

Today's News - Tuesday, July 7, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're b-a-a-a-ck! Lots to catch up with: sad news, bad news, good news, and then some...

- [We've lost Milton Glaser](#). Each of these tributes highlights different aspects of one of our heroes: Bonanos: "If they're talented and they're lucky, designer-artist-creators get to lob an icon out into the larger culture - he just kept hitting the bull's-eye, again and again" (great images & links to more great images!).
- [Chayka](#): "Glaser made you look once, think twice. Looking back over his colorful, textured career, it becomes clear how anemic the dominant commercial graphic design of the 2010s has been."
- [Anne Quito](#) reprises her report from Glaser's studio last year: It's "Glaser's 90th birthday and he is spending it in his happy place: the office" + link to Q&A with Glaser + Walter Bernard.
- [Pedersen](#) "was lucky enough to have worked with Milton on a number of projects": excerpts of "Glaserisms" from a 2003 interview + Glaser's "12 Steps to Hell": 1. Designing a package to look bigger on the shelf.
- [Sad news](#) of a different kind: After 60 years, Contract magazine is closing up shop.
- [Ravenscroft](#) reports that, after 37 years, Blueprint magazine is ending its print edition - but will launch a digital "reimagined version" as a "content hub for architects and designers" (is that different than what the mag was?).
- [On brighter](#) notes: Lamster brings us a much-needed laugh with his "fan fiction review" of Kengo Kuma's new Rolex tower in Dallas that "is straight out of a superhero movie": Superhero Pegasus: "It's tough but not brutish. A building that shape-shifts seems right for a band of superheroes. And it's not too flashy or garish."
- [Miranda](#) brings us good news: Paul R. Williams' archive, "thought lost to fire, is safe - the blaze didn't, as has long been reported, erase Williams' legacy" - the Getty and USC will acquire it.
- [Wainwright](#), meanwhile, parses "the scandal of excluded black architects. In one London borough, a quarter of residents are black. Yet of the 110 firms selected by the council to compete for £100m in fees, not a single one is led by a black architect."
- [Moore mulls](#) the up- and down-sides of turning vacant stores into housing: "The devil is in the detail. The waiving of planning rules has produced horrors - the proposed changes to high streets look reasonable in theory but catastrophic in practice."
- [Jason Schupbach](#) is leaving ASU and heading to Philly as dean of Drexel University's Westphal College of Media Arts & Design.
- [Waite reports](#) on the brouhaha surrounding the AA's director, Eva Franch, after a vote of no confidence for her 2020-25 strategic plan, while more than 150 notable names "urge the school 'not to proceed in removing Franch from her position' and that she should be given more time" (she's only been there since 2018).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Peter Piven's "The New Norm, Part 2: Finances": Recommendations and mandates to fight the COVID-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences.

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- [King: "Toppled](#) San Francisco monuments signal larger social changes about how and what we memorialize - anger and frayed nerves are palpable in our nation. If shared values somehow emerge from today's tumult, then that achievement will deserve a monument of its own."
- [Green's](#) (great!) Q&A with Walter Hood re: his upcoming book, the pandemic, and Black Lives Matter: "Everything is unsettled at this moment. It's the perfect storm. Until it changes, we'll be back in the same position 20 years from now, asking why we're not a diverse profession."
- [Sayer takes](#) a deep dive into how "the pandemic and protests have highlighted just how unequal our cities are - the reaction is indicative of what cities' priorities are: control is more important than public health - actions (and inactions) protect the wealthiest and harm the poorest."
- [Chiotakis](#) talks to Alissa Walker and Destiny Thomas re: how "pop-up parks, new bike lanes, and playgrounds, however well-intentioned, can prove detrimental if people from different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds don't have input on how those developments are planned."

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Christopher Bonanos: Milton Glaser, Co-founder of New York Magazine and Creator of 'I <heart> NY,' 91: If they're talented and they're lucky, designer-artist-creators get to lob an icon out into the larger culture...If they're great, maybe they create two. Glaser, though, operated on another plane - he just kept hitting the bull's-eye, again and again, throughout his seven decades as an illustrator, graphic designer, art director, and visual philosopher and paterfamilias. - New York Magazine

Kyle Chayka: Milton Glaser Made You Look Once, Think Twice: The polymathic artist...recognized the true job of graphic design: The greatest artistic fame might be the kind where few people know your name but everyone knows your work..becomes part of our shared visual lexicon. There aren't many artists who get to see such a process happen during their lifetime...Looking back over Glaser's colorful, textured career, it becomes clear how anemic the dominant commercial graphic design of the 2010s has been. - New Yorker

Anne Quito: Milton Glaser: Work = Love: Today (June 26, 2019) is Milton Glaser's 90th birthday and he is spending it in his happy place: the office..."The idea of retirement is disgusting to me," he says. "I would drive my wife nuts for one thing." Retirement, he argues, is an outdated construct from the industrial age..."We're doing interesting work, aided in this case with this mechanical contrivance," he says, referring to the computer..."Not having anything to do...I fear that more than anything else. It's greater than the fear of death." - Design Observer

Martin C. Pedersen: A Tribute to the Great Milton Glaser: In more or less, his own wise words: ...died on his 91st birthday. He helped shape 20th century American visual culture...I was lucky enough to have worked with Milton on a number of projects...he was a bottomless well of wisdom, a kind of design oracle...Here are excerpts from an August 2003 interview I conducted with Glaser for Metropolis..."I believe that thinking about the consequences of your work - the issue of ethics - is essential" + Glaser's "12 Steps to Hell": 1. Designing a package to look bigger on the shelf. -- Pushpin Studios; Seymour Chwast; Edward Sorel; Clay Felker; New York Magazine - Common Edge



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End of an Era: After 60 years, we are closing Contract magazine: ...and its affiliated events and website...roster of Emerald Design Group brands - Hospitality Design, Boutique Design, Healthcare Design, Environments for Aging, ICFF - will continue... last issue will be the July 2020 edition, and we will continue to publish content and our newsletters through September 1. -- Karen Donaghy; Paul Makovsky - Contract magazine

Tom Ravenscroft: Blueprint magazine ends print edition after 37 years and 369 issues: ...has published its last print edition...and is set to launch a "reimagined version" later this year...magazine, which was launched in 1983 by Peter Murray and Deyan Sudjic, will [focus] on investing in its digital offering...will now focus on becoming a "content hub for architects and designers." -- Rowan Moore; Marcus Field; Vicky Richardson; Johnny Tucker - Dezeen

Mark Lamster: The new Rolex tower in Dallas is straight out of a superhero movie: ...a fan fiction review: These are fraught times for Dallas...The city could use all the help it can get. But here's some good news: Five homegrown superheroes have come to the rescue...There's just one problem: They need a place to call home, a headquarters where they can plot their acts of derring-do...“Looks pretty cool. What is this thing?” Emmy: “The Rolex tower”...Peg: “It is distinctive...Tough but not brutish. I like the way it corkscrews up as it rises. A building that shape-shifts seems right for a band of superheroes. And it's not too flashy or garish...” -- Kengo Kuma; Sadafumi Uchiyama - Dallas Morning News

Carolina A. Miranda: Paul R. Williams' archive, thought lost to fire, is safe. The Getty and USC will acquire it: In 1992, when Los Angeles went up in flames in the wake of the Rodney King verdict, one of the buildings claimed by fire...in 1955 it was transformed into a bank by Williams...[he] deposited his important papers there...the blaze...didn't, as has long been reported, erase Williams' legacy...most of the architect's thousands of original drawings were safe at another location...35,000 architectural plans, 10,000 original drawings, [etc.]...serves as a chronicle of almost a century of architecture in the region...a cornerstone of the Getty's 2-year-old African American History Initiative. -- Milton Curry; Maristella Casciato - Los Angeles Times

Oliver Wainwright: 'People say we don't exist': the scandal of excluded black architects: In one London borough, a quarter of residents are black. Yet of the 110 firms selected by the council to compete for £100m in fees, not a single one is led by a black architect: Southwark council declared that its New Architect Design Services Framework was a “first-of-a-kind” attempt to engage with a new generation of diverse designers...under the Equality Act, simply having an open tender is not good enough...councillor places the blame on the nature of the architecture profession itself...some suggest such thinking does a disservice to the minority-led practices that have succeeded against the odds...“If you want to be successful and earn some money as a black person, why on earth would you stick with architecture?” -- Elsie Owusu; Ye?mí Àlàdérún; Akil Scafe-Smith/Seth Scafe-Smith/Resolve Collective - Guardian (UK)

Rowan Moore: Wouldn't it be great for British town centres if people could just move into closed shops? As the effects of the pandemic scythe through high street brand...it makes sense, on paper, to hand over the spaces they vacate to people desperate for somewhere to live...There would be the added benefit that any homes achieved in this way would, in theory, reduce the pressure on the nation's green belts...The devil, though, is in the detail...The waiving of planning rules has produced horrors...Boris Johnson's proposed changes to high streets looks reasonable in theory but catastrophic in practice. - Observer (UK)

Arizona State University Design School Director Jason S. Schupbach Named Dean of Westphal College of Media Arts & Design: ...to succeed Allen Sabinson...The new dean joins Drexel September 1...At ASU, he led the ambitious ReDesign.School initiative...a key collaborator on ASU projects as diverse as the launch of the Studio for Creativity, Place and Equitable Communities...Previously, he was director of Design and Creative Placemaking Programs for the National Endowment for the Arts... - Drexel University (Philadelphia)

Richard Waite: Global names rally to support under-fire AA [Architectural Association] director Eva Franch i Gilabert: More than 150 leading figures...urge the school 'not to proceed in removing Franch from her position' and that she should be given more time. Following a recent ballot of students and staff, more than 80% of the nearly 900 people in the 'school community', said they did not support her 2020-25 strategic plan...She also narrowly lost a vote of confidence by 52% to 48% in her role as director of the AA - a position she has only held since 2018. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

John King: Toppled San Francisco monuments signal larger social changes about how and what we memorialize: The age of heroic statuary has reached a dead end...Justified revulsion drives many of the actions...But...it's hard not to see adrenaline-fueled vandalism in the mix...anger and frayed nerves are palpable in our nation...“This is a moment of social unrest,” said Walter Hood...“Maybe it's OK to overreact right now”...If shared values somehow emerge from today's tumult, then that achievement will deserve a monument of its own. - San Francisco Chronicle

Jared Green: Interview with Walter Hood: Black Landscapes Matter: "Everything is unsettled at this moment, and all the pieces have come together. It's the perfect storm...Until it changes, we'll be back in the same position 20 years from now, asking why we're not a diverse profession. -- Hood Design Studio; Grace Mitchell Tada - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Jason Sayer: The Pandemic and Protests Have Highlighted Just How Unequal Our Cities Are: With a new urban crisis surfacing, designers from around the world propose radical changes to transportation, cooperative living, working, and public space: ...the reaction to protests and the pandemic is indicative of what cities' priorities are: control is more important than public health...actions (and inactions) protect the wealthiest and harm the poorest. -- Nathalie de Vries/MVRDV; Shumi Bose; Jack Self; Finn Williams; Anna Puigjaner/MAIO; PriestmanGoode - Metropolis Magazine

Steve Chiotakis: Designing cities without Black consent upholds white supremacy, says urban planner: Developed neighborhoods and cities, as innocuous or well-intentioned as they may seem, have contributed to the plight

of African Americans and people of color. Pop-up parks, new bike lanes, and playgrounds can prove detrimental if people from different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds don't have input on how those developments are planned. -- Alissa Walker; Destiny Thomas/The Thrivance Group - KCRW (Los Angeles)

ANN feature: Peter Piven, FAIA: The New Norm, Part 2: Finances: Recommendations and mandates to fight the Covid-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Wednesday, July 8, 2020

- [This slipped](#) through the cracks in yesterday's newsletter (a must read!): Milton Glaser: Ten Things I have Learned (2001): 3. Some people are toxic - avoid them; 5. Less is not necessarily more; 10. Tell the truth.
- [Kamin re:](#) the place for Trump's proposed 'National Garden of American Heroes': "on the scrap heap of history. It's the shiny wrapper of a dreary package (think 'American carnage'), an errant shot in his never-ending culture wars."
- [Farrelly's](#) blistering (and R-rated) take on Sydney's new Crown Casino tower and the Sydney Fish Market: "Both claim 'iconic' status. Both are described as 'sculptural' in form, whatever that means. But only one of them is architecture" (a real ouch for one!).
- [King, on](#) a brighter note (for most), reports that Herzog & de Meuron and HDR have been tapped to design a new hospital for the University of California, San Francisco, "envisioned as a nearly 1 million-square-foot facility that is part of a larger remake of the densely built campus" (no images yet).
- [Dineen reports](#) on David Baker Architects' 833 Bryant Street, a 145-unit housing project for formerly homeless people - "the first time San Francisco is using modular construction for this type of project, which shaves millions from the cost and a year or more off the timeline."
- [CHYBIK + KRISTOF Architects](#) wins the competition to transform a 1956 "deteriorating indoor sporting arena" into the Jihlava Multipurpose Arena in the Czech Republic, a four-building multifunctional center with sports, culture, and social venues.
- [Belogolovsky's](#) 2-part Q&A with Antoine Predock: Part 1: "The design experience must manifest the joy of invention and dream. If anything, I am a cosmic modernist, not a regionalist."
- [Predock](#) Part 2: "People have certain expectations of what architecture is. And I like to mess with that. But not in a self-conscious goofy way."
- [Crosbie](#) delves into "the underappreciated legacy of James Marston Fitch, who, decades ago, "saw both the environmental and economic benefits of historic preservation. He wrote almost 75 years ago that human health is the underlying measure of architecture. He still has much to teach us."
- [Dickinson](#) on what Sacred Space is: It "connects us to a reality that transcends our fears. Architecture may be the only place that physical Grace can mitigate humanity's hubris and tone-deaf self-interest."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Peter Piven's "The New Norm, Part 2: Finances": Recommendations and mandates to fight the COVID-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences.

Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries (deadline looms - no fee!): The Design Film Festival open call for films + work-in-progress.
- [Request](#) for Qualifications/RFQ (international): Trinity Park Conservancy, Dallas, is seeking a visionary architect to help reimagine the former Jesse R. Dawson State Jail as part of MVVA's planned Harold Simmons Park (\$20,000 stipend).

● [Call for papers](#): Land Back: Indigenous Landscapes of Resurgence and Freedom Symposium at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC, next April.

COVID-19 news continues:

● [Florida](#) x 2: "The Lasting Normal for the Post-Pandemic City" - Part 2 of his "This Is Not the End of Cities" 3-part essay: "The changes that will persist are those that make our cities safer, healthier, and more efficient. We would like to believe that the fallout from the pandemic will serve the better angels of our nature. But no such change is guaranteed."

● [Florida](#) Part 3: "The forces that will reshape American cities," like fear of transit, remote work, "youthification": "We may be approaching a critical moment when it is possible to remake our cities to be more equitable, inclusive and resilient places. Shame on us if we fail to capitalize on this opportunity."

● [Davidson](#) x 2: "For blue-sky urban ideas, it may be now or never. We can at last begin to look ahead, and not just with dread. What will happen is what we make happen. The cost of incompetence has been horrific - we can't just hunker down and hope for the best. We need to intensify our ambitions."

● [He looks](#) at the when, how, and where to "fit more than a million children into NYC's 1,866 buildings and still leave sufficient room between desks": Repurpose theaters, armories - "make the shuttered Shops at Hudson Yards earn their subsidies," etc.

● [Marthinsen](#), Parman & Bender parse "campus planning in an increasingly virtual world," particularly their own UC Berkeley: "Instead of thinking of place and placeless as opposites," planners need to see "the real and the virtual" as "inextricably intermingled - they can get a clearer sense of what really matters for the university, discounting the instant pundits' overreactions."

● [O'Sullivan](#) parses "what happens to public space when everything moves outside. As restaurants and bars dramatically expand their outdoor seating, questions are emerging about who gets to occupy the streets."

● [Morgan has](#) a merrier take: "Sidewalk culture - one of the really promising signs of a renewed post-pandemic city is our embrace of sidewalk life. The next logical step is to make wider sidewalks. Design professionals around the globe are fostering inventive ideas that will mean better post-pandemic living."

● [Virginia](#) is "poised to create the first pandemic workplace safety mandates in the nation - potentially a way forward for other states in the face of federal inaction - OSHA has issued only one citation in response to more than 4,000 coronavirus-related complaints, a jarring record" (jarring, indeed - but not surprising).



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Milton Glaser: Ten Things I have Learned (part of an AIGA talk, London 2001):
1. You Can Only Work For People You Like; 2. If you have a choice, never have a job; 3. Some people are toxic - avoid them; 5. Less is not necessarily more; 6. Style is not to be trusted; 10. Tell the truth. - Reading Design.org

Blair Kamin: There's a place for Trump's proposed 'National Garden of American Heroes' - on the scrap heap of history: Back when [he] was a real estate developer, he dressed his skyscrapers in glitzy glass and metal. But ever since he moved into 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., he's gone retro...[His] noxious nostalgia has resurfaced in the heroes garden plan...a slapdash list of 31 people...It's not hard to see through such political pandering...It's the shiny wrapper of a dreary package (think "American carnage"), an errant shot in Trump's never-ending culture wars...The bottom line...it would be a colossal waste of taxpayers' money...Let us hope that Congress refuses to fund it...Let him go back to plastering his name on shiny modern skyscrapers. - Chicago Tribune



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Elizabeth Farrelly: So blatant, so needy: Why is James Packer not embarrassed by Sydney's new casino tower? A deliberate endwarfment of our lovely city and all who sail in her, this mammoth megalith...And so to the oldest architectural question of all; the origins of form. The new Crown casino, nearing completion on Barangaroo, answers with characteristic arrogance. Form is what I say it is. One bay west, the new Sydney Fish Market begs to differ. It argues for form as active listening; a creative response to place, purpose and context...Both claim "iconic" status...Both are described as "sculptural" in form, whatever that means. But only one of them is architecture. -- Wilkinson Eyre; 3XN; BVN- Sydney Morning Herald

John King: Herzog & de Meuron, Swiss architects of de Young Museum, selected to do S.F. hospital: ...to design an even larger project - a new hospital for UCSF [University of California, San Francisco]...envisioned as a nearly 1 million-square-foot facility that is part of a larger remake of the densely built campus...no design work would likely begin before 2021, after several community meetings. -- HDR - San Francisco Chronicle

J.K. Dineen: Faster, cheaper: SF saves by building housing for homeless with modular construction: ...145 supportive apartments for formerly homeless people...the first time San Francisco is using modular construction for this type of project, which shaves millions from the cost [and] a year or more off the timeline...one of three [projects] in SF for formerly homeless people using modular units fabricated at Factory O/S...saved at least \$100,000 per unit, or \$14.5 million...Residents are expected to move in by the fall of 2021. -- David Baker Architects - San Francisco Chronicle

CHYBIK + KRISTOF Architects Wins Competition to Design the Jihlava Multipurpose Arena in the Czech Republic: Bringing together sports, culture, and social venues, the project reimagine...the city's existing hockey stadium, a deteriorating indoor sporting arena built in 1956, the project...expands into a four-building multifunctional center... - ArchDaily

Vladimir Belogolovsky: "My Buildings Are Rides": In Conversation with Antoine Predock: Q&A re: one of his favorite buildings, the Alhambra; design methods; living a life of a rider; and what makes his architecture unlike anyone else's, yet different every time: ..."the design experience must manifest the joy of invention and dream...Architecture is 'landscape in drag'...architects should have a self-imposed mandate to research the part of the world and the culture that the

project derives from - don't be lazy...If anything, I am a cosmic modernist, not a regionalist. - ArchDaily

Vladimir Belogolovsky: Antoine Predock on discovering the spirit of each place: He talks about his buildings that he says are experiential flows and rides that 'mess' with our expectations, enabling us to discover something new every time: "My so-called regionalism is portable, I am not interested in having a 'school of desert architecture'...People have certain expectations of what architecture is. And I like to mess with that. But not in a self-conscious goofy way." - STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)

Michael J. Crosbie: The Underappreciated Legacy of James Marston Fitch: A designer and critic who saw both the environmental and economic benefits of historic preservation: He believed in the ethic of sustainability decades before that term came into common usage...How would [he] appraise the profession's embrace of sustainability today? He'd constantly remind us that preservation, restoration, and especially adaptive reuse need to be appreciated as larger expressions of environmentalism - not just as an homage to the past, but as pathways to sustainable neighborhoods and cities...He wrote almost 75 years ago that human health is the underlying measure of architecture. He still has much to teach us. - Common Edge

Duo Dickinson: What Is Sacred Space? Architecture's Prime Directive is to offer up safety. So in this time of danger...Architecture can go beyond playing it safe and aspire to evoke the best of us, making places that touch what can only be defined as Sacred...Whether human-made or springing from the natural world, Sacred Space connects us to a reality that transcends our fears...humans can make places that hold and extend the best in us beyond the world that inevitably threatens and saddens us...Architecture may be the only place that physical Grace can mitigate humanity's hubris and tone-deaf self-interest. - ArchDaily

