net-zero, cross-laminated timber [CLT] apartment complex will rise in Boston: Thanks to support from the U.S. Forest Service and the Softwood Lumber Board, developer Placetaylor and Boston-based architecture firm Generate have collaborated to design a carbon-neutral apartment block...Model-C [will include] an affordable co-working space for the local community on the ground floor... building...will be prefabricated in sections off-site... plans have been certified by PassivHaus...one of the least energy-intensive buildings in America. -- MIT Mass Timber Lab - The Architect's Newspaper

William Morgan: Newport's New Hotel Would Be Fine Almost Anywhere Else, Omaha or Albany: The 57-room Brenton Hotel...has to anchor...an area already mauled by insensitive new structures...design is neither iconic nor sophisticated...doesn't a national architectural treasure house like Newport deserve better than just competent value engineering? ...the restoration of neighborhoods and the opening of the great mansions...gave the town a new lease of life. But it has been sort of a devil's bargain...Newport deserved...a knock-your-socks-off design worthy of its architectural heritage... -- Group One Partners - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

RTF announces the results for Rethinking The Future Awards 2020 for excellence in Architecture and Design dealing with the contemporary global challenges,...more than 50 award categories. - Re-thinking The Future (RTF)

Venice Architecture Biennale 2020 will proceed as scheduled, announces exhibitors: ...will kick off on May 23 and run through November 29...theme," How will we live together?" ...unveiled by curator Hashim Sarkis, dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT]...114 participants from 46 countries...a notable increase from the 71 participants in 2018...first-time participants Grenada, Iraq, and Uzbekistan. The U.S. Pavillion is being co-curated by Paul Andersen and Paul Preissner of the University of Illinois at Chicago. -- Paolo Baratta [complete list of participants included]- The Architect's Newspaper

Coronavirus impacts could have ripple effect on US construction industry: ...could add another layer of unpredictability to the many uncertainties facing commercial building in the U.S. From labor shortages and tariffs to an upcoming presidential election...fallout from the COVID-19 virus is one more factor poised to affect construction firms...For commercial builders that rely on Chinese-made goods or materials, this could mean higher material costs and potentially slower project completions...building product imports from China account for nearly 30% of all U.S. building product imports...the worst part is not knowing how long the crisis will continue - Construction Dive

Institutions Look To Pour More Money Into Multifamily, But Coronavirus, Construction Costs Aren't Helping: "The current geopolitical climate is causing significant uncertainty, and it's unpredictable. Part of the effects of the last year have been rising construction costs, and the potential pandemic going global could increase construction costs"...cost of building apartments has been magnified by local regulations that aim to take on the affordable housing crisis but actually present impediments for developers...multifamily investors have said they see the spread of these regulations as the biggest risk to the industry. - Bisnow.com

China races to boost major project construction amid epidemic: A string of regions have raced to roll out lists of major projects to be constructed or that are currently under construction this year...Beijing, for instance, issued a list involving 300 key projects...Shanghai...has released a list of major projects to be constructed in 2020...152 formal projects, including 24 new projects. Central China's Henan Province issued a key project list, involving 980 projects and 3.3 trillion yuan of investment. - Xinhua News (China)

New Petition Aims to Save The School of Architecture at Taliesin: ..."the legacy

that Frank Lloyd Wright established with his Fellowship, the evolution of which is the [School], represents an irreplaceable presence in the American cultural landscape." [over 7,500 signatories as of this morning, NYC time] -- Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation - ArchDaily

As Glencoe Historical Society prepares to relocate Frank Lloyd Wright cottage, some neighbors question the move: ...relocation of [Booth Cottage, 1913] to a nearby park has drawn criticism from some of the park's neighbors...park is located in the Wright-designed Ravine Bluffs subdivision and is a short distance away from the cottage's current location...Historical society officials...want to use the cottage...as a research facility... How the cottage's new home would affect the neighborhood in terms of parking, flooding and congestion was also a topic of concern. - Chicago Tribune

Farah Nayeri: A Frank Lloyd Wright Design Will Have a New Life in London: With help from a TEFAF grant, an office created for Edgar J. Kaufmann, who owned Fallingwater, will be restored before moving to a new V&A East London branch scheduled to open in 2023...will be the only [FLW] interior on public view outside the U.S."...Pittsburgh office...Begun in 1934, it was 1938 by the time the last piece of furniture was installed. And there were many frosty exchanges over it. -- Christopher Wilk - New York Times

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Today's News - Wednesday, March 4, 2020

- [Sad news](#): We've lost Henry Cobb at 93, "the bold Modernist architect" whose work with Pei Cobb Freed & Partners "earned the firm a special place in architectural history as purveyors of some of the most iconic (and tallest) towers of the 1970s, '80s, and '90s." (Kimmelman tweeted the news last night).
- [Catesby](#) Leigh continues his campaign supporting the proposed "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" executive order: "What a fabulous idea - it is not perfect. Even if the kinks aren't ironed out - it represents a much-needed shock to a rigged system."
- [Baskin begs](#) to differ: "While there is much to appreciate in classical and neoclassical buildings, admirers have long included authoritarians" who "want to use architecture to inspire a kind of superiority" ("Trump is not an obvious champion of 'classical'" architecture - his properties tend to look more like cigarettes wearing body armor than replicas of the Parthenon").
- [Plans for](#) Western Sydney's new, \$1.5 billion Powerhouse Museum seem to have "a major design flaw - it has no entry for visitors" - but there are assurances that it will be a "highly connected and accessible museum."
- [Koziarz](#) reports that the heights of SOM's plan for two towers on the former Chicago Spire site are being scaled back: "It seems a real shame that downtown Chicago's most prominent development site has waited this long for a plan that may be more 'thoughtful' than its predecessor, but is certainly less significant in its scope and ambition."
- [Meanwhile](#), "if you needed further evidence of Austin's boomtown status," here are eye-fuls of "37 towers in the works for downtown. Will all of them rise? Time will tell" (with most of the architects named - what a concept!).
- [Wainwright](#) delves into "how God is getting into construction" as "cash-strapped churches are inviting developers to build pricey flats on their turf. Is this the promised land for faith buildings - or a deal with the devil?" (a show of 23 such projects is on view in London 'til Saturday impressive, even "a cynical atheist" can't deny "that faith buildings have a useful future in them yet").
- [DLR Group's](#) 21-story, 450-room Dream Las Vegas luxury hotel on the Strip will be a "welcome addition to the Sin City skyline" (and a neighbor of the iconic "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign).
- [Jersey City](#) is about to get a two-tower apartment complex to include a pedestrian connection to a nearby light rail station and a new park on a 17.5-acre former brownfield site.
- [Filmmaker](#) and CEO of the FLW Revival Initiative Michael Miner has bought Wright's Pappas House in west St. Louis County with plans to turn it into museum after "a few major repairs - it will need some TLC for FLW."
- [Olson talks](#) to P+W principal and director of global diversity Gabrielle Bullock: "By addressing diversity and inclusion, she is amplifying her message and others' while making the field more receptive" (while working on some cool projects!).
- [Moore x 2](#): He offers a plan, "which I offer for no fee, would make a gigantic super-airport" ("Mooreport?"), while "a visit to Abbey Wood station makes me wonder if any project involving trains and tunnels should ever be attempted in Britain again" (and musings on "Parasite" and skunks).
- [He catches](#) up with Herb Greene: "Now 90, he reflects on his work and that of his fellow 60s renegades. You can't talk to or about him, without also talking about the dazzlingly original Bruce Goff."

● [Bollen profiles](#) Scarpa, whose "reimagining of ancient public buildings made him an Italian icon - today, his message - that true beauty endures, transcending global tumult and uncertainty - has never seemed more germane."

● [A bit of](#) history is always good: Brussat brings us a (fab!) video of Manhattan in 1911: "Some of today's most recognized buildings slide by - there's even a stretch that conveys a strong sense of the Manhattan skyline of the era."

● [Kohlstedt](#) of 99% Invisible delves into setbacks, "the century-old NYC mandate that shaped modern skylines" across the U.S. (fab photos!).

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Obituary by Antonio Pacheco: Henry N. Cobb, 93, the architect behind some of America's most iconic skyscrapers: ...the bold Modernist architect responsible for the designs of a wide range of iconic buildings through his work with Pei Cobb Freed & Partners...Cobb, alongside Pei and an ever-growing roster of designers, helped give life to the skylines of several American (and international) cities...bold experiments that fused platonic shapes at a super-sized scale, earned the firm a special place in architectural history as purveyors of some of the most iconic (and tallest) towers of the 1970s, '80s, and '90s....His work extended beyond high-rises... -- I.M. Pei & Associates - Archinect

Catesby Leigh: Against Architectural Relativism: "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...What a fabulous idea...America didn't get Speered after the war. It got Corbed and Miesed...Leaving aside the guilt-by-political-association routine...how does that negate a legitimate public interest in restoring a classical tradition in federal architecture...draft order has spurred more "public discourse in the design of public architecture" than we've seen in years...Too many who should know better...have yielded to architectural relativism...The draft order is not perfect...Even if the kinks aren't ironed out, Trump should sign the order, as it represents a much-needed shock to a rigged system. -- National Civic Art Society - First Things magazine (Institute on Religion and Public Life)

Morgan Baskin: "Classical" Architecture Is Just One Way Tyrants Build in Their Own Image: Trump's draft plan for federal buildings has something in common with 20th century fascists - and 21st century strongmen: ...while there is much to appreciate in classical and neoclassical buildings, admirers of these styles have long included authoritarians...they want to use architecture to inspire a kind of superiority...Trump is not an obvious champion of "classical" architecture...But...he shares the authoritarian's impulse to remake cities in his image...When you prize only the veneer of functionality, making America greater is just a matter of putting up some marble columns. -- National Civic Art Society; Bjarke Ingels - Slate

Western Sydney's new Powerhouse Museum designed without an entry: A major design flaw has been revealed...it has no entry for visitors...museum has to be elevated because it will sit on a flood plain in Parramatta and one option is to put it on stilts. But such a plan hasn't allowed for a way to get in...Shadow Arts Minister Walt Secord...previously criticised the [\$1.5 billion] building as being a "monstrosity on stilts"...Lisa Havilah has since issued a statement...saying the new building will be a "highly connected and accessible museum." -- Moreau Kusunoki Architects; Genton - NEWS.com.au (Australia)

Jay Koziarz: Two-tower plan for former Chicago Spire site gets significant height reduction: The tallest building has been cut from 1,100 feet down to 875 feet: The long-anticipated plan to redevelop the infamous hole left behind by the failed 2,000-foot-tall [Santiago Calatrava] Chicago Spire...keeps getting less grandiose...[changes include] removal of the project's hotel component...It seems a real shame that downtown Chicago's most prominent development site has waited this long for a plan that may be more "thoughtful" than its predecessor but is certainly less significant in its scope and ambition. -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- Curbed Chicago

37 towers in the works for downtown Austin: Will all of them rise? Time will tell: If you needed further evidence of Austin's boomtown status...A whopping 3.7 million of the 10 million square feet of office space under construction.....more offices on the drawing board. And condos. And apartments. And hotels. Plus a courthouse....Google to sail by the river. -- Gensler; Page Southerland Page; Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects; GFF Inc.; TBG; Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Kirksey Architecture; Beck Architecture; Duda/Paine Architects; STG Design; Ziegler Cooper Architects; Studio Outside Landscape Architecture; GDA Architects; Nelsen Partners; DWG; Lake Flato Architects; Nudge Design; Rhode Partners; BOKA Powell; Clayton & Little; BKL Architecture; Pickard Chilton; Kendall/Heaton Associates; HKS; Simeone Deary Design Group - Austin Business Journal (Texas)

Oliver Wainwright: Holy housing developments! How God is getting into construction: Cash-strapped churches are raising money by inviting developers to build pricey flats on their turf. Is this the promised land for faith buildings - or a deal with the devil? ...on display in the atmospheric crypt of St Mary Magdalene in Paddington...23 contemporary faith buildings organised by the Architecture Foundation..."Congregation" paints a fascinating picture of the ingenious ways that churches, mosques, synagogues and more are responding to the different pressures they face...it's hard to deny, even as a cynical atheist, that faith buildings have a useful future in them yet. -- Thornsett; John Pawson; Es Devlin; Ellis Woodman; Rosie Gibbs-Stevenson; Shahed Saleem; Haworth Tompkins; Dow Jones Architects - Guardian (UK)

Dream Las Vegas: ...a free-standing 450-room luxury lifestyle hotel on the Las Vegas Strip...21-story hotel tower will feature a diverse mix of dramatic venues... [DLR Group's] undulating contemporary design will feature a lustrous glass and metal façade, boasting....radiused corners, spacious double-height terraces, oversized windows...[a] welcome addition to the Sin City skyline...will be one of the first hotel properties seen from the iconic "Welcome to Las Vegas" sign. - Hospitality Net

Development, project team eye groundbreaking for 170 apartments in Jersey City: ...will include two 89-foot buildings that will each rise seven stories over two floors of parking...a new streetscape will...provide pedestrian connectivity to the nearby...Light Rail station...park...on a 17.5-acre former brownfield site, includes basketball and tennis courts, baseball and soccer fields, a playground, rain garden, 600 trees and a splash pad water park...will also include 18 units of moderate-income housing. -- Dresdner Robin; Monteforte Architectural Studio- Real Estate NJ (New Jersey)

Filmmaker to turn newly purchased Frank Lloyd Wright house into museum: A

rarely seen [FLW] house in west St. Louis County...Michael Miner, CEO FLW Revival Initiative...has produced documentaries about the designer's work across the U.S. And when the opportunity came to purchase the Pappas House, he pressed the pause button on any possibility of this unique home on the National Registrar of Historic Places being demolished...structurally-sound home will remain, albeit with a few major repairs...a structure that will need some TLC for FLW. - KTVI FOX 2 (St. Louis, Missouri)

Carly Olson: How Perkins and Will's Gabrielle Bullock Built a Career Empowering People of Color: Architect and advocate Bullock [talks] about her latest project on L.A.'s Crenshaw Boulevard, addressing the pipeline problem, and carving a new path forward: An art teacher suggested that preteen Bullock consider architecture as a career..."I never looked back. My whole goal was to improve the way black and brown people lived"...has worked with [P+W] since 1988, and currently serves as principal and director of global diversity...she splits her time between architectural projects and spearheading the diversity council...By addressing diversity and inclusion...she is amplifying her message and others' while making the field more receptive. - Architectural Digest

Rowan Moore: Connecting flights the fast way, upcycling on a grand scale, "Parasite" and skunks: RM imagines an engineering feat to create a gigantic super-airport for London: My plan, which I offer for no fee, would make a gigantic super-airport, Gatrow or Heathwick...Stansted, Luton and City airports could be connected too. Heathwickstantonity. Bit of a mouthful. In lieu of the aforementioned fee, perhaps it could be called Mooreport...On the other hand, a visit to Abbey Wood station makes me wonder if any project involving trains and tunnels should ever be attempted in Britain again. - Observer (UK)

Rowan Moore: Herb Greene: "I wanted it to look like it really came from Oklahoma": The U.S. architect's bold, sustainable designs - most famously his Oklahoma Prairie House - provided radical alternatives to European models. Now 90, Greene reflects on his work and that of his fellow 60s renegades: It starts - for me...with a house shaped like a chicken...an image of a future not chosen...With a book, "Renegades," about the school of which Greene was part, coming out...You can't talk to...or about him, without also talking about the dazzlingly original Bruce Goff...Greene's lo-tech responses to the climate have been seen as an early version of sustainable design...he is a singular soul, a rare combination of creative courage and intellectual reflection...his projects still have plenty to teach. "Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School of University of Oklahoma Fred Jones Jr Museum of Art thru April 5- Observer (UK)

Christopher Bollen: Who Was Carlo Scarpa? His reimagining of ancient public buildings made him an Italian icon, but the 20th-century architect is perhaps best understood through the private homes he designed: In the decades after his death in 1978, he largely had come to be regarded as an ingenious but inessential roadside attraction on the superhighway of organic Modernism...today, his message - that true beauty endures, transcending global tumult and uncertainty - has never seemed more germane. -- Sergio Los - New York Times T Magazine

David Brussat: Video of Manhattan in 1911: This is...the best video of old New York City that I've come across. At 8 1/2 minutes, it is among the longest, with crisp photography and a wide range of locations. Ladies and gentlemen of every

status, kids, hucksters and hoboes manage to stroll by...Some of today's most recognized buildings slide by - there's even a stretch of film, shot from a high floor or the roof of a building, that conveys a strong sense of the Manhattan skyline of the era. - Architecture Here and There

Kurt Kohlstedt: Progressive Setbacks: The Century-Old NYC Mandate that Shaped Modern Skyscrapers: The shape of some classic NYC towers, like the Chrysler Building, can make it seem like setbacks are aesthetic design decisions, but...reflect a highly specific, city-shaping ordinance...The Equitable Building...the canary in the coal mine...leading to the end of...structures filling out their lots and rising straight up into the air...momentum had been building...restricting this kind of architecture...1916 Zoning Resolution was the first citywide zoning legislation in the U.S.....providing more light and fresh air on the city streets below. Architects in other cities followed suit, even in the absence of setback rules... - 99% Invisible

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Today's News - Thursday, March 5, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: To (most of) our readers in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico: Don't forget to spring your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night (an extra hour of daylight - yay!). Also note that tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, March 10.

- [Bernstein](#) pays tribute to the "courtly architect" Henry Cobb, "I.M. Pei's unsung partner for nearly four decades but was responsible for a celebrated body of work in his own right."
- [Just days](#) after announcing the 2020 Venice Architecture Biennale would go forward with May 23 opening, the "coronavirus travel restrictions force it to postpone opening until August 29."
- [Rosenbaum](#) raises the alarm about the Trump Administration seeking to cut "wasteful & unnecessary" spending, calling "to ax support for the arts and humanities - NEA and NEH are allotted what the Administration deems to be sufficient funding for orderly termination of all operations in 2021" (yikes! Contact your Congressional representatives!).
- [Brussat](#) again considers the "Make Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" draft executive order, and wonders "why so many of classicism's leading lights oppose the E.O. There is no plausible reason" (take that, ICAA).
- [Kamin compares](#) plans for a 10-story, metal-clad, windowless Amazon fulfillment center in a Chicago suburb to the rich architectural legacy of the city's industrial buildings - will the Amazon warehouse deliver the same? "Don't bet on it."
- [Moreno reports](#) on Giovanni Vaccarini Architetti's (stunning!) Powerbarn facility in Ravenna, Italy, "expected to produce renewable energy for an estimated 84,000 families while also 'renaturalizing' the industrially damaged" site.
- [Johnston's](#) Q&A with Eleanor Peres re: "her latest research, the role of architecture in a time of climate breakdown and mass biodiversity loss," and why she uses the word "ecology" instead of "sustainability": "I am witnessing a transition in the field from object to system."
- [Gamolina's](#) Q&A with Odile Decq re: "starting out as a young architect in France and advising those just starting their careers to take risks and not follow the status quo": "There is nothing wrong with taking risks - you will fail, but that's OK - just keep going - don't look back."
- [Saval offers](#) a great profile of Sou Fujimoto, "the architect making conceptual art out of buildings" with "his own definition for what design should be" - and why he was "unwilling to brave the gauntlet of auditioning for Toyo Ito and SANAA."