Call for entries: The Design Film Festival open call for films + work-in-progress; no fee; deadline: July 10- The Design Museum / Institut Français du Royaume-Uni / HEAD-Genève, Parsons / Kingston School of Art

Call for entries: Request for Qualifications/RFQ (international): Trinity Park Conservancy, Dallas, is seeking a visionary architect to help reimagine the former Jesse R. Dawson State Jail...in relation to the planned Harold Simmons Park; selected firm will work closely with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; \$20,000 stipend; deadline: July 23- Trinity Park Conservancy (Dallas, Texas)

Call for entries: Call for papers: Land Back: Indigenous Landscapes of Resurgence and Freedom Symposium to highlight the many ways Indigenous peoples understand and practice land relations for political resurgence and freedom across the Americas, Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, DC, April 30 - May 1, 2021; deadline: August 1, 2020- Dumbarton Oaks (Washington, DC)

Richard Florida: The Lasting Normal for the Post-Pandemic City: Coronavirus has altered the look and feel of cities globally, but only some changes will remain when the crisis is over: ...some of which we are already experiencing...It is impossible to predict...Such ventures in futurism are always a fool's game. But it is safe to say that the changes that will persist are those that make our cities safer, healthier, and more efficient...there is reason to hope that recent events

will usher in a new era of civic-mindedness and pulling together, our society remains deeply polarized...We would like to believe that the fallout from the pandemic will serve the better angels of our nature, catalyzing us into a nation that is more just and more inclusive. But no such change is guaranteed.-

Bloomberg CityLab

Richard Florida: The Forces That Will Reshape American Cities: The pandemic will likely accelerate the pull of the suburbs for families while pushing young people and businesses into more affordable urban areas: The precise weighting of these two forces...will turn on how severe and long-lasting the current crises turn out to be...the main effects will be to accelerate shifts already underway in how we live and work...we may be approaching a critical moment when it is possible to...remake our cities to be more equitable, inclusive and resilient places. Shame on us if we fail to capitalize on this opportunity.- Bloomberg CityLab

Justin Davidson: For Blue-Sky Urban Ideas, It May Be Now or Never: As the worst of the crisis (possibly) recedes, opportunity: It's too soon for celebration, and the picture is too mixed for optimism...we can at last begin to look ahead, and not just with dread. New York is beginning to rethink many of its ossified assumptions...we can - must - recognize that after the fears of infection comes a point of inflection in the city's history when its future is up for grabs. What will happen is what we make happen...The cost of incompetence has been horrific...we can't just hunker down and hope for the best. We need to intensify our ambitions... - New York Magazine

Justin Davidson: This Fall, Classrooms Will Be Too Crowded. Theaters and Malls Will Be Empty. We See a Solution: They could serve as schoolrooms with kids widely spaced...NYC Department of Education has been sweating over how to fit more than a million children into its 1,866 buildings and still leave sufficient room between desks...official policy on reopening schools is one of abject confusion...Let's declare an educational emergency and recognize that returning to physical classrooms by the start of the academic year is one of society's most urgent priorities, even if that means enlarging our concept of what a school building is. - New York Magazine

Emily B. Marthinsen, John J. Parman & Richard Bender: Letter From Berkeley: Campus Planning in an Increasingly Virtual World: How do we plan for communities in flux? ...Covid-19 pandemic shifted our university - the University of California, Berkeley - totally online...Campus planners...are avid followers of this experiment and the debates around it...Instead of thinking of place and placeless as opposites, it may be better for [them] to embrace the concept of Ba...the real and the virtual inextricably intermingled...planners need to look ahead open-endedly...By slowing things down, they can get a clearer sense of what really matters for the university, discounting the instant pundits' overreactions... - Common Edge

Feargus O'Sullivan: What Happens to Public Space When Everything Moves Outside: As restaurants and bars dramatically expand their outdoor seating, questions are emerging about who gets to occupy the streets- Bloomberg CityLab

William Morgan: Embracing Sidewalk Culture: As we struggle through the pangs of disconnection during coronavirus isolation, one of the really promising signs of a renewed post-pandemic city is our embrace of sidewalk life...The shift to

more street-side meal taking also reflects a sea change in national attitudes...So, how does the social distancing of a few outdoor tables figure into the future design of popular gathering spots? The next logical step is to make wider sidewalks to slow vehicular traffic...Design professionals around the globe are fostering inventive ideas that will mean better post-pandemic living. - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Virginia poised to create first pandemic workplace safety mandates in nation: The governor's office said the rules were prompted in large part by the lack of enforcement by the federal agency tasked with upholding workplace safety, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration: ...potentially way forward for other states in the face of federal inaction...OSHA has issued only one citation in response to more than 4,000 coronavirus-related complaints, a jarring record...many businesses and industry groups, which say the new regulations are unnecessary in the face of existing guidelines from the state and federal agencies...which carry fewer legal ramifications than enforceable standards do. - Washington Post

ANN feature: Peter Piven, FAIA: The New Norm, Part 2: Finances: Recommendations and mandates to fight the Covid-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, July 9, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, July 14. In the meantime, this week's Weekend diversions include virtual shows (except one - in the U.S., of course) - and exhibitions you can actually walk through (what a concept!) in Berlin and Norfolk, U.K.

- [ANN feature](#): Bloszies' Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy."
- [Lamster](#) cheers the Trinity Park Conservancy's plans to reimagine "the ugliest building in Dallas" and develop new playgrounds by MVVA along the Trinity River that "will dramatically reshape the entry into downtown, transforming what is now an unremarkable journey into a dramatic scenic passage" (click "Yesterday's News" above for RFQ for Dawson Jail project - deadline July 23).
- [Kimmelman](#) parses proposals to turn NYC into a "biking city" with "425 miles of interconnected bike lanes" and "new car-free bridges into Manhattan from Queens, Brooklyn, and New Jersey. The main obstacle is political courage - not engineering."
- [Goyanes](#) reports on "'a real climate of fear' as students and former staff speak out about the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation's CEO" with "allegations of intimidation, threatening comments, retaliation, and a hostile work environment" (reads like a bad/sad soap opera - but the characters are real).
- [Sussman](#) & Ward: "Science tells us we're attracted to buildings that are connected to our bodies" using Sicily's FestiWall, "devoted to enhancing the public realm," and biometric software.
- [Jocelyn](#) Rogers offers a wonderful profile of Julian Abele, whose "legacy is no longer in 'the shadows' - his story serves as a poignant yet inspiring example of the challenges faced by generations of African American architects."
- [Balderrama](#) Morley's Q&A with Goteh, Grandoit, and Stillwell, founders of Deem, a new "biannual journal that approaches design as a social practice": "Design fell in love with itself and forgot about the people."
- [USGBC names](#) recipients of its 2020 European Leadership Award: "Watch and see how five companies are advancing sustainable, healthy, and resilient buildings, cities, and communities."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Peter Piven's "The New Norm, Part 2: Finances": Recommendations and mandates to fight the COVID-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences.

Of protests, racism, and urban issues - the industry responds:

- [Saffron](#) puts a spotlight on "Philadelphia monuments we need to preserve" - Black cultural sites that should be "properly recognized and supported - especially those that desperately need some TLC right now."
- [Wandile](#) Mthiyane, founder and CEO of UDG, an architectural organization that focuses on social impact design projects, explains why "it's important for us as architects to take responsibility for the fact that design has

historically been one of the most powerful tools to perpetuate systemic racism. Architecture is never neutral; it either heals or hurts" (his summer abroad program sounds cool!).

● [Germane Barnes](#)' reading list: "My research practice attempts to interrogate a multitude of issues in disenfranchised black communities and raise awareness of the legacies those communities possess. These texts provide entry to those legacies."

COVID-19 news continues:

● [Zeiger delves](#) into how "the magnitude of this pandemic" has made clear "that architecture's capacity to protect is limited - it's now, while everything is in flux, that new, hybrid approaches might take root - especially since COVID-19 and the ongoing climate crisis are not just parallel emergencies but intertwined."

● [Leah Kemp](#), of the Small Town Center at MSU, looks at "how small towns are responding to the pandemic" to remain "active and vibrant" - they are "more nimble and responsive to crisis than cities," with "fewer regulations and more opportunities to be creative about problem-solving."

● [Sisson looks](#) at how, while "the pandemic hastens the retail apocalypse, some developers are betting that empty malls can mix housing with stores and community space."

● [Suchayan Mandal](#) looks at how architects in India see a green future in a post-COVID-19 world - "the need for sustainable buildings with the focus on hygiene will be the calling card of urban planning - turning existing buildings green will add an edge to the green movement."

● [Roychowdhury](#) delves into how COVID-19 is transforming hospital design in India: "The buzz words seem to be a modular design [and] recycling sea containers" - the pandemic should also "act as a warning to correct the defective infrastructure and policies to strengthen existing medical facilities."

Weekend diversions:

● [The 4-day](#) thedesignfestival.nyc launches July 15, reimagined as "an ongoing, socially distant celebration" (with an impressive list of curators!).

● [Neri Oxman](#) takes her interdisciplinary MoMA retrospective online - complete with "a close-up view of Silk Pavilion II, a towering web of spun silk," a collaboration between Oxman and "an army of 17,532 silk worms."

● [Kamin cheers](#) "Edith Farnsworth's Country House," a "daring and fascinating exhibition" that is "the closest we've ever come to seeing it as its namesake lived in it, not as Mies would have furnished it. She emerges as formidable rather than pitiful - first because she hired Mies - and then because she defied him - her presence is palpable."

● [Nate Berg](#) parses "Snøhetta: Arctic Nordic Alpine - In Dialogue With Landscape" in Berlin that "suggests that architecture can coexist with the extreme landscapes of a changing climate, without itself exacerbating the changing climate. And might just be models that other buildings in more populated places need to follow."

● ["Anish Kapoor at Houghton Hall"](#) in Norfolk, U.K., presents his "ground-breaking body of work created over the past 40 years" that "challenge the classical [Palladian] architecture of the house and the idyllic beauty of the grounds."

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[ANN feature: Charles F. Blossies: Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy."](#)-

ArchNewsNow.com

[Mark Lamster: Say goodbye to the ugliest building in Dallas - and hello to new](#)



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playgrounds along the Trinity: Trinity Park Conservancy plans to replace 'beige-block eyesore' jail as part of ambitious overhaul: It will take quite a bit of imagination to remake Dawson State Jail, which is not so much a work of architecture as an obscenity in three dimensions...The park, along with the remade jail, will dramatically reshape the entry into downtown, transforming what is now an unremarkable journey into a dramatic scenic passage. -- Matt Urbanski/Elizabeth Silver/Michael Van Valkenburgh Architects (MVVA); Mell Lawrence Architects - Dallas Morning News

Michael Kimmelman: New York as a Biking City? It Could Happen. And It Should: A new report proposes 425 miles of interconnected bike lanes across the five boroughs. Another sees new car-free bridges into Manhattan from Queens, Brooklyn and New Jersey: The challenges are staggering...Getting through this whole crisis depends on city leaders' capacity to think ahead, not hunker down...New York today has become good at shooting down new ideas...The main obstacle is political courage...not engineering. -- Sam Schwartz; Queens Ribbon; T.Y. Lin International - New York Times

Rob Goyanes: 'There's a Real Climate of Fear': Students and Former Staff Speak Out About the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation's CEO: The direction of the iconic architect's foundation is under scrutiny as it severs ties with the School of Architecture at Taliesin: In interviews, two students and five former employees of the foundation have made allegations of intimidation, threatening comments, retaliation, and a hostile work environment against Stuart Graff..."everybody really cared deeply about each other. All of that just kind of changed under his leadership. It was very much about corporate backbiting, a tear-everybody-else-down kind of mentality." -- Aaron Betsky - artnet News

Ann Sussman & Janice M. Ward: Empathy in Design: Measuring How Faces Make Places: Science tells us we're attracted to buildings that are connected to our bodies: Since 2015, Ragusa, Sicily has hosted FestiWall...devoted to enhancing the public realm...The image shows two views of a residential tower before and after FestiWall. Which one grabs your eye? Running the image through biometric software predicts you'll immediately focus on the man in the mural...It all goes to show how to best promote empathy in design: Start with us, respecting the hidden traits that make us human. -- The Genetics of Design - Common Edge

Jocelyn Rogers: Julian Abele: Honoring a legacy no longer in "the shadows": Monmouth University's most prominent building, dating from 1929, was designed by Abele, the first African American to earn an architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania. But it was named for Woodrow Wilson, whose legacy includes reinstituting racial segregation in the federal workforce. That disconnect is no more...Abele's his story serves as a poignant yet inspiring example of the challenges faced by generations of African American architects...there is poetic justice in removing Wilson's name while honoring the African American architect who persevered... -- Peter Cook/HGA - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Jack Balderrama Morley: Deem, a new journal, wants design to focus back on people: Nu Goteh, Alice Grandoit, and Marquise Stillwell launched Deem, a biannual journal that approaches design as a social practice...first issue, "Designing for Dignity," came out in print earlier this year...Q&A re: the journal and how design can better serve cities and the people who live in them..."Design fell in love with itself and forgot about the people." -- adrienne maree brown; Hilary Malson; Milton S. F. Curry/SCI-Arc; Cruz García & Nathalie Frankowski/WAI Architecture Think Tank - The Architect's Newspaper

USGBC announces 2020 European Leadership Award recipients: Watch and see how five companies are advancing sustainable, healthy and resilient buildings, cities and communities. -- COIMA; Ecover; International Olympic Committee; Palazzo del Monte di Pietà; Union Investment Real Estate - U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Inga Saffron: Let's talk about the Philadelphia monuments we need to preserve: Tearing down offensive statues feels good, but it's not enough: Philadelphia's history won't be served unless its neglected Black cultural sites are properly recognized and supported... monuments to their achievements and suffering tend to take other forms. There are dozens of them around the city if you know where to look...after interviews with preservationists and historians, I decided to focus...on the lesser-known cultural buildings, especially those that desperately need some TLC right now. -- Paul Robeson; John Coltrane; Dox Thrash; Henry O. Tanner; etc. - Philadelphia Inquirer

Wandile Mthiyane: The Architects of Systemic Racism: "Architecture is never neutral; it either heals or hurts," argues South African architectural designer and Obama Leader, and the founder and CEO of Ubuntu Design Group (UDG), an architectural organization that focuses on social impact design projects: ...it's important for us as architects to take responsibility for the fact that design has historically been one of the most powerful tools to perpetuate systemic racism...Architecture is never neutral; it either heals or hurts...Ubuntu Architecture Summer Abroad Program has created a cross-cultural design-build experience for architecture students from around the world...to expose students to design problems stemming from systemic racism... - Architizer

Germane Barnes: Reading List: Black People, Porches, and Politics: The search for positive identity politics in architecture has typically proven empty for this racial group...My research practice attempts to interrogate a multitude of issues in disenfranchised black communities and raise awareness of the legacies those communities possess. These texts provide entry to those legacies. -- Jean-Paul Bourdier & Trin T. Minh-ha; Jay D. Edwards; John Michael Vlach; Maren Stange; Rashad Shabazz; Craig Barton; Gaston Bachelard; Rachael Woldoff; Carrie Mae Weems; Sharon E. Sutton - Places Journal

Mimi Zeiger: Can Quarantine Propel Us Toward Planetary Sanctuary? The magnitude of this pandemic falls outside human comprehension, but for the luckiest of us, refuge is manageable: ...what has become clear...is that architecture's capacity to protect is limited...the destructive effects of modernity's progress...The systems and structures of quarantine may be the obvious place to begin when translating refugia from an ecological to an architectural condition....it's now, while everything is in flux, that new, hybrid approaches might take root - especially since COVID-19 and the ongoing climate crisis are

not just parallel emergencies but intertwined. - Metropolis Magazine

Leah Kemp: How small towns are responding to the global pandemic: ...as I've seen in my work at the Small Town Center at Mississippi State University, small towns have the advantage of being more nimble and responsive to crisis than cities...they have fewer regulations and more opportunities to be creative about problem-solving...Here are some ways people in small communities are adapting existing plans and creating new ways to keep their towns active and vibrant. - The Conversation

Patrick Sisson: The Dying Mall's New Lease on Life: Apartments: As the pandemic hastens the retail apocalypse, some developers are betting that empty malls can mix housing with stores and community space...[in] a suburb north of Seattle, an adaptive reuse project...suggests that America's vast stock of fading shopping infrastructure could indeed get a second life as places to live...Avalon Alderwood Place, a 300-unit apartment complex [with retail]...exemplifies how the Covid-19 pandemic isn't as much changing real estate as accelerating existing trends...The mall may be evolving, but the desire, and challenges, in creating a community-oriented development still remain. - Bloomberg CityLab

Suchayan Mandal: The future is green: Post COVID-19 world stares at a more eco-friendly way of architecture: As [India] reopens, the need for sustainable buildings with the focus on hygiene will be the calling card of urban planning: What is needed is incentivising time and money, in addition to fast-tracking projects and giving subsidies to encourage construction...The 'Housing for All' initiative...a unique opportunity to integrate affordable and resource-efficient housing...turning existing buildings green will add an edge to the green movement. -- Jamshed Banaji/Banaji & Associates; Vivek Singh Rathore/Salient Design Studio; Jehan-Ara Poonawala/JJ Poonawala Architects; Avikal Somvanshi; Avinash Singh/Ark Village 24; Kanhai Gandhi/KNS Architects; Amit Khanna/AKDA - New Indian Express (India)

Viveka Roychowdhury: How COVID-19 is transforming hospital design: [In India], there is no doubt that healthcare facilities AC [After COVID-19] will be very different from BC [Before COVID-19]...the new normal called for new approaches in hospital building design and architecture...The buzz words seem to be a modular design [and] recycling sea containers...But is there any hope for turning around existing medical facilities? Thankfully yes...this pandemic should act as a warning to correct the defective infrastructure and policies to strengthen them. -- Nejeeb Khan/Katerra; Akshat Bhatt/ Architecture Discipline; Mitu Mathur/GPM Architects and Planners; Chinmay Patil/Edifice Consultants - Express Healthcare (Indian Express)

Freshly launched NYC design festival seeks to give 'voice to those who create': Initially envisioned as a four-day event, thedesignfestival.nyc has been reimagined...as "an ongoing, socially distant celebration...on July 15, the festival will formally unveil the first of several planned "self-guided and socially distant" mini-itineraries that will be released each month...This first...will showcase noteworthy outdoor design elements in several different neighborhoods [and] suggestions for takeout dining options... -- Colony; Jean Lin; Madeleine Parsons; Robert Higa; Paola Antonelli; Annabelle Selldorf; Wendy Goodman; etc. - The Architect's Newspaper

Neri Oxman Takes Her Interdisciplinary MoMA Exhibition Online: With the Museum of Modern Art in New York closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic... multidisciplinary designer, inventor, and founder and director of the Mediated Matter Group at the MIT Media Lab, has launched an online version of her recent retrospective, "Neri Oxman: Material Ecology"... projects... explore the "ability to design living matter as the built environment, rather than for it"... highlight - close-up view of Silk Pavilion II, a towering web of spun silk commissioned for the show create in collaboration by Oxman and an army of 17,532 silk worms. - Architect Magazine

Blair Kamin: A different view of the masterful Farnsworth House - hers, not his: ... Mies van der Rohe's modernist masterpiece... As graceful as a Greek temple and as serene as a Shinto shrine... one of the purest and most poetic distillations of the International Style... A daring and fascinating new exhibition, "Edith Farnsworth's Country House"... restores her presence to the house that bears her name... the closest we've ever come to seeing [it] as its namesake lived in it, not as Mies would have furnished it... through December 2021... She emerges as formidable rather than pitiful - first because she hired Mies... and then because she defied him in furnishing its interior... [her] presence is palpable. So is the underlying tension between architect and client... -- Dirk Lohan; Scott Mehaffey; Alex Beam - Chicago Tribune

Nate Berg: How the world's most remote buildings can help us adapt to climate change
In many cases, the right thing to build is . . . nothing: "Snøhetta: Arctic Nordic Alpine - In Dialogue With Landscape" in Berlin suggests that architecture can coexist with the extreme landscapes of a changing climate, without itself exacerbating the changing climate that's making these landscapes so extreme. And these remote projects might just be models that other buildings in more populated places need to follow. Aedes Architecture Forum, Berlin, thru August 20 - Fast Company / Co.Design

"Anish Kapoor at Houghton Hall": Seminal works by the celebrated British sculptor will go on show across the grounds and historic interiors of Houghton Hall in Norfolk, UK, July 12 - November 1... had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A number of measures... will be put in place following government guidelines to allow visitors to experience the works... ground-breaking body of work created over the past 40 years... will challenge the classical [Palladian] architecture of the house and the idyllic beauty of the grounds... -- Colen Campbell & James Gibbs (1722) - FAD Magazine (Fashion, Art and Design)

ANN feature: Peter Piven, FAIA: The New Norm, Part 2: Finances: Recommendations and mandates to fight the Covid-19 pandemic impacted architectural practices immediately. The operational changes have financial consequences. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, July 14, 2020

- [Sisson delves](#) into the do's and don'ts of building trust in community-led design projects, especially now: "Architects will be challenged like never before to help disadvantaged communities irrevocably changed by coronavirus and protests, both of which have altered perceptions of public space" (don't be tone deaf).
- [Meaghan](#) O'Neill on "why justice in design is critical to repairing racial inequity - here's how we can begin to fix that. Design professionals alone, of course, are not to blame. But they have some power - and responsibility - to help un-build inequity."
- [Giovannini](#) re: LACMA: "By Jane Jacobs's measure, the Zumthor design not only arrives DOA but also kills the street - so self-absorbed - simply hiking up its skirts as it wades across Wilshire in order to avoid getting soaked in the urban toxins" when it should be "the core of a lively district."
- [Moore mulls](#) "wasteful, damaging and outmoded" skyscrapers and whether it's time to stop building them: "In Britain, they are signs of failed planning. In Gulf States, they often indicate corruption. What they are not are markers of progress."
- [Wainwright](#) minces no words about "the most audacious shaft that God's Own Country has ever seen," confirming that new developments in Leeds are leaving it looking "like a depot of discarded fridges"; the proposed (tallest) tower "looks like some contorted Space Invaders monster with a fire-hazard death-wish" and "represents a new low."
- [King, on](#) a brighter note, cheers Studio Gang's "twisty white Mira tower" that is "dazzling" on San Francisco's skyline - "a flowing [39-story] stack of tightly wound white metal bays, frozen in motion - a voyeuristic kick made more satisfying by the thought that went into it."
- [Linda Cheng](#) reports on the Australian Institute of Architects' testimony before an Australian parliamentary inquiry re: why the "'wasteful and unnecessary' war memorial project should be ditched. The Institute has long campaigned to stop the proposed demolition" of Denton Corker Marshall's award-winning Anzac Hall, "but its efforts have been met with disdain from the Australian War Memorial."
- [On a brighter](#) note, The Momentary, a satellite of the Walton Foundation's (courtesy Wal-Mart) Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas, is set to re-open - Wheeler Kearns's transformation of the former cheese factory is a "gritty (yet comfortable) mix of the old and the new."
- [Ravenscroft](#) x 2: He reports that Architectural Association director Eva Franch i Gilabert has been fired for "specific failures of performance" - the AA is "now planning to redefine the role of the director position before finding a replacement."
- [His good](#) news: Notre-Dame's spire will be a replica of Eugène Viollet-le-Duc's 1859 spire - the "decision ends speculation" about a design competition for a contemporary structure (yay!).
- [Meanwhile](#), the French government estimated that the Notre Dame fire released about 330 pounds of lead, but calculations by a geochemist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory found "that about a ton of lead probably ended up on the ground, on sidewalks and streets, and filtering into buildings" (and children).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Bloszies' Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does

COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy."