Weekend diversions:

- [Blander](#) on Koolhaas's "Countryside, the Future" at the Guggenheim: "The medium doesn't fit the message - if there is one - it's doomed by an excess of unorganized, sentimentalist content" that "resorts to worn urban/rural dichotomies" with "a kitchen sink of adapted book chapters, recycled conference papers, expanded blog posts" (ouch!).

● [Hagberg](#), on the other hand, is a bit kinder: "Countryside, The Future" is "vintage Rem, almost a greatest hits collection. It's a bit cheeky, it has its intellectual moments."

● [Wainwright](#) cheers a "bold little show" at RIBA London - Space Popular's "energetic, colorful, poppy history lesson - peppy" titled "Freestyle: Architectural Adventures in Mass Media."

● [Moore catches](#) up with Studio Formafantasma, "the Italian designers who have a way with wood," to talk about "Formafantasma: Cambio" at the Serpentine Sackler Gallery: They "don't claim to save the world" but "'it can have an influence.' Which, with wit and grace, is what their designs do."

● [The University](#) of Oklahoma pays tribute to the educational legacy of Goff, Herb Greene, Mendel Glickman, Elizabeth Bauer Mock, and others who "developed a curriculum that taught students to look beyond the accepted canon of Western architecture" with "Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture."

Page-turners:

● [Lam lauds](#) "Breaking Ground: Architecture by Women" by Assemble Studio's Jane Hall: This book answers the question: "What are women architects building? Most impactfully, it dispels the notion that projects by women have a particular aesthetic - the only commonality is the quality of the work."

● [Stamp brings](#) us "7 examples of centuries-old design that combat climate change" from Julia Watson's "Lo-TEK. Design by Radical Indigenism" that "looks at technologies used by 20 indigenous populations, from Iraq to Tanzania."

● [A great](#) excerpt from Justus Nieland's "Happiness by Design: Modernism and Media in the Eames Era": "Eamesian happiness, circulating through both images and objects, linked the "goodness" of the American good life to the "goodness" of so-called good design."

● [Marcus Field](#) considers Hendrickson's "Plagued by Fire: The Dreams and Furies of Frank Lloyd Wright": It "will not be everybody's cup of tea. The writing is baroque. But the contradictory Wright who emerges, both hateful and human, is probably the truest portrait of the man we have yet."



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[Obituary by Fred A. Bernstein: Henry Cobb, Courtly Architect of Hancock Tower, 93: He was I.M. Pei's unsung partner for nearly four decades but was responsible for a celebrated body of work in his own right: \[He\] did not have the high profile of contemporaries like Frank Gehry or Pei. He called them "formgivers" and himself "a problem-solver." Yet he was "an architect of immense creativity," Paul Goldberger wrote...The Pei-Cobb partnership was tested by the Hancock Tower crisis...People often attributed Cobb's buildings to Pei. "When you're working with a superstar...it goes with the territory." -- Pei Cobb Freed & Partners - New York Times](#)

[Coronavirus travel restrictions force 2020 Venice Architecture Biennale to postpone opening until August 29: The biennial's 17th edition will now only run for three months rather than six: A short-term postponement would be ineffective, considering the "complexity of the organisational machine", it adds. The move is the latest drastic measure taken by Italian authorities following 80 deaths linked to Covid-19...Salone del Mobile furniture fair in Milan has moved from April to June. -- Hashim Sarkis- The Art Newspaper \(UK\)](#)

[Lee Rosenbaum: "Wasteful & Unnecessary" Spending: Trump Dumps Arts & Humanities...\(again\): ...proposed federal budget for Fiscal 2021, has again called for the elimination of federal funding for the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the](#)



Corporation for Public Broadcasting...NEA and NEH are allotted what the Administration deems to be sufficient funding for orderly termination of all operations in 2021...Perhaps obsessing over cultural support is frivolous, when there are more serious proposed budgetary cuts to agonize over...Don't be lulled into false complacency, art-lings, on the theory that Congress will again resist the President's call to ax support for NEA, NEH, IMLS and CPB/PBS. Contact your Congressional representatives to advocate for continued (and, preferably, increased) arts-and-humanities support. - ArtsJournal / CultureGrrl

David Brussat: EO: The two paths ahead: The draft executive order...is forcing classicists...to choose...Curiously, some classicists and traditionalists have taken up cudgels against their own liberation from modernism's hegemony...Perhaps the most extreme example is the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art [ICAA]...If the E.O. dies, so will hope that classicism can expand upon the slow but steady growth it has seen over the past two or three decades...what sort of possibilities will arise over the next decades to stoke the dreams of Americans who want their country to be beautiful again? Hope springs eternal...why do so many of classicism's leading lights oppose the E.O.? There is no plausible reason. - Architecture Here and There

Blair Kamin: Can an Amazon warehouse deliver the architectural beauty of Chicago's old warehouses and factories? Don't bet on it: ...wants to build...[a] "fulfillment center"...[in] suburban Bolingbrook...town's mayor, who is normally pro-growth...wants nothing to do with...a 10-story building...metal exterior walls and...no windows. "A prison has more architecture than that"...In Chicago especially, warehouses, factories and other industrial buildings...had a profound influence on the city's architecture...It's not that the new warehouses don't have architects - they do...It's also not true that new industrial buildings can't be inspiring - they can...architectural beauty? That's one thing Amazon's fulfillment centers don't deliver. -- H.H. Richardson/Henry Hobson Richardson; Dankmar Adler/Louis Sullivan/Adler & Sullivan; Daniel Burnham; Schmidt, Garden & Martin - Chicago Tribune

Shonquis Moreno: Giovanni Vaccarini Architetti's Powerbarn Treads Lightly -

While Making a Big Impact: The facility produces ecomass-fueled energy while mitigating a former industrial site near Ravenna, Italy: ...structures and landscaping are defined by...strong formality and its demonstration that industry, agriculture and community can co-exist harmoniously...produces electricity from livestock bio-gas, supply-chain scrap wood chips...[and] a photovoltaic array...expected to produce renewable energy for an estimated 84,000 families...while also...“renaturalizing” industrially damaged areas...Threaded with walking and bicycling paths that invite the community in, they become a membrane between the factory, the land, and their neighbors. - Metropolis Magazine

Poppy Johnston: There's more to green architecture than greenery: The manmade world tends to dominate the natural one but it's possible for architecture and ecology to coexist in harmony...it urgently has to, as...Eleanor Peres discovered: Q&A re: her latest research [and] the role of architecture in a time of climate breakdown and mass biodiversity loss: "I set out to understand what role urban architecture played in the imbalance of human growth and ecological erasure...greening of a place on scale of human pleasure and leisure is less beneficial...than the design of large-scale infrastructures for the management of energy and waste...I am witnessing a transition in the field from object to system." -- Hayball- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Julia Gamolina: Built to be Determined: Odile Decq on Opening Possibilities and Taking Risks: Q&A re: starting out as a young architect in France and choosing how she presents to the world, advising those just starting their careers to take risks and not follow the status quo: "Don't hesitate to take risks. There is nothing wrong with taking risks - you will fail, but that's OK...just keep going...don't look back. And don't think that you won't achieve what you want - you will, you just have to be a little patient [laughs]. It's a long road." - Madame Architect

Nikil Saval: The Architect Making Conceptual Art Out of Buildings: In exploring the contradictions between private and public, interior and exterior, constructed and natural, Sou Fujimoto has offered his own definition for what design should be: The most important thing [he] did as a young architect was to not produce any architecture...He was...intensely shy, unwilling to brave the gauntlet of auditioning for Toyo Ito and SANAA...His self-imposed exile...proved generative. Today, he is at the top of his profession...[his] is the conceptual art of contemporary architecture...There are few architects of [his] stature who are so doggedly committed to continuous experimentation... - New York Times T Magazine

Akiva Blander: At Rem Koolhaas's "Countryside, the Future," the Medium Doesn't Fit the Message - If There is One: The memelike exhibition will please crowds of most stripes, but it's doomed by an excess of unorganized, sentimentalist content: ...[show] resorts to worn urban/rural dichotomies that do little to educate, let alone intrigue...One doesn't really get a better or more rich idea of the "countryside" than what they came in with...a glut of unorganized content...a kitchen sink of adapted book chapters, recycled conference papers, expanded blog posts...what emerges is a fairly uncritical look at sweeping but not-entirely-relevant spatial and cultural categories. -- OMA; Samir Bantal/AMO - Metropolis Magazine

Eva Hagberg: Rem Koolhaas contemplates the countryside at the Guggenheim: "Countryside, The Future" is a temporally and spatially massive show, the kind

of focus on architecture that most practitioners and historians only dream of....[it] is vintage Rem, almost a greatest hits collection...much of the show is inherently alarming...[His] argument...is that the countryside...being overlooked has caused it to be transformed from a bucolic land of peace and pleasure...into a sort of weird and un-designed back office/storage room for the world's cities...It's a bit cheeky, it has its intellectual moments...What the public - or the politicians...does with this attention remains to be seen. -- OMA; Irma Boom - Wallpaper*

Oliver Wainwright: Know what an ogee is? Architecture translated for the TikTok age: Can an eye-searingly colourful carpet, a massive model mash-up and a load of VR headsets decode the architectural lexicon? ...Space Popular's energetic RIBA show: ...a colourful, poppy history lesson...Peppily titled "Freestyle: Architectural Adventures in Mass Media"...bold little show...Before historians write in to complain of taxonomic sacrilege, the architects have written their own disclaimer: "The choppy waters of style are treacherous, yet we have navigated them lightly, as one would a ball pit rather than a daunting ocean." It makes for a refreshing dip, dissolving the preciousness of architectural history... thru May 16 -- Lara Lesmes; Fredrik Hellberg; Shumi Bose - Guardian Cities

Rowan Moore: Meet the Italian designers who have a way with wood: Studio Formafantasma are revolutionising the use of timber in a way that will make you see this age-old material in a new light: "Formafantasma: Cambio" at the Serpentine Sackler Gallery...They have chosen to make the show about trees...nothing but timber...understanding of their materials is biochemical, technical, social, cultural, aesthetic, ecological, economic and geographic...show will, if it works, make it impossible for you ever to see a timber-derived object...in the same way again...they don't claim to save the world..."it can have an influence". Which, with wit and grace, is what their designs do. thru May 17 -- Hans Ulrich Obrist; Simone Farresin; Andrea Trimarchi - Observer (UK)

Radical architecture: OU pays tribute to innovative educational legacy of Bruce Goff with "Renegades: Bruce Goff and the American School of Architecture" exhibits: ...designed to guide visitors through the educational legacy of Goff (1904-82)...Greene, Mendel Glickman (1895-1967), Elizabeth Bauer Mock (1911-98) and other OU faculty members developed a curriculum that taught students to look beyond the accepted canon of Western architecture and find inspiration in the natural landscape, everyday objects...[show] includes a section devoted to "Lost Works of the American School Period"... University of Oklahoma Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Norman, OK, thru April 5 -- Michael Hoffner; Herb Greene; Luca Guido - The Oklahoman

Elsa Lam: "Breaking Ground: Architecture by Women" by Jane Hall: A few years ago, the conversation about gender equity in architecture centered on the question: where are the women architects? New aspects...are beginning to come to light, including the question: what are women architects building? This volume answers that question with a stunning selection of over 200 projects involving women architects...An insightful introductory essay acknowledges the book's shortcomings...more work needs to be done to identify leading women architects in Africa, Central Asia and Southeast Asia...most impactfully, [it] dispels the notion that projects by women have a particular aesthetic...the only commonality is the quality of the work. -- Audrey Thomas-Hayes/Assemble Studio - Canadian Architect magazine

Elizabeth Stamp: 7 Examples of Centuries-Old Design That Combat Climate Change: "Lo-TEK. Design by Radical Indigenism" studies the methods of 20 indigenous populations, from Iraq to Tanzania, that best show how humans can live in harmony with nature: ...architects and designers often look to high-tech innovations for solutions. But what if the answers aren't new but centuries old?...lecturer and landscape designer Julia Watson looks at technologies used by indigenous populations...traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)...Read on to discover some of the technologies. - Architectural Digest

Justus Nieland: Happy Furniture: On the Media Environments of the Eames Chair: Eamesian happiness, circulating through both images and objects, linked the "goodness" of the American good life to the "goodness" of so-called good design...[their] films taught spectators about the postwar arts of living...Photography, filmmaking, and furniture design were understood as related species of communication, expressing the Eameses' flexible, curious, and...quintessentially American lifestyle...the couple's varied terrain of happy making. [excerpt from "Happiness by Design: Modernism and Media in the Eames Era"] -- Eliot F. Noyes; Lewis Mumford; Marcel Breuer; George Nelson-Places Journal

Marcus Field: "Plagued by Fire" by Paul Hendrickson: Seeking the foundations of humanity that underpinned a monstrous genius: ...new biographical study, a whopper at nearly 600 pages, is a brave attempt to do something different... but we're in safe hands... What he really wants to challenge is the legend of the "strutting, self-seeking, self-centred charmer...Was there a capacity for regret, sadness and shame beneath that monstrous ego? This book will not be everybody's cup of tea. The writing is baroque...But the contradictory Wright who emerges, both hateful and human, is probably the truest portrait of the man we have yet. - Evening Standard (UK)

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Today's News - Tuesday, March 10, 2020

- [Lamster](#) parses how Henry Cobb helped shape Dallas with a series of skyscrapers: "All were projects completed in partnership with I.M. Pei, but the character of their projects was dramatically different - Cobb's work was characterized by sheer planes of ethereal weightlessness."
- [Miranda](#) x 2: She muses on how Cobb's 1989 Library Tower (now U.S. Bank Tower) "added some desperately needed pizzazz" to L.A.'s skyline. "Other buildings have come up around her, but she holds her own. And whenever I see her, it means that I'm home."
- [She cheers](#) "the male-centric" Pritzker Prize honoring Grafton's Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, "a decidedly low-key duo in a field known for its gassy bombast. They may talk softly, but they carry some big design sticks. Namely, their buildings."
- [The NAACP](#) Equity Committee's Patterson & Lee on the org's recently launched Centering Equity in the Sustainable Building Sector Initiative: "Green building is a huge growth industry, but communities of color are not yet positioned to fully benefit from it" - the CESBS is "pushing forward civil rights in this critical new sphere - sustainability without equity will merely sustain inequity."
- [In San Francisco](#), a ballot measure passed that "could limit new office space if more housing isn't built - a jarring wakeup call to the tech industry that its future inside the city limits - where it's not always welcome, anyway - may be more limited than it realizes."
- [King, meanwhile](#), cheers Designing Justice + Designing Spaces' "invigorating" transformation of a "weary" 1930s building into a new home for Restore Oakland and other non-profits that is "more than an act of creative rejuvenation" - it may not stop gentrification, but "what they offer instead are outposts of constructive resistance."
- [Hickman](#) reports on how "wildly affluent" San Jose is dealing with its homelessness epidemic by opening a "tiny house pilot community" offering "temporary shelter to Californians transitioning out of homelessness" (the first of two) - but "there's been an early struggle in finding qualified people in need to populate the community."
- [Moore cheers](#) plans to transform the brutalist 1960s Thamesmead from a "sink estate into a greener, more congenial space" by "combining ambition of exceptional scale with unimpeachable intentions" - he hopes it doesn't slide "towards the not-bad but not-special solutions of competent property developers."
- [Sperber](#) offers a "provocative proposal" for NYC's 52-story 200 Amsterdam: "It feels diabolical and wasteful" to lop off the top 20 floors, as ordered by a judge - "let the developer keep the top floors" and "reclaim the bottom 20 floors" for affordable housing. "It would be a shame to add potential housing inventory to the landfill."
- [Saffron](#) reflects on the "take-no-prisoners exterior" of Front Flats, a solar panel-clad apartment building in Philly that looks like a cross between "a D-volt battery and the Death Star" (which she means as a compliment): "If we really want to save the planet, its design suggests, then we have to be willing to question conventional ideas of beauty and comfort."
- [New ASLA](#) guides "highlight successful cross-disciplinary collaborations for healthy, equitable communities," offering 10 case studies that "examine the keys to their success as well as challenges they face."
- [Hickman](#) highlights Heritage on the Edge, a new UNESCO/Google "online platform drawing attention to the devastating effect that climate change has had - and will continue to have - on five diverse and vulnerable World

Heritage Sites."

- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on the School of Architecture at Taliesin reversing its decision to close after "its financial situation and long-term viability improved following the decision to close" but that "does not necessarily secure the school's future - the FLW Foundation has to approve the decision" (it's "being resistant").
- [The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation](#) responds: "Because of the lack of any direct communication from the school itself, the Foundation will have no further response until the necessary evaluations are completed. We do not intend to debate or negotiate this matter in the press or in social media."
- [Gamolina's](#) (great!) Q&A with MVRDV's Nathalie de Vries re: "running a business, reinventing practice, and leading by example": "Keep fun in your work. Being in architecture is a tough job...it's good to have a balance of both challenges and joy."
- [Madsen looks](#) at how firms are attempting "to maintain forward momentum as COVID-19 [coronavirus] continues to spread" ("several firms with work in China declined to comment") - and what happens to construction "as increasing numbers of essential workers become homebound."
- [Kengo Kuma](#) and K2LD Architects win the international competition to design Singapore's Founders' Memorial with a design "that is set to reshape the Marina Bay skyline," and will be "a welcome counterpoint to the domes of Gardens by the Bay."
- [AR & AJ](#) announce winners of the 2020 W Awards (formerly the Women in Architecture Awards).

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[Mark Lamster: Architect of Fountain Place who shaped Dallas, 93: Henry N. Cobb, longtime partner of I.M. Pei, built a series of Dallas skyscrapers: All were projects completed in partnership with I.M. Pei, but...the character of their projects was dramatically different: While Pei developed an architecture of solid volumes accented by light and shadow, Cobb's work, and especially his skyscrapers, was characterized by sheer planes of ethereal weightlessness...“The architecture of a tall tower is 99% logic and 1% art - but don't you dare take away that 1%,” Cobb once quipped...shaped minds as well as buildings; in 1980...took over as chair of...Harvard Graduate School of Design \[GSD\]. - Dallas Morning News](#)

[Carolina A. Miranda: How Henry Cobb gave L.A.'s skyline its distinctive crown: ...the Library Tower, now known as the U.S. Bank Tower, completed in 1989...was, for a time, the tallest building west of the Mississippi. It also added some desperately needed pizzazz...If not exactly beloved, \[it\] has become a de facto symbol of Los Angeles...He was never a flashy designer...But \[tower's\] circular form, its intersecting shapes...and its elegant crown...certainly leaned into the Postmodern...Other buildings have come up around her, but she holds her own. And whenever I see her, it means that I'm home. -- Pei Cobb Freed & Partners; Bertram Goodhue; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Carolina A. Miranda: The male-centric Pritzkers honor a female architectural team for 2020: Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara \[of\] Grafton Architects...the Pritzker marks a historic, trans-Atlantic sweep...the pair were awarded the Royal Gold Medal...by the Royal Institute of British Architects...Both prizes mark an important moment for women in architecture, but also a professional acme for the architects, a decidedly low-key duo in a field known for its gassy bombast...They may talk softly, but \[they\] carry some big design sticks. Namely, their buildings... - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Jacqui Patterson & Mandy Lee, NAACP Equity Committee: Green building](#)



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sector seeks equity rights issue: ...the sustainable building sector is an insider's club with a serious diversity problem...the most impacted communities are underrepresented...Green building is a huge growth industry, but communities of color are not yet positioned to fully benefit from it...NAACP...launched the Centering Equity in the Sustainable Building Sector (CESBS) Initiative, pushing forward civil rights in this critical...new sphere...using its Baltimore headquarters as a living laboratory...Sustainability would be seen as a basic necessity - not a luxury...sustainability without equity will merely sustain inequity. -- National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)- The Miami Times

'San Francisco is full': Tech backlash reaches new heights with skyscraper battle: A ballot measure approved...could limit new office space if more housing isn't built: The result could be a jarring wakeup call to the tech industry that its future inside the city limits - where it's not always welcome, anyway - may be more limited than it realizes...the question is whether a ban on future towers is just another battle...or a watershed moment for tech in a city that relishes taking big corporations down a notch...YIMBY movement...argues the real problem is that affordable housing is already banned in much of the city and its suburbs...- NBC News

John King: Can architecture slow gentrification? Restore Oakland wants to show that it can: ...[its] ambitious home makeover...is a work in progress...What counts is the boldness of all that has been completed...an effort to provide a bulwark against displacement pressures...Inside...the transformation is invigorating...more than an act of creative rejuvenation. [It] sends a message: Social advocacy can remain as a defining presence in Fruitvale...won't stop gentrification. What they offer instead are outposts of constructive resistance... -- Deanna Van Buren/Designing Justice + Designing Spaces- San Francisco Chronicle

Matt Hickman: San Jose debuts tiny house community for the homeless: ...a pilot community composed of 40 ultra-tiny houses that will provide temporary shelter to Californians transitioning out of homelessness...Mabury Bridge Housing Project...one of two tiny house clusters planned for California's third most populous city...the de facto capital of Silicon Valley is in the midst of a homelessness epidemic...Built by...Habitat for Humanity...at a cost of \$6,500 each, the micro-homes...“emergency sleeping cabins”...measure a mere 80 square feet...there's been an early struggle in finding qualified people in need to populate the community. -- HomeFirst- The Architect's Newspaper

Rowan Moore: The Reach, Thamesmead - from sink estate to Thames des res: Peabody's plans to transform the brutalist '60s site into a greener, more congenial space are full of hope. But the required levels of creativity may be hard to sustain: ...housing association...is planning to double the number of homes there...The first...a 66-home block...A sturdy, confident, red-brick affair...neither brutalist slab nor brick nobby box...a civilised way of housing people at higher densities...combining ambition of exceptional scale with unimpeachable intentions...The danger is that, overcome by the scale and complexity of the endeavour, the project slides towards the not-bad but not-special solutions of competent property developers. I hope not... -- Pitman Tozer Architects- Observer (UK)

Esther Sperber/Studio ST Architects: Put 200 Amsterdam to good use: Don't waste an already-built tower: ...a state judge ruled to revoke the approval for the top 20 floors of a [52-story] market-rate, luxury, residential building...I fear the implications for the architectural and building professions...But I am even more horrified by the idea of dismantling an already constructed structure...With affordable housing so scarce, it feels diabolical and wasteful...Instead of removing the upper floors...convert part of the building into affordable housing. Let the developer keep the top floors... let the city or a nonprofit reclaim the bottom 20 floors for low- and middle-income families...It would be a shame to add potential housing inventory to the landfill. - New York Daily News

Inga Saffron: The apartment building of the future is here, and it looks like a giant battery: If you crossed a D-volt battery and the Death Star, you might get something that looks like Front Flats...That's meant as a compliment...the dark, brooding screen can be a jarring sight...Are [its] wraparound solar panels...a meaningful advance in sustainable design? ...does that make it good architecture? If we really want to save the planet, its design suggests, then we have to be willing to question conventional ideas of beauty and comfort...It's easier to get used to solar panels on the facade of a building, than flooding and brush fires sweeping the earth. -- Tim McDonald/Onion Flats - Philadelphia Inquirer

ASLA Publishes Guides to Highlight Successful Cross-Disciplinary Collaborations for Healthy, Equitable Communities: Guides published as part of the Joint Call to Action for Healthy Communities Coalition: ...10 case studies from across the country...examine the keys to their success as well as challenges they face. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Matt Hickman: UNESCO and Google spotlight climate change's impact on World Heritage Sites: ...new online platform drawing attention to the devastating effect that climate change has had - and will continue to have - on five diverse and vulnerable [sites]...Heritage on the Edge...the multimedia platform...illustrates how people in these five unique locales have come together to protect their most cherished cultural sites against rising seas, extreme weather, coastal erosion, and drought. -- CyArk; Climate Change and Heritage Working Group (CCHWG); International Council for Museums and Sites (ICOMOS) - The Architect's Newspaper

Tom Ravenscroft: School of Architecture at Taliesin board reverses decision to close Frank Lloyd Wright's school: ...a public outcry allowed it to secure additional funding...its financial situation and long-term viability improved following its decision to close...does not necessarily secure the school's future as the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation...has to approve the decision..."but the foundation is being resistant and still retains the power to force the school to close unless a deal is reached"...Aaron Betsky [said] that the school had secured other funding, although he did not say from where or how much. - Dezeen

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation responds to School of Architecture at Taliesin's decision to keep the school open: ...[school's] plans to remain open based on its assessment that it has secured funding and a new path to increase enrollment...the Foundation has little information about these...Questions also remain about the School's leadership, in light of the departure of [Aaron Betsky]...and how that impacts the direction of a revised program...Because of

the uncertainties...and the lack of any direct communication from the school itself, the Foundation will have no further response until the necessary evaluations...are completed...We do not intend to debate or negotiate this matter in the press or in social media... - The Architect's Newspaper

Julia Gamolina: A Broader Vision: MVRDV's Nathalie de Vries on Running a Business, Reinventing Practice, and Leading by Example: Q&A re: the political and cultural landscape in the Netherlands that catalyzed [the firm's] start...and the tools that make great architecture, advising those just starting their careers to find an office that allows you to explore your favorite parts of architecture..."Never forget that an architecture firm is first and foremost a business...Keep fun in your work. Being in architecture is a tough job...it's good to have a balance of both challenges and joy." -- Winy Maas; Jacob van Rijs - Madame Architect

Deane Madsen: Trade shows and design practices attempt to maintain forward momentum as COVID-19 continues to spread: James von Klemperer, president and design principal with KPF, remains relatively optimistic, even with some 40% of the firm's current work located in Asia, including four projects in Wuhan...Several other international firms with work in China declined to comment...How non-medical construction will continue as increasing numbers of essential workers become homebound remains to be seen. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox; Salone de Mobile; Design Shanghai; Art Basel Hong - Architectural Record

Lush greenery part of winning Founders' Memorial design: Entry by Japan-Singapore team tops 5 shortlisted designs in international competition: Multiple green paths that converge on an amphitheatre will be a distinctive feature of the upcoming Memorial to honour Singapore's pioneer leaders that is set to reshape the Marina Bay skyline...Its organic form is also a welcome counterpoint to the domes of Gardens by the Bay. -- Kengo Kuma & Associates; K2LD Architects - The Straits Times (Singapore)

The winners of the 2020 W Awards [formerly Women in Architecture Awards]: Moira Gemill Prize for Emerging Architecture: Francesca Torzo/Francesca Torzo Architetto; Highly Commended: Mariam Kamara/Atelier Masomiz; MJ Long Prize for Excellence in Practice: Tracy Meller/Rogers Stirk Harbor + Partners; Jane Drew Prize for Architecture: Yasmeen Lari; Ada Louise Huxtable Prize for Contribution to Architecture: Beatriz Colomina - The Architectural Review (AR) / The Architects' Journal (UK)

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Today's News - Wednesday, March 11, 2020

- [McDonald](#) cheers Grafton's Farrell and McNamara going "from small-town Ireland to architecture stars" - winners of the 2020 Pritzker Prize and the 2020 RIBA Royal Gold Medal "have come a long way, yet neither of them became divas" - their "stellar" career is "simply because they are so good at what they do."
- [Overstreet](#) considers what's next for women in design: More women "are gaining the recognition that they deserve," but "men are the face of the profession - creating a repeated system of not including women in positions of power. The battle for equality in design is far from over. If anything, it has just begun."
- [Joyner turns](#) the table on Madame Architect founder Julia Gamolina in a Q&A re: "her career, expertise in communications, thoughts on women in architecture, and some of the powerful lessons she's learned on her multi-dimensional journey."
- [A round-up](#) of "50 women rocking the world of architecture. They have proven that, while often faced with marginalization, it is possible to rise to the top and get extraordinary things built" (a great list - we can think of a few others!).
- [Behre blasts](#) the proposed "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" executive order: "A more useful step would be to urge the GSA to work even more closely with communities - it should empower, not restrict, local voices wherever they plan to build."
- [Piccolo](#) parses efforts to defeat social and urban barriers in a Rio favela: "City planning and urban interventions can be precious tools in overcoming physical barriers. They can also perpetuate the status quo" (a Niemeyer-designed pedestrian bridge "intended to foster connectivity" was one effort).
- [Architectural](#) lighting guru Linnaea Tillett raises the alarm about the "worldwide trend to embed Smart City data collection devices and surveillance technologies into street furniture" - with street light poles playing a key role: "As lighting designers working in the public realm, we are very concerned. This is proceeding rapidly without meaningful oversight and accountability."
- [A redesign](#) of Korb & Associates Architects' Ascent mass timber apartment tower in Milwaukee that would see it grow to 25 stories gets the city's planning commission's endorsement as samples of its wood floors are tested for fire safety in San Antonio ("wooden columns already tested successfully").
- [Waldek reports](#) on the battle brewing in Oslo to keep a building damaged by a car bomb in tact instead of moving Picasso murals and bulldozing the building.
- [A lovely](#) profile of Edward Daugherty, ".the dean of Atlanta landscape architects," who, at 93, is still designing - perhaps "his equanimity comes from a lifetime of building tranquil places."

COVID-19 and A/E/C industry (sigh):

- [Peters ponders](#) "what would happen if the world reacted to climate change like it's reacting to the coronavirus - there are similarities" (public health, anyone?).
- [NYT's tech](#) columnist Roose pens "a few words of caution" from a "quarantine bunker" in his dining room, where he's "getting plenty of work done, but what remote workers gain in productivity, they often miss in harder-to-measure benefits like creativity and innovative thinking - I can't wait to go back to work."

● [Walsh wonders](#) whether the coronavirus is "the beginning of the end of offices. Architects may be called to design a new, not-yet-realized typology of space," which "leads to a question of what happens to existing office typologies."

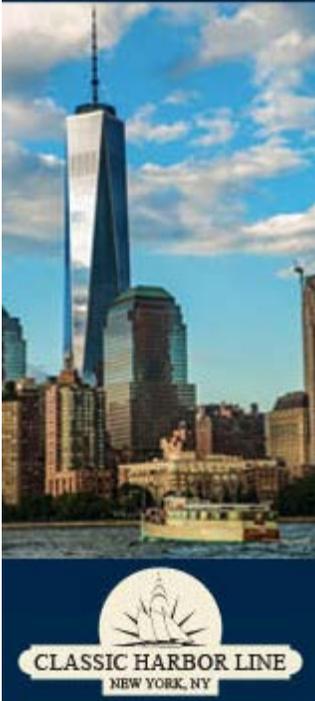
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Frank McDonald: Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara: from smalltown Ireland to architecture stars: Grafton Architects founders and winners [of the] 2020 Pritzker Prize have come a long way, yet they remain as grounded as ever: Even though they're now laden with top-notch architectural awards and medals...neither of them became divas...have been in practice together for more than 40 years - managed to carve out stellar careers in a profession still dominated by men, simply because they are so good at what they do. Being women was never a handicap to their success...2018 Venice Biennale, "freespace"...cemented their international reputation... -- Níall McLaughlin; Shane O'Toole- The Irish Times

Kaley Overstreet: A Look Ahead: What's Next for the Women in Design Movement? ...it's important to reflect upon and acknowledge the progress that women across all design professions have made over the last several years... [more] are gaining the recognition that they deserve in this traditionally male-dominated profession...since this still is a male-dominated industry, men are the face of the profession...creating a repeated system of not including women in positions of power...society still puts weight on the idea of a "starchitect", which again, is a male-dominated field...The battle for equality in design is far from over. If anything, it has just begun... -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Gensler- ArchDaily

Sean Joyner: A Conversation with Julia Gamolina, Founder of Madame Architect: ...she founded back in 2018. She has climbed the professional ladder, now Director of Strategy at Trahan Architects...Q&A re: her career, expertise in communications, thoughts on women in architecture, and some of the powerful lessons she's learned on her multi-dimensional journey..."firms are waking up to the fact that they need to provide flexibility, not just for women but for men as well, and not just for parents but for people in general to live a full life... my gender has no influence on my expertise..." - Archinect

50 Women Rocking the World of Architecture: These influential women are busy proving that the future (of architecture) is female: They have proven that, while often faced with marginalization, it is possible to rise to the top and get extraordinary things built. -- Julia Gamolina- Architizer

Robert Behre: Trump wants to require new federal buildings to be classical. It's a bad idea: ...[he] may sign an executive order to require the use of neoclassical design in new federal courthouses and office buildings...Waring Judicial Center reflects the tensions Charleston faces in trying to build new buildings that complement its great old ones...a more useful step would be...to urge the GSA to work even more closely with communities...The federal government is exempt from local architectural review boards; maybe that also should change...[it] should empower, not restrict, local voices wherever they plan to build. -- John Henry Devereux (1896); Gresham Smith- Charleston Post and Courier (South Carolina)



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Camilla Piccolo: Defeating Social and Urban Barriers: Inequality and Urban Design in Rocinha: In Rio de Janeiro, urban barriers are a central aspect of city life...Despite Rocinha's extreme proximity to the two affluent neighborhoods...residents are keenly aware of the presence of boundaries...City planning and urban interventions can be precious tools in overcoming physical...barriers. They can also...perpetuate the status quo...several upgrading projects...purportedly intended to foster connectivity have floundered or drawn widespread criticism for their focus on high-visibility, tourist-friendly works...Deconstructing urban barriers through urban design is fundamental to guaranteeing favela residents their right to the city, ensuring integration and equality. -- Oscar Niemeyer - RioOnWatch.org

Linnaea Tillett: Smart Lighting? Not So Fast! ...there is a worldwide trend to embed Smart City data collection devices and surveillance technologies into street furniture...Light poles play a key role...Many in the...lighting industry are on board...As lighting designers working in the public realm, we are very concerned...This is proceeding rapidly without public knowledge, debate, or oversight...Will the value of lighting design...become subservient to, or dismissed in favor of, the strategic needs of data collection? As professionals...We must be committed to transparency and argue for meaningful oversight and accountability. -- Tillett Lighting Design Associates - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

New record-breaking design approved for Ascent mass timber tower in Milwaukee: A redesign to have the apartment tower grow to 25 stories gained...Milwaukee Plan Commission endorsement...in San Antonio...a sample of the manufactured wood floors sat in a furnace...must withstand three hours of intense fire exposure while keeping its structural integrity...wooden columns already tested successfully... -- Korb & Associates Architects - Milwaukee Business Journal

Stefanie Waldek: Five Picasso Murals in Oslo Are at the Center of a Major Controversy: As part of a building complex that's slated for demolition, the murals are scheduled to be moved in the name of preservation: ...[murals] at the center of a major controversy regarding their method of preservation....Y-Block and H-Block, two modernist buildings [designed by] Erling Viksjø...In June 2011, both buildings and their murals were nominated to become heritage-listed monuments, but just one month later, a terrorist detonated a car bomb...Preservationists...advocating for the preservation of the entire site..."To keep the art without the building does not make much sense." -- Carl Nesjar; Mari Hvattum; Graham Bell/Europa Nostra - Architectural Digest

Atlanta's leading landscape architect, 93, still drawing: Edward Daugherty shapes the face of the city: ...the dean of Atlanta landscape architects...Sarah's Garden...for Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church is a respite garden, sponsored by eight churches, for caregivers of those with dementia. He's also drawing up plans for a restoration of a sunken park...It's possible that his equanimity comes from a lifetime of building tranquil places...His first challenge

was explaining to potential customers what landscape architects do. -- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA); Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) - Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Adele Peters: What would happen if the world reacted to climate change like it's reacting to the coronavirus? ...governments and citizens have been quick to change daily habits. The same hasn't happened for the climate crisis... "We've seen that governments can act, and people can change their behavior, in a very short amount of time," says May Boeve [of] 350.org. "And that's exactly what the climate movement has been asking governments and people to do for years"... There are similarities... Both involve public health... But the overall mobilization looks nothing like the response to the coronavirus... "The entrenched power and staying with the status quo is what differentiates climate change from this particular crisis." - Fast Company

Kevin Roose: Sorry, but Working From Home Is Overrated: Home-cooked lunches and no commuting while we deal with coronavirus can't compensate for what's lost in creativity: I'm writing this from... quarantine bunker in my dining room... getting plenty of work done, but I'm starting to get unnerved by the lack of stimulation... fans of remote work... argue that quarantined workers are getting a glimpse of our glorious, office-free future... what remote workers gain in productivity, they often miss in harder-to-measure benefits like creativity and innovative thinking... I'm supposed to be cheering on the remote work revolution... I'll stay home as long as [advised]. But honestly, I can't wait to go back to work. - New York Times

Niall Patrick Walsh: Is Coronavirus the Beginning of the End of Offices? ...[virus] forced a major global 'work-from-home' experiment... if those [who] wanted to work from home did so part-time, it would save \$700 billion across the U.S... while the savings in greenhouse gases would be the equivalent of taking the entire workforce of New York State off the road permanently... new models of work will inevitably lead to an evolution in the design of office spaces... Architects may be called to design a new, not-yet-realized typology of space... leads to a question of what happens to existing office typologies. - ArchDaily

World Trade Center blueprints, found in the trash in Denver, sold for \$250,000: A man who helped design the World Trade Center moved to Denver in the 70s and kept the blueprints for decades: The trash had been sitting outside the home of Joseph Solomon, an architect who helped design the Twin Towers... "I saved the beautiful sketches... the actual architectural plans were not as nostalgic, was not something that we needed, and so I put them out with the trash," Joseph's daughter Amy Solomon told us in 2018... "it's amazing what people can find value in. I don't really think anyone can do anything with them other than build another tower." - KUSA-TV 9News (Denver)

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Today's News - Thursday, March 12, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, March 17 (and hoping Friday the 13th might bring the world some good news!).