Winners all:

- [The Van](#) Alen Institute's Reimagining Brooklyn Bridge Competition results in a shortlist of 6 proposals to reconfigure the bridge "as a pedestrian-friendly structure, part of the public spaces of the city - online presentations and a Design Showdown, i.e. public voting, begin July 23.
- [An impressive](#) international team wins the competition to design a new waterfront tower in Brisbane with a "distinctive" design for a "cleverly conceived shading system."

COVID-19 news continues:

- [Russell](#) explains why calling on "the talents of architects and other designers can get us through a 'reopening' that is at once liberating and horrifying - design thinking is especially valuable at this time - UK's Maggie's Centers offer a model. The frontline health workers who have done the most with the least deserve nothing less."
- [Gunts reports](#) on Baltimore's Design for Distancing initiative that "aims to bring life back to public spaces left dormant in lockdown," and the free online "Design for Distancing Ideas Guidebook" that can "serve as a jumping-off point for other cities looking into reopening strategies."
- [Lydia Lee's](#) (great) Q&A with San Francisco-based David Baker re: "affordable housing in COVID times. The pandemic's financial impact could be devastating, but for Baker, it's the right time to tackle the city's housing shortage."

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Patrick Sisson: Rebuilding Trust: Community-led design seeks to dispel myths about who best understands how to shape public space: The realities of working in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, and the recent wave of protests over police brutality...have made outreach and community engagement even more essential tools for facing an "existential crisis"...architects will be challenged like never before to help disadvantaged communities...irrevocably changed by coronavirus and protests, both of which have altered perceptions of public space...the value of..hearing about their struggles and trauma, and getting their buy-in is immeasurable...Don't ask about problems someone faces...at a time when compounding crises make that sound slightly tone deaf. -- Craig Stevenson/Sarah Loy/Open Architecture Collaborative; Liz Ogbu; William Bates; Sara Aye/Greater Good Studio; Katherine Darnstadt/Latent Design; Patricia Gruits/MASS Design Group - AIA Architect

Meaghan O'Neill: Why Justice in Design Is Critical to Repairing America: Racial inequity is historically and literally built into the country's landscape - here's how we can begin to fix that: Design professionals alone, of course, are not to blame. But as a group of people who generally view themselves as progressive problem solvers, they have some power - and responsibility - to help un-build inequity...we must seek to end the systemic power structures that enable oppressive architecture as well as radically rethink how we build neighborhoods... -- Mabel O.Wilson; Bryan C. Lee Jr./Colloqate; Höweler + Yoon; Deanna Van Buren/Designing Justice + Designing Spaces; Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility/ADPSR - Architectural Digest

Joseph Giovannini: LACMA Town: The Museum as Urban Catalyst, not Urban Desert: By Jane Jacobs's measure, the Peter Zumthor design not only arrives



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DOA but also kills the street...so self-absorbed...hovering like a helicopter...placeless design fails to leverage the museum's presence to shape the city around it, simply hiking up its skirts as it wades across Wilshire in order to avoid getting soaked in the urban toxins...should aim instead to become the core of a lively district...an urbanizing vision, not a suburbanizing throwback...COVID-19...a reason to apply the brakes...At The Grand, Frank Gehry is...building his usual, people-friendly pile of off-kilter stuff...to build a neighborhood. -- Michael Govan- Los Angeles Review of Books

Rowan Moore: Wasteful, damaging and outmoded: is it time to stop building skyscrapers? Tall buildings are still deemed desirable, even glamorous, but experts are drawing attention to the high environmental cost of building them: ...tall buildings are still sold on the basis that they are good for the environment. Mostly the argument is about density...There's some truth in this...it's a bit of mystery why towers are thought desirable...In Britain, [they] are signs of failed planning...In Gulf states...skyscrapers often indicate corruption. What they are not are markers of progress...And why, really and truly, would you want to live in one of these things? -- Tim Snelson/Arup- Observer (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: Another terrible tower? Why Leeds looks like a depot of discarded fridges: Plans to build Yorkshire's tallest building have provoked outrage: ...Leeds has proudly greeted visitors...with some of the most elegant towers in the land...this sophisticated scene has been overshadowed by towers of a different kind...to be trumped by the most audacious shaft that God's Own Country has ever seen...46 storeys, Two Springwell Gardens...Sadly, for the future residents...it seems like both developer and architect, Nick Brown...forgot to think enough about the inside...the plan looks like some contorted Space Invaders monster with a fire-hazard death-wish...represents a new low. -- William Bakewell; Morrison Design; Carey Jones- Guardian (UK)

John King: Twisty white Mira tower is dazzling on the skyline, but less so on the ground: ...a flowing [39-story] stack of tightly wound white metal bays, frozen in motion...whipsawed slivers amid the stodgy norm...392-unit residential complex was also conceived as a celebration of triumphant urbanism...a heartening 40% of the condominiums are reserved for [moderate income buyers]...visual pop on the skyline - a voyeuristic kick made more satisfying by the thought that went into it...A year from now, perhaps, ground-floor retail spaces will hold cafes and boutiques...In the meantime? ...most units come with a balcony, ensuring virus-free air. -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang- San Francisco Chronicle

Linda Cheng: 'Wasteful and unnecessary' war memorial project should be ditched, Australian Institute of Architects tells inquiry: Australian parliamentary inquiry...invited the Institute to give evidence on the \$498 million project to redevelop the war memorial, which would include the demolition of Anzac Hall, designed by Denton Corker Marshall...The Institute has long campaigned to stop the proposed demolition...but its efforts have been met with disdain from the Australian War Memorial...project has had "clear and numerous failures of due process." -- Julia Cambage; Cox Architecture- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

The Momentary, a cheese-factory-turned-contemporary-art-venue, reopens its doors: ...satellite contemporary art venue of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art...in downtown Bentonville, Arkansas...there's been no opportunity lost in showcasing via photography the adaptive reuse led by Wheeler Kearns

Architects...tasked with transforming a cavernous, 63,000-square-foot former cheese factory formerly operated by Kraft Foods from 1947 through 2013, into a "multidisciplinary space...[it] is funded largely by the Walton Family Foundation...A gritty (yet comfortable) mix of the old and the new... -- Howell Vancuren Landscape Architects- The Architect's Newspaper

Tom Ravenscroft: Eva Franch i Gilabert fired as AA [Architectural Association] director for "specific failures of performance": ...two weeks after losing a vote of no confidence in her leadership...second vote against the Spanish architect's strategy led to the decision, the school said...The Spanish architect, who became the first-ever female director of the AA in March 2018...AA now planning to redefine the role of the director position before finding a replacement...- Dezeen

Tom Ravenscroft: Notre-Dame spire will be reconstructed "identically": President Macron has announced that a replica of Eugène Viollet-le-Duc 93-metre-high spire, which was added to the 13th-century cathedral in 1859, will be built as part of the reconstruction...decision ends speculation over whether a contemporary structure would be added to the French landmark...Designers created many alternative spires. -- Vincent Callebaut; Miysis Studio; StudioNAB; Studio Fuksas; Mathieu Lehanneur- Dezeen

New study: Lead poisoning from Notre Dame fire worse than first thought: When the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris went up in flames in April 2019, images were made even more dramatic by thick smoke tinged with yellow as the 460 tons of lead on the roof and spire melted...French government-funded studies estimated that about 330 pounds of lead were deposited...geochemist Alexander van Geen's calculations show that about a ton of lead probably ended up on the ground, on sidewalks and streets, and filtering into buildings...- Catholic News Service

Reimagining Brooklyn Bridge Competition Reveals 6 Finalists: Van Alen and the New York City Council international competition, in both the professionals and young adults categories...gathered short-term interventions and longer-term proposals for a complete reconfiguration of the bridge...as a pedestrian-friendly structure, part of the public spaces of the city...on July 23, the public can hear from finalists and cast votes online in a Design Showdown. Professional category: BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group + ARUP; ScenesLab + Minzi Long + Andrew Nash; Pilot Projects Design Collective/Cities4Forests/Wildlife Conservation Society/Grimshaw/Silman -- Van Alen Institute- ArchDaily

Winning design for Brisbane waterfront tower unveiled: Hassell, New York's REX and Brisbane firms Richards and Spence and Arcadia Landscape Architecture have taken out a design competition for a 37-storey office tower at 205 North Quay on the Brisbane river...design is distinctive for its cleverly conceived shading system. -- Cox Architecture/SOM (Chicago)/Rapt Studio; BVN/SHoP Architects (New York); Architectus and WOHA (Singapore)- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

James S. Russell: How to Minimize Reopening Risk and Avoid Financial Ruin: Call in designers to make sense of the overload of murky COVID guidance: Our new spatial reality puts us in the realm of architecture...Unleashing the talents of architects and other designers can get us through a "reopening" that is at once

liberating and horrifying...You may not think of architects as the problem-solvers we need now...in a world ruled by public-health experts, few doctors and scientists can interpret their mandates in three dimensions...design thinking is especially valuable at this time...UK's Maggie's Centers offer a model...designed by some of the best architects in the world. The frontline health workers who have done the most with the least deserve nothing less. -- Claire Weisz/WXY; Michael Murphy/MASS Design Group; Steven Yablon - Medium

Edward Gunts: Design for Distancing aims to bring life back to public spaces left dormant in lockdown: ...planning initiative in Baltimore that has brought architects and public health experts together to develop tactical solutions for modifying city streets and sidewalks so they work better for [businesses]...“Design for Distancing Ideas Guidebook,” a free online resource filled with strategies for bringing life back to public spaces while still complying with...social distancing...“Baltimore’s gift to the global community”...could also serve as a jumping-off point for other cities looking into reopening strategies. -- Ziger/Snead Architects; Ayers Saint Gross; PI.KL Studio; Quinn Evans; etc. - The Architect's Newspaper

Lydia Lee: Affordable Housing in COVID Times: Q&A with San Francisco Architect David Baker: The pandemic’s financial impact could be devastating, but for Baker, it’s the right time to tackle the city’s housing shortage. He [talks] about working remotely in the age of coronavirus, the urgency of housing “the neediest people,” and why he’s optimistic about the future: "it’s clear that middle-income workforce housing is also really needed, which some people lump with affordable housing. It’s a tragedy and disgrace that we haven’t been able to build unsubsidized workforce housing...The only way to get there is to lower or eliminate the regulatory burden, which is huge." - The Frisc (San Francisco)

ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy." - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Wednesday, July 15, 2020

- [Urban planner](#) James Rojas describes how he "spent the better part of his career reconciling his formal training with his lived experience as a Gay Chicano" that led to his Place It! interactive urban planning workshop shows people "how their lives and actions can shape policy and infrastructure (rather the other way around)."
- [Pacheco](#) reports that a Sorkin's Terreform-designed project for Chicago nonprofit Blacks in Green is "moving ahead with the BIG Green Homestead," a "'sustainable-square-mile' that will bring community-owned sustainable housing and commercial spaces to the city's South Side."
- [McKie reports](#) that Foster is "under fire" from climate activists who are none to happy with his firm "agreeing to design an airport in Saudi Arabia despite signing Architects Declare climate emergency manifesto" (the firm "will not be responding").
- [Meanwhile](#), what looks like a small UFO that crash-landed in San Francisco Bay is actually the Buoyant Ecologies Float Lab created by design architects from the California College of the Arts and port and marine research groups "that's helping designers learn how to blend biology with architecture."
- [As the new](#) 26-acre St. Pete Pier and adjacent entertainment/cultural district opens to the public in St. Petersburg, Florida, Hickman revisits the decade-long saga of the \$92 million project on the Tampa Bay waterfront.
- [The renovation](#) of the Venice Jewish Museum includes "an immersive replica of ancient ghetto housing and some of the most important synagogues and ancient Jewish dwellings built from the start of the Renaissance" (with the archive and the library waterproof up to 7 feet).
- [The Sessions](#) Hotel in Bristol, Virginia, combines a grain mill, a candy factory, and a grocery building into a "70-room boutique hotel that honors the property's storied past" by mixing "modern and retro themes with traditional and industrial elements."
- [Architect](#) Kevin Glad has donated his design services for a 20-unit residential facility for transplant patients and caregivers "who qualify for financial assistance through the Georgia Transplant Foundation."
- [A shortlist](#) of 12 in the running to win RIBA's international RETHINK: 2025 post-pandemic design competition.
- [USGBC announces](#) LEED Homes Awards for multifamily, single family, and affordable housing projects from around the world (alas, architects and/or design teams of these cool projects not included).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Bloszies' Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy."

Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries: Network Rail and RIBA Competitions launch the international competition Re-Imagining Railway Stations: Connecting Communities "to shape the future of Britain's railway stations."
- [Call for](#) entries: The Architect's Newspaper's 8th Annual Best of Design Awards for "great buildings, building elements, interiors, and installations in 50 categories."

● [Call for](#) entries (deadline reminder): Applications for the 2020 Arcus/Places Journal Prize "to support innovative public scholarship on the relationship between gender, sexuality, and the built environment."

● [Call for](#) applications for New York Public Library's international 2020-21 Cullman Center Fellowships;" open to academics, independent scholars, journalists, creative writers, translators, and visual artists at work on a book project."

COVID-19 news continues:

● [Mortice's](#) great Q&A with Chicago-based Site Design Group's Ernie Wong re: city planning becoming more socially equitable, post-coronavirus: "We can no longer do the things the way we've constantly done them" (check out his (great!) idea for ParkCoin - a new currency(!) and rentable outdoor workspaces).

● [Grabar's](#) great Q&A with experts on cities and suburbs, the NYT's Emily Badger, Natalie Moore of WBEZ Chicago, and Amanda Kolson Hurley of Bloomberg Businessweek re: "Will COVID-19 push people out of cities for good?"

● [Mina Chow's](#) op-ed: "With media burning and a virus raging, should we look to architecture? As we find ourselves caught in a misinformation maelstrom of viral proportions, awareness of the art of architecture may help move us forward with more equanimity and understanding."

● [Dickinson:](#) "Humanity is in a frenzied rush to devine how COVID-19 changes the way we build - all of us need to take a breath and listen - the world may just be telling us just to get over ourselves."

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[James Rojas: The Education - and Miseducation - of an Urban Planner: He spent the better part of his career reconciling his formal training with his lived experience as a Gay Chicano: Our urban inequities are not accidents. They're products of design and intention...I began studying urban planning at MIT and immediately hit a wall. The program sucked the joy out of cities...the generic white folks they would draw into renderings, I would sit in class, and wonder: Where do I fit in, as a Latino? Our interactive urban planning workshop - Place It! - always starts with...authentic community engagement...I know that quantitative research remains important. Some things do need to be plotted, mapped, and measured...Having people use their own hands and build their own stories...to create a vision for the future that...shows them how their lives and actions can shape policy and infrastructure \(rather the other way around\).- Common Edge](#)

[Antonio Pacheco: Michael Sorkin-designed project for Chicago nonprofit Blacks in Green plans to move ahead: Terreform and Chicago community development nonprofit...moving ahead with the BIG Green Homestead project, a development that will bring community-owned sustainable housing and commercial spaces to the city's South Side...a "sustainable-square-mile" infilled urban model...brings together community ownership, locally-produced energy, sustainable housing, neighborhood organizations, and other attributes to create a walkable, low-carbon district. -- Naomi Davis; Ellen Grimes; Tracy Sanders/WXY - Archinect](#)

[Robin McKie: Climate activists slam Norman Foster over Saudi airport: Architect is ignoring his own environment pledge, say critics: ...under fire for agreeing to design an airport and terminal in Saudi Arabia despite signing Architects Declare climate emergency manifesto that called for an "urgent need for action" on climate change...several new Foster + Partners projects in Saudi Arabia have caused controversy...over their links to the aviation industry...Foster's](#)



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involvement in these projects has infuriated [Architects Climate Action Network (Acan)]...[firm] said it would not be responding to the criticisms made against it... - Observer (UK)

'Upside down floating reef' in the San Francisco Bay could change ecology of shoreline, experts hope: Design Architects from the California College of the Arts and its Architectural Ecologies Lab recently teamed with the port and marine research groups to launch the Buoyant Ecologies Float Lab. Looking something like small UFO that crash-landed in the Bay, the lab is actually a platform that's helping designers learn how to blend biology with architecture. -- Adam Marcus; Margaret Ikeda; Evan Jones - KGO-TV San Francisco

Matt Hickman: St. Pete Pier activates the waterfront and beyond: St. Petersburg, Florida, has opened the new [pier] and adjacent entertainment/cultural district to the public. The long-awaited \$92 million project encompassing 26 acres of revitalized and reactivated Tampa Bay waterfront...includes a slew of attractions and amenities...A tram services the entire complex... -- Rogers Partners; Ken Smith Workshop; ASD/SKY Architects; Wannemacher Jensen Architects; W Architecture and Landscape Architecture; Michael Maltzan Architecture - The Architect's Newspaper

Renovation brings Venice Jewish Museum into future, visitors into 16th century: \$10 million project...will inject new life into the central complex; includes an immersive replica of ancient ghetto housing...architectural complex including some of the most important synagogues and ancient Jewish dwellings built from the start of the Renaissance...The archive and the library - which will be highly waterproof up to 2.2 meters (7 feet 2 inches) high - will become freely accessible to scholars. -- APML Architetti - Times of Israel

Creative Culture: The Sessions Hotel, a renovated property in Bristol, Virginia...the birthplace of music's creative culture...the hotel, which initially consisted of...a grain mill, a candy factory and a grocery building - was transformed by Interior Image Group (IIG) into one cohesive, 70-room boutique hotel that honors the property's storied past...an eclectic design concept that mixes modern and retro themes with traditional and industrial elements, all while incorporating and celebrating the property's rich historic roots. -- Architectural Partners - InspireDesign

Transplant patients, caregivers to benefit from planned 20-unit residential facility: A family that started a foundation now providing no-cost housing assistance...in the Atlanta area...A local architect has drawn and donated the plans, as a contribution to the project...Jeffrey Campbell Evans Foundation/JCEF...provides apartments...at low cost, to no cost, to those who qualify for financial assistance through the Georgia Transplant Foundation...Kevin Glade, the lead architect, said the design intends to promote a connection to spirit, mind, body and nature. -- Richmond Honan Acquisitions-SaportaReport (Atlanta)

The top 12 ideas from the RETHINK: 2025 post-pandemic design competition: RIBA's international design competition...tasked architects and students to envision what our built environment after Covid-19 might look like in 2025... -- Benjamin Holland/Olivia Dolan/Katie Williams; Andrew Jackson; Andrew Jackson; Farrells; Khan Bonshek; Haslam & Co Architects; Tim Rodber/Dominic

Walker; People Matter; Stephen Macbean - Archinect

USGBC Announces LEED Homes Awards Recipients and Residential Project of the Year: Recipients represent multifamily, single family and affordable housing projects from around the world...This year's Project of the Year is Park Mozaik A Block in Ankara, Turkey. - U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Call for entries: Network Rail and RIBA Competitions launch an international competition to shape the future of Britain's railway stations: Re-Imagining Railway Stations: Connecting Communities; registration deadline: September 11 (submissions due September 15)- RIBA Competitions

Call for entries: 8th Annual AN Best of Design Awards: showcases great buildings, building elements, interiors, and installations in 50 categories; early bird registration (save money!): August 6; (submissions due October 1)- The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: Applications for the 2020 Arcus/Places Journal Prize to support innovative public scholarship on the relationship between gender, sexuality, and the built environment; open to mid-career or senior scholars; funded by UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design's Arcus Endowment, deadline: August 15- Places Journal

Call for entries: Applications for the New York Public Library 2020-21 Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center Fellowships (international); open to academics, independent scholars, journalists, creative writers, translators, and visual artists at work on a book project; stipends of up to \$75,000; deadline: September 25- New York Public Library

Zach Mortice: Will City Planning Become More Socially Equitable Post-Coronavirus? A native of Chicago's South Side, landscape architect and planner Ernie Wong of Site Design Group has designed parks in...affluent, gentrifying neighborhoods to the bulldozed sites of former public housing projects...now that the world is reeling from the coronavirus, city planning may shift to accommodate new realities - and acknowledge the role that inequality plays...“We can no longer do the things the way we've constantly done them.”- Redshift

Henry Grabar: Will COVID Push People Out of Cities for Good? To find out how many people have really left, I consulted some experts on cities and suburbs: Emily Badger of the New York Times, Natalie Moore of WBEZ Chicago, and Amanda Kolson Hurley of Bloomberg Businessweek. - Slate

Mina Chow: Op-Ed: With media burning and a virus raging, should we look to architecture? Pandemic and protests have converged in such a way to reveal the hollow center of contemporary life...we are itching to reconnect with each other. A better understanding of architecture might help us get there...connections to environments are critical to our human experience. Architects design places for people to belong: they help people discover their being in the world...architecture teaches us not only to see the forest before the trees, but to see and sense them both - as well as the spaces in between...Appearances can be deceiving in the virtual realm...As we find ourselves caught in a misinformation maelstrom of viral proportions, awareness

of the art of architecture may help move us forward with more equanimity and understanding. -- Ant Farm; mc² SPACES - The Architect's Newspaper

Duo Dickinson: Will COVID forever alter the way we design homes: My hope is that we will not be this epoch's dinosaurs, despite all the forced change. I think understanding the way people adapt to change can give all of us hope in times of fear...COVID-19 has revealed that we did not see the consequences of how we see the world...humanity is in a frenzied rush to divine how this impact changes the way we build...all of us need to take a breath and listen...the world may just be telling us...just to get over ourselves. Rather than be victims of our circumstances, we can listen and learn before we act. - CTInsider (Connecticut)

ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy." - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, July 16, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, July 21. A refreshing change of pace today: no special COVID-19 coverage (the first time since early March!). Stay well. Stay safe. Stay cool...

- [CEPT professor](#) A. Srivathsan explains why, in India, the profession "is in deep trouble, but not for the reasons architects attribute" (a court ruling "that architects do not hold a monopoly over architectural services" among them) - "the sooner they take a pragmatic view, the quicker they can focus on the real threats."
- [Kennicott](#) waxes poetic (and political!) about Mecanoo's "miraculous" transformation of D.C.'s Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library that gives him "hope. Of all the buildings in America - few are more urgently needed than this memorial to the martyred prophet of possibilities it seems we may have irrevocably squandered."
- [Lamster](#) parses Preservation Dallas's list of most endangered places - "new development shouldn't have to mean the destruction of cultural heritage."
- [And now](#) for some good news: The U.S. House of Representatives passes the Bird-Safe Buildings Act to reduce bird collisions - the "latest evidence of increasing momentum in bird-friendly building trend."
- [Itzkowitz](#) parses the 2020 grantees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, which includes a special gift to Minneapolis's historic preservation office to preserve contemporary history (a first!).
- [SoCal NOMA](#) and AIALA launch the Diversity Equity and Inclusivity Challenge, "a new tool" with 10 "actions" to expand inclusion - available to be downloaded (thoughtful comment at the end).
- [Former NYCOBA](#) president Pascale Sablan is looking to expand the SAY IT LOUD showcase of portfolios of women and BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] architects and designers from around the world - submit by September 1.
- [AIA issues](#) a statement strongly supporting the Democracy in Design Act - the "legislation would override an expected Executive Order designating classical architecture as the preferred style for all U.S. federal buildings."
- [Just for fun](#): Download - for free(!) - Taller de Arquitectura Carmelina&Aurelio's second coloring book with illustrations of works by Zaha Hadid, Kengo Kuma, Rozana Montiel, BIG, and Eileen Gray.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Bloszies' Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy."

Weekend diversions:

- [Hickman](#) offers a handy list of 10 "public landscapes, open-air museums, and multifaceted art spaces," from New York to California, "that have reopened or are reopening soon - with room to spread."
- [Steven Holl's](#) 'T' Space in Rhinebeck, NY, presents Ensamble Studio's Antón García-Abril and Débora Mesa's "virtual exhibition of their latest project to transform an abandoned quarry in Menorca, Spain" - livestream

opening celebration, July 18, includes a tour of the exhibition with the architects, a poetry reading, and music.

- [Mortice](#) cheers "Edith Farnsworth Reconsidered," the "multi-part exhibition unfolding across some 60 acres in Plano, Illinois - visitors can "linger in the landscape for the first time" - deer sightings possible "(with complimentary bug spray on hand)."

- [You can't](#) walk through "Alan Karchmer, the Architect's Photographer" at the National Building Museum, but you can join Karchmer in his virtual gallery tour with his commentary on photographs featured in the show.

Page-turners:

- [A thoughtful](#) excerpt from Leslie Kern's new book "Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-made World" that "calls for reimagining urban infrastructure" to "create spaces that make care work and social reproduction more collective, less exhausting and more equitable."

- [Kate Wagner](#) on Daniel Barber's "Modern Architecture and Climate: Design before Air Conditioning": "What makes the book so interesting is not only the meticulous documentation of these climate-control alternatives and their practitioners - but the tension between their goals and their underlying ideologies. The lesson is not to replicate the conditions that begat yesterday's missed opportunities, but to change them for the better."

- [Welton talks](#) to Kundig re: "Tom Kundig: Working Title": "Its central theme - that Olson Kundig's residential work informs its larger commercial and cultural projects - is the driver behind this book. That stems from a recent conversation with Glenn Murcutt."

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A. Srivathsan: Ring-fencing won't rescue architecture: It is a profession in crisis but the solution does not lie in placing restrictions on other professionals: Recently, the Supreme Court...ruled that architects do not hold a monopoly over architectural services and that engineers and others could freely offer them...The profession indeed is in deep trouble, but not for the reasons architects attribute...profession is beset with many problems that are internal...Demand for monopoly is only damagingly distracting architects from real issues...the sooner [they] take a pragmatic view, the quicker they can focus on the real threats...limited constituency for good design [and] the profession's diminishing appeal to young talents...professional bodies have failed. -- Indian Institute of Architects (IIA); Council of Architecture (CoA) - The Hindu (India)

Philip Kennicott: America's libraries are essential now - and this beautifully renovated one in Washington gives us hope: If you want to understand the abject failure of America, look to its libraries...In some cities, libraries have evolved into social service hubs, for the mentally ill, the jobless and the victims of domestic abuse...because our society has failed to meet the basic needs of its people...The transformation [of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library] is miraculous...many of most important changes feel as if they've been there all along...Of all the buildings in America...few are more urgently needed than this memorial to the martyred prophet of possibilities it seems we may have irrevocably squandered. -- Mies van der Rohe (1972); Francine Houben/Mecanoo - Washington Post

Mark Lamster: These are the most endangered places in Dallas right now: Preservation Dallas list...is not comprised of grand works of signature architecture, but more modest works of vernacular design that give the city its distinct identity and character: Atlas Metal Works is directly in the path of development...site is of considerable value. It would be tragic to lose a work of



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such grace that is an essential part of the city's industrial heritage...Gentrifying [Deep Ellum] at the expense of its built and cultural history is neither an acceptable nor legitimate means of achieving housing density...new development shouldn't have to mean the destruction of cultural heritage. - Dallas Morning News

Legislation to Reduce Bird Collisions Passes the U.S. House of Representatives: The bill's success is latest evidence of increasing momentum in bird-friendly building trend: ...calling for federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features. As many as 1 billion birds a year die in collisions with buildings in the United States alone...Bird-Safe Buildings Act will soon be introduced in the Senate, and conservationists are optimistic about its passage...In 2019, the New York City Council passed the country's most comprehensive bird-friendly buildings law. - American Bird Conservancy

Laura Itzkowitz: A Milestone for the National Trust for Historic Preservation: The venerated organization is investing \$1.6 million not only in the preservation of Black historic places, but also - for the first time - to preserve contemporary history: African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund...\$50,000 special gift...to the city of Minneapolis's historic preservation office...the first time NTHP is giving a grant to preserve contemporary history...Action Fund has just announced its 2020 grantees...grants also commemorate the loss and destruction of Black heritage... -- Paul R. Williams - Architectural Digest

SoCal NOMA launches Diversity Equity and Inclusivity Challenge: In a joint statement from the American Institute of Architects Los Angeles Chapter (AIALA) and the Southern California Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (SoCal NOMA), a new tool to expand inclusion has been announced...10 "actions"...each have a scoring threshold... the challenge and its guidelines can be downloaded. - Archinect

SAY IT LOUD wants to showcase diverse designers across the world: ...to showcase the portfolios of women and BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] architects...Pascale Sablan finished her two-year tenure as the president of the New York chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) in 2017, she drew from the well of connections...to arrange the first SAY IT LOUD exhibition...has had to transition her upcoming exhibitions online...she wants to double the number of architects represented to 500...submit to the next SAY IT LOUD [by] September 1. -- NYCOBA - The Architect's Newspaper

AIA strongly supports "Democracy in Design Act": Proposed legislation would override an expected Executive Order designating classical architecture as the preferred style for all U.S. federal courthouses and other buildings: By codifying the General Service Administration's Design Excellence Program principles into statute, Congress will ensure the federal government maintains its current neutrality on architectural styles...AIA has taken a multi-pronged approach to stopping the Executive Order. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Coloring Architecture: Download Taller de Arquitectura Carmelina&Aurelio's Second Book for Free: Due to the success of the first edition, the studio has just published the second volume of the series, with illustrations of works by Zaha Hadid, Kengo Kuma, Rozana Montiel, BIG, and Eileen Gray. The digital book in

PDF format is available for free... - ArchDaily

Matt Hickman: 10 outdoor art spaces, parks, and landscapes that have reopened or are reopening soon: ...public landscapes, open-air museums, and multifaceted art spaces with room to spread out... -- Chicago Riverwalk; Crystal Bridges (Arkansas); Glenstone museum (Maryland); NYC: High Line & Governors Island; Storm King (New York) The Huntington (California); Mass MoCA; St. Pete Pier (Florida); etc. - The Architect's Newspaper

Ensamble Studio's Antón García-Abril and Débora Mesa: "Ca'n Terra: Architecture of the Earth": a virtual exhibition of their latest project to transform an abandoned quarry in Menorca, Spain, recycling landscape, and quarrying light, July 18 - October 31; Virtual Livestream Opening Celebration, July 18, 3:00 - 4:30pm EDT, includes a tour of the exhibition with the architects, a poetry reading by Marie Howe and a performance by Fast Forward [click Home Page to register]- 'T' Space (Rhinebeck, New York)

Zach Mortice: A Second Look at Edith Farnsworth and Her Mies van der Rohe-designed Retreat: A multi-part exhibition ["Edith Farnsworth Reconsidered"] unfolding across some 60 acres in Plano, Illinois, focuses on one of the most famous Modern architecture clients in history: ...the Farnsworth is inviting visitors to linger in the landscape for the first time...(with complimentary bug spray on hand)...one-room house...[is] altogether a warmer and more humane place now than it was under Peter Palumbo's care...A degree of sadness seems to underpin Edith's time at the house...It's bitterly ironic that the sanctuary she founded was not truly for herself, but for legions of Mies devotees in thrall to her insensitive collaborator. -- Dirk Lohan; Alfred Caldwell - Architectural Record

Virtual Gallery Talk: "Alan Karchmer, the Architect's Photographer": ...the National Building Museum mounted a retrospective exhibition of architectural photographer Alan Karchmer's work, but the coronavirus pandemic forced the Washington, D.C., institution to close its doors...In this virtual gallery talk, Karchmer provides commentary on photographs featured in the show. - Architectural Record

Leslie Kern: How to Rebuild Cities for Caregiving: Decades after critiques on how cities fail caregivers, the same problems remain. The new book "Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-made World" calls for reimagining urban infrastructure: ...think beyond gender mainstreaming...I want cities to enact policies and create spaces that make care work and social reproduction more collective, less exhausting and more equitable...A feminist city must look to the creative tools that women have always used to support one another and find ways to build that support into the very fabric of the urban world. - Places Journal

Kate Wagner: In "Modern Architecture and Climate: Design before Air Conditioning," climate control takes command: The premise of Daniel Barber's book is this: The battle for the supremacy of air conditioning above all other solutions for climate mitigation was, in fact, a battle...modernism offered technical solutions to human ills...what we might call "climate modernism," architects quickly fastened onto shading devices and other climatic solutions...What makes the book so interesting is not only the meticulous documentation of these climate-control alternatives and their practitioners...but the tension between their goals and their underlying ideologies...[He] cautions

against casting these early developments in the role of a proto-environmentalism...The lesson...is not to replicate the conditions that begat yesterday's missed opportunities, but to change them for the better. - The Architect's Newspaper

J. Michael Welton: 29 Masterworks in "Tom Kundig: Working Title": Kundig's newest book - his fourth - is split 50/50 between small and large projects. For good reason...its central theme - that Olson Kundig's residential work informs its larger commercial and cultural projects - is the driver behind this book. That stems from a recent conversation with Glenn Murcutt - Architects + Artisans

ANN feature: Charles F. Bloszies: Left Coast Reflections #7: Plague 2.0: Architects, for the most part, are idealists but have little power to affect change beyond altering the built environment one building at a time. What does COVID-19 portend when economic growth is driven by "greed-ocracy." - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, July 21, 2020

- [Alissa Walker](#) delves into why "urbanism hasn't worked for everyone" - creators of projects like Atlanta's BeltLine "have almost universally failed to consider the effect they will have on the Black people who already live in those cities. Lynn Ross of Urbanist Leaders of Color isn't hopeful that white-centered urbanist groups can grow to encompass Black needs."
- [King sees](#) hope - and problems - with the Plan Bay Area 2050: It "will be more crowded - planners want to make it more equitable, too" - but "even if all 25 strategies are implemented, the Bay Area of 2050 won't blossom into an egalitarian paradise - despite the proposed investments in affordable housing, gentrification and displacement" will still "threaten lower-income residents of neighborhoods that have convenient access to transit or jobs."
- [Lynn Sweet](#) re: the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park: "The debate over the use of a historic park has exposed race and class fault lines in Chicago when it comes to the questions of whose voices should prevail" - the first Black U.S. president "deserves to be recognized, honored, for what he accomplished, not remembered for what he destroyed."
- [Betsky has](#) high hopes for architect Michael Marshall's "promising and intriguing proposal" for a rating system similar to LEED "for equity in architecture firms" - but warns of pitfalls - the "effort will require focusing on confronting unconscious bias and conscious exclusion, both in the educational system and the discipline as a whole."
- [Sitz parses](#) the NCARB By the Numbers 2020 report that "includes early findings from a survey on equity, diversity, and inclusion in licensure conducted with the National Organization of Minority Architects" - the findings "highlight the need for culture and systematic shifts throughout the profession."
- [Jessica](#) Lynne reports on the launch of The Nexus Podcast, "a showcase for Black scholars, writers, designers, and educators" in a collaboration between Harvard GSD, the school's African American Student Union, and the Loeb Library.
- [Marcus Fairs](#) on the Architects Climate Action Network calling on Foster + Partners to withdraw from the Amaala airport project in Saudi Arabia (with "climate-controlled hangars for private jets") - "or resign as a signatory of the Architects Declare movement - for the time being, in order to safeguard the integrity and credibility of the initiative."
- [Kimmelman](#) takes on how, "30 years on, the Americans with Disabilities Act/ADA has reshaped American architecture and the way designers and the public have come to think about civil rights and the built world. But there's still a long way to go."
- [Q&A](#): Trinity Simons, executive director, Mayor's Institute on City Design, queries MICD founder and former mayor of Charleston (for 40 years!) Joseph P. Riley re: "the project he considers to be his life's most important work" - Charleston's International African American Museum, and "the importance of telling history in the places where it occurred."
- [Margolies](#) on the battle over Sugimoto's plans for the Hirshhorn Museum's Sculpture Garden; critics question "why it isn't being accorded the same respect that is being bestowed upon the [Bunshaft-designed] building."
- [Nate Berg](#), on a brighter note, parses the 13 "bold, and often comparatively weird" - but now falling apart -

Modernist buildings, "from a flying saucer-shaped concrete memorial in Bulgaria to sphere-topped towers in Kuwait City, set "to receive significant conservation grants through the Getty Institute's Keeping It Modern program."

- [The National](#) Building Museum names Brent D. Glass, former head of the National Museum of American History, as Interim Executive Director while it searches for Chase Rynd's replacement.
- [Nayeri reports](#) that, while Christo's plan to wrap the Arc de Triomphe in Paris is on track, "his collaborators hope they can pull off one more feat": a gigantic big brother to his Serpentine Lake mastaba "permanently installed in the Abu Dhabi desert."
- [Depressing](#) news: arson is suspected in the blaze at France's Nantes Cathedral: "Authorities were quick to point out that the blaze inflicted less damage than the devastating inferno at Notre-Dame" last year.

COVID-19 news continues:

- [Kennicott](#) re: understanding "the role of architecture post-pandemic": Is this "a revolutionary moment, a call to rethink everything? It seems we want an architecture that does everything. But what does that look like in real life?"
- [Sisson parses](#) a new C40 Cities report that explains "how the '15-minute city' could help post-pandemic recovery as an economic boost for coronavirus-ravaged municipal budgets - very doable in cities of any size."
- [Meg Holden](#), director, Urban Studies at Simon Fraser University, outlines three types of love for a city: "If we love our cities, we'll make better decisions about their future after the COVID-19 pandemic. Decolonized urban planning permits us to think about cities loving us back. Different kinds of love feed and starve our cities."
- [Kuth Ranieri](#) Architects suggests "micro-hoods" for downtown San Francisco: "With COVID-19 proving that many companies can operate on full-time remote staffs," vacant office space can be put to new use - helping with the city's "gaping need for low-cost housing and injecting lifeblood into the city's urban core" (cool graphic presentation).
- [The AIA's](#) new COVID-19 Frontline Checklist, developed by architects and frontline workers, "provides strategies to support health care staff and patients."