- [ANN feature](#): Weinstein uses a new British Museum exhibition catalogue as the starting point to delve into Piranesi's architectural imagination and why his architectural art matters today more than ever.
- [Davidson](#) parses NYC's Sunnyside Yard master plan: A "pleasant hilltop village will materialize" on a "massive platform over 180 acres of working rail yards. It's a thrilling prospect," but "isn't a plan so much as a wish list" - though the "fantasy drawings rest on a scaffolding of concrete research."
- [In Austin](#), Texas, "a small neighborhood of six 3D printed homes" (the first in the country) "are now a part of a 51-acre master-planned community for the city's former homeless community" (with link to news of a similar 40 tiny-house community in San Jose, California).
- [Eyefuls](#) of Canada's first zero-carbon, mass timber higher-education building, by DIALOG and Smoke Architecture, that "will embody Centennial College's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation" with a design that "brings together Indigenous and Western cultures in both the form and function."
- [Izon's Q&A](#) with Pharrell Williams re: "plans to convert a song into architecture" with his Untitled residential development in Toronto, his favorite elements, and some personal discoveries: "I've always admired architecture. I didn't know that I would get the developer itch."

COVID-19 and urban issues:

- [Walker considers](#) what some cities are attempting to do for their extremely vulnerable homeless populations who can't really follow coronavirus advice like washing hands and stocking up on food when they don't have a permanent address.
- [Klaus's](#) Q&A with Michele Acuto of the Connected Cities Lab re: "why COVID-19 could change how we study cities, how we live in them, and the urban planning dimensions of pandemic preparation." ("Digital infrastructure might be the sanitation of our time.")
- [Bollen pens](#) a "love letter" to Venice - "a city that has already survived two millennia of invasions and plagues, and will continue to if we remember to protect its treasures - it has become increasingly clear that Venice is on the cusp of vanishing."
- [A 74-year-old](#) culture and arts publicist in Rome pens "a firsthand account of what life has been like, as she tries to find a rational path between cavalier disregard and outright panic": "Everything's quiet, except for the parks."
- ["There](#) is nothing funny about a global pandemic, but people are expressing their feelings about not commuting to the office in creative, witty ways on workfromhomeageddon" (memes for a much-needed giggle - cats - and a few dogs - rule!).

Weekend diversions (check that venues are open):

- [Wainwright](#) x 2: "Formafantasma: Cambio" at the Serpentine Gallery is "a research-driven show" that raises "some provocative ideas" using "creative ways to expose myths about wood's sustainability," but it "can't escape an overall sense of preciousness."
- [He tours](#) "New Stone Age" at London's Building Centre with curator Amin Taha, who "is on a mission to reveal how this primal material has the potential to revolutionize contemporary construction as we know it. Brace yourselves."
- [Ravenscroft](#) talks to Taha about the show and his proposed 30-story stone skyscraper that he hopes will "demonstrate to commercial clients that stone is cheaper and enables a 90% reduction of embodied CO2" - a stone frame with CLT floors "could create carbon negative buildings."
- [Osman is](#) quite taken with Jean-Louis Cohen's "Building a New New World: Americanism in Russian Architecture" at the Canadian Centre for Architecture: "The experience is hugely rich - it traces a dialectic between Russians attracted to American modernity and those who found it repellent."
- [Marani finds](#) "Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect" at NYC's classical Morgan Library to be "a fantastical retrospective of expert draftsmanship - a succinct and, truth be told, sublime survey" in "a fitting curatorial space for the show."

Page-turners:

- [Tarmy offers](#) a fab photo essay re: Hopkins' "Postmodern Architecture: Less Is a Bore" that argues "postmodernism, long derided as ugly and garish, is on its way back. But is the world ready? Many people considered it one of the ugliest, most garish building trends in the history of Western civilization."
- [Waldek brings](#) us luscious eye-fuls from Zerbst's "Gaudí. The Complete Works" that "surveys his oeuvre, and the many inspirations that went into creating his defining aesthetic."
- [Riechers](#) cheers Osterwalder's "Olympic Games - The Design" that "encapsulates global politics and culture; in doing so, it serves as a de facto history of 20th-century graphic design" - to call the 14-pound, 1,552-page pair of books "an exhaustive publication is like saying that the Queen of England owns some jewelry."

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[ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Piranesi Drawings: Why his architectural art matters more than ever: The exhibition catalogue for a new British Museum exhibition provokes questions about neglected levels of classical heritage.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

[Justin Davidson: The Sunnyside Yard Master Plan Is a Mirage of a Better City: New York City's plan...is the best of all worlds. Whether it can actually exist in ours is another question: ...a green and pleasant hilltop village will materialize...Laying a massive platform over 180 acres of working railyards...Where else could you pack 12,000 affordable apartments, plus an abundance of offices, stores, parks, and services...It's a thrilling prospect...isn't a plan so much as a wish list...I almost scanned the renderings for a storefront cooper and a saddlery...it revives old ambitions...fantasy drawings rest on a scaffolding of concrete research... -- Practice for Architecture and Urbanism \(PAU\) - New York Magazine](#)

[3D-printed houses completed for Austin's homeless population: ... a small neighborhood of six 3D printed homes...The 400-square-foot dwellings, the first full 3D-printed homes in the country, are now a part of Community First Village, a 51-acre master-planned community...providing affordable, permanent housing](#)



and social services for the city's former homeless community. -- ICON; Logan Architecture; Franklin Alan - The Architect's Newspaper

Canada's first zero-carbon, mass timber higher-education building: Centennial College is collaborating with EllisDon, DIALOG and Smoke Architecture to construct a mass timber higher-education building based on the Indigenous concept of "two-eyed seeing": ...will embody the College's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and sustainable design...resulting design brings together Indigenous and Western cultures in both the form and function. - Canadian Architect

Juliet Izon: How Pharrell Williams Plans to Convert a Song Into Architecture: The singer and music producer tells AD about collaborating on an upcoming residential development in Toronto: In Untitled, [concept of a jugalbandi, a type of Indian music performance] will be manifested in the building's balconies, which will follow the wave pattern of one of his songs...Q&A re: his favorite elements of the project [and] some personal discoveries he made during the design process. "I've always admired architecture...I didn't know that I would get the developer itch...I'm most proud of the third tower, which is the rental tower" [with 200 affordable housing units]. -- Mansoor Kazerouni/IBI Group; U31 - Architectural Digest

Alissa Walker: 'Stay home?' 500,000 homeless Americans can't follow coronavirus advice: Washing your hands and stocking up on food isn't easy to do if you don't have a permanent address: ...many public health officials...are trying to mitigate the risk to vulnerable populations who are most likely to get very sick or die...Technically, that defines much of the homeless population in the U.S...Theo Henderson, who lives in a park in LA's Chinatown...wasn't worried about being infected - "It's not spread by people who are unhoused, it's spread by people with houses and passports" - but he was concerned about ongoing ignorance from housed people... - Curbed

Ian Klaus: Pandemics Are Also an Urban Planning Problem: Will COVID-19 change how cities are designed? Michele Acuto of the Connected Cities Lab talks about density, urbanization and pandemic preparation: While the University of Melbourne scrambles to accelerate a coronavirus vaccine, the Lab is working to understand the urban planning dimensions of pandemic preparedness. Q&A re: why COVID-19 could change how we study cities - and how we live in them..."Digital infrastructure might be the sanitation of our time." - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Christopher Bollen: Why Venice Will Endure No Matter What: A love letter to a city that has already survived two millennia of invasions and plagues, and will continue to if we remember to protect its treasures: I sometimes think this romantic idea of Venice accounts for why we seem incapable of saving it. Fantasies don't actually perish...The opposite notion, that Venice is a mere stage set for mass tourism, hasn't helped its chances of survival either...it has become increasingly clear that Venice is on the cusp of vanishing...How You Can Help Save Its Treasures - Town & Country

A Roman's Account of Life Under Coronavirus Lockdown: Flavia, a 74-year-old culture and arts publicist in Rome, gave...a firsthand account of what life has been like in the Eternal City, as she tries to find a rational path between cavalier disregard and outright panic: "Everything's quiet, except for the parks, which are full." - New York Magazine

Here are the funniest memes about working from home during the coronavirus outbreak: There is nothing funny about...a global pandemic, but people are expressing their feelings about not commuting to the office in creative, witty ways...on workfromhomeagedon, posted, of course, on Twitter. - Fast Company

Oliver Wainwright: "Formafantasma: Cambio" - how good is wood? The Amsterdam design studio finds creative ways to expose myths about wood's sustainability: What's not to like about wood? It is nature's wonder material, produced in an endlessly renewable, reusable and recyclable stream of green goodness. Right? Not so fast, say the designers behind the Serpentine Gallery's new exhibition...In the ethical maze of responsibly sourced materials...[an] aesthetically pleasing spotlight on the global dynamics of the timber industry...a research-driven show. The results are mixed, with some provocative ideas emerging...can't escape an overall sense of preciousness... thru May 17 -- Andrea Trimarchi; Simone Farresin - Guardian (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: The miracle new sustainable product that's revolutionising architecture - stone! It's cheap, light, quick, fireproof and has a tiny carbon footprint compared to concrete. No wonder the 'great forgotten material of our time' is staging a comeback: Amin Taha is on a mission...with stonemason Pierre Bidaud and engineer Steve Webb, he has curated an exhibition at the Building Centre that aims to reveal how this primal material...has the potential to revolutionise contemporary construction as we know it. Brace yourselves for the dawn of the "New Stone Age." thru May 15- Guardian (UK)

Tom Ravenscroft: Groupwork designs 30-storey stone skyscraper: Amin Taha's architecture studio has collaborated with structural engineer Webb Yates to design a conceptual...stone office block that would be cheaper and more sustainable than concrete or steel equivalents..."It's research to investigate how tall you can go in stone...[To] demonstrate to commercial clients...that [stone] is cheaper and enables a 90% reduction of embodied CO2" ...part of..."New Stone Age" at the Building Centre in London...based on...RIBA Award-winning 15 Clerkenwell Close project, but at a much larger scale...Combining a stone frame with cross-laminated timber (CLT) floors would further reduce levels of embodied carbon and could create carbon negative buildings... -- Eight Associates - Dezeen

Michael Osman: Russia and America cross-pollinate at the Canadian Centre for Architecture: "Building a New New World: Americanism in Russian Architecture" collects an enormous array of architectural objects and documents...the Russian relationship to America, or more precisely Russians' views of Americanism...is Jean-Louis Cohen's curatorial theme...He is personally involved in these geopolitics as well...composition feels like inhabiting a three-dimensional book; galleries are the chapters and the cases are subchapters within...The experience is hugely rich...traces a dialectic between Russians attracted to American modernity and those who found it repellent. Often times, these

oppositions are enacted simultaneously. thru April 5 -- MG&Co; Studio Folder-
The Architect's Newspaper

Matthew Marani: "Jean-Jacques Lequeu: Visionary Architect" is a fantastical retrospective of expert draftsmanship: ...a succinct and, truth be told, sublime survey...drawings ranging from self-portraits to invented landscapes populated by renderings of imagined buildings and monuments..."He never gave up his idiosyncratic vision"...Morgan Library & Museum, with its flamboyant marble flooring and intricate classical detailing, is a fitting curatorial space for the show. New York City, thru May 10 -- Bibliothèque Nationale de France - The Architect's Newspaper

James Tarmy: Vibrant, Fun, or Hideous? Postmodern Architecture Gets a Fresh Look: "Postmodern Architecture: Less Is a Bore" by Owen Hopkins argues that postmodernism, long derided as ugly and garish, is on its way back. But is the world ready? ...many people considered [it] one of the ugliest, most garish building trends in the history of Western civilization. Buildings, covered in a pastiche of useless ornament, pastel colors..."suddenly people were seeing these buildings that were kind of fun and friendly and full of joy"...Now, readers will be able to see about 200 of the most extreme examples...aims to articulate a defense of the movement, which began to experience a backlash as it proliferated. - Bloomberg News

Stefanie Waldek: A Look at the Complete Works of Antoni Gaudí: A new book surveys the Catalan architect's oeuvre, and the many inspirations that went into creating his defining aesthetic: "Gaudí. The Complete Works" by Rainer Zerbst dives into not only his famous buildings but also his forays into furniture and interior design, as well as his unfinished projects. Here, we take a peek inside its pages. - Architectural Digest

Angela Riechers: "Olympic Games - The Design" Documents Over a Century of Olympic Visual Identities: The book shows how Olympic design encapsulates global politics and culture; in doing so, it serves as a de facto history of 20th-century graphic design: ...graphic designer Markus Osterwalder began documenting, collecting, and studying Olympic design artifacts as an eight-year-old...[The book] is the triumphant result of his 30 years of preparation...This 14-pound, 1,552-page...pair of books is the first comprehensive volume documenting the visual identities of the Olympic Games from Athens 1896 to Tokyo 2020...To call [it] an exhaustive publication is like saying that the Queen of England owns some jewelry...an artistic version of the Oxford English Dictionary about the Olympics. - Metropolis Magazine / Business Interiors by Staples

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Today's News - Tuesday, March 17, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: We know the new reality of "social distancing" in an industry as social as ours is stressful, but we hope everyone is being wise and staying safe. In the meantime, we're raising a (virtual) glass of green beer and cheer to you all.

- [Sitz profiles](#) urban planner, writer, architect, and curator Vittorio Gregotti, who has succumbed to the coronavirus at 92, and talks to Eisenman, co-curator of the 1976 Venice Biennale, about Gregotti's focus on the relationship between Europe and America.
- [Pressman](#) is disappointed with Johns Hopkins' plan to revamp the Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue: "Adaptive reuse is a way to retain worthy architecture. But what makes sense in theory doesn't always translate to reality - the redesigned facade takes a clunky step backward rather than the smart upgrade it could have been."
- [Morgan](#), on the other hand, gives two thumbs-up to the "fabulous" Fascitelli Engineering Center at the University of Rhode Island: Instead of starchitecture "strutting displays of egotecture," Ballinger's "sparkling, light-collecting" center is "no frills, no gimmicks, just a focus on good design" and "a brilliant gesture at re-branding the university."
- [Kamin considers](#) how his alma mater Amherst College has also rejected the typical "Bring in the starchitects!" approach, stressing instead "architectural evolution, not revolution; reuse rather than replacement" that responds "to today's needs without sacrificing their core identity."
- [Wichita](#), Kansas, has two FLW buildings and will soon get a third - sort of: A never-built design for the Wichita State University, found in a drawer in a maintenance shed, is the inspiration for the Fundamental Learning Center for children with dyslexia (learning design, dance, drama, art, building, technology, and more!).
- [Gamolina's](#) great Q&A with Frances Halsband re: "giving back, staying in touch, and ethical behavior": "Don't plan a career arc because there's no such thing. Don't create some cloudlike vision that you're just going to waste a lot of time on. Instead - be ready to say yes when something good comes along."
- [Betsky heads](#) to Blacksburg to serve as director of Virginia Tech's School of Architecture + Design.
- [Brownell](#) is heading to Charlotte to be the director of the University of North Carolina College of Arts + Architecture.
- [Chipperfield](#) and Wirtz International Landscape Architects win the competition to transform an abandoned industrial site in Berlin into an almost car-free "lively residential and commercial neighborhood" with 1,400 affordable rental apartments and lots of green space.
- [The International](#) Federation of Interior Architects/Designers announces the winners of the IFI Global Awards, and the inaugural IFI Design Distinction Awards.
- [2019 Brick](#) in Architecture Awards honor 37 winners from the U.S., Australia, and Canada (with link to BIA's Photo Gallery).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Weinstein uses a new British Museum exhibition catalogue as the starting point to delve into Piranesi's architectural imagination and why his architectural art matters today more than ever.

COVID-19 news continues:

- [The AIA](#) postpones its May 2020 conference in L.A., and is "currently exploring options to reschedule the event and issuing refunds to registrants."
- [The CDC's](#) MicrobeNet and the University of Oregon Biology and the Built Environment (BioBE) Center publish "tactics for minimizing COVID-19 transmission in the built environment."
- [Betsky](#): "Suddenly, we are isolated. The response to the outbreak does raise questions about the fragility of our increasingly aspatial world and the value of place. How should architecture react?"
- [Marcus Fairs'](#) fascinating Q&A with trend forecaster Li Edelkoort: The coronavirus is causing a "quarantine of consumption" that offers "a blank page for a new beginning - this is what I am hopeful for: another and better system."
- [Lau lines](#) up a number of architecture firms who "offer insight on the impact of the novel coronavirus on their staff, operations, and projects" (to be "updated continually with new responses and developments").
- [Budds takes](#) a (riveting!) deep dive: "Throughout history, how we design and inhabit physical space has been a primary defense against epidemics - using space as a way to address epidemics has renewed interest."

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Obituary by Miriam Sitz: Italian Architect Vittorio Gregotti, 92, Dies of Coronavirus: ...contributed to, and later edited, the Italian architecture magazine Casabella4...in addition to his work as a designer, co-curating the 1976 Venice Biennale with Peter Eisenman..." "He realized the necessary postwar relationship between Europe and America when he organized the first international architecture biennale in Venice..." "Europa America: The City and the Suburb," with 11 European and 11 American architects...undertook cultural projects across Europe [and] designed Pujiang New Town in Shanghai, an Italian-themed, master-planned city of some 6 square miles. - Architectural Record

Andrew Pressman: President Kennedy Wanted to Improve Pennsylvania Avenue. Will a Revamped Newseum Building Help? A critic digs into Johns Hopkins's plans for the former museum: ...convert it to classrooms, offices, and event spaces..." "adaptive reuse"...is a way to retain worthy architecture...But what makes sense in theory doesn't always translate to reality...unfortunately...redesigned facade takes...a disappointing direction - a clunky step backward rather than the smart upgrade it could have been...resembles an over-designed, bloated suburban office building...blandly imposing rather than distinctive and inviting...represents a small move in the wrong direction. -- Ennead Architects (formerly Polshek Partnership); SmithGroup - Washingtonian Magazine

William Morgan: Fabulous Fascitelli Center for Advanced Engineering at University of Rhode Island: Colleges and universities can be the places to view the latest work of starchitects...architectural petting zoos, with strutting displays of egotecture....missteps of the past fade when one enters the sparkling, light-collecting Fascatelli Center...no frills here, no gimmicks, just a focus on good design delivering the best educational engineering facilities...emphasis on natural light transforms what might have been just another science building...a brilliant gesture at re-branding the university, it tells us loud and clear that URI is a place that will lead... -- Leers Weinzapfel; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Kite Architects; Terry Steelman/Ballinger - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)



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Blair Kamin: Course of action: Amherst College is a paradigm of how to update a campus while honoring a sense of place: How do you renew a college campus? "Bring in the starchitects!" Their novel designs...though not necessarily functional, promised to generate publicity, boost enrollment, and "rebrand" a historic campus. The results...have been mixed...My alma mater...stresses architectural evolution, not revolution; reuse rather than replacement...I think the college was wise to pursue this unfashionable course...provides a template for other liberal arts institutions confronting the vexing question of how to...respond to today's needs without sacrificing their core identity. -- Charles Edward Parkes; McKim, Mead & White; Putnam and Cox; Benjamin Thompson; Payette; Frederick Law Olmsted; William Rawn; Einhorn Yaffee Prescott; Bruner/Cott; Michael Van Valkenburgh; Herzog & de Meuron - ArchitectureBoston magazine (Boston Society of Architects/BSA)

Frank Lloyd Wright has designed another Wichita building? Not quite, but close: [He] died in 1959 with two Wichita buildings to his name. Now there's a third in the works, this time for the Fundamental Learning Center, that's heavily influenced by...an actual rendering he made for a building at Wichita State University that was never built...the biggest need is to train teachers on how to teach children with dyslexia...with subjects such as design, dance, drama, art, music, building, innovation, technology and other areas in which children with dyslexia do well...a juvenile cultural center that Wright designed for WSU in 1953...never happened....[plan] hidden in a big drawer in a maintenance shed. -- Craig Rhodes/GLMV Architecture - Wichita Eagle (Kansas)

Julia Gamolina: Power to Move Forward: Frances Halsband on Giving Back, Staying in Touch, and Ethical Behavior: Q&A re: change that she's seen in her time in the industry and her new focus, advising those just starting their careers: "Don't plan a career arc because there's no such thing. Don't follow your dreams. Don't create some cloudlike vision that you're just going to waste a lot of time on. Instead, stay attached to the people around you and what's happening right here, and be ready to say yes when something good comes along." -- Kliment Halsband Architects. - Madame Architect

Aaron Betsky named director of Virginia Tech's School of Architecture + Design: He comes to [VT] from the School of Architecture at Taliesin (formerly known as

the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture)...will join Virginia Tech on June 1...Hunter Pittman, who has led the [School] since 2016, will return to the school as an associate professor...Betsky was also drawn to Virginia Tech through his commitment to the Beyond Boundaries vision and related initiatives... - Virginia Tech News

Blaine Brownell Appointed New Director of UNC School of Architecture: The University of North Carolina College of Arts + Architecture announced that he will begin the position on July 1: He will come to UNC Charlotte from the University of Minnesota School of Architecture....architect, educator, and researcher of emergent materials and applications. A former Fulbright scholar to Japan... - Architect Magazine

David Chipperfield Architects Wins Competition to Transform Former Industrial Site in Berlin: ...with Wirtz International Landscape Architects...to convert the abandoned industrial and production site Georg-Knorr-Park into a lively residential and commercial neighborhood...1,400 affordable rental apartments and 90,000 square meters of office and commercial space...new block creates a series of open arcades...introduces three skyscrapers, echoing the neighboring towers...Almost car-free, the neighborhood is surrounded by a protective green belt... - ArchDaily

Raising the bar of Design Innovation and Excellence: IFI's Global Awards Program (IFI GAP) recognizes best built Interiors worldwide: Program recognizes individual luminaries of the Interiors profession. Inaugural IFI Design Distinction Awards (IFI DDA) recognize completed projects. Arthur Gensler takes the IFI Prize, highest accolade; IFI Design Journalism Award (IFI DJA): Alice Rawsthorn; FoIFI: Sebastiano Raneri; Julio Cesar Chavez Espino; Mohamad Faisal Ghazali; Jooyun Kim; Susan Szenasy; junya.ishigami+associates; i29 interior architects; HOK; Serie + Multiply Architects; Oppenheim Architecture; Kunyu Design; Horizontal Design; HG Arhitektuur OÜ - International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI)

2019 Brick in Architecture Awards Honor Dynamic Design: 37 Winners Span the U.S., Australia and Canada: All winning projects may be viewed in Brick Industry Association/BIA's Photo Gallery. -- Lake|Flato Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Wheeler Kearns Architects; Magnusson Architecture & Planning; John Ronan Architects; etc. - Yahoo News

AIA Postpones 2020 Conference: Responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, the American Institute of Architects will not hold its annual meeting May 14-16 in Los Angeles: ...currently exploring options to reschedule the event and...is issuing refunds to registrants. - Architect Magazine

Tactics for Minimizing COVID-19 Transmission in the Built Environment: Researchers from the CDC's MicrobeNet and the University of Oregon Biology and the Built Environment (BioBE) Center synthesized and analyzed information...to provide the industry guidance on minimizing the virus's spread...examined how the built environment, including buildings, roads, and public transport, can speed the transmission...The full draft of the article can be downloaded at Preprints. - Architect Magazine

Aaron Betsky: The Coronavirus, Meatspace, and Architecture: Suddenly, we

are...isolated...The response to the outbreak does...raise questions about the fragility of our increasingly aspatial world and the value of place...How should architecture react? An obvious answer...would be a reactionary one...a Framptonian return to the local in everything...architects need to bring their skills and knowledge to the virtual realm...This is not just a question of aesthetics, but of creating a feeling of belonging, of feeling at home...what we need is...the creation of new windows and passageways...Perhaps architects will spend some time...figuring out how they can use their skills to improve the work and living spaces of the less affluent and mobile. - Architect Magazine

Marcus Fairs: Coronavirus offers "a blank page for a new beginning" says Li Edelkoort: ...epidemic will lead to "a global recession of a magnitude that has not been experienced before" but will eventually allow humanity to reset its values...virus was causing a "quarantine of consumption"...economic disruption could have environmental benefits..."We will have to pick up the residue and reinvent everything from scratch...this is where I am hopeful for: another and better system...we will be forced to do what we should have done already in the first place....the Age of the Amateur..." - Dezeen

Wanda Lau: How Architecture Firms Are Responding to COVID-19: Practitioners across the country offer insight on the impact of the novel coronavirus on their staff, operations, and projects. This article will be updated continually with new responses and developments. -- Nader Tehrani & Arthur Chang/NADAAA; Mike Medici/SmithGroup; Elizabeth Ranieri/Kuth Ranieri Architects; Nathan Miller/Proving Ground; Rachel Woodhouse & Karen Bala/Dyer Brown; Ted Hyman/ZGF; Brad Lukanic & Charlene Miraglia/CannonDesign - Architect Magazine

Diana Budds: Design in the age of pandemics: Throughout history, how we design and inhabit physical space has been a primary defense against epidemics: Geoff Manaugh...writing a book about quarantine..."We have to return to this kind of medieval spatial response to disease control, which means that architecture and urban design suddenly become medical"...using space as a way to address epidemics has renewed interest...Sara Jensen Carr: "The U.S. has abandoned its public realm...we should think about the value of the public realm and public space in combating this thing." - Curbed

ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Piranesi Drawings: Why his architectural art matters more than ever: The exhibition catalogue for a new British Museum exhibition provokes questions about neglected levels of classical heritage.- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, March 18, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: We woke up to an inbox filled with thoughtful observations and advice from some of our favorite critics and writers - all well worth spending time with. Of note is a focus on the importance of public parks, considering how many national and state park systems are closed (all New York State parks are open - and free!). It felt a bit frivolous to add news of proposed skyscrapers and mega-projects (that may or may not happen, under current circumstances) to the mix. We'll get back to such things tomorrow...

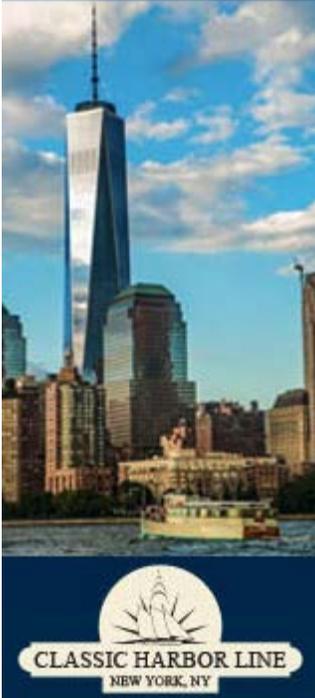
- [Kimmelman](#): "Can city life survive coronavirus? Pandemics are anti-urban - social distancing runs against the way we have built our cities. Today's threat is another sort of challenge to solidarity. It is not a heat wave or a blitz. We will need to figure out a different approach, together."
- [Boddy: Rather](#) than eulogize his "colleague and hero" Gregotti, he offers "some speculations - a few unexpected connections - something [he] was very good at. There is one hugely positive impact on architecture and city-building that is emerging - the rediscovery of the importance of 'the public' - an infinitely better place to invest recovery funding than corporate bailouts" ("planetary hive-mind" included).
- [Kamin on](#) why cities' "strength is their weakness. The ghost-town emptiness of popular attractions underscores how the coronavirus has temporarily turned an essential, much-praised feature of urban life on its head. The joys of density will return once this tragic chapter is over."
- [Saffron](#): "Throughout history, cities have found ways to make themselves more resilient. As chilling as COVID-19's viral assault has been, it's almost certain that cities will adapt again - we continue to gravitate to local parks," where "we can at least be alone in the presence of others."
- [Bozikovic](#): "High Park is the closest thing Toronto has to a grand urban park, and it seemed the right place to go. Parks are lungs for the city, and they're medicine for us. We will be cautious. But we'll get outside into the grand places that our society has built. We each need to take a breath."
- [Walker shares](#) her own family's experience following San Francisco's shelter-in-place order: "My own gut-check has become this: If it feels 'normal' to you, it's probably risky to others - staying home might feel crushingly inadequate, but it is literally the most heroic thing we can do."
- [Lam x 2](#): She considers "what COVID-19 means for Canadian architects" (applicable to architects everywhere): Systems' security when working from home; keeping staff morale up; cash flow - particularly for small firms; etc. "On an optimistic note, the unusual spatial practices demanded by the crisis may bring new awareness to the importance of design."
- [She parses](#) the Toronto Society of Architects' "guide to COVID-19 pandemic preparedness - a virtual space to share resources: Reliable Sources; Preparedness for your Studio; Social Distancing and Collaboration Tools (many free of charge for basic plans)."
- [Waite parses](#) AJ's Covid-19 survey that shows "significant regional differences; a mixed picture of practices' readiness for working through the lockdown - nearly 10% had still not made plans"; etc. + RIBA and the new architects' union weigh in.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Weinstein uses a new British Museum exhibition catalogue as the starting point to delve

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Kimmelman: Can City Life Survive Coronavirus? Cities are epicenters of capital and creativity, designed to be occupied collectively. Pandemics are anti-urban, preying on our human desire for connection:coronavirus undermines our most basic ideas about community and, in particular, urban life...social distancing not only runs up against our fundamental desires to interact, but also against the way we have built our cities...For many urban systems to work properly, density is the goal, not the enemy...Today's threat is altogether another sort of challenge to solidarity...It is not a heat wave or a blitz...We will need to figure out a different approach, together. - New York Times

Trevor Boddy: For Vittorio: The dismal reality of the COVID-19 pandemic has hit with the first death of a colleague and hero...Vittorio Gregotti...Rather than eulogize him and the others we'll lose too soon, it is more in his spirit...to shape some speculations - a few unexpected connections - something [he] was very good at...The era of "Climate Change"...narrative has ended...The planetary hive-mind [is] only able to assimilate one huge existential threat at a time...When the economic recovery starts...architects are obliged to become the memory flywheels of conservation practices...we'll need new rhetoric to advance our cause...There is one hugely positive impact on architecture and city-building that is emerging...the rediscovery...of the importance of "the public"...This is [a] once-generational opportunity for architects, to plan for the public spaces and public buildings that will be an infinitely better place to invest recovery funding than corporate bailouts. - Canadian Architect

Blair Kamin: Why Chicago and other cities are vulnerable to the virus: Their strength is their weakness: The ghost-town emptiness at two of Chicago's most popular attractions underscores how...coronavirus has temporarily turned an essential, much-praised feature of urban life...on its head...Density energizes cities by pouring people...into alluring public spaces...But now...[it] is suddenly a vice...the tension between density and distancing isn't limited to public spaces...In this time of social distancing, social media at least gives us the chance to engage...But life isn't fully lived on a smartphone screen...The joys of density will return once this tragic chapter is over. - Chicago Tribune

Inga Saffron: Philadelphia has endured plagues before. It adapted and became a better place: Is digital infrastructure the sanitation of our time? What does that mean for the future of cities? Because social distancing is not something that comes naturally to urban dwellers, densely occupied cities and towns have always been places where diseases have spread quickly...throughout history, cities have found ways to make themselves more resilient...As chilling as COVID-19's viral assault has been...it's almost certain that cities will adapt again...While viruses spread more quickly in cities, so do new ideas, culture, innovation and opportunities...we continue to gravitate to local parks...we can at least be alone in the presence of others...Here are some changes that may come to cities: - Philadelphia Inquirer

Alex Bozicovic: The need for parks: In a time of sickness, we all need to take a breath: High Park is the closest thing Toronto has to a grand urban park, and it seemed the right place to go...we were keeping our two metres of distance.



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What better place to do it? For the millions of us who live in cities...green space is something we'll have to seek out - in order to stay healthy, in body and in spirit. Parks are lungs for the city, and they're medicine for us...We will be cautious. We'll stay far from the playgrounds and we will touch no one. But we'll get outside into the grand places that our society has built and maintained for us...We each need to take a breath. -- Frederick Law Olmsted- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Alissa Walker: To stop coronavirus, we must start at home: The choices we make today will help those closest to us: ...there isn't a whole lot of specific information provided about what you can and should actually do. Even six experts interviewed about the ethics of social distancing could not agree if certain activities should be avoided...That's why our family is...following [San Francisco's] shelter-in-place order...My own gut-check has become this: If it feels "normal" to you, it's probably risky to others...staying home might feel crushingly inadequate, but it is literally the most heroic thing we can do.- Curbed

Elsa Lam: What COVID-19 means for Canadian architects: From office to home...One of the biggest challenges...is "providing ways...that maintain office security requirements"...Keeping staff morale up is also a challenge...Cash flow will be an issue...particularly for small firms...For architects with young children [school closures] poses an additional layer of challenge...Existing work...the most steady work at present seems to be long-horizon projects...On an optimistic note, the unusual spatial practices demanded by the crisis may bring new awareness to the importance of design. -- Toon Dreesen/Architects DCA; Tania Bortolotto; Omar Gandhi; Kevin Weiss/Weiss A+U; Janna Levitt/LGA Architectural Partners; Lawrence Bird/Sputnik Architecture; Christine Leu/Leu Webb Projects; Cynthia Dovell/Avid Architecture; Christine Lolley/Solares Architecture; Nicolas Demers-Stoddart/Provencher_Roy; Michael Green/MGA; Avery Guthrie & Wes Wilson/Teeple Architects- Canadian Architect

Elsa Lam: TSA guide to COVID-19 Pandemic Preparedness: Toronto Society of Architects has created a virtual space to share resources that might be helpful for the architecture community...Reliable Sources: The following international organizations and local authorities have created dedicated websites; Pandemic Preparedness for your Studio; Social Distancing and Collaboration Tools: Many of the tools below are free of charge for basic plans.- Canadian Architect

Richard Waite: Coronavirus survey: Profession shifts to home-working: ...AJ's Covid-19 survey: ...there were significant regional differences...a mixed picture of practices' readiness for working through the lockdown...nearly 10%...had still not made plans...United Voices of the World - Section of Architectural Workers (UWV-SAW)...said many practices had shown a lack of care for their staff's health and wellbeing...many...praised the measures put in place by their employers...RIBA: "The government must ease the cash squeeze faced by many practices and their clients, and provide clarity on how it will keep the

[planning system operating and construction sites..." - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Piranesi Drawings: Why his architectural art matters more than ever: The exhibition catalogue for a new British Museum exhibition provokes questions about neglected levels of classical heritage.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, March 19, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Starting the day with some bright news: It's the first day of Spring (our daffodils are blooming!)! Meanwhile, tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, March 24. In the meantime - stay safe!

- [Simons](#), executive director, Mayor's Institute on City Design: How 44 mayors and 45 design leaders "view the coming decade - will the decade be Reactionary? Rancorous? Revitalized?" (Results of a January survey - "we could hardly have foreseen the public health crisis that is currently unfolding across the world," sayeth Simon.)
- [Kamin on](#) the latest plan for the Chicago Spire site that has been "a pockmark on the cityscape" for the last 12 years: It "improves in some respects on its first version. Other changes, however, are for the worse" (it's all moot if the coronavirus crisis really crashes the economy).
- [Maund, Ware](#) & Gajendran find "heartwarming" the "willingness of government and community to work together" when housing Australia's bushfire victims - why not "adapt our collective thinking to solve" the "urgent" crisis of "homelessness and the overall need for affordable housing?"
- [The design](#) of the Hurricane Maria memorial slated for NYC's Battery Park City is unveiled, but critics say it "should be built in a neighborhood with stronger Puerto Rican ties" - and its timing is inappropriate when "tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans are still without functional housing."
- [A look at](#) Sam Jacob's "ambiguous" street shelter in Shenzhen, China, that "serves no apparent or singular purpose" - and looks like "a peace offering from an alien race."
- [Photographer](#) Roberto Conte's photo essay that "captures the variety of modernist structures across Chandigarh, a city that continues to act as a visual and architectural inspiration."
- [Call for](#) entries (no entry fee!): The Unique Airbnb Fund: \$1M for 10 groundbreaking ideas that "challenge the very idea of a house" for Airbnb: "Unusual shapes, unexpected locations, immersive concepts, spaces with a story."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Weinstein uses a new British Museum exhibition catalogue as the starting point to delve into Piranesi's architectural imagination and why his architectural art matters today more than ever.

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [With just](#) about every cultural space in the world closed until further notice, Google Arts & Culture has partnered with over 2,500 museums and galleries with virtual tours and online exhibits (and "a handy shortlist of their top 10 virtual museums") + the Open Heritage series explores historical and cultural gems + podcasts (Very cool! We've gathered reviews that we'll run next week - if the shows are online).
- [Davidson](#) parses Season 3 of HBO's "Westworld" and "how real architecture inspired" its "deluxe urban dystopia - Bjarke Ingels, one of the most future-drunk architects around, raided his firm's cemetery of unbuilt designs and sprinkled them around the skyline."
- [Design Observer](#) is practicing social distancing in what promises to be a lively online conversation with co-

founders Jessica Helfand & Michael Bierut, Harry Stevens from The Washington Post, Curbed's Alissa Walker, and moderator Hugh Weber.

- [Welton talks](#) to architect/planner-turned-landscape architect Watson re: "Lo-TEK": "'Can we look at low tech for rebuilding to harmonize with our ecosystems, and apply it to design and urbanism?' The answers are in her book."
- [Brussat](#) gives (mostly) thumbs-up to E. Michael Jones's "Living Machines: Modern Architecture and the Rationalization of Sexual Misbehavior" - a "curious and compelling" [and "spicy"] book "on the movement to shift ecclesiastical architecture away from its traditions to the deconstructivist strain of modern architecture" and "the indictment of modern architecture as a paragon of perversity."