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[Alissa Walker: Urbanism Hasn't Worked for Everyone: "Who are we city-making for? These 'experts'? Or is it the other human beings who call that place home?" \[Atlanta's\] BeltLine is one of the most well-known \(and copied\) urbanism efforts...also one of the starkest examples of the reality that...creators of those projects have almost universally failed to consider...the effect they will have on the Black people who already live in those cities...urbanists are being called out more directly...Black practitioners...are facing their own reckoning across a white-centered field...organizations associated with the planning, policy, and design of cities, like CNU, the APA, and AIA have remained overwhelmingly white ..Lynn Ross isn't hopeful that white-centered urbanist groups can grow to encompass Black needs. -- Ryan Gravel; Urbanist Leaders of Color/BlackSpace; Congress for the New Urbanism; Justin Garrett Moore/APA; American Institute of Architects; Amina Yasin/Canadian Institute of Planners Social Equity Committee; Pete Saunders; Kristen Jeffers; SPUR - Curbed](#)

[John King: Bay Area of 2050 will be more crowded - planners want to make it more equitable, too: For the first time, the Bay Area's largest planning agencies have mapped what the region might look like...warns that...lower-income residents will still be under pressure from housing and transportation costs...officials...say the pandemic's long-term impact is likely to be relatively](#)



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minor...Even if all 25 strategies are implemented, the Bay Area of 2050 won't blossom into an egalitarian paradise...despite the proposed investments in affordable housing...gentrification and displacement would threaten lower-income residents of neighborhoods that have convenient access to transit or jobs. - San Francisco Chronicle

Lynn Sweet: Years-long federal review of the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park in final stages: City Hall will not insist on replacement land outside of [the park] to make up for the 19.3 acres the complex will occupy: The debate over the use of a historic park has...exposed race and class fault lines in Chicago when it comes to the questions of whose voices should prevail...These matters take on a new importance in this new era we're in..."the first Black president of the United States deserves to be recognized, honored, for what he accomplished, not remembered for what he destroyed." -- Frederick Law Olmsted; Calvert Vaux; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects - Chicago Sun-Times

Aaron Betsky: LEED for Diversity: A Proposal by Michael Marshall: The Washington, DC-based architect wants to create a rating system for equity in architecture firms: It's a promising and intriguing proposal...LEED certainly has its flaws. A small industry of experts and consultants has figured out how to game the system, so that its ratings have lost much of their relevance...an army of equally highly paid experts advising firms on how to sail around demands for both minority participation in government contracts and community participation...How could [his scheme] avoid such pitfalls? ...AXP internship program might offer a model...effort will also require focusing on confronting unconscious bias and conscious exclusion, both in the educational system and the discipline as a whole...Marshall's idea is one promising way forward. - Architect Magazine

Miriam Sitz: NCARB By the Numbers 2020 Offers Closer Look at Demographics and Diversity: ...includes early findings from a survey on equity, diversity, and inclusion in licensure conducted with the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA): The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards 9th annual report...showed that fewer than two in five architects are women, and fewer than one in five identifies as a racial or ethnic minority...calls the higher level of attrition of people of color "understandable, and potentially

preventable"...such findings "highlight the need for culture and systematic shifts throughout the profession." - Architectural Record

Jessica Lynne: The Nexus Podcast: A showcase for Black scholars, writers, designers, and educators: Founded in the wake of the GSD's first Black in Design Conference in 2015, the Design Nexus is a collaboration between the school's African American Student Union and the Frances Loeb Library...inaugural episode features Boston-based architect, filmmaker, illustrator, and children's book author Aisha Densmore-Bey. -- Tara Oluwafemi; Caleb Negash; Stephen Gray; De Nichols; Trenton Doyle Hancock - Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Marcus Fairs: ACAN [Architects Climate Action Network] calls on Foster + Partners to withdraw from Amaala airport project over climate concerns: ...or resign as a signatory of the Architects Declare movement..."mirage-inspired" design for an international airport at the huge Saudi resort set amid 4,155 square kilometres [1,604 square miles] in the Prince Mohammad bin Salman Natural Reserve...will feature "climate-controlled hangars...for private jets"... "we suggest that you consider stepping down from Architects Declare for the time being, in order to safeguard the integrity and credibility of the initiative." - Dezeen

Michael Kimmelman: Building Accessibility Into America, Literally: 30 years on, the Americans With Disabilities Act has reshaped the way designers and the public have come to think about equity, civil rights and American architecture. But it's only a start: A.D.A. has reshaped American architecture and the way designers and the public have come to think about civil rights and the built world...has baked a more egalitarian aesthetic of forms and spaces into the civic DNA. But there's still a long way to go...A ramp can be something stuck onto a building to check off some legal requirement. Or it can inspire... -- Karen Braitmayer; Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects; Weiss/Manfredi; Joel Sanders/MIXdesign - New York Times

Trinity Simons: Former Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley on the International African American Museum: The Dean of America's Mayors talks about this seminal project, 20 years in the making: ...he's been working diligently on the project he considers to be his life's most important work: Charleston's IAAM, which broke ground in October 2019...Q&A re: the importance of telling history in the places where it occurred. -- Harry Cobb/Pei Cobb Freed; Walter Hood/Hood Design Studio - Common Edge

Jane Margolies: At the Hirshhorn, a Battle Over Plans for Its Sculpture Garden: The museum is going ahead with meetings on a design by Hiroshi Sugimoto that preservationists say would undo key features of postwar landscape design by Lester Collins: Green space would decrease and paving increase...Critics question the very idea of remaking the garden...asking why it isn't being accorded the same respect that is being bestowed upon the [Gordon Bunshaft-designed] building, whose envelope is scheduled to be restored beginning later this year. -- Theodore Prudon/Docomomo US; Kate Kerin; Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); New Material Research Laboratory/Tomoyuki Sakakida - New York Times

Nate Berg: Modernist architecture has a dirty secret: Many of the buildings were too innovative: And now they're falling apart. The Getty Institute announces

funding to help conserve 13 modernist buildings, from a flying saucer-shaped concrete memorial in Bulgaria to sphere-topped towers in Kuwait City: Bold, and often comparatively weird...to receive significant conservation grants through the foundation's Keeping It Modern program...has given grants to conservation efforts for 77 buildings in 40 different countries. -- Charles Correa; Malene Bjørn; Buckminster Fuller; Álvaro Siza; Wallace K. Harrison - Fast Company

National Building Museum announces Interim Executive Director: Brent D. Glass, former head of the National Museum of American History, to lead institution through early 2021: Chase W. Rynd, the institution's fourth and longest-serving Executive Director (17 years; 2004-2020), has been named Executive Director Emeritus. It is the first time such an honor has been bestowed by the NBM. - National Building Museum / NBM (Washington, DC)

Farah Nayeri: It's Christo's Final Show. But Is It the Last We'll See of Him? ...had planned to wrap the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. The project is delayed, but on track for next year. And his collaborators hope they can pull off one more feat, too...to realize another of his lifelong ambitions: a trapezoidal pyramid (or mastaba) made of oil barrels, permanently installed in the Abu Dhabi desert. Raising the \$350 million budget for it will be tough. -- Jeanne-Claude - New York Times

Suspected Arson at France's Nantes Cathedral Destroys Organ, Stained Glass: Authorities were quick to point out that the blaze inflicted less damage than the devastating April 2019 inferno at Notre-Dame...fire appears to have started in three separate places...French government owns Nantes Cathedral and will foot the bill for its restoration with the help of donations... - Smithsonian Magazine

Philip Kennicott: Designing to Survive: As we try to understand the role of architecture post-pandemic, we have to first better understand the ways we inhabit buildings and move through space: By April...the profession was at a crossroads. Was this a time for quick, targeted, pragmatic responses to a built environment that no longer felt safe, or was this a revolutionary moment, a call to rethink everything? We need architecture that is sustainable, flexible, adaptive, responsive and local, but without being parochial. But we also need architecture that is cosmopolitan and smart, engaged and connected. It seems we want an architecture that does everything. But what does that look like in real life? A virus is giving our planet a remedial lesson about how we are all connected, and architecture may be the science that consolidates this terrible but liberating new wisdom. -- Hashim Sarki; Michael Murphy/MASS Design Group; Liz Diller/Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Kulapat Yantrasast/wHY Architecture; David Benjamin/The Living; George Ranalli; Anne Valentino - Washington Post Magazine

Patrick Sisson: How the '15-Minute City' Could Help Post-Pandemic Recovery: A new C40 Cities report touts Paris's model for putting essentials within close walking or biking distance as an economic boost for coronavirus-ravaged municipal budgets: Mayors' Agenda for a Green and Just Recovery...emphasizes several familiar pillars of progressive urbanism - renewable energy investment, energy-efficient buildings, improved mass transit, and spending on new parks and green space...The agenda recommends that "all residents will live in '15-minute cities'"...concept may be the most concise and catchy way to repackage the idea as a pandemic economic recovery

tool..."15-minute change is very doable in cities of any size." - Bloomberg CityLab

Meg Holden: If we love our cities, we'll make better decisions about their future after the COVID-19 pandemic: It's the most famous city slogan in the world: I Love New York. And yet, surprisingly, love doesn't seem to play a part in how urban planners build cities...[They] often explain them through growth, power, efficiency and grandeur...But what would it mean for all urban planners to confess to their love for the places they plan? ...urban planning has always been about taking a long-term view. Decolonized urban planning, as viewed by Indigenous planners, goes further in considering planning for cities whose future residents we already love, and planning to make a gift of the city to them. Decolonized urban planning permits us to think about cities loving us back. Different kinds of love feed and starve our cities. - The Conversation

Welcome to the micro-hood: A new vision for downtown San Francisco: The guiding theory of Elizabeth Ranieri's and Bron Kuth's concept...With COVID-19...proving that many companies can operate on full-time remote staffs, we'll have a permanent surplus of vacant office space in downtown high rises. It'd be only natural then to put that space to new use - perhaps serving [the city's] gaping need for low-cost housing and injecting lifeblood into the city's urban core. -- Kuth Ranieri Architects - San Francisco Chronicle

Architects and frontline workers develop COVID-19 healthcare facility design checklist: AIA's new COVID-19 Frontline Checklist provides strategies to support health care staff and patients by specifically addressing the unique challenges imposed by COVID-19... -- American Institute of Architects; Molly Scanlon/Phigenics; Eve Edelstein/Clinicians for Design - Boston Real Estate Journal

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Today's News - Wednesday, July 22, 2020

- [Craig L. Wilkins](#), "one of the most prolific writers about spatial justice and winner of the National Design Award for his scholarship on Black architects," minces no words re: why "it's time for architects to accept responsibility - the current question being bandied about is: What can we do? Then, architects sort of tinker around the edges - just as we have always done."
- [Q&A](#) with accessibility consultant Karen Braitmayer who "weighs in on accessible design and how we can make strides to truly design for all": "Architecture schools need to help young disabled people in their quest to become architects."
- [Archaeologists](#) from Cal State conclude that "ramps leading into temples show Ancient Greeks put inclusive design into action to improve access for disabled locals. The impressive architectural innovation from about 25 centuries ago highlights the lack of disabled access at many venues today."
- [Quang Truong](#) takes a deep dive into where innovation in architecture will come from next: "The long, complicated, and labor-intensive AEC process is where many proposed innovations find their greatest hurdles" (his three "cornerstones" framework might help).
- [Architects](#) Down Under "raise significant heat concerns over Charles Darwin University plans" - they also claim "details of the project have been drip-fed and revisions have been made after public submissions closed. ARM Architecture said materials and finishes were still being chosen."
- [MAD Architects](#) and three French firms unveil the design for the 2024 Paris Olympics Aquatic Center, envisioned as "a piece of a public artwork" that "flaunts a translucent curved facade that appears to be floating with a rippled reflexive effect."
- [The Orbit](#), Canada's "City of the Future" in Innisfil "moves ahead with the approval of a central train station designed by PARTISANS."
- [Green brings](#) us eye-fuls of St. Petersburg, Florida's new St. Pete Pier 26-acre walkable pier district with a focus on "Bending Arc," a "sculpture with a social justice message" - and the park that "echoes" its message.
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: A "sunken medieval Italian village may resurface for 1st time since 1994" - followed by tales of other underwater cities - and the current (depressing) crisis of rising sea levels.

Deadlines (we love "Creature!"):

- [Call for](#) entries: Emotions, Architecture, Opioids: design a methadone medication unit in Venice, Los Angeles; open to students and professionals; cash prizes.
- [Call for](#) entries: Lagos - City of Water Architecture Competition: design a building, structure, or master plan that helps envision a future for Lagos on water; open to students, recent graduates, and young architects; cash prizes.
- [Call for](#) entries: LA+ CREATURE: choose a nonhuman creature as your client, then design (or redesign) something that improves your client's life and increases human awareness of and empathy towards your client's existence; cash prizes; open to students & professionals.

- [Call for](#) entries: eVolo 2021 Skyscraper Competition: What is a skyscraper in the 21st century?
- [Call for](#) papers for an upcoming issue of Nexus Network Journal: Modeling: Conceiving, Testing, Defining, Convincing.

COVID-19 news continues:

- [SWA's Baumgardner](#) delves into how "the pandemic offers an opportunity to re-wild our communities," helping our already under-funded parks departments, and creating a "new aesthetic - an unkempt, rambling, and wild style of park 'design' created in an organic, vernacular character" (mention of puppies included).
- [Wainwright](#) talks to "the designers rethinking theater for the COVID age" via "wraparound screens, touring deckchair pop-ups, rooftop suction devices" (and possibly "the first post-viral theater seat).
- [Diamond](#) Schmitt's Matthew Lella in a radio interview re: how the power of architecture can "bring audiences back into live entertainment spaces": "It already has."
- [USGBC releases](#) new LEED guidance for credits that "integrate public health and social equity with sustainability planning."

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Craig L. Wilkins as told to Diana Budds: It's Time for Architects to Accept Responsibility: As a profession, we don't all talk about our role in redlining. We don't talk about equitable resource allocation. We have been complicit in warehousing people: ...the current question being bandied about within architecture is: What can we do? Then, architects sort of tinker around the edges...just as we have always done...AIA code of ethics [is] all about how not to go to jail and how not to sully the name of the architect. It's not about having a higher calling or higher duty...You have to have equity and justice as part of your thinking. - Curbed

Karen Braitmayer, Founder of Studio Pacifica, Weighs in on Accessible Design: As the ADA turns 30, the Seattle architect reflects on inclusivity and how we can make strides to truly design for all: "I spend a lot of time asking people questions and getting nosy. Understanding the community that will live with or benefit from the project is important...if we increase the number of designers with lived experience in disability, we are going to alter the output and what we're creating...Architecture schools need to help young disabled people in their quest to become architects. -- Olson Kundig; Perkins and Will; Graham Baba; Tiscareno Associates - Metropolis Magazine

Rob Picheta: Ramps leading into temples show Ancient Greeks put inclusive design into action: Archaeologists from California State University re-examined the placement and design of ramps at several Greek buildings, and concluded that they were installed to improve access for disabled locals...Access ramps were particularly common at healing sanctuaries...The impressive architectural innovation from about 25 centuries ago also highlights the lack of disabled access at many venues today. - CNN Style

Quang Truong/Polytechnica: Where will innovation in architecture come from next? Now more than ever, architecture is in need of innovation...But even before these crises [pandemic, Black Lives Matter, racial justice protests] forced many of us to reexamine architecture, the industry was in desperate need of innovation...The long, complicated, and labor-intensive AEC process is where



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many proposed innovations find their greatest hurdles - meaning that it is ripe for innovation...use this framework to understand from where meaningful innovation will come in the future. - The Architect's Newspaper

Architects raise significant heat concerns over university plans for Darwin's CBD: Plans for a multi-million-dollar Charles Darwin University precinct...have sparked concerns among some of the NT's leading architects, who say details of the project have been drip-fed and revisions have been made after public submissions closed...Concept designs...show a glass building, with little evidence of screening or heat mitigation...could reflect heat into the heart of the city...Melbourne-based...ARM Architecture, said materials and finishes were still being chosen. -- Australian Institute of Architects NT - ABC News (Australia)

Sean Joyner: MAD Architects unveils design for 2024 Paris Olympics' Aquatic Center: ...led by Ma Yansong...along with French architectural firms, Jacques Rougerie Architecture, Atelier Phileas Architecture, and Apma Architecture...concept envisions...a piece of a public artwork...flaunts a translucent curved facade that appears to be floating...with a rippled reflexive effect. The building is expected to hold 5,000 spectators during the Olympics, and has been designed to reduce in size by 50% once the games are over...70% of the structure is constructed from wood - Archinect

Eric Baldwin: Canada's City of the Future Moves Forward with Central Train Station Approved: ...[designed] by...PARTISANS...for The Orbit...a new central neighborhood for the Canadian town of Innisfil...Over the next 3-5 years, PARTISANS will collaborate with the Town of Innisfil to develop the Orbit and the immediate surrounding buildings...and green space... - ArchDaily

Jared Green: In a New Pier District, an Arc Bends Towards Justice: ...in St. Petersburg, Florida, an old pier launch built on landfill didn't offer much beyond lots of parking and a long hot walk 3,000 feet out to a restaurant jutting into Tampa Bay...a new 26-acre walkable pier district now unites city and pier ..features "Bending Arc," a sculpture with a social justice message by net artist Janet Echelman...her largest permanent installation to date...the park itself echoes the social justice message of Echelman's artwork. -- Barbara Wilk/W-Architecture; Rob Rogers/Rogers Partners; ASD/SKY Architect; Ken Smith Workshop; AECOM - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Sunken medieval Italian village may resurface for 1st time since 1994: Every few decades or so, the submerged 12th-century...Fabbriche di Careggine in the Lucca province of Tuscany breaches the surface of Lake Vagli. The town could resurface once more in 2021...built in 1270 and stood on dry land up until 1946 when its inhabitants were relocated [and village] was submerged to build a hydroelectric dam...town has fully surfaced at least four times since then...when the reservoir...was drained for maintenance work on the dam. - AccuWeather

Call for entries: Emotions, Architecture, Opioids: design a methadone medication unit located in Venice, Los Angeles; open to students and professionals; cash prizes; registration deadline: August 30 (submissions due:

September 6)- Combo Competitions

Call for entries: Lagos - City of Water Architecture Competition 2020 (international): design a building, structure or masterplan that helps envision a future for Lagos on water; open to students, recent graduates and young architects; cash prizes; registration deadline: August 10 (submissions due August 25) - Eddy Eguavoen Foundation / Voen Associates (Nigeria)

Call for entries: LA+ CREATURE international design ideas competition: choose a nonhuman creature as your client...identify its needs...design (or redesign) a place, structure, thing, system, and/or process that improves your client's life; design must increase human awareness of and empathy towards your client's existence; cash prizes; open to students & professionals of any discipline; no professional qualification required; deadline: October 20 - LA+ Interdisciplinary Journal of Landscape Architecture (University of Pennsylvania)


Call for entries: eVolo 2021 Skyscraper Competition (international): What is a skyscraper in the 21st century? What are the historical, contextual, social, urban, and environmental responsibilities of these mega-structures? Early registration (save money!): November 17 (submissions due February 9, 2021) - eVolo Magazine

Call for entries: Call for papers for an upcoming issue of Nexus Network Journal: Modelling: Conceiving, Testing, Defining, Convincing; deadline: January 15, 2021 - Nexus Network Journal: Architecture and Mathematics / Kim Williams Books

Kinder Baumgardner/SWA Group: The Pandemic Offers an Opportunity to Re-Wild Our Communities: ...the American public has adopted parks and neighborhood streets as safe spaces. This will not be a short-lived phenomenon...our parks departments will be unable to marshal the funds to maintain existing open spaces, much less deliver new parks...this disconnect will be resolved through the rewilding of the American city...an unkempt, rambling, and wild style of park "design" created in an organic, vernacular character...This new aesthetic...a low-tech but important part of a new infrastructure that is needed now more than ever. - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Oliver Wainwright: What's the future of theatre? A Scottish seaside town may have all the answers: Transparent wraparound screens, touring deckchair pop-ups, rooftop suction devices...the designers rethinking theatre for the Covid age - Dunoon leading the way: John McAslan: "Architecture seems to have been lost in any kind of strategy...There's been an acceptance of the problem, and a lack of imagination in terms of looking at how it could be done differently" ...Dunoon's Burgh Hall...might now be the site of the first post-viral theatre seat. -- Gavin Green/Charcoalblue; Es Devlin; Ray Winkler/Stufish; Steve Tompkins/Haworth Tompkins - Guardian (UK)

How can the power of architecture bring audiences back into live entertainment spaces? Interview with Matthew Lella, Principal, Diamond Schmitt Architects: "Re-opening theatres during the pandemic must start with behavioral change both in front and back of house...I believe the power of architecture can bring audiences back to theatres safely. It already has." - Radio 640 Toronto - The Morning Show



[New LEED Guidance Helps Cities and Communities Expand Resilience Efforts in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Credits integrate public health and social equity with sustainability planning: The guidance includes strategies for planning, risk assessment and training, as well as evaluating equity implications and impacts to vulnerable communities.](#) - U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

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Today's News - Thursday, July 23, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, July 28. A refreshing change of pace for the second time: no special COVID-19 coverage. Stay well. Stay safe. Stay cool...

- [ANN feature](#): Lesson Plan #10: Peruvian architect Miguel Córdova-Ramírez: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history.
- [Thomas Fisher](#) tackles "the looming architecture school enrollment crisis - facing a slow-moving demographic disaster. We need to remain committed to the goal of diversifying the profession because it's the right thing to do. But it's also a question of professional survival."
- [Gibson reports](#) on RISD President Rosanne Somerson's open letter announcing a series of initiatives to tackle the school's "multiple racist issues."
- [Parman delves](#) into the history of architectural licensing, and the calls for long-overdue reform - or elimination - to address issues of equity and diversity - other countries can teach us something (fascinating read!).
- [A profile](#) of the Atlanta Center for Creative Inquiry, one of a number of mentorship programs that "are taking steps to broaden and diversify the pipeline of young people - helping high schoolers of color understand that a profession in architecture, engineering, or construction is attainable."
- [L.A. Times'](#) Christopher Knight takes it to LACMA architect Zumthor in an open letter: "You have had no experience with encyclopedic art museums -.and it shows - the museum's building design is ultimately irrelevant, except for the ways it serves the curatorial program. Believing otherwise betrays your inexperience -no architecture can compensate for lost context" (ouch!).
- [Kamin thoughtfully](#) considers what Chicago should do with its statue of Columbus, donated by "proud" local Italian Americans in 1933 - the city "is taking a first step toward confronting the issue through deliberate analysis rather than facile groupthink and an ill-considered rush into destruction."
- [Dickinson](#) on "the blurred line between the real and the rendered" - software options have resulted in "a plethora of pictures of somewhat mysterious origin, offered up as eye candy - so realistic that the hand of the maker is erased -.is it architecture?"
- [Abdel offers](#) eye-fuls of such eye candy, comparing renderings of projects by architects to the final reality - "examples of how meticulous consideration of visualizations can help achieve inspiring works of architecture."
- [Brussat](#) minces no words when it comes to the "Democracy in Design Act" legislation that would block the now-infamous proposed executive order mandating traditional architecture for federal buildings: "The AIA asserted that the legislation 'will ensure the federal government maintains its current neutrality on architectural styles.' What a joke - there is no such neutrality."
- [Belogolovsky](#), on a brighter note, offers a wonderful profile of Geoffrey Bawa on the Sri Lankan architect's 101st birthday (today!): We have to "analyze his achievements without categorizing him. His work is at once pre-modern, modern, and post-modern - his buildings are like plants; they unfold and make everyone within comfortable and joyous."