COVID-19 news continues. With no light at the end of tunnel - yet - we decided to lead with two items that lifted our spirits.

- [A choirmaster](#) who can't convene his choir launches "The Sofa Singers," an international online community that "spreads joy and togetherness through the power of song - from the comfort of their sofas" (you can join in!).
- [A look at](#) some folks who "are failing hilariously at working from home" with cats and flatulent dogs (and naked bodies) as coworkers - "however rough your work-from-home experience has been, it could have been a lot worse."
- [On more](#) serious notes: Kimmelman on KCBS Radio talks about how "major epicenters of creativity and economy" are "grinding to a halt," and ponders "when, or if, those cities will return to normal."
- [Giacobbe](#) talks to a number of architects about how the pandemic "will change the built environment"; how its "rapid spread has caused the design community to reevaluate their life's work, and what it might mean to design for a world that will never be quite the same - a few ideas have already emerged."
- [From Down](#) Under: "If you're feeling discombobulated by the crazy mental contagion of our world right now, try this: a good night's sleep, an early morning walk in the sun. Meanwhile, from the heart of the property industry," here's what the future might bring.
- [The Fifth](#) Estate spoke to the experts re: how a WELL Certified Building can "help fight off sicknesses such as coronavirus," how "the potential contradiction between green buildings and healthy buildings can be managed" - and more.
- [Marsh & Sayre](#) of PLASTARC offer "10 ways to stay happy and healthy when working from home," and how to make it "a successful and sustainable experience" (#1: "Over-communicate"; #10: Get outside).
- [ENR is "tracking](#) developing industry impacts as COVID-19 interrupts global business" with links to "ongoing reporting, analysis and commentary on construction sector developments" (not included in ANN's coverage).

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[Trinity Simons/Mayor's Institute on City Design: How Mayors and Design Leaders View the Coming Decade: The people shaping our communities...are faced with a fundamental challenge: How do you design for an uncertain future? ...will the decade be Reactionary? Rancorous? Revitalized? 44 mayors and 45 design leaders participated...Answers ranged from the practical to the alarmist, from the aspirational to the fantastical...interrelated themes emerged. Climate; Affordability; Autonomous vehicles; Digital privacy; What's Old Will Become New Again; Era of Single-Objective Infrastructure Ends; Stewards of Social Infrastructure; "The Bottom Line Will Be Quality of Life" - Common Edge](#)

[Blair Kamin: The latest plans for the Chicago Spire site: Is this land cursed? The 76-foot-deep foundation hole...is a pockmark on the cityscape...\[mayor's\] urban planners...are desperate to fill the cursed hole...they're cutting a lousy deal for](#)

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the people of Chicago...That became clear when Related Midwest unveiled revised plans [for] the 2.2-acre site...changes show a watering-down of the project's previously arresting skyline presence and a weakening of its contribution to...public spaces...400 Lake Shore Drive...improves in some respects on its first version...Other changes, however, are for the worse. -- Santiago Calatrava; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) - Chicago Tribune

Mark Maund, Kim Maund, SueAnne Ware & Thayaparan Gajendran: We're innovative when housing bushfire victims. Why not all the homeless? With more than 3,500 homes destroyed...the willingness of government and community to work together...has been heartwarming...But what about the many...who were homeless before the bushfires? ...we can certainly learn from the bushfire examples of innovation in planning to solve a crisis...If we accept homelessness and the overall need for affordable housing as a crisis, and are willing to adapt our collective thinking to solve urgent problems - as we have for bushfire-affected communities - then imagine what we could achieve. - The Conversation (Australia)

Hurricane Maria memorial unveiled for Battery Park City: Designed by Puerto Rico-based architect Segundo Cardona and...artist Antonio Martorell, the glass spiral aims to be a symbol of resiliency for the Puerto Rican community...Critics have...voiced concerns that the memorial should be built in a neighborhood with stronger Puerto Rican ties. Controversy...expands to its timing and appropriateness...it's not time yet for a memorial in New York, but for renewed reconstruction efforts in Puerto Rico...over two-and-a-half years later, tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans are still without functional housing. - The Architect's Newspaper

Sam Jacob designs ambiguous street shelter in Shenzhen: While the Yantian Dolmen is about the size of a bus stop, it serves no apparent or singular purpose...at first appears to be a peace offering from an alien race...part of a family of urban furniture elements that blur the distinction between art and design...commissioned for the Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture of Shenzhen and Hong Kong (UABB 2019)...“Urban Interactions”... SJS- The Architect's Newspaper

Modernist Chandigarh Through the Lens of Roberto Conte: ...represents an iconic fragment of Modernist architecture...meant to showcase the progressiveness of the 1950s' newly independent India...This photo essay...captures the variety of modernist structures across a city that continues to act as a visual and architectural inspiration. -- Albert Mayer;d Matthew Nowicki; Le Corbusier; Pierre Jeanneret; Maxwell Fry; Jane Drew - ArchDaily

Call for entries: The Unique Airbnb Fund: \$1M for 10 groundbreaking ideas (no entry fee!): We're giving 10 people \$100,000 each to build the most unconventional Airbnb they can dream up. Unusual shapes, unexpected locations, immersive concepts, spaces with a story...challenge the very idea of a house; deadline: April 15- Airbnb

Lilly Smith: Stuck at home because of coronavirus? How to get your art and design fix from your couch: Just because [you're] avoiding public spaces doesn't mean you can't get cultured: Google Arts & Culture has partnered with over

2500 museums and galleries around the world...most include online exhibits...Google curated a handy shortlist of their top 10 virtual museums...many offer robust virtual catalogs of their collections...Open Heritage series is another way to explore lesser-known and endangered historical and cultural gems...for some audio inspiration...podcasts...are great wells of design inspo to keep the creativity flowing...watch curated video series and lectures... - Fast Company / Co.Design

Justin Davidson: How Real Architecture Inspired Westworld's Futuristic Cities: The meaning behind season 3's deluxe urban dystopia, a gleam with prosperity and gentrified to a high polish: The creators tapped Bjarke Ingels, one of the most future-drunk architects around, to consult on the city's shape; he raided his firm's cemetery of unbuilt designs and sprinkled them around the skyline...the latest in a long line of meticulously fantasized urban futures...Filmmakers hardly need to make anything up, since real-life architects and planners are constantly imagining future versions of the cities we live in... - New York Magazine

Design Observer Studio Sessions: Join us as we practice social distancing the best way we know how - in conversation...co-founders Jessica Helfand + Michael Bierut, Harry Stevens from The Washington Post and Alissa Walker from Curbed. Moderated by Hugh Weber. Friday, March 20 - Design Observer

Michael J. Welton: Julia Watson's "Lo-TEK": Symbiosis with the Land: After 20 years of studying indigenous people and their solutions to environmental challenges, the architect/planner-turned-landscape architect offers another solution: ...and offers 18 case studies that address it - in her new book... "there's a lot of the technology that we've overlooked from cultural bias," says Watson... "the concept of low tech has not been explored, because racism and colonialism have prevented it. Can we look at it for rebuilding to harmonize with our ecosystems, and apply it to design and urbanism?" The answers are in her book. - Architects + Artisans

David Brussat: Deconstructing the church: ...a curious and compelling book... "Living Machines: Modern Architecture and the Rationalization of Sexual Misbehavior" by E. Michael Jones. It makes a strong case for what has become a notable cliché: that modern architecture symbolizes the degeneracy of its founders and subsequent practitioners - and today represents our degenerate popular and...scholarly culture...a spicy book...on the movement to shift ecclesiastical architecture away from its traditions to the deconstructivist strain of modern architecture...[it] is mostly a delight...whether classical architecture reflects the Word of God or not, it does reflect order and knowledge in architecture...modern architecture is certainly anti-traditional, not to mention disordered and ignorant...book adds considerable detail (much of it titillating) and much useful, engaging analysis to the indictment of modern architecture as a paragon of perversity. - Architecture Here and There

Online choir spreads joy and togetherness during coronavirus outbreak: When it became impossible to run his real-life choirs as normal...James Sills launched The Sofa Singers. The virtual group invites people from all over the world to connect through the power of song - from the comfort of their sofas...project encourages participants to "sing as if no one is listening.. because they won't be!" - Positive News magazine

Mark Wilson: Farts, cats, naked bodies: People are failing hilariously at working from home: Heroes, all of you! Work culture will need to adjust to the new normal, in which toddlers and flatulent dogs are our coworkers...prove that, however rough your work-from-home experience has been, it could have been a lot worse. - Fast Company

Major Epicenters of Creativity and Economy Grinding to a Halt: The question now is when, or if, those cities will return to normal. Michael Kimmelman, architecture critic for The New York Times...spoke with KCBS Radio News anchor Margie Shafer. - KCBS Radio News (San Francisco)

Alyssa Giacobbe: How the COVID-19 Pandemic Will Change the Built Environment: This won't be the first time in history that cities and buildings will be reimagined in response to an increased understanding of disease: ...rapid spread...has caused the design community to reevaluate their life's work, and what it might mean to design for a world that will never be quite the same...while the particular lessons...are still very much TBD, a few ideas have already emerged. -- Rami el Samahy/OverUnder; David Dewane/Barker/Nestor; Lionel Ohayon/ICRAVE; Kobi Karp; Dan Meis; Craig Scully/Design Collaborative- Architectural Digest

On a walk in the park, and a peek into turmoil: If you're feeling discombobulated by the crazy mental contagion of our world right now try this: a good night's sleep, an early morning walk in the sun, a bit of nature...When something as mad as this coronavirus comes around it's worth remembering that it's up to us to sift out the things that really matter. Meanwhile, from the heart of the property industry; Behaviour patterns will change; It's all connected- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Coronavirus: What we know so far about managing the risk in buildings: Wondering if buildings can help prevent the spread and impact of COVID-19? ...the recommended response for building operators is evolving daily. The Fifth Estate spoke to the experts. How can WELL Certified Building help fight off sicknesses such as coronavirus? The potential contradiction between green buildings and healthy buildings can be managed. Working from home might become more common. -- AIRAH (Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating); International WELL Building Institute- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Melissa Marsh & Mike Sayre/PLASTARC: 10 ways to stay happy and healthy when working from home: ...telework is a skill that is mastered through practice; organizations or individuals who view it merely as a stopgap measure will not realize the benefit...some suggestions to guide telework novices and veterans alike toward a successful and sustainable experience: Over-communicate; Define boundaries; Take breaks; Stay social; Connect creatively; Brush up on security risks, policies, and best practices; Build trust; Get outside- Real Estate Weekly

Latest Updates On The Virus Pandemic: Tracking developing industry impacts as COVID-19 forces closures and interrupts global business: ...ongoing reporting, analysis and commentary on construction sector developments, with updates as they occur. - Engineering News-Record (ENR)

[ANN feature: Norman Weinstein: Piranesi Drawings: Why his architectural art matters more than ever: The exhibition catalogue for a new British Museum exhibition provokes questions about neglected levels of classical heritage.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Tuesday, March 24, 2020

- [Political](#) historian and biographer Baker re: "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" draft proposal - it "repeats as mantras the four pillars" of Moynihan's 1962 guidelines: "federal buildings 'must provide dignity, enterprise, vigor and stability.' But who is to say when a building expresses dignity or stability, much less enterprise and vigor?" (Latrobe would have none if it!)
- [Hosey parses](#) "the origins of sustainable design in the U.S." in honor of the 30th anniversary of the AIA COTE Committee: "It is time to reflect on the pioneers who took up the cause when few others would," and "laid out all the issues that still challenge the industry today."
- [Fast Co.](#) x 2: "The world's most innovative companies of 2020 in architecture."
- [Its round-up](#) of "the 10 most innovative urban development and real estate companies of 2020 transforming our built environment, from 3D-printed homes to turning parking lots into underground farms - and cemeteries that are actually forests."

COVID-19 news continues:

- [Harvard](#) GSD's Forsyth on the role planning and design plays in a pandemic, "COVID-19's impact on the future of urban life," and the important questions raised "for future research and practice."
- [Golden's](#) take on "what COVID-19 teaches us about resilience - this pandemic may give rise to the power and value of local sourcing."
- [Speaking](#) of sourcing: A deep dive into how coronavirus shipping delays are slowing down projects "as materials from overseas become harder to get," and "domestic sources may not be so easy to line up overnight."
- [Thorpe looks](#) at what's going on in Europe, and "the potential sources of hope amidst the terrifying gloom" - though the "twin Covid-19 and climate change disaster threats could break many countries' abilities to support their industries."
- [Fahd &](#) Oscar's fascinating take on why photos of empty public spaces are so impactful: "Our attraction to images of the world without us reveals a collective fascination for the apocalypse or, perhaps, extinction" (similar to "ruin porn").
- [Cramer](#): "September 11 changed the world, and not necessarily for the better. This time, as we adapt to life with COVID-19, let's aim for improvement" - and "keep fighting for a more healthy, resilient, just society. Architects are good at it."
- [Moore made](#) it home from Australia just as the coronavirus was taking hold: "Like London, Melbourne's recent skyline is atrocious, made of gimmicky glass towers delivered in both cities by much the same cohort. Which only goes to show that this junk is global."
- [Lydia Lee](#) talks to "architects and designers in U.S. cities under siege" re: "how they are running their practices from a distance" ("we're going to start to miss real 'face time' pretty quickly").
- [Walsh offers](#) a great list of tips and resources for architects now working at home "that can help you find your feet, restore your confidence, and activate your imagination" ("limit your news diet") - and some global firms

weigh in on how they're coping.

• [Evelyn Lee's](#) tips for "maintaining business continuity with a remote workforce: Empower your team; get everyone the right hardware & software; own up to mistakes if they're yours, or be empathetic to those who make them" - and more.

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Jean H. Baker: Trump's Plan for Federal Buildings: Make America Old Again: While superficially bowing to the past, [his] draft proposal for regulating federal architecture would undo two centuries of precedent going back to Benjamin Latrobe: "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...repeats as mantras the four pillars of [1962 Moynihan] guidelines: federal buildings "must provide dignity, enterprise, vigor and stability." But who is to say when a building expresses dignity or stability, much less enterprise and vigor? Beware a future of faux classical structures, glinty gold trim, and Louis XV-type flourishes...Throughout his life Latrobe fought lonely battles against any interference by federal officials including presidents. - The Daily Beast

Lance Hosey: A Quiet Revolution: The Origins of Sustainable Design in the United States: On the 30th anniversary of the AIA Committee on the Environment, it is time to reflect on the pioneers who took up the cause of sustainability...when few others would: [In 1990] a small group of architects...redefined the direction of American architecture...With a sense of urgency...the group laid out all the issues that still challenge the industry today... "sustainable architecture"...appeared in print only four times that year...COTE's vision for truly radical transformation seems prophetic. -- Bob Berkebile, Paul Bierman-Lytle, Greg Franta, Kirk Gasting, Harry Gordon, Hal Levin, Bill McDonough, Chris Stafford, Kelly Vresilovic- Metropolis Magazine

The world's most innovative companies of 2020 in architecture: Olson Kundig, Snøhetta, and Studio Gang made the list again this year, joined by some surprising upstarts. -- New Story; WRNS Studio; Lever Architecture; Foster + Partners; KieranTimberlake; Nendo; Gh3- Fast Company magazine

The 10 most innovative urban development and real estate companies of 2020: Zillow, Hello Alfred, and eight other companies transforming our built environment, from 3D-printed homes to the next-gen experiential mall...turning parking lots into underground farms, urban air-quality monitors, car-free communities, cemeteries that are actually forests -- Icon; Sitelab Urban Studio; Aclima; Roofstock; Mirvac; Proxy; Better Place Forests; Area15- Fast Company magazine

Ann Forsyth: What role do planning and design play in a pandemic? COVID-19's impact on the future of urban life: For the past decades, those looking at the intersections of planning, design, and public health have focused less on infectious diseases and more on chronic disease, hazards and disasters, and the vulnerable. The current pandemic brings the question of designing for infectious diseases back to the forefront and raises important questions for future research and practice...More will need to be done internationally...I want to examine three smaller scales and the built environment. Cities and regions; Neighborhoods; Home- Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Sarah Golden: What COVID-19 teaches us about resilience: ...we're getting a



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real-time lesson in how intertwined our transportation and distribution systems are...this pandemic may give rise to the power and value of local sourcing...Local supply chains = resilience...Local supply chains = decarbonization. - GreenBiz / VERGE

Chinese Copper, Italian Marble: Coronavirus Shipping Delays Hurt Developers: Work on residential and commercial projects is slowing as materials from overseas become harder to get, posing a threat to construction jobs: ...sending jitters through the construction industry...Delayed so far...goods like...furniture, lighting equipment and elevators - and even models of buildings themselves...Delay...have so far not forced widespread layoffs in the U.S. construction industry...Projects now on the drawing board may be in trouble...domestic sources...may not be so easy to line up overnight- New York Times

David Thorpe: Europe and COVID-19 like WWII ... but not: Here are the latest developments, and the potential sources of hope amidst the terrifying gloom: Industry is grinding to a halt; How will it affect climate change? Some see some hope in the crisis...improvements in air quality are being seen everywhere that is on lockdown. That's good, right? However, there is concern that these environmentally beneficial curve-downs will reverse...twin Covid-19 and climate change disaster threats could break many countries'...abilities to support their industries. They may have to choose between fighting climate change and supporting fossil-fuel industries...Construction industry fall-out- The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Cherine Fahd & Sara Oscar: The uncanny melancholy of empty photographs in the time of coronavirus: Images of empty public spaces...make us stop, look, and linger as we try to comprehend what these places without people are saying...Our attraction to images of the world without us reveals a collective fascination for the apocalypse or, perhaps, extinction...Why is our absence from the world so fascinating...Anthony Vidler described as "the architectural uncanny"...familiar spaces become unfamiliar...images by news photographers point to our fear of the pandemic and, fundamentally, of each other...we are - somewhat strangely - bearing witness to our own erasure. - The Conversation (Australia)

Ned Cramer: COVID-19 Should Change Us: September 11 changed the world, and not necessarily for the better. This time, as we adapt to life with COVID-19, let's aim for improvement: Many observers are already saying that [it] is changing society, not just in this nervous moment, but fundamentally...the profession will soon enough need to address the pandemic's causes and long-term consequences... If we want change, we have to make it ourselves. The most effective design response to a plague - or financial downturn, or natural disaster - is to keep fighting for a more healthy, resilient, just society. Architects are good at it. - Architect Magazine

Rowan Moore: How Australia faces up to the coronavirus, global architecture, and sharks: After the wildfires...the country's latest challenge: Mallacoota, in the

Australian state of Victoria, has the jump on most of us when it comes to confronting the apocalypse...one of the first acts of restoration...a brand-new public barbecue facility...I am not sure if this work is mad or touching - possibly both. To drive from Sydney to Melbourne...is to alternate between shock and hope...Like London, Melbourne's recent skyline is atrocious, made of gimmicky glass towers delivered in both cities by much the same cohort...Which only goes to show that this junk is global...Aboriginal sin. - Observer (UK)

Lydia Lee: How Architects Are Making It Work from Home During COVID-19: Architects and designers in U.S. cities under siege talk about how they are running their practices from a distance: We talked to principals at some firms in the hardest hit areas..."I think we're going to start to miss real 'face time' pretty quickly." -- Mark Jensen/JENSEN Architects (San Francisco); David Galullo/Rapt Studio (San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York); Stephen Yablon Architecture (New York City); Cary Bernstein Architect (San Francisco); Phil Harrison/Perkins and Will (global); - Metropolis Magazine

Niall Patrick Walsh: Tips for Architects Working At Home During COVID-19: ...it is possible not only to work from home, but to use this time to greatly enhance your skills, knowledge, and development as an architect...we have created a broad list of tips and resources that can help you find your feet, restore your confidence, and activate your imagination. Limit your news diet; Maintain a routine; Software and Technology; Creating a Healthy Work/Life Balance; Online Learning. -- GBBN; MAD Architects; Henning Larsen; Foster + Partners; Gensler; S3DA Design - ArchDaily

Evelyn Lee/Slack Technologies: Maintaining Business Continuity with a Remote Workforce: ...tools and best practices for design firms that are transitioning their operations in wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic: Empower Your Team; Get Everyone the Right Hardware & Software; Meet Your Employee's Needs at the Policy Level; Accept That Mistakes Will Happen: Own up to them if they're yours, or be empathetic to those who make them. - Architect Magazine

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Wednesday, March 25, 2020

- [Eyefuls](#) of Rizvi Hassan's Bangladesh community center for a minority group of Myanmar's refugees "to foster integration with locals - using locally available materials to create an inclusive space and foster greater tolerance - it also makes foreign aid a thoughtful investment, instead of mere charity."
- [Leigh Brown's](#) fab profile of Deanna Van Buren, co-founder of the nonprofit firm Designing Justice/Designing Spaces, who "designs civic spaces that are healing alternatives to correctional facilities."
- [Johnston](#) parses Liaros & de Silva's "new paradigm of land development" with a "circular economy village" model of "a network of villages" of 150-200 people "that will share resources - it might sound quaint, even dull - but networks of zero waste, small regenerative settlements don't mean a pre-industrial lifestyles."
- [Reiner-Roth](#) x 2: Michael Maltzan Architecture's The Alvidrez, a 14-story mass timber affordable housing tower for L.A.'s Skid Row is currently in the design phase.
- [He brings](#) us eyefuls of Behnisch Architekten's "serene home for renewable energy research" in Germany - "a seemingly delicate timber and concrete structure wrapped in translucent polycarbonate strips" where "copious amounts of natural light pour through the gossamer walls and saw-toothed ceiling."
- [Ravenscroft](#) riffs on OMA's new, 10-story Galleria department store in South Korea "clad in tessellated triangles of stone" that make it "appear like a slab of rock" sporting "a multifaceted-glass public walkway wrapped around the building, projecting from the façade" (we needed a touch of the odd today).

COVID-19 news continues (with some bright spots, for a change):

- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on Ratti and Rota's CURA, shipping-container ICU for coronavirus treatment: "The first prototype unit is being built at a hospital in Milan - units could be quickly deployed to hospitals around the world."
- [Saffron](#): "The new stay-at-home order makes it clear we are going to have to recalibrate our relationship with our beloved public spaces if we are going to survive this plague. So how can we use them responsibly?"
- [Keats on](#) how "outdoor art is an essential antidote to coronavirus isolation. One legacy of the pandemic should be to commission more artwork that can be collectively experienced outdoors" (6 feet apart, for the time being).
- [Wainwright](#) rounds up "10 Covid-busting designs," the results of "a wave of ingenuity unleashed" by "both garden-shed tinkerers and high-tech manufacturers" - though "many of their innovations raise as many questions as they answer."
- [Kimmelman's](#) intro to NYT photographers' images that capture great - now-empty - public spaces around the world that "are haunted and haunting - but in some ways they are hopeful," reminding us "that beauty requires human interaction. True beauty comes when the builders roam the built."
- [From the](#) U.K.: The Architects' Journal's "updates on how COVID-19 is impacting the UK architecture profession."
- [BD's coronavirus](#) updates: "Architect warns: 'It's now a battle for survival for a lot of firms'" (and a nightly "solidarity light show" on Renzo Piano's Genoa bridge!).
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Creative director Jure Tovrljan's take on famous logos "reimagined for the coronavirus

age - some brands have made their own changes to better express this current moment of social distancing while still maintaining the sense of familiarity we all crave."

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Rizvi Hassan designs Bangladesh community centre for Myanmar's refugees to foster integration with locals: ...for the Hindupara community, a minority group among the 600,000 Rohingya refugees...facility relies on vernacular building strategies using locally available materials to create a contextual and inclusive space...establishes a better environment for integration, psycho-social support, training, case management [and] foster greater tolerance...also makes foreign aid a thoughtful investment, instead of mere charity... - DE51GN

Patricia Leigh Brown: What Would a World Without Prisons Look Like? Deanna Van Buren designs civic spaces that are healing alternatives to correctional facilities: ...has dedicated her career to rethinking the architecture of justice...co-founder of...nonprofit firm Designing Justice/Designing Spaces...Her efforts have dovetailed with growing public acknowledgment of racial bias inherent in the criminal justice system..."what is the role of the designer in bringing about healing?"...Restore Oakland, a former nightclub...refurbished as a hub for social justice nonprofit groups... -- Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility/ADPSR - New York Times

Poppy Johnston: Circular economy village life: Pipedream or solution to all our woes? Village living might sound quaint, even dull...but according to Beauty Development, networks of zero waste, small regenerative settlements don't mean a pre-industrial lifestyles: ...a new paradigm of land development...one of these circular economy villages looks set to go ahead in NSW's Bellingen. The fire ravaged East Gippsland region in Victoria is also interested...this model isn't intended as a one-off... the idea is a network of villages that will share the resources...Each village will be about 40.5 hectares [100 acres] and house around 150-200 people... -- Steven Liaros & Nilmini de Silva/PolisPlan - The Fifth Estate (Australia)

Shane Reiner-Roth: Michael Maltzan Architecture designs affordable mass timber housing tower for Skid Row: The newest supportive housing development is in the works in the...neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles...currently in the design phase for The Alvidrez, a 14-story tower containing 150 studio apartments and "support spaces" on the ground floor...using modular building blocks made of cross-laminated timber (CLT) column, beam, and deck members. - The Architect's Newspaper

Shane Reiner-Roth: Rundle of Energy: Behnisch Architekten designs a serene home for renewable energy research: The Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), one of the leading research centers in southwestern Germany, recently ran short of lab space...The Energy Lab 2.0, a seemingly delicate timber and concrete structure...wrapped in translucent polycarbonate strips. Copious amounts of natural light pour into the assembly hall...through the gossamer walls and saw-toothed ceiling. - AN Interior (The Architect's Newspaper)

Tom Ravenscroft: OMA wraps glass public walkway around Galleria department store in Gwanggyo, South Korea: ...designed to be a landmark for the area's housing district...The cube-shaped building is clad in tessellated triangles of

stone. The mix of beige, brown and earthy colours...make the building appear like a slab of rock or a cross-section of earth. Breaking up the geometric shape of the 10-storey [store] is a multifaceted-glass passage that is wrapped around the building, projecting from the facade...Along with stairs and lifts all of the floors are connected by the glass external loop.- Dezeen

Tom Ravenscroft: Carlo Ratti Associati and Italo Rota designs shipping-container intensive care units for coronavirus treatment: Named Connected Units for Respiratory Ailments - or CURA...The first prototype unit is being built at a hospital in Milan...development team including engineering studio Jacobs and digital studio Squint/Opera...biocontainment units for Covid-19 intensive-care patients...units could be quickly deployed at hospitals around the world.- Dezeen

Inga Saffron: In this plague, we must learn to play alone in our parks: After 9/11, we rallied together in parks and squares to hold vigils for the victims, hugging strangers as a way of expressing solidarity. This time, there are no warm embraces. We can only demonstrate our social connectedness by coming together in the same place, six feet apart: The new stay-at-home order...makes it clear we are going to have to recalibrate our relationship with our beloved public spaces if we are going to survive this plague...So how can we use them responsibly? - Philadelphia Inquirer

Jonathon Keats: Outdoor Art Is An Essential Antidote To Coronavirus Isolation (And You Can See It Now In Parks From New York [Socrates Sculpture Park] To San Francisco [Presidio]: The strain placed on society by COVID-19 has made the arts more urgently needed at precisely the moment that most art forms are physically challenged...Outdoor sculpture and land art therefore take on added importance in present circumstances. There is not enough of it...One legacy of the pandemic should be to commission more artwork that can be collectively experienced outdoors.- Forbes

Oliver Wainwright: 10 Covid-busting designs: spraying drones, fever helmets and anti-virus snoods: Companies the world over are directing their ingenuity at the fight against the coronavirus. Here are the front-runners, from sanitising robots to a 3D-printed hospital ward: ...both garden-shed tinkerers and high-tech manufacturers scrambling to develop things that will combat the spread of Covid-19. Many of their innovations raise as many questions as they answer, though.- Guardian (UK)

Michael Kimmelman: The Great Empty: The New York Times sent dozens of photographers out to capture images of once-bustling public plazas, beaches, fairgrounds, restaurants, movie theaters, tourist meccas and train stations...Their present emptiness...can conjure up dystopia, not progress...These images are haunted and haunting, like stills from movies about plagues and the apocalypse, but in some ways they are hopeful. They also remind us that beauty requires human interaction...True beauty comes when the builders roam the built.- New York Times

Coronavirus: Updates on how COVID-19 is impacting the UK architecture profession: It's time for students and educators to step up to the challenge; AJ survey results: How is the profession coping with coronavirus? Keep talking to each other - how we are making home-working work; Life after lockdown: an architect's view from China; etc. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

BD's Coronavirus latest (U.K.): Architect warns: 'It's now a battle for survival for a lot of firms';

More clients join the rush to close sites; PLP, KPF and Squires sites to close as major contractors ignore government; Architects split on whether construction sites should close: Many question whether social distancing is possible on sites; Renzo Piano's Genoa bridge hosts solidarity light show: Construction firm replacing collapsed motorway viaduct pays homage to those on Italy's covid-19 frontline; etc. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Lilly Smith: Famous logos get reimagined for the coronavirus age: Logos look a little different when they practice social distancing: ...creative director Jure Tovrljan...saw Starbucks's mermaid logo and wondered how it would look with a mask...[made a] series...LinkedIn becomes "LockedIn"...some brands have made actual changes to their logos to better express this current moment of social distancing...[some] have contacted him to make similar adjustments...that acknowledge our new reality, while still maintaining the sense of familiarity we all crave. - Fast Company / Co.Design

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Today's News - Thursday, March 26, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, March 31. Please stay safe, wherever you are...

- [Charlesworth](#) profiles The Anganwadi Project, an Australian NGO working in India that has skilled architects "lining up to volunteer - their low-budget, joyous designs are having an impact on preschool children that goes far beyond day-to-day educational needs."
- [Rockett's](#) Q&A with 5 Chicago-based women architects who are leaving "their mark on city landscapes and communities" re: "what the new decade holds: The future is female."
- [French architects](#) Lacaton and Vassal have been appointed to the inaugural Garry and Susan Rothwell Chair in Architectural Design Leadership at the University of Sydney.
- [Bruhn parses](#) Cox Architecture's National Maritime Museum of China in Binhai New Area Tianjin that "reflects contemporary globalism, the marine history of the local area, and a profoundly Australian style of architecture rooted in landscape metaphors - there is deference and ingenuity at play."
- [Brazilian](#) architect Pedro Vannucchi brings us eye-fuls of Niemeyer's 1957 apartment building in a Berlin district that was part of a social housing initiative involving 48 notable architects - it's "like being inside an open-air museum of modern architecture."

Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries (deadline looms!): Dubai's Global Grad Show "invites graduates, undergraduates, and professors from all disciplines, academic institutions, and countries to submit solutions to the collateral issues of COVID-19" (scholarship and/or grants awarded).
- [Call for](#) entries: Cool Abu Dhabi Challenge: international creative ideas competition to improve outdoor thermal comfort in public spaces by mitigating the impact of the Urban Heat Island Effect in the city" (\$100,000 in prizes).
- [Call for](#) entries: Frate Sole Foundation's 7th International Prize for Sacred Architecture, open to architects "who have designed churches for any Christian denomination" in the last 10 years (prize(s) total: €30,000).

Weekend diversions you can enjoy from your sofa:

- [Another](#) great round-up of "virtual concerts, plays, museums, and other culture at your fingertips to make your time indoors more artful and imaginative" (check out The Social Distancing Festival - very cool!).
- [Bittle cheers](#) Ken Burns' PBS documentary "East Lake Meadows" that "offers a complex, compassionate look at the former Atlanta projects," and "shows how opinions on public housing are changing - and may help eat away at the enduring stigma around public housing."
- [Jordahn](#) put together a binge list of architecture and design documentaries "to stave off isolation boredom" (most are rental, but check comments - some include links to free access).

COVID-19 news continues - and, again, we lead with items that lifted our spirits:

- [Watch Ben](#) Gibbard sing "Life in Quarantine": "Over gentle acoustic guitar, he sings about empty streets, bars, and cafes, and streetlights that change for no reason" (photos are breathtaking!).
- [On another](#) musical note, eye-fuls of L.A.-based creative agency Activista's "6 Feet Covers" that reimagines iconic album covers - "using pop culture as the delivery mechanism is a more positive way to communicate the importance of social distancing."
- [More than](#) 50 families in a California neighborhood have "created a community art museum" in chalk on their driveways and sidewalks as a way for neighbors to interact while meeting the requirements of social distancing.
- [Bliss's](#) (hopeful) Q&A with urban resilience expert Michael Berkowitz (formerly of 100 Resilient Cities, and founder of Resilient Cities Catalyst) who "shares ideas about how cities can come back stronger from the social and economic disruption of coronavirus."
- [Healthcare](#) design experts Hercules, Anderson (also an MD) & Sansom pen a detailed open letter to policy makers: "Architects are ready and positioned to emphasize the impact that the built space has on health outcomes and how care is delivered. We recommend engaging qualified board-certified healthcare architects to act as advisors," and to be "engaged at the table developing future-state solutions."
- [Nadine Post](#) talks to health care designers and A/E/C industry organizations re: how they're educating and advising - and "warning officials that haste in creating temporary treatment facilities can create unintended negative consequences."
- [Joyner talks](#) to architects who "share their biggest challenges transitioning to Work From Home" and finds out "how things have been going."
- [Tigar:](#) "We're in the midst of a massive work-from-home experiment. I've found a silver thread of hope" from entrepreneurs successful with remote workforces who "share the value they've found in a scattered, diverse workforce" (they can "afford to pay more"!).

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[Esther Charlesworth: The Anganwadi Project: From little things, big things grow: Skilled architects are lining up to volunteer for...an Australian NGO working in India. Their low-budget, joyous designs are having an impact on preschool children that goes far beyond day-to-day educational needs...TAP resulted from a chance meeting in 2006 by then Architects Without Frontiers director Jane Rothschild and Jodie Fried, a designer who had established the textile company Bholu...Robin Hood style of practising architecture...is not a platform for design experiments or students. -- Leeanne Marshall; Sarah Schoffel; Caroline Kite; Jane Johnson - ArchitectureAU \(Australia\)](#)

[Darcel Rockett: In the world of Chicago architecture and design, the future is female: Chicago is an architect's town...women are at the table, designing buildings that will leave their mark on city landscapes and communities...as we wrap up a tumultuous Women's History Month, we spoke with women in the profession - who have helped shape the city through work on everything from the Old Main Post Office to the Chicago Riverwalk to O'Hare International Airport - about what the new decade holds... -- Chheng Lim/Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects; Kimberly Dowdell/HOK Chicago; Carol Ross Barney; Heidi Wang/Worn Jerabek Wiltse Architects; Kristen Conry/Gensler Chicago - Chicago Tribune](#)

[French architects appointed to lead University of Sydney design program: Anne Lacaton and Jean Philippe Vassal, of Lacaton and Vassal Architects, have been](#)



appointed to share the inaugural Garry and Susan Rothwell Chair in Architectural Design Leadership...Over a three-year period, [they] will deliver a program of design studios and public events...“dealing with contemporary urban conditions”...program is intended to foster architectural innovation and experimentation and support early-career architects through the university’s design PhD program. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Cameron Bruhn: Shells, sails and upturned hulls: National Maritime Museum of China: ...reflects contemporary globalism, the marine history of the local area and a profoundly Australian style of architecture rooted in landscape metaphors: ...The museum and a cultural park have been built in the Binhai New Area on land reclaimed from Bohai Bay...both public infrastructure and a symbol of Binhai’s efforts to promote environmental protection and awareness...five-fingered plan...maximizes effect and minimizes heft. The white shells are a remarkable technical achievement and a metaphor-rich image that invites interpretation...there is deference and ingenuity at play. -- Cox Architecture; Tianjin Architecture Design Institute- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Oscar Niemeyer apartment building in Berlin captured by Pedro Vannucchi: ...Brazilian architect...captures an experimental apartment building: ...completed in 1957 for Interbau, a social housing initiative...among 48 architects including Alvar Aalto, Le Corbusier and Sep Ruf tasked to design projects for the...Hansaviertel district. He was the only non-European architect...it is similar to the structures that made up the superquadras, or super blocks in Brasília...“like being inside an open-air museum of modern architecture.” -- Lucio Costa- Dezeen

Call for entries: Global Grad Show invites graduates, undergraduates and professors from all disciplines, academic institutions and countries to submit solutions to the collateral issues of COVID-19; Prize: scholarship covering the annual tuition fee for the selected student or establishing a research scholarship of equivalent value for the department of the selected professor; deadline: April 2- Global Grad Show (Dubai)

Call for entries: Cool Abu Dhabi Challenge: international creative ideas competition to improve outdoor thermal comfort in public spaces by mitigating the impact of the Urban Heat Island Effect in the city; \$100,000 USD will be distributed to up to 10 winning entries; deadline: May 12- Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport, UAE

Call for entries: 7th International Prize for Sacred Architecture, sponsored by the Frate Sole Foundation: open to architects who, in the last decade, have projected churches for any Christian denomination; Prize total: €30,000; deadline: May 8- Frate Sole Foundation (Pavia, Italy)

All the virtual concerts, plays, museums and other culture you can enjoy from

home: ...countless cultural experiences at your fingertips to make your time indoors more artful and imaginative...But first, some tips on enjoying them: - CNN Style