● [To commemorate](#) the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New York Times has created a special section on disability available in Braille and audio - with its own style guide: "At the heart of the project is the story of 'the ADA generation.'"

● [Hickman](#) reports on Yves Be´har's fuseproject and Fabien Cousteau's "initial conceptual designs" for an underwater research station and habitat - "a cursory glance at the imagery might lead to its dismissal as a sci-fi-inspired offshore folly - a particularly Verne-ian take of PR-itecture - the idea isn't that entirely quixotic."

● [Speaking](#) of futuristic architecture, photographer Stefano Perego has "documented a series of works that exemplify the legacy left behind by the radical architects of the 1970s. Truly acolytes of their time."

Weekend diversions:

● [Wainwright](#) is quite taken by "Derek Jarman: My Garden's Boundaries Are the Horizon": "The late director's otherworldly cottage and garden in Kent - one of the strangest, most magical garden scenes in the world" (locals "feared something occult was afoot") - now transplanted to the Garden Museum, one of the first to reopen in London.

● [The Museum](#) of Design Atlanta's online offer: "Learning from Nature: The Future of Design," a "survey of biomimicry-influenced design" in "a traversable recreation of the institution's interior, complete with explanatory texts, embedded videos, and high-resolution photos."

● [The Mies](#) van der Rohe Pavilion in Barcelona presents (in person) "It All Begins With One Word. Choose your own," a "new structure, both architectural and linguistic" by artist Katarzyna Krakowiak and curator Marcin Szczelina ("Architecture Snob") + link to interview between the artist and the curators.

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[ANN feature: Lesson Plan #10: Life in Ornament: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history. By Miguel Córdova-Ramírez - ArchNewsNow.com](#)

[Thomas Fisher: The Looming Architecture School Enrollment Crisis: International students are on the decline, and not enough graduates of color are achieving licensure. Those numbers need to improve if we want to further diversify the profession: Architecture, much like higher education, is facing a slow-moving demographic disaster...the good news...the gap in the number of male and female architecture students continues to close...pessimists can make a case here as well...We can make another glass-half-full or -half-empty assessment of the diversity data...We need to remain committed to the goal of diversifying the profession because it's the right thing to do. But it's also a question of professional survival. -- University of Minnesota - Architect Magazine](#)

[Eleanor Gibson: RISD president announces plan to tackle school's "multiple racist issues": Rhode Island School of Design president Rosanne Somerson has announced a series of initiatives...following pressure from students and staff...an open letter highlights four key aims: cultivating an ever-more diverse community; expanding and diversifying curriculum and pedagogy; implementing research on issues of social equity and inclusion in art and design; and embedding anti-racist and anti-discriminatory infrastructures. - Dezeen](#)

[John J. Parman: Is Architectural Licensing Necessary? In the efforts toward broader inclusion, reform is long overdue: Issues of equity and diversity...are salient to any discussion of state regulation...In 1920...National Council of](#)



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Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) instituted the first standard licensing exams...[Princeton's] Mónica Ponce de León's call to reform licensing, like [Yale's] Peggy Deamer call to scrap it, aim to shift architecture to a more inclusive and equitable place that's better suited to contemporary practice and its possible futures...The pandemic has...highlighted inequities that were always there but are now almost embarrassingly front and center. -- The Architecture Lobby; American Institute of Architects (AIA); Parlour - Common Edge

Atlanta Mentorship Program Encourages Diverse Students to Pursue Architecture: Mentorship programs like the Atlanta Center for Creative Inquiry are taking steps to broaden and diversify the pipeline of young people interested in architecture: Founded in 2004...ACCI offers low-cost, week-long "Summer Academy" ...Hosted on the campuses of Georgia Tech and Kennesaw State University...programs like these are especially important in helping high schoolers of color understand that a profession in architecture, engineering, or construction is attainable. -- Oscar Harris; Garfield Peart - Architectural Record

Christopher Knight: An open letter to LACMA architect Peter Zumthor: Stop dissing L.A.'s art: ...you gave an interview...to your local newspaper in Zurich...and it made me blanch. Like...Michael Govan, you have had no experience with encyclopedic art museums...and it shows...architecture cannot compensate for lost context. Beautiful light won't do it...the museum's building design is ultimately irrelevant, except for the ways it serves the curatorial program. Believing otherwise betrays your inexperience with this museum's form...the design's critique of the encyclopedic form is shallow...no architecture can compensate for lost context. - Los Angeles Times

Blair Kamin: should Columbus be knocked off his Chicago pedestal? Don't let a mob decide the answer: Dealing with Columbus' legacy, which reaches from the Chicago flag to the name of the nation's capital district, will be no easy task...Proud Italian Americans from Chicago donated the piece [in 1933]...a skillfully handled work of art rather than as a generic tribute...Is Columbus still worthy of veneration or are such works racist anachronisms? What is the proper way to handle this vast, but fraught, legacy? Chicago is taking a first step toward confronting the issue through deliberate analysis rather than facile groupthink and an ill-considered rush into destruction. - Chicago Tribune

Duo Dickinson: Is Virtual Architecture Inherently Disingenuous? The blurred line between the real and the rendered: In the first few decades of the 20th century, photography...precise two-dimensional control over the real world and its real-time messiness transformed how architecture was perceived...We're in an entirely different world...software options can seductively render just about any design...The result is a plethora of pictures of somewhat mysterious origin, offered up as eye candy...so realistic that the hand of the maker is erased...is it architecture? For generations the focus of competitions, architecture school, and much of the profession has been about perfecting presentation skills. But what exactly are we perfecting, now that we can totally erase the line between the rendered and the real? - Common Edge

Hana Abdel: Renders vs. Reality, Projects From Renowned Architects: Before and After: ...a range of examples of how meticulous consideration of visualizations can help achieve inspiring works of architecture. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group + Atelier Brückner + CCHE; Herzog & de Meuron; Heatherwick

Studio; SANAA; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; WOHA - ArchDaily

David Brussat: Tradition vs. modernism: Legislation has just been introduced...to block a proposed executive order that would replace a mandate favoring modernist styles for federal buildings with a new and better mandate favoring traditional styles...The AIA asserted that the legislation "will ensure the federal government maintains its current neutrality on architectural styles." What a joke! ...there is no such neutrality. The [EO]...would mandate styles preferred by the public instead of by the architectural elite...A powerful, eloquent architectural language that speaks for all is what the [EO] would re-establish, and that is what the title of the "Democracy in Design Act" seems to imply. But it is a lie. - Architecture Here and There

Vladimir Belogolovsky: Celebrating Geoffrey Bawa's delightful buildings and gardens on his 101st birthday: VB discusses Sri Lankan architect's work and why his name remains to be discovered by practicing architects around the world: [His] name is not mentioned in most of the "official" western textbooks...if we want to define Bawa's place in the history of contemporary architecture, not simply admit that his work is genuinely likable, we are forced to analyse his achievements in precise terms without categorising him because he simply doesn't fit in any of the prevailing and convenient categories...His work is at once pre-modern, modern, and post-modern...buildings are like plants; they unfold and make everyone within comfortable and joyous. - STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)

The New York Times' special section on disability is available in Braille and audio and has its own style guide: To commemorate the [30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act], the Special Projects desk...planned an extra-accessible special section filled with essays and first-hand stories about disability...At the heart of the project is the story of "the ADA generation"...Editors have also seen the anniversary project as an opportunity to experiment with disability-friendly production and design... - Nieman Lab (Harvard University)

Matt Hickman: Yves Be'har and Fabien Cousteau reveal undersea research station planned for Curacao: ...fuseproject unveiled initial conceptual designs for Cousteau's Proteus, a research station and habitat touted as an undersea version of the International Space Station...While a cursory glance at the conceptual imagery...might lead to its dismissal as a sci-fi-inspired offshore folly - a particularly Verne-ian take of PR-itecture - the idea isn't that entirely quixotic...there's also the immediate benefits of job creation and tourism attached to such an ambitious project. - The Architect's Newspaper

Futuristic Architecture of the 70s: Photographs of a Modern World with a Twist of Science Fiction: Recently, photographer Stefano Perego documented a series of works that exemplify the legacy left behind by the radical architects of the 1970s. Truly acolytes of their time, these architects sought to bring the future to the present through their designs, giving us iconic works...All of these projects mix organic and geometric forms with materials like plastic, steel, and concrete to bring to life humanity's dreams for the future. -- Matti Suuronen; Jordan Grabuloski + Iskra Grabuloska; Dries Kreijkamp - ArchDaily

Oliver Wainwright: Blooms with a view: Derek Jarman's magical garden gets a

transplant: Surrounded by poppies, sea kale and a nuclear power station, the late director's otherworldly cottage and garden in Kent have been saved for the nation. And now there's good news for anyone who can't wait to see inside: ...local fishermen feared something occult was afoot...It's not hard to see why...It is one of the strangest, most magical garden scenes in the world...a little bit of the magic has now been transposed to the Garden Museum in south London, where a fragment of the...cottage has been recreated...in a beautifully converted 14th-century church..."Derek Jarman: My Garden's Boundaries Are the Horizon"; thru September 20- Guardian (UK)

Museum of Design Atlanta goes digital with "Learning from Nature: The Future of Design": ...a survey of biomimicry-influenced design, is now viewable online...a traversable recreation of the institution's interior, complete with explanatory texts, embedded videos, and high-resolution photos...Supplementing the virtual installation are interviews with the creators involved that dive into the design and production process. - The Architect's Newspaper

The artist Katarzyna Krakowiak and curator Marcin Szczelina (Architecture Snob) present "It All Begins With One Word. Choose your own," a new structure, both architectural and linguistic, on view at the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, Barcelona, thru August 23 + link to interview between the artist and the curators- Mies van der Rohe Foundation / Fundació Mies van der Rohe

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Today's News - Tuesday, July 28, 2020

- [A sad way](#) to start the day: We've lost Van B. Bruner Jr., 89, the second Black architect to serve as AIA vice president "known for his leadership on inclusion and diversity in the field."
- [Wainwright](#) delves into a planning loophole "set to blight English housing - the government is only making it easier for cramped, substandard homes to be built," creating "a Kafkaesque situation."
- [Kamin cheers](#) a new initiative to revive Chicago's South and West Sides, and the Chicago Architecture Center's help in picking architecture and design firms: "The strong response is a heartening sign. Yet there are limits to architecture's power to change lives and perceptions."
- [NOMA's Tiffany](#) Brown: "I am a survivor of racist city planning. I am a designer of the built environment. My generation has our work cut out for us. We must put systems in place that will help diversify the talent pool and, in turn, the leaders in the profession - I ask you to engage now."
- [SmithGroup's](#) Laura Walker re: designing prisons and such: "As architects, we tell ourselves we can solve these systemic issues by focusing on designing buildings and places, believing that if we make them beautiful, sustainable, and functional, they will benefit our communities" - but "we need the help of trained agencies and collectives - we are not equipped or experienced in moderating discussions on race" (Design as Protest is trying).
- [Frank Edgerton](#) Martin talks "with three nationally recognized Black architects about practicing architecture in Minnesota," and "how race has shaped our environment. It's time to take a hard look at who has the power to shape our environment today" - it "is going to take a much deeper structural change than talk of good intentions from our profession" (some disturbing comments).
- [Carolina](#) A. Miranda x 2: "Goodbye, guy on a horse. A new wave of monument design is changing how we honor history [spearheaded by Christopher Hawthorne] - these more collective design processes are not without friction. But this collective design process - messy as it is - can produce poignant works" (1943 Zoot Suit Riots and the Sleepy Lagoon monument - who knew?).
- [She presents](#) "6 ideas for new monuments - in honor of migration, a massacre, and a tree. Artists, architects, and historians give their ideas for new monuments across the country" (and one idea of her own).
- [Waite reports](#) that there's "renewed hope" for Gillespie Kidd & Coia's derelict 1967 St Peter's Seminary in Cardross now that the church has "transferred the ownership of the rotting Brutalist gem to a new charitable trust" - Alan Dunlop remains "skeptical until I see their proposals and their 'expert team.'"
- [Billock](#) tells the fascinating tale of FLW's Laurent House in Rockford, Illinois, that "was a trailblazing example of accessible design - built 40 years before the ADA became law" - a design based around the wheelchair-bound owner's eye level - "once you sit, all feels just right" (and now open for tours).
- [Open Call](#): Be part of the Green New Deal Superstudio, a timely collaboration between the Landscape Architecture Foundation, the McHarg Center, the Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes, ASLA, and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture - "a historic, national event; open to all design schools, professional practices, individuals," etc.
- [Call for](#) papers (deadline looms!): Carolina Planning Journal: "The White Problem in Planning: how race intersects with planning"; topics include: Land Use; Housing; Transportation; Economic Development.

● [Eyefuls](#) and great profiles of the winners of RIBA's Rethink 2025 challenge to reimagine society for a post-pandemic world.

● [Eyefuls](#) and great profiles of the winners of RIBA's Eye Line 2020 drawing competition - the "lockdown effect is evident" but "delight beats dystopia."

● [One we couldn't resist](#): Townscaper invites you to "build your own empty town - it has no goal apart from the sheer enjoyment and satisfaction you get from seeing a pretty town rising from the sea as you click" (a "Zen experience").

● [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Lesson Plan #10: Miguel Córdova-Ramírez: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history.

COVID-19 news continues:

● [Adlakh & Sallis](#), professors of environmental planning and family medicine, respectively, explain "why urban density is good for health - even during a pandemic - when it comes to COVID-19 the key issue is lack of space - not how many people live in a certain area, but the conditions they live in."

● [Saffron](#): "Coronavirus intensifies the city vs. suburbs debate in Philly - the narrative of pandemic-induced urban flight continues to spread almost as fast as the virus itself" - but "the rumors of the city's death seem greatly exaggerated."

● [Micallef](#) cheers "pop-up patios" in Toronto being "a positive side effect of COVID-19" - part of the CafeTO program, and the "imperfect" ActiveTO "shared streets" initiative. "The predictable objections to these remain as tedious as they ever were" - drivers "are going to be in the pole position of urban design for a while yet."

● [William](#) Morgan considers a post pandemic world: "Some of the things that we were seduced into believing were so wonderful will disappear [like "gluttonous over-indulgence"], but we may be better off without them."



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Obituary: Van B. Bruner Jr., 89, a Voice for Diversity in Architecture and Inclusive Design: Founder of The Bruner Firm, he worked to bring affordable design to his community: ...an architect known for his leadership on inclusion and diversity in the field...he was the second Black architect to serve as AIA vice president, and received the Institute's Whitney M. Young Jr. Award in 1975- Architect Magazine

Oliver Wainwright: Our slum future: the planning shakeup set to blight English housing: The government has extended rules allowing former offices, shops and warehouses to be converted into housing - as research shows the policy results in dwellings unfit for human habitation: At a time when the need for decent quality domestic space has been amplified, and the dangers of overcrowding magnified, the government is only making it easier for cramped, substandard homes to be built...Even the government's own Building Better, Building Beautiful commission concluded that permitted development had inadvertently created "future slums" ...[and] created a Kafkaesque situation... - Guardian (UK)

Blair Kamin: Can architects help revive Chicago's South and West Sides? Maybe. Just don't expect miracles: Can the designers of structures overcome decades of structural racism...[city] recently tapped the Chicago Architecture Center to help pick 24 to 36 architecture and design firms to take part in...\$750 million Invest South/West program...The architecture center...gets kudos for participating in this innovative partnership...The strong response is a heartening sign that Chicago's architects believe their professional aims should extend



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beyond designing skyscrapers and mansions for the 1%...Yet there are limits to architecture's power to change lives and perceptions. -- Maurice Cox; Reed Kroloff - Chicago Tribune

Tiffany Brown: Dismantle and Rebuild: The executive manager of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) describes why she is her "ancestors' wildest dreams": I am a survivor of racist city planning...I am a designer of the built environment. I refused to be seen as "disadvantaged youth"...My generation has our work cut out for us. We must put systems in place that will help diversify the talent pool and, in turn, the leaders in the profession. To my fellow designers - especially those with the agency to make change - I ask you to engage now. - Architect Magazine

Laura Walker Op-Ed: Supporting Black Lives: How can architects promote Black liberation while still designing police stations? SmithGroup and many other firms have decided to "reject any work in planning and designing jails, detention centers, and prisons." But this is not enough. The AIA still supports designing prisons. Its code of ethics..."isn't about what architects build"...as architects, we tell ourselves we can solve these systemic issues by focusing on designing buildings and places, believing that if we make them beautiful, sustainable, and functional, they will benefit our communities...Design as Protest (DAP), a Black-led organizing effort...is calling on firms and designers to work collectively to end the weaponization of architecture and urban planning as a tool of oppression...we need the help of trained agencies and collectives. As architects and engineers, we are not equipped or experienced in moderating discussions on race. -- Helene Combs Dreiling; Michael Ford - The Architect's Newspaper

Frank Edgerton Martin: Black architects on how race has shaped our environment in Twin Cities: It's time to take a hard look at who has the power to shape our environment today: We talked with three nationally recognized Black architects about practicing architecture in Minnesota: James Garrett Jr./4RM+ULA architects; Mohammed Lawal/LSE Architects; Damaris

Hollingsworth/Design by Melo...“We live with a history of structural racism...Diversifying who gets to shape the built environment is going to take a much deeper structural change than talk of good intentions from our profession.” - Minneapolis Star Tribune

Carolina A. Miranda: Goodbye, guy on a horse. A new wave of monument design is changing how we honor history: Shouldn't public monuments have public input? ...artists and designers are changing the nature of monuments and the histories they honor: Last year, the city's chief design officer, Christopher Hawthorne, assembled a working group to develop a process for evaluating current monuments and creating new ones... [to] provide a guide for how the city can develop monuments that speak to L.A.'s unique history and landscape...Naturally, these more collective design processes are not without friction...But this collective design process - messy as it is - can produce poignant works. -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Höweler + Yoon; Mabel O. Wilson; Gregg Bleam - Los Angeles Times

Carolina A. Miranda: 6 ideas for new monuments - in honor of migration, a massacre and a tree: What histories are we not honoring? Artists, architects and historians give their ideas for new monuments across the country: Their ideas not only spanned the continent but also fill some important historical gaps. Here are five of them - along with a sixth by yours truly... -- Rebeca Méndez; CHEE SALETTE; Ken Lum/Monument Lab; William Deverell; Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Cameron/California African American Museum - Los Angeles Times

Richard Waite: Renewed hope for Cardross seminary after church finds new owner: A new owner has been found for Gillespie Kidd & Coia's derelict 1967 St Peter's Seminary...near Helensburgh: ...transferred the ownership of the rotting Brutalist gem - once described by the church as an 'albatross around [its] neck' which it could not give away - to a new charitable trust. The Kilmahew Education Trust said it had assembled an 'internationally renowned team' to take forward its plans for the Category A-listed building...Alan Dunlop: "... I will remain skeptical until I see their proposals and their 'expert team.'" -- Urban Splash; Gareth Hoskins; NVA; Avanti Architects; McGinlay Bell - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Jennifer Billock: This Frank Lloyd Wright Home Was a Trailblazing Example of Accessible Design: The Laurent House in Rockford, Illinois, was built 40 years before the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] became law: In 1946, Ken Laurent, then a 26-year-old World War II veteran, became paralyzed from the waist down...Ken and Phyllis struggled to adapt a standard house to Ken's new life in a wheelchair...in 1948...House Beautiful...featured [an FLW-designed house]...Ken wrote a letter to Wright...The entire design...is based around Ken's eye level...once you sit, all feels just right...Wright was pushing forward the conversation about accessibility in a groundbreaking way. -- John Eiffler - Smithsonian magazine

The Green New Deal Superstudio: An Open Call: The Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) in association with the McHarg Center, the Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) invites designers to be part of a historic, national event; open to all design schools, professional practices, individuals, and other design and planning related organizations across the U.S. - Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF)