Jake Bittle: A new documentary shows how opinions on public housing are changing: "East Lake Meadows" on PBS offers a complex, compassionate look at the former Atlanta projects: Executive produced by Ken Burns and directed by...Sarah Burns and David McMahon, the film gives viewers a level-headed and compassionate look at the east Atlanta low-rise housing project...highlights how our attitudes about public housing have changed since the projects came down...arrives at a moment when social housing proposals are beginning to reenter the political discourse, and its balanced portrait...may help eat away at the enduring stigma around public housing and the people who lived in it...doesn't shy away from the contradictions of the public housing narrative... - Curbed

Architecture and design documentaries to binge while in self-isolation: With millions of people across the world in self-isolation or quarantine to slow the spread of coronavirus, content producer Sebastian Jordahn has put together a list of documentaries...to stave off isolation boredom. - Dezeen

Death Cab for Cutie's Ben Gibbard Addresses COVID-19 on New Song "Life in Quarantine": Over gentle acoustic guitar, he sings about empty streets, bars, and cafes, and streetlights that change for no reason. - Rolling Stone

Lily Smith: Iconic album covers redesigned to showcase social distancing: Two designers help rock stars exhibit model behavior for once: Beto Fernandez and Paco Conde, founders of Los Angeles-based agency Activista, found themselves with some time on their hands ..started working on a personal project called "6 Feet Covers"...using pop culture as the delivery mechanism is a more positive way to communicate the importance of social distancing... - Fast Company / Co.Design

These families created a community art museum on the sidewalks of their California neighborhood while sheltering in place: Playgrounds are out of the picture. So are play dates. The Mountain View, California, mother of two [said] "But we can go on walks and ride our bikes"...asking her neighbors to use chalk to draw pictures on their sidewalks or driveway...intended to not only meet the requirements of social distancing, but also to be a way for neighbors to interact...More than 50 homes...came together to create a community art museum. - CNN

Laura Bliss: What a Coronavirus Recovery Could Look Like: Urban resilience expert Michael Berkowitz shares ideas about how U.S. cities can come back stronger from the social and economic disruption of coronavirus: As the former executive director of...100 Resilient Cities, and now as founding principal at the similar Resilient Cities Catalyst, he has worked with dozens of local governments around the world...He's looking for signs of how communities will survive the aftermath, as well as for opportunities to strengthen resilience now in the face of social and economic disruption. - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

William J. Hercules, FAIA, FACHA, Diana Anderson, MD, ACHA & Marc Sansom: Open Letter to Policy Makers: Architecture - A Critical Ingredient of

Pandemic Medicine: ...environments of care DO matter. Architects are ready and positioned to emphasize the impact that the built space has on health outcomes and how care is delivered... We recommend engaging qualified board-certified healthcare architects...to act as advisors...Practical and rapid solutions are available based on current and emerging design and construction technologies...we call for urban design and architecture to be leveraged and engaged at the table developing future-state solutions. - Canadian Architect

Nadine M. Post: Health Care Designers Educate, Advise, Warn During COVID-19 Crisis: ...warning officials that haste in creating temporary treatment facilities can create unintended negative consequences...designers are brainstorming...American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE)...presentation includes guidance on how to create additional observation/segregation rooms...ASHRAE...assembling a high-level group of experts...Illya Azaroff, AIANY disaster coordinator and founding co-chair of AIANY Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee, is working on initiatives at both AIA national, state and local levels. - Engineering News-Record (ENR)

Sean Joyner: Architects share their biggest challenges transitioning to WFH: The recent move to Work From Home has been a radical change for many professionals. Archinect reached...to learn how things have been going...the main challenges appear to be: Impacts on culture, collaboration, and feelings of loneliness; Guiding younger staff and mentorship; Leadership providing clear direction to staff; Technological limitations; Environmental conditions, distractions, and impact on focus/productivity. - Archinect

Lindsay Tigar: We're in the midst of a massive work-from-home experiment. What if it works? While much of the news is scary, I've found a silver thread of hope in this pandemic: What if this is our chance to prove remote work, well, works? Many entrepreneurs...founded their companies with remote work practices in mind. Allowing employees to pick their location fundamentally impacted their bottom line, culture, and ability to scale...several...share the value they've found in a scattered, diverse workforce: Businesses can afford to pay more, etc. - Fast Company

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Today's News - Tuesday, March 31, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: A sad news day as the coronavirus hits close to home. Michael Sorkin, a friend and one of our heroes (right, comrade?), left this world last Thursday. On Friday, we lost Michael McKinnell, co-designer of Boston City Hall, which Robert Campbell calls "an ugly/wonderful work of architecture." Alas, we fear they will not be the last to leave us...sigh - stay safe, stay in.

- [Giovannini's](#) tribute to Michael Sorkin, who inspired so many "to use architecture to change lives, resist the status quo, and help achieve social equity," and "helped reset the field's moral compass - speaking truth to power."
- [Weizman](#) pays tribute to Sorkin, his "architectural god-father": "Only a few weeks ago he took the time to campaign for me when I was not allowed to travel to the U.S., just as he often did for others less privileged" with "his sense of urban justice, and feisty activism - we all need to continue the fight."
- [Michael](#) Murphy of MASS Design Group: "To me, he was an elder - a visionary, a teacher, but also a mensch" who wanted "to make architecture 'less evil, more kind' - we have lost an oracle and a soothsayer."
- "[The](#) voice of architecture with a purpose" is remembered by Ivy, Mayne, Murphy, Giovannini, Suckle, Tehrani, Gutman, Hodgetts, Weiss, and Manfredi.
- [Gibson gathers](#) an "outpouring of warm tributes" for the "fierce and brilliant" Sorkin from Kimmelman, Kamin, Heathcote, Beirut, Manaugh, and McGuirk.
- [Sorkin in](#) his own words, from 2018 - a must-read! "250 Things an Architect Should Know: 47. What the brick really wants. 130. How to escape a maze. 168. How to patch leaks. 172. The way to Santa Fe. 198. Why you think architecture does any good. 200. What rusts."
- [Bernstein](#) honors Michael McKinnell, 84: "The beginning of his career as an architect was almost like a fairy tale"; Barker calls him "a generous mentor" + A tribute by Robert Campbell.
- "[On](#) what turned out to be the final full day of his life McKinnell spoke with his wife [Stephanie Mallis] about his plans for one final design - his final resting place - a garden as small as City Hall is large covered with white roses."
- [In other](#) news: Hopkirk reports that Alan Jones, RIBA president, has temporarily stepped down, citing "a personal matter. Staff is still in the dark about the reasons but has been told he will be uncontactable for four to six weeks."
- [Pingel delves](#) into accessible design 30 years after ADA: "The concept has evolved from a practical matter to a complex idea about beauty, equity, and what it means to live well," but "architects and designers who are disabled themselves" say "the furnishings market lacks enough well-made, well-designed options."
- [Russell](#): parses Perkins and Will's Rush University Medical Center in Chicago "planned for a pandemic. Conceived after the 9/11 attacks and subsequent anthrax terrorism," it "could be a model for hospitals that have not added surge capacity."
- [Joyner parses](#) Seneca College's Centre for Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship, by Perkins and Will Toronto, that "facilitates storytelling with Indigenous cultural elements and inspiration" by working "with the First

Peoples@Seneca Office to ensure that the Indigenous communities the building represents would be conveyed in the design."

- [The CBC](#) reaches into its archive for the 1960 broadcast of "Front Page Challenge" with Viljo Revell as the mystery guest: What did he think of FLW calling his Toronto City Hall "a grave marker for a cemetery" - "I hope he was wrong."

COVID-19 news continues - the last item a much-needed lift for our spirits:

- [Fairs reports](#) on American architects and institutions that have teamed up as part of an open-source project using their own 3D printers (a link to "Operation PPE" open-source 3D files in the first comment).

- [A new American](#) Institute of Architects task force report, to be released in early April, "will offer insights for adapting buildings into temporary healthcare facilities" to deal with COVID-19 "in an effort to help inform decisions to address the pandemic."

- [The Australian](#) Institute of Architects pens an open letter to the prime minister outlining "initiatives that would help to keep the industries in action during these uncertain times."

- [Massengale](#) calls for "a network of 'quiet streets.' COVID-19 demonstrates the need for more space for people. We should use this time when traffic is light to work on ideas for safer, quieter, and more pleasant streets for pedestrians and cyclists now and in the future."

- [Chakrabarti](#) looks ahead to "a new New York. As this virus eventually fades - let's not just rebuild our old economy and old city, but a new city resilient to the shocks we know are coming, like the biggest shock of them all, climate change."

- [Hernandez](#) ponders "the meaning of public spaces amid social distancing" after L.A. closes down its beaches: "One of the last remaining channels of social cohesion and mental well-being is access to public lands," while Hawthorne says the "crisis is forcing all of us to make sacrifices - 'this is about keeping that common good in mind.'"

- [One we couldn't](#) resist: "Getty Museum challenges people in self-quarantine to recreate favorite works of art with objects at home - the museum's direct messages have been 'flooded' ever since with hilarious re-creations" (dogs and hockey sticks included!).



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Obituary by Joseph Giovannini: Michael Sorkin, 71; Saw Architecture as a Vehicle for Change: one of architecture's most outspoken public intellectuals, a polymath whose prodigious output of essays, lectures and designs, all promoting social justice, established him as the political conscience in the field... [he] inspired audiences and students to use architecture to change lives, resist the status quo and help achieve social equity. His motivational writings and projects helped reset the field's moral compass...specialized in compressing biting wit and intellectual scope in irresistible sentences that buoyed serious arguments...speaking truth to power... -- Terreform Center for Advanced Urban Research - New York Times

Eyal Weizman: For Michael Sorkin: The contemporary prophet of public space and urban conviviality died in a hospital - one of the last places where physical proximity is still possible, indeed, unavoidable...Michael was also my architectural god-father...Only a few weeks ago he took the time to campaign for me when I was not allowed to travel to the U.S., just as he often did for others less privileged...he expanded the spectrum of architectural and urban action...he brought his sense of urban justice, and feisty activism to Palestine, Northern-Ireland, and the US Mexico border...we all need to...continue the fight. --



Terreform; UR (Urban Research); Suad Amiry; Rashid Khalidi; Omar Yusuf; Ariella Azoulay - e-flux Architecture

Michael Murphy/MASS Design Group: COVID Takes Our Sage: Michael Sorkin Rest In Peace: He was many things to many people...To me, he was an elder, a beacon for what I hoped to one day practice and understand...a visionary, a teacher, but also a mensch. He often said that he'd love to make architecture "less evil, more kind." He was able to hold both anger and compassion together like only a true elder can do...one of the elders who would have guided our industry through its forthcoming restructuring. It is only too clear that we have lost an oracle and a soothsayer...Right on, comrade. - Architect Magazine

Friends and Colleagues Remember Michael Sorkin: ...an architect, author, teacher, and one of the most distinctive voices for social justice and sustainability... -- Robert Ivy/AIA; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Michael Murphy/MASS Design Group; Joseph Giovannini; Abby Suckle/cultureNOW; Nader Tehrani/Cooper Union/NADAAA; Marta Gutman/CCNY/CUNY; Craig Hodgetts/Mithun | Hodgetts + Fung; Marion Weiss/Michael Manfredi/Weiss/Manfredi - Architectural Record

Eleanor Gibson: "Fierce and brilliant" architect and critic Michael Sorkin dies of COVID-19: Based in New York, Sorkin headed architecture firm Michael Sorkin Studio and was president of non-profit research group Terreform. His death triggered shock and an outpouring of warm tributes from architects, critics and writers around the world. -- Michael Kimmelman; Blair Kamin; Edwin Heathcote; Michael Beirut; Geoff Manaugh; Justin McGuirk - Dezeen

Michael Sorkin, 2018: 250 Things an Architect Should Know: 47. What the brick really wants. 130. How to escape a maze. 147. The idea of too far. 148. The idea of too close. 168. How to patch leaks. 172. The way to Santa Fe. 198. Why you think architecture does any good. 200. What rusts. 215. How close is too close. - Reading Design.org

Obituary by Fred A. Bernstein: Michael McKinnell, 1935-2020: The beginning of [his] career as an architect was almost like a fairy tale: In 1962 [with Gerhard Kallmann and Edward Knowles] entered an open competition to design a city hall for Boston...selected out of 256 entries...was felled by COVID-19...Boston

City Hall was a critical success...Robert Campbell: "Good art isn't necessarily beautiful. Boston City Hall is probably best understood as an ugly/wonderful work of architecture." -- Stephanie Mallis; Kallmann, McKinnell & Knowles; Kallman McKinnell & Wood/KMW Architecture; Ada Louise Huxtable; Paul Goldberger; Alexandra Barker - Architectural Record

Last design: Dying of coronavirus, a famous architect planned his final resting place: Last Thursday, on what turned out to be the final full day of his life as one of the nation's most eminent architects, Michael McKinnell spoke with his wife [Stephanie Mallis] by phone about his plans for one final design. Diagnosed with COVID-19, he knew little time remained. He had declined the offer of a respirator...What to do with those last hours? He chose to design his final resting place...he described his idea for a garden as small as City Hall is large - an intimate square of ground covered with white roses. - Boston Globe

Elizabeth Hopkirk: RIBA president Alan Jones steps down: Reasons behind shock 'temporary' decision unknown: He emailed colleagues on RIBA's governing council this morning saying he needed to take some time out and asking for privacy...cited a personal matter...Staff are still in the dark about the reasons but have been told he will be uncontactable for four to six weeks...Kerr Robertson will oversee presidential responsibilities on an interim basis. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Maile Pingel: Accessible design is growing. But can it be beautiful? The concept has evolved from a practical matter to a complex idea about beauty, equity and what it means to live well: It was nearly 30 years ago that the Americans With Disabilities Act [ADA] established its accessibility guidelines...Architects and designers who are disabled themselves have brought attention to the need for a more holistic approach...a more homey feel than hospital chic...designers still say the furnishings market...lacks enough well-made, well-designed options. -- Melinda Sechrist/Louanne Low; Karen Nichols/Michael Graves Architecture & Design; Lise Bornstein/KFA; Chad Dorsey; Drew Lage; Nicole Fuller; Ed Warner/James Taylor/Motionspot/Fine & Able; ThisAbles; Christian MayTaylor/Motionspot/Fine & Able; ThisAbles; Christian May - Washington Post Magazine

James S. Russell: Planned for a Pandemic: Rush University Medical Center Tower by Perkins and Will: The explosive growth of coronavirus cases is putting the Robert R. McCormick Foundation Center for Advanced Emergency Response in Chicago to the test. Conceived after the 9/11 attacks and subsequent anthrax terrorism...[and] to handle the surge of patients that could come from a large-scale industrial accident, bio-terror attack, or pandemic disease...could be a model for hospitals that have not added surge capacity... - Architectural Record

Sean Joyner: Seneca College's Centre for Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (CITE) facilitates storytelling with Indigenous cultural elements and inspiration: Perkins and Will Toronto worked in collaboration with the First Peoples@Seneca Office to ensure that the Indigenous communities the building represents would be conveyed in the design and artwork throughout..."you encounter overlapping Indigenous and technological stories...over time our hope is that they merge together as one," said Andrew Frontini, Principal and Design Director... -- Bruce Mau Design - Archinect

The architect who designed a city hall that Frank Lloyd Wright hated: Finnish architect Viljo Revell's design for Toronto's new [1965] city hall was chosen as the best of more than 500 entries, but it didn't work for [FLW]..."he called [it] a grave marker for a cemetery...What do you think of the criticism"..."I hope he was wrong"...Revell had been the third mystery guest featured on that "Front Page Challenge" [1960] broadcast... didn't live to see his design for Toronto City Hall completed... - CBC (Canada)

Marcus Fairs: American architects mobilise to make coronavirus face shields for hospital workers: ...have teamed up as part of an open-source project...using their own 3D printers and laser cutters...effort is being coordinated by Cornell University Architecture, Art and Planning (AAP) faculty...Since the school's workshops have been closed...the faculty decided to call on fellow architects to help out...BIG expects to be able to produce 5,000 visors per week after adapting Erik Cederberg's open-source file... Eric Höweler/Meejin Yoon/Höweler + Yoon; Handel Architects; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Grimshaw; Terreform One; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Weiss Manfredi; Brooks + Scarpa; Jenny Sabin Studio - Dezeen

Architects taking action to support COVID-19 response: New AIA task force will offer insights for adapting buildings into temporary healthcare facilities: COVID-19 Rapid Response Safety Space Assessment...will include considerations for the suitability of buildings, spaces, and other sites for patient care...The task force - Dr. Molly Scanlon, FAIA, FACHA - plans to release its report in early April in an effort to help inform decisions to address the pandemic. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Australian Institute of Architects calls for more stimulus for design and construction industries in light of the COVID-19 outbreak: In an open letter to the prime minister, the Institute outlined initiatives that would help to keep the...industries in action during these uncertain times, including keeping construction running where possible...national president Helen Lochhead and CEO Julia Cambage, commended the government's existing stimulus program...However, they argue..."Given that this sector makes up 13% of the Australian GDP in normal times, we see the following as key actions for Australia to weather this storm." - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

John Massengale: Let's Build a Network of "Quiet Streets": As COVID19 demonstrates the need for more space for people, now is the time to plan for a "Slow New York": We should use this time when traffic is light to work on ideas for safer, quieter, and more pleasant streets for pedestrians and cyclists now and in the future...can act on ideas that are great for the long-term health of the city...even before we had ever heard of COVID-19, several city official...were talking about "breaking the car culture"...European cities have many good models on how to make better streets for people. - Streetsblog.org

Vishaan Chakrabarti: Looking Ahead to a New New York: ...global coronavirus pandemic...has taken a particular toll on vibrant, dense cities like New York, I am skeptical that we will experience much gentrification or displacement in the months and years ahead due to a drop in demand...As this virus eventually fades...We must revive our commerce and our culture, and we must do it together...It will be a psychological reconstruction, a doubling down on density that will not be easy...let's not just rebuild our old economy and old city, but a

[new city resilient to the shocks we know are coming, like...the biggest shock of them all, climate change. -- Practice for Architecture and Urbanism/PAU - Gotham Gazette \(NYC\)](#)

[Daniel Hernandez: Why L.A.'s beach ban hurts: The meaning of public spaces amid social distancing: The afternoon I heard that Los Angeles was shutting down...I did what my gut always tells me to do in times of crisis. I headed straight to the beach...the ocean is a salve...I really needed the air and the sight of other Angelenos sharing the collective emotions of grief and fear...I haven't been alone. And that's a problem...One of the last remaining channels of social cohesion and mental well-being...is access to public lands, and the public right-of-way...Christopher Hawthorne \[said\] crisis is forcing all of us to make sacrifices..."this is about keeping that common good in mind"... - Los Angeles Times](#)

[Getty Museum challenges people in self-quarantine to recreate favorite works of art with objects at home: ... posted the challenge prompt to its Twitter account...urging people to get creative...museum's direct messages have been "flooded" ever since with hilarious re-creations. - Yahoo News](#)

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