Call for entries: Call for papers: Carolina Planning Journal, Volume 46: "The White Problem in Planning": how race intersects with planning; topics include: Land Use; Housing; Transportation; Economic Development; deadline: August 30- Angles - Carolina Planning Journal (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Architects burst with ideas on how to rebuild society: Nearly 150 members from 18 countries accepted the RIBA's Rethink 2025 challenge to reimagine society for a post-pandemic world. -- Hugh Pearman; Tim Rodber & Dominic Walker: Greater London Agriculture masterplan (city scale); PeopleMatter.: Streets are Made for Walking (street level); Benjamin Holland, Olivia Dolan & Katie Williams: Get Everyone In (building)- RIBA Journal (UK)

Delight beats dystopia in Eye Line 2020: The lockdown effect is evident not only in the entries for our 8th annual drawing competition - but entrants. -- Hugh Pearman; Albert Orozco/Paul Murdoch Architects; Alan Dunlop; Cristina Gardiner/Historic England; etc. - RIBA Journal (UK)

Marie Patino: Come Build Your Own Empty Town: Townscaper is a new building game inspired by the design of Scandinavian cities and children's books: Oskar Stalberg...made a point of calling it a "toy" rather than a video game - because it has no goal apart from the sheer enjoyment and satisfaction you get from seeing a pretty town rising from the sea as you click...he hadn't predicted the following it would gain among both designers and game developers - and what they would create with it...The zen experience may add to its appeal in a time of uncertainty and worry... - Bloomberg CityLab

Deepti Adlakh & James F Sallis: Why urban density is good for health - even during a pandemic: Public health concerns have influenced some of the most iconic developments in urban planning...The spread of COVID-19...has raised concerns about density...However, the idea that when it comes to COVID-19...measures have been effective in containing early outbreaks...despite high density...the key issue is lack of space - both private living space and wider neighbourhood public space...It's not how many people live in a certain area...but the conditions they live in...urban density...has protective health benefits...an essential component of walkable communities, which protect people from chronic diseases. - The Conversation

Inga Saffron: Coronavirus intensifies the city vs. suburbs debate in Philly: From the moment that American cities were put under lockdown in March, planners, demographers, and, not surprising, newspaper columnists have been on high alert for signs that once-committed urbanites - the affluent ones, anyway - were preparing to flee...the narrative of pandemic-induced urban flight continues to spread almost as fast as the virus itself...the rumors of the city's death seem greatly exaggerated. - Philadelphia Inquirer

Shawn Micallef: Pop-up patios are a positive side effect of COVID-19, but Toronto drivers may have to curb their enthusiasm: ...curb lanes have been cordoned off on streets across a large swath of the city, allowing restaurants and bars new patio space...part of the CafeTO program...For years, taking over these lanes for anything...has been contentious and near impossible...this city and others have heavily favoured [cars] over other forms of transportation. COVID-19 has chipped away at some of that...The imperfect ActiveTO "shared

streets"...are a start...The predictable objections to these remain as tedious as they ever were...Things have started to tip in a better direction, but people who like driving are going to be in the pole position of urban design for a while yet. - Orangeville Banner (Ontario, Canada)

William Morgan: Post Pandemic Providence: Until early March, I would have said that Americans were living in the best years ever...Architects and planners, too, joined in the post-war years of prosperity that eventually grew into gluttonous over-indulgence...Some of the things that we were seduced into believing were so wonderful will disappear, but we may be better off without them...we will rediscover some forgotten time-honored tropes, such as walking, bicycling, working from home...We will learn to source more staples locally and regionally...The price of construction materials has risen due to the coronavirus...so it makes sense to build better, smarter, and greener. - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

ANN feature: Lesson Plan #10: Life in Ornament: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history. By Miguel Córdova-Ramírez - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, July 29, 2020

- [Pedersen's](#) (great) Q&A with Architecture2030's Edward Mazria, who has "some good news about combating climate change" - a nice change when news "tends to track toward the gloomy - there is progress being made in the built environment - just not nearly fast enough."
- [Q&A](#) with Vishaan Chakrabarti re: "PAU's vision of freeing up more than 3,000 acres currently devoted to cars, the development aspects of the plan, and the kind of housing that could be built - the 'next model has to be about affordability, and it has to be about equity.'"
- [Davidson](#) considers the 15-minute city, and whether New York could/should "be more like Paris - like most concepts that lend themselves to a catchphrase, it glosses over complexity, combining the seductive with the counterproductive. Adopting the mantra could, paradoxically, attack inequities and increase them at the same time."
- [Plockova](#) reports on UNStudio's plan for a "smart district" in the Netherlands, "an environmentally and socially sustainable community" of 1,500 homes with "a business district and plenty of green space - not built according to a set design plan but developed in response to the needs and habits of its 4,500 future residents" (whiffs of Sidewalk Labs' now-defunct plan for Quayside in Toronto?).
- [William](#) Morgan offers some big ideas for Rhode Island's smallest city, but also one of the densest and diverse in the country, and now "a down-at-the-heels place": It could be "a national laboratory for the study of architecture and urban design - a model showing the region and the nation how to create an urban renaissance in a post-pandemic world."
- [Matthew](#) Messner talks to accessibility experts and architects re: 30 years of the ADA: "Much of its guidance has been internalized by the many who have never designed without it. 'ADA has allowed disabled people to just be people,'" sayeth Janis Kent.
- [Gensler's](#) Imani Day re: the need to build "a centralized equity framework into architecture. Until we embed inclusion and equity into our code, our policies, and the built environment, our industry will continue to fall short. How can existing models of structured policies apply to a mission of racial equity?"
- [Fazzare](#) x 2: She talks to Sophie Ashby and Alexandria Dauley, co-founders of United In Design, who are looking to bring "equity to interior design In the U.K. Along with systematic racism, the history of interior design is important to understanding why disenfranchised people have historically been excluded from pursuing the profession."
- [She reports](#) on 5 Harvard GSD students and alumni who found "a way that their industry could provide instant support for organizations dedicated to fighting systemic racism" - the online Design Yard Sale has already raised \$80,000 (this week is its final auction - some cool stuff donated by some big names!).
- [Sitz reports](#) on the Cooper Union's "SatPro" Saturday Program that , for more than 50 years, has offered free architecture education to public school students (some 15,000 so far) - the fall 2020 program will take place online, of course.
- [Mavros introduces](#) us to the Chicago Mobile Makers, "a non-profit mentorship organization that provides on-demand design education to students and schools around the Windy City - facilitators are architects or designers - next phase: converting a former USPS truck into a mobile design studio called the 'Makerspace.'"

- [Suleman](#) Anaya traveled to Mexico City to check out "Barragán's forgotten works - a series of obscure functionalist residences that he would later disown" (a totally fascinating read!).
- [A look at](#) the winners of the 2019-2020 Richard H. Driehaus International Architecture Competition, put on by the Spanish government: "The ultimate hope is to showcase designs that solve many of today's housing and urban dilemmas while also honoring Spain's architectural history and culture."
- [USGBC and](#) Dow announce the results of the inaugural Carbon Challenge in Northern Asia that "pushed property owners to engage and excel, and collectively demonstrate continual GHG emission reductions."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: A round-up of "Austin's finest public restroom architecture. Austin's got its problems, sure, but one thing this city's crushing is public restroom design" (it's true!).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Lesson Plan #10: Córdova-Ramírez: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history.

COVID-19 news continues:

- [Russell](#) talks to experts about how "the need to socially distance within locations designed to create intimacy has made reopening performance spaces a distant dream" - and how they're helping resolve the problem.
- [Alissa Walker](#) has lunch in a mall parking garage, expecting it to be "the saddest pandemic dining experience in America - and it was actually just fine" - in many ways, better than "in-street dining where your meal is served with an uneasy feeling that a speeding vehicle could land on your table at any moment."

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[Martin C. Pedersen: Edward Mazria With Some Good News About Combating Climate Change: The founder of Architecture2030 on the need for a green energy grid and a Zero carbon code: The news about real action on climate change tends to track toward the gloomy. It is easy to despair...But there is progress being made in the built environment - just not nearly fast enough. Q&A re: his take on where we stand. Some of the news, alas, is pretty good. "in the past 15 years we kept adding new buildings every year, and energy consumption in the sector didn't increase! ...Because we've used up a portion of our carbon budget, we must couple incentives with mandates..." - Common Edge](#)

[What if Manhattan had four Central Parks worth of land to play with? PAU's Vishaan Chakrabarti on the real estate implications of a New York less reliant on private cars: ...PAU's vision of freeing up more than 3,000 acres currently devoted to them...Q&A re: the development aspects of the plan...the kind of housing that could be built, and how it could usher in a very different real estate market. "We've got to get real. This entire discipline has to focus on the needs of everyday people...'next model has to be about affordability, and it has to be about equity.' I think we should start with our streets." -- Practice for Architecture and Urbanism- The Real Deal \(NYC\)](#)

[Justin Davidson: The 15-Minute City: Can New York Be More Like Paris? And should it? This is a season of envy for American cities, as Tokyo subways fill, Berlin museums reopen...like most concepts that lend themselves to a catchphrase, the 15-minute city glosses over complexity, combining the seductive with the counterproductive. Adopting the mantra could, paradoxically, attack inequities and increase them at the same time...Many New Yorkers already live in well-served insularity...If there's one lesson to be learned from the pandemic, it's the benefits of flexibility. -- Carlos Moreno- New York Magazine](#)



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Joann Plockova: A 'Smart District' Takes Shape in the Netherlands: The Brainport Smart District, an effort to create an environmentally and socially sustainable community, will comprise 1,500 homes set on 380 acres in the town of Helmond...will include a business district and plenty of green space...will not be built according to a set design plan but developed in response to the needs and habits of its 4,500 future residents and what is learned along the way...a flexible grid that can be easily adapted to the agricultural lines of the landscape. Plans for the district speak more to the atmosphere than to specific housing types. -- Ben van Berkel/UNStudio; UNSense; Elphi Nelissen/Eindhoven University of Technology - New York Times

William Morgan: Some big proposals for tiny Central Falls: Rhode Island's smallest city...[it] is one of the densest municipalities in the country...also one of the most diverse...now a down-at-the-heels place, was once an industrial powerhouse...it deserves better than a reputation of corruption and hopelessness...Recent transformation of some [magnificent mills] into housing is a positive development...How about some immodest proposals to make all of [it] a national laboratory for the study of architecture and urban design, and much more? Given its density and smallness, [it] could become a model cooperative experiment, showing the region and the nation how to create an urban renaissance in a post-pandemic world. - New England Diary (Rhode Island)

Matthew Messner: Accessibility Experts and Architects Consider 30 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act: ...the ADA's guidelines and protections have changed the way we work, learn, and move through space: ...doing the right thing is not always easy: the complex (and overlapping) guidelines and requirements of the ADA, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and local and national building codes can mean a lot of homework...much of the ADA's guidance has been internalized by the many...who have never designed without it...“ADA has allowed disabled people to just be people.” -- Janis Kent/Certified Access Specialist Institute/Stepping Thru Accessibility; Marcela Abadi Rhoads/Abadi Accessibility; Osama Quotah/LMN Architects - Architectural Record

Imani Day/Gensler: Building a Centralized Equity Framework into Architecture: Until we embed inclusion and equity into our code, our policies, and the built environment, our industry will continue to fall short of reaching racial and economic prosperity: ...our industry has the opportunity to pivot from dispersed discussions and one-off strategies to a structured framework that calls for a major shift in private, public, and political priorities...Building codes and the ADA...revolutionized the design industry by providing a legal armature by which we hold architects accountable...How can these existing models of structured policies apply to a mission of racial equity? - Architect Magazine

Elizabeth Fazzare: United In Design Brings Equity To Interior Design In The United Kingdom: Along with systematic racism, the history of interior design is important to understanding why disenfranchised people have historically been excluded from pursuing the profession...In the U.K....Sophie Ashby and Alexandria Dauley have teamed up to hold their industry accountable...with the mission to address its lack of diversity...teamed with fellow nonprofit Interior Educators, which accredits interior design programs...goal for this year was 50 sign ups, however, so far, approximately 100 design firms or individuals have

taken the [seven-point] pledge -- Studio Ashby; Dauley Design - Forbes

Elizabeth Fazzare: Harvard GSD Students And Alumni Raise \$80,000 For Anti-Racism With Design Yard Sale: ...Prompted by the death of George Floyd...five Harvard Graduate School of Design students and alumni were moved to rethink the power of design...came together to invent a way that their industry could provide instant support for anti-Black racism, based on a concept pulled straight from imagery of suburban America: the yard sale...100% of the proceeds benefit nonprofit The Bail Project and New Orleans-based architecture and design justice practice Colloqate Design, organizations that are dedicated to fighting systemic racism...this week is its final auction. -- Yaxuan Liu; Tessa Crespo; Grace Chee; Izzy Kornblatt; Edward Han Myo Oo; Architectural League of New York - Forbes

Miriam Sitz: Cooper Union's Saturday Program Offers Free Architecture Education to Public School Students: A bastion of public arts education in New York City for more than 50 years, "SatPro" has allowed some 15,000 high schoolers to deeply engage with the arts, learning from - and alongside - undergraduate student instructors...Each year, two or three of Cooper Union's architecture school's new enrollees are SatPro alumni...The fall 2020 program will take place online. -- Elizabeth O'Donnell - Architectural Record

Kara Mavros: Chicago Mobile Makers Introduces Public School Students to Architecture: Founded in 2017, the non-profit mentorship organization provides on-demand design education to students and schools around the Windy City: ...program facilitators (who are architects or designers) visit classrooms once a week, for up to 10 weeks...The organization was built on several questions: "How do we diversify the architecture and design fields? And how do we improve the disinvested communities...And then can these things happen simultaneously?" ...next phase...converting a former USPS truck into a mobile design studio called the "Makerspace." The truck will be outfitted with power tools, a laser cutter, and a 3D printer... -- Maya Bird-Murphy - Architectural Record

Suleman Anaya: Luis Barragán's Forgotten Works, Revisited: After moving to Mexico City in 1935, the architect set about designing a series of obscure functionalist residences that he would later disown: ...[he] refers to his creations from this period as..."nothing great"...Not all of these buildings are masterpieces...one senses the architect's inner conflicts and his unwillingness to compromise...Melchor Ocampo 38 is revelatory...why has his early...work effectively been denied...perhaps, [it] is that to talk about this phase...means to acknowledge him as a visionary salesman as well as a prodigiously gifted architect. -- Luis Beltrán del Río; Andrew Sosa; Max Cetto - New York Times Style Magazine

Projects to Revive Traditional Spanish Architecture: Winners of the 2019-2020 Richard H. Driehaus International Architecture Competition: ...put on by the Spanish government...awarded extra if their projects include employment opportunities for the communities they work within...The ultimate hope of the competition is to showcase designs that solve many of today's housing and urban dilemmas while also honoring Spain's architectural history and culture. -- Eva Niño/Elia San Román/Carmen Carral; Jiménez & Linares; Alfonso Zavala y Ramón Andrada; etc. - ArchDaily

Dow and USGBC announce the results of inaugural Carbon Challenge: ...pushed property owners to engage and excel, collectively demonstrated continual GHG emission reductions across 63 building projects in Northern Asia...also presented winners with an opportunity to contribute their carbon savings to Dow's Carbon Partnership with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). - U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Celebrating Austin's Finest Public Restroom Architecture: Austin's got its problems, sure, but one thing this city's crushing is public restroom design...their existence is critical for safe, equitable urban life. -- Jobe Corral Architects; Miró Rivera Architects; Studio 8 Architects; Mell Lawrence Architects - TOWERS Austin (Texas)

James S. Russell: No Magic Cure for COVID-19 Closures of Performance Spaces: The need to socially distance within locations designed to create intimacy has made reopening performance spaces a distant dream: European venues can afford to perform to small or non-existent audiences because they are largely state supported. It's not a viable model in the U.S...Consultants are helping arts organizations improve [streaming video] production values to differentiate themselves. -- Scott Crossfield/Theatre Projects; Barton Meyers Associates; Raj Patel/Arup; H3 Hardy Collaborative; Gehry Partners - Architectural Record

Alissa Walker: Is This the Saddest Pandemic Dining Experience in America? I had lunch in a mall parking garage, and it was actually just fine: The somewhat open-air dining area opened on Friday, and responses...were not generous...the acoustics are challenging...the cavernous shade and cross-breeze, the garage is, in many ways, an improvement over in-street dining...where your meal is served with an uneasy feeling that a speeding vehicle could land on your table at any moment...What the novel coronavirus has really snatched from us are those in-between spaces in our daily routines...During our pandemic summer, a free, shaded, and spacious garage café is the next best thing. - Curbed

ANN feature: Lesson Plan #10: Life in Ornament: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history. By Miguel Córdova-Ramírez - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, July 30, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday - we'll be no-newsletter days we'll be back Tuesday, August 4. (August? Already?) In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe. Stay cool (if you're sharing our miserable heat wave).

- [ANN feature](#): Samuel G. White: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic buildings - more timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings ["architectural pudding" included].
- [Betsky parses](#) the shortcomings in Vishaan Chakrabarti's vision for a car-free Manhattan: "Where we need PAU and such visionaries is in that nebulous world beyond the Hudson and the East River - it is this dream that architects should concentrate on making true, rather than just figuring out how to enable privileged Manhattanites breathe easier."
- [Diller Scofidio](#) + Renfro's U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum. "wrapped in a lustrous skin," opens today in Colorado Springs: "While the building's façade is no doubt dramatic, the stair-free interior makes a bigger statement."
- [McGuigan](#) is quite taken with Höweler + Yoon's Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia - and how it came to be: "What's remarkable is not only the powerful design - a community-engaged design process doesn't always result in architecture of such uncompromised strength and symbolism" ("a soft rain fall" made it look like it was "shedding tears").
- [Kamin is](#) quite taken with Calatrava's "flaming red" nearly complete "Constellation," a sculpture that, "even in its unfinished state, has carved out a distinctive presence, at once complementing and upstaging the River Point high-rises around it" in Chicago.
- [Baldwin's](#) (great) Q&A with Lance Hosey, HMC Architects' new Chief Impact Officer, re: "reframing design": "The more-essential shift that needs to happen is around the values and very purposes of architecture - the profession is facing what could be the most significant disruption in our history - many architects are demonstrating how essential design can be."
- [For a tropical](#) touch: Eugenio Ramíre, president of AIA Puerto Rico, re: how COVID-19 is changing development: "Tropical architecture combined with green architecture is an intelligent asset" - the pandemic will "not have a long-term impact on the island's desirability as an investment destination."
- [A great](#) profile of Trinidad & Tobago-based ACLA architecture, celebrating its 75th anniversary - and the challenges faced by the fewer than 100 local firms: "What will define the buildings of our future? For that we need architects - and we need local architects."
- [Docomomo](#) Australia launches a petition to save Bates Smart and McCutcheon's 1956 "seminal" office building, North Sydney MLC - ironically, "Bates Smart is also the architect of the planned replacement."
- [Tony Giannone](#), Tectvs director and architecture professor at the University of Adelaide, will be the Australian Institute of Architects' 2021-22 national president.
- [Hodges tells](#) the fascinating tale of Eric Saarinen's "journey to forgive his father, Eero Saarinen" - he "got

pulled into shooting" the 2016 PBS documentary - "and the experience changed his life. At a stroke, it purged the gall that had plagued him for decades" (and now producing a film about his grandfather, Eliel).

● [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Lesson Plan #10: Córdova-Ramírez: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history.

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

● ["Homo Urbanus"](#) at the reopened Arc en Rêve Centre d'Architecture in Bordeaux, France, is "an invitation to observe the complex relationship of humans and public space."

● ["Europe's best Buildings"](#) at the Architekturzentrum Wien, Vienna, showcases the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Award winners.

● [The Architectural League](#) of New York presents the League Prize 2020 exhibition: "After initially creating site-specific gallery installations, the winners adeptly translated their ideas into a digital format."

● [Medina parses](#) "the net art-centric 'FiDi Arsenale'" that had to decamp from the abandoned Irish pub The Barleycorn in Lower Manhattan - now "the strange one-off experiment has been preserved online in perpetuity."

● [Betsky gives](#) thumbs-up to "Fronts," Kripa and Mueller's "careful, comprehensive, and simultaneously enlightening and frightening study of how the military has created a shadow version of architecture" that "shows us once again that war is the ultimate R&D lab for the future of designed environment."

● [Fabian Llonch](#) parses two new books about his mentor Enric Miralles, cofounder of EMBT Architects: "What I recall most was how skillful, sharp, and brilliant he was to teach me things that went beyond architecture."



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[ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: Additions to Historic Buildings: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic buildings - more timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings. - ArchNewsNow.com](#)

[Aaron Betsky: Welcome to Our Carless Future: Public Architecture and Urbanism's proposal to ban private vehicles in Manhattan: The images PAU has produced...are indeed enticing, and I do think the premise is correct... \[Manhattan is\] not too far away from realizing this fairy tale...also reveals the vision's shortcoming. It could become reality because Manhattan is a bastion of privilege...the other boroughs...will not benefit from this vision...Where we need PAU and such visionaries is in that nebulous world beyond the Hudson and the East River...it is this dream that architects should concentrate on making true, rather than just figuring out how to enable privileged Manhattanites breathe easier. -- Van Alen Institute- Architect Magazine](#)

[Diller, Scofidio + Renfro's U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum set to open in Colorado Springs: In a nice bit of what is likely coincidental timing...opens to the public...just days after the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)...Thrusting and twisting upwards and outwards like an athlete springing into motion, \[it\].is wrapped in a lustrous skin...While the...building's facade...is no doubt dramatic, the stair-free interior...makes a bigger statement...exhibitions were conceived with inclusivity at top of mind...a yet-to-be-completed pedestrian bridge...will link the museum with the neighboring America the Beautiful Park. -- Gallagher and Associates- The Architect's Newspaper](#)



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Cathleen McGuigan: The Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville: Thomas Jefferson's conflicts as a man and thinker are even embedded in his architecture - as majestic as his words but also masking ugly truths...the idea for the [Memorial] came from the students...What's remarkable is not only the powerful design...but the design of the process to arrive at it. A community-engaged design process doesn't always result in architecture of such uncompromised strength and symbolism...evoking the unexpected...The first time [designers] saw a soft rain fall, it looked as if the memory marks were shedding tears. -- Mabel O. Wilson; Höweler + Yoon; Gregg Bleam Landscape Architect; Meejin Yoon; Eric Höweler; Eto Otitigbe - Architectural Record

Blair Kamin: Farewell, Spire. Hello, spiral. 12 years after his twisting tower ground to a halt, Santiago Calatrava readies a flaming red sculpture along the Chicago River: It's a dynamic, bright red, nearly complete sculpture that graces the riverfront plaza of [River Point Park]...official name...is "Constellation"...The only star in this constellation is its creator...Even in its unfinished state, [it] has carved out a distinctive presence along the riverfront, at once complementing and upstaging the high-rises around it...responds directly to the distinctive curves of the 52-story River Point office building... -- Pickard Chilton - Chicago Tribune

Eric Baldwin: "Architects Never Waste a Good Crisis": HMC Architects' New Chief Impact Officer Lance Hosey on Reframing Design: .With changes to climate, technology, and construction techniques, how do you think architects and designers will adapt ways of practicing to advance the profession? "...the industry is nowhere near where it needs to be...the more-essential shift that needs to happen is around the values and very purposes of architecture...[with the pandemic], the profession is facing what could be the most significant

disruption in our history...many architects are...demonstrating how essential design can be." - ArchDaily

The Resurgence of Tropical Architecture as Virus Concerns Deepen: AIA-PR president outlines the health benefits of this resilient design concept: Eugenio Ramíre of the Puerto Rico Chapter of the American Institute of Architects...“We are seeing how [the pandemic] changes future developments"...tropical architecture combined with green architecture is an intelligent asset...make for an "extraordinary" return on investment while providing resiliency...[he] said that the pandemic would not have a long-term impact on the island's desirability as an investment destination... - The Weekly Journal (Puerto Rico)

ACLA architecture: Let architecture celebrate Trinidad & Tobago culture: Anthony C Lewis and Associates, was the first indigenous architecture firm in TT....So, what's Trinidad's architectural style? Like its people and its culture, it's very complex...ACLA [has been] the on-the-ground architect on several local projects handled by international firms...foreign architects tend to get the edge over local..."there are buildings that...could easily have been done by a local architect...What will define the buildings of our future? For that we need architects - and we need local architects." -- Anthony C Lewis; acla:works; Laura Narayansingh; Gary Turton; Ricardo Newallo- Trinidad & Tobago Newsday

Docomomo Australia Petition launched to save North Sydney MLC, 'seminal' high-rise office building: ...calls for North Sydney Council to refuse the application for the proposed development...Designed by Bates Smart and McCutcheon and completed in 1956, the building was...the largest building of its type in Australia...listed on the Australian Institute of Architects' Register of Nationally Significant 20th Century Buildings...application for the site proposes to demolish the building to make way for a new office building...Bates Smart is also the architect of [the] planned replacement. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Tony Giannone to be Australian Institute of Architects 2021-22 national president: ...director of Tectvs and industry professor in the School of Architecture and Built Environment at the University of Adelaide...Institute made the appointment at its annual general meeting on 22 July, which also marked the beginning of Alice Hampson's term as national president...Helen Lochhead concludes her term as national president- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Michael H. Hodges: A son's journey to forgive his father, Eero Saarinen: When Eric Saarinen was 12, his father...abandoned his first family...permanently soured Eric's relationship with Eero...But unexpectedly, Eric...got pulled into shooting a PBS [American Masters] documentary about his father, the 2016 "Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future," and the experience changed his life. At a stroke, it purged the gall that had plagued him for decades...Eric's story was key to its success. -- Robert Ziegelman/Luckenbach Ziegelman Gardner Architects- Detroit News

"Homo Urbanus" Exhibition Praises Public Space, at the Arc en Rêve Centre d'Architecture in Bordeaux, France: ...reopened its main gallery with an exhibition by Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine...Shown for the first time in its complete version...Creating a journey around the world (10 cities, 10 films, 10 hours)...an invitation to observe the complex relationship of humans and the built environment. thru October 11 - ArchDaily

"Europe's best Buildings": European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture Mies van der Rohe Award 2019 Exhibition: the 40 most convincing projects from the last two years...Main prize (€60,000): Lacaton & Vassal; Emerging Architect prize (€20,000): BAST; Architekturzentrum Wien, Vienna, thru October 12 -- Frédéric Druot; Christophe Hutin - Architekturzentrum Wien (Vienna)

League Prize 2020 Exhibition: "Value: How are values mediated by the processes of design?": After initially creating site-specific gallery installations, the winners adeptly translated their ideas into a digital format. -- David Eskenazi/d.esk; Garrett Ricciardi & Julian Rose/Formlessfinder; Leslie Lok & Sasa Zivkovic/HANNAH; Isaac Michan Daniel/Michan Architecture; Ivi Diamantopoulou & Jaffer Kolb/New Affiliates; Luis Beltrán del Río García & Andrew Sosa Martínez/Vrtical - Architectural League of New York

Samuel Medina: The net art-centric "FiDi Arsenale" now lives online: For two weeks this past winter, an abandoned Irish pub called The Barleycorn in Manhattan's Financial District (FiDi) played unlikely host to an art exhibition...that appealed to curators Bika Rebek, Matt Shaw, and Collin Clarke were the forlorn Barleycorn's unusual proportions - narrow and deep - which recall the Arsenale, a former shipyard turned art venue in Venice...The strange one-off experiment has been preserved online in perpetuity... - The Architect's Newspaper

Aaron Betsky: The Shadow Architecture of War: In "Fronts: Military Urbanisms and the Developing World," Ersela Kripa and Stephen Mueller explore what architects can learn from the military's urban simulations: ...a careful, comprehensive, and simultaneously enlightening and frightening study of how the military has created a shadow version of architecture...Army offered a critique of Postmodernism...long before architects did. Architects may celebrate and try to "improve" the collage-like complexity...while the military figures it out in order to bust through it...shows us once again that war is the ultimate R&D lab for the future of designed environment. - Architect Magazine

Fabian Llonch/Llonch+Vidalle´ Architecture: Remembering Enric Miralles: Two New Books: The architect and educator reflects on his late mentor and cofounder of EMBT Architects, who died 20 years ago this month: ...what I recall most was how skillful, sharp, and brilliant he was to teach me things that went beyond architecture. Javier Fernandez Contreras's well-detailed "The Miralles Projection: Thinking and Representation in the Architecture of Enric Miralles" and "Conversations and Allusions: Enric Miralles" edited by Catherine Spellman - Architectural Record

ANN feature: Lesson Plan #10: Life in Ornament: Throughout history, ornament has been used to transform the built environment into a friendlier and more empathetic place. Not to teach this higher role means to not value part of our centuries-old cultural history. By Miguel Córdova-Ramírez - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, August 4, 2020

- [Belmont](#) Freeman pays eloquent tribute to Eusebio Leal Spengler, 77, "credited with the transformation of Old Havana from a deteriorated urban enclave into a showcase of exquisitely restored Spanish colonial architecture and urbanism" - his "strong moral voice" will be sorely missed.
- [Adele Peters](#) parses a few modular apartment building projects that could be "a new model for addressing the housing crisis in the San Francisco area - and the challenge of homelessness specifically."
- [King, meanwhile](#), considers how well SF restaurants are doing at converting "parking spaces to dining patios. In a strange way, this is urban design for the pandemic age. Let a thousand streeteries bloom" (and 6 ways to make them better).
- [Mortice](#) delves into a community-led "'urban Marshall Plan' built to combat poverty" in a South Side neighborhood in Chicago - "a campus of new and adaptively reused buildings encompassing public health, housing, job training, and community and green space" - anchored by a healthy food market.
- [Flora Samuel](#) parses RIBA's new Social Value Toolkit for Architecture that aims to provide practical support when talking to non-architects about "building social value into decision-making about land."
- [Hilburg](#) hails a plan by New Affiliates and architect and historian Samuel Stewart-Halevy that would turn high-performance façade mockups, usually discarded after testing, into gardening structures in community gardens throughout NYC.
- [Kamin looks](#) at how "Philadelphia offers edgy alternatives" as Chicago's mayor readies to "kick off a comprehensive, potentially combustible review of the city's public monuments and icons. Buckle your seat belts, Chicago."
- [Tables turned](#): Sweet profiles Kamin who, "for nearly 30 years, has shaped opinion about Chicago's architecture" [and beyond]. Even the pandemic hasn't stopped the coverage. 'Sometimes unsettled times produce the most interesting stories'" (check out his Burj Kalifa adventure, too).
- [Gamolina](#) x 2: A fab Q&A with Paula Scher re: her interesting path to Pentagram, and her advice to those just starting their careers: "The things that make work interesting, and create invention, are accidents. You want to be in a position where you're capable of making accidents."
- [A Q&A](#) with Daria Pahhota re: what guides her work in communications, and why she departed BIG to join SOM as its new Global Communications Leader.
- [Farago isn't](#) in Tokyo for the now-postponed Olympic Games, so he considers the 1964 Summer Olympics that "crowned Tokyo's 20-year transformation from a firebombed ruin to an ultramodern megalopolis. Not until 2008 [Beijing Games] would an Olympics so profoundly alter a city and a nation."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Samuel G. White: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic buildings - more timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings ["architectural pudding" included].

- [Call for](#) applications: Inaugural Princeton | Places Urban Imagination Prize: focus on the theme of mobility justice; open to university-based or independent authors; \$7,500 honorarium + publication in Places Journal + public lecture (travel expenses provided).
- [Australian](#) Institute of Architects' 2020 International Chapter Architecture Awards for projects from Samoa to the U.S. (the Institute's 2019 Gold Medal recipient Koning Eizenberg Architecture won four!).
- [Sitz brings](#) us eye-fuls of the winners of the 2020 AIA National Architectural Photography Competition.

COVID-19 news continues:

- [M Moser's](#) Frances Gain parses the findings of the firm's survey re: "employee and business performance during the pandemic" that "reflects how employees feel and what they expect, but the real question is - what is next?"
- [Sophie Davies](#) talks to architects around the world re: how the pandemic is changing home design (apartments, mostly): "With more people working remotely, architects are focusing on flexibility and access to outside in their post-pandemic designs. But it will take time to make these adjustments."
- [Garcia &](#) Frankowski of WAI Architecture Think Tank explain their recently launched Loudreaders Trade School - "a new, free, and accessible platform for education modeled on Caribbean loudreading" with an array of "international authors, designers, artists, and thinkers who gather online to loud-read critical discourses."
- [Hilburg](#) reports on the Rockwell Group and the NYC Hospitality Alliance teaming up "to create a modular, replicable template for how diners might safely inhabit the sidewalk without impeding pedestrian flow," as "outdoor dining could become permanent in NYC" (happening elsewhere, too).



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[Belmont Freeman: Obituary: Eusebio Leal Spengler, 1942-2020: Historian of the City of Havana for more than 40 years and credited with the transformation of Old Havana from a deteriorated urban enclave into a showcase of exquisitely restored Spanish colonial architecture and urbanism, unrivaled in the Western Hemisphere...In 1994...he established Habaguanex SA, a company focused on the development of tourist facilities...but also schools, clinics, and housing...His death is a great loss for the international historic preservation community and for the people of Havana, particularly at this moment...a strong moral voice is needed to defend its architectural heritage.](#) - Architectural Record

[Adele Peters: Will these modular apartment buildings help the Bay Area handle its housing crisis? Several affordable projects...are assembling apartments off-site and then simply locking them into place. If they're successful, it could cut millions of dollars off construction costs and months off building timelines: ...a new model for addressing the housing crisis in the \[San Francisco\] area...and for the challenge of homelessness specifically...Still, changing construction methods can only solve part of the overall challenge...Zoning is another challenge... -- Factory OS; Panoramic Interests; Trachtenberg Architects](#)- Fast Company

[John King: Restaurants are taking over parking spaces. Here are 6 ways to make them better: The restaurants that are converting parking spaces to dining patios...aren't focused on aesthetics... they're trying to survive the coronavirus-ravaged times in which we live...In a strange way, this is urban design for the pandemic age...Let a thousand streeteries bloom. Especially ones that keep these six simple features in mind...#4: Show some spirit; #5: Look like you care-](#) San Francisco Institute of Architecture



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Zach Mortice: Chicago's Bid to Reinvent the Corner Store: The South Side neighborhood of Englewood puts a healthy food market at the center of a community-led "urban Marshall Plan" built to combat poverty: ...grocery store...will look a lot different than the other carryouts and bodegas...Go Green Fresh Market will essentially be a miniature supermarket...[will] also host community events...the first part of a...campus of new and adaptively reused buildings encompassing public health, housing, job training, and community and green space...part of a national effort [to provide] more healthy food for vulnerable and food insecure populations... -- Chris-Annamarie Spencer/Wheeler Kearns Architects - Bloomberg CityLab

Flora Samuel: How to talk to non-architects about social value: The new Social Value Toolkit for Architecture should arm you with practical support: ...published by RIBA...The pilot phase was useful...for identifying redundant questions and unintelligible language...It is hoped that the SVT will provide a practical tool for concrete discussions [and] contribute to the development of a range of digital tools. It is for example being used as a starting point for an Innovate UK-funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Stantec on building social value into decision-making about land. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Jonathan Hilburg: New Affiliates wants to turn discarded mockups into garden shelters: What happens to high-performance facade mockups after they've been tested...Most, unfortunately, are trashed. That's why the New York-based New Affiliates and architect and historian Samuel Stewart-Halevy have teamed up for Testbeds, a pilot program to divert those mockups from the waste stream and repurpose them as gardening structures...if the Testbeds concept can be replicated...the team hopes to continue exporting remnant mockups to some of the other 550 community gardens [NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's]

GreenThumb program oversees. -- Ivi Diamantopoulou; Jaffer Kolb- The Architect's Newspaper

Blair Kamin: As Mayor Lightfoot readies a review of Chicago's monuments, including three removed Columbus statues, Philadelphia offers edgy alternatives: Mayor...is expected this week to kick off a comprehensive, potentially combustible review of the city's public monuments and icons...the scope of the review...will be much broader than the Columbus statues...but bring the issue down to specifics and things get messy...Buckle your seat belts, Chicago. - Chicago Tribune

David A. F. Sweet: The Write Stuff: For Nearly 30 Years, Pulitzer-Prize Winner Blair Kamin Has Shaped Opinion About Chicago's Architecture: ...he replaced a critic who also captured the Pulitzer Prize, Paul Gapp, giving the Tribune close to half a century of top-notch writing about unmatched architectural grandeur in the country. Even the pandemic hasn't stopped the coverage...“Sometimes unsettled times produce the most interesting stories.” - Classic Chicago Magazine

Julia Gamolina: A Life in Her Work: Pentagram's Paula Scher on Ideas, Invention, and Learning: She talks about being in a place where one can allow mistakes to happen, advising those just starting their careers to pick a place to work where they can truly learn...“The things that make work interesting, and create invention, are accidents. You want to be in a position where you're capable of making accidents.” - Madame Architect

Julia Gamolina: Genuine Connections: Daria Pahhota on her Roles in Communications and Her Advice to Architects: SOM's new Global Communications Leader...[previously] served as Chief Communications Officer for BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group...She talks about her life experiences and developed principles that guide her work in communications, advising architects to read the news, and those just starting their careers to form meaningful and genuine relationships. - Madame Architect

Jason Farago: The 1964 Olympics Certified a New Japan, in Steel and on the Screen: The world's elite athletes would have been in Tokyo right now if not for the coronavirus pandemic. When they went half a century ago, they discovered a capital transformed by design: ...the event I was most excited about was handball. Not for the sport, but for the stadium...the Yoyogi National Gymnasium...1964 Summer Games...crowned Tokyo's 20-year transformation from a firebombed ruin to an ultramodern megalopolis...Not until 2008 [Beijing Games], would an Olympics so profoundly alter a city and a nation. -- Kenzo Tange; Yoshiro Taniguchi; Yusaku Kamekura; Yoshinobu Ashihara; Kengo Kuma- New York Times

Call for entries: Call for applications: Princeton | Places Urban Imagination Prize: inaugural prize will focus on the theme of mobility justice; open to university-based or independent authors; honorarium of \$7,500 to produce a major work of public scholarship for publication in Places Journal + travel, accommodation, and meals associated with public lecture; a new collaboration between the Princeton Urban Imagination Center and Places Journal; deadline: September 21 - Places Journal

From Samoa to the USA: Australian Institute of Architects' 2020 International

Chapter Architecture Awards winners: Koning Eizenberg Architecture, the Institute's 2019 Gold Medal recipient, won four awards...Winners will compete for the Jørn Utzon Award for International Architecture... -- Kerry Hill Architects; Atelier Luke; Guida Moseley Brown Architects; etc. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Miriam Sitz: See the Winners of the 2020 AIA National Architectural Photography Competition: ...produced by AIA St. Louis Chapter, represent the work of photographers based across the country, shooting projects across the globe. -- Daniel Joseph Allen, AIAS (Chicago); Gerald W. Shonkwiler, AIA (San Diego); Qian Huang, Assoc. AIA (St. Louis); etc. - Architectural Record


Frances Gain/M Moser Associates: Primed for Change: Hybrid flexibility in the workplace: As businesses begin to re-open their offices, they must consider the impact of the last few months on the new skills, attitudes and habits of employees, as well as the hope to continue flexible work policies on a permanent basis...M Moser Associates conducted a survey with more than 500 respondents on employee and business performance during the pandemic...reflects how employees feel and what they expect, but the real question is - what is next? How, when, and how much - do we bring employees back to the office? ...some of the most important findings: Remote Work Has Not Caused Productivity Levels to Suffer; Flexibility is No Longer Negotiable; Don't Discount the Importance of Design - HR News (UK)

Sophie Davies: Sliding walls, hideable offices: How pandemic could change home design: With more people working remotely, architects are focusing on flexibility and access to outside in their post-pandemic designs: As city dwellers around the globe rethink how they want to live following months of lockdown, architects are reflecting on how flats can be redesigned...But it will take time to make these adjustments. -- Greg Verabian/HKS; Andre Brumfield/Gensler; Edouard Bettencourt/Studio Belem; Carlos Lamela/Estudio Lamela - Thomson Reuters Foundation

Cruz Garcia & Nathalie Frankowski: WAI Architecture Think Tank launches critical education platform modeled on Caribbean loudreading: ...[pandemic] has forced many questions to the surface: What is the value of an architecture education? Is the classroom or studio the most conducive space for learning? If not, what is? ...we recently launched the Loudreaders Trade School as a new, free, and accessible platform for education...The texts it holds were compiled from contributing international authors, designers, artists, and thinkers who gather online to loud-read critical discourses...Here, we highlight 12... - The Architect's Newspaper

Jonathan Hilburg: Outdoor dining could become permanent in NYC as architects innovate: The city's outdoor dining program was first sketched out in May when Rockwell Group and the NYC Hospitality Alliance teamed up to create a modular, replicable template for how diners might safely inhabit the sidewalk without impeding pedestrian flow...proposal could make the plan permanent to help eateries weather future waves of coronavirus. -- SHoP Architects; Baltimore's Design for Distancing project - The Architect's Newspaper

ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: Additions to Historic Buildings: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic

 [buildings - more timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, August 5, 2020

- [OLIN's Alexa](#) Vaughn-Brainard, a Deaf woman and a landscape designer, considers the ADA, 30 years on: "It's time to examine whether both the ADA and the design professions have done enough to guarantee our right to fully access the public realm" - and "recognize that the built environment itself is the real problem."
- [Elsa Lam](#) considers what reforming policing "would mean for the architecture of the justice system. Some answers may already be visible [great examples]. It is an opportune time to rethink how such facilities can be constructed to honor community, offenders, and victims alike."
- [McGuigan](#) x 2: A great Q&A with Mabel O. Wilson, Mario Gooden, and Justin Garrett Moore re: "how racism has shaped, and operated within, the profession of architecture" ("even with excellence, you can still be invisible").
- [Another](#) great Q&A with Walter Hood re: "his forthcoming book, 'Black Landscapes Matter,' how his design work increasingly is inspired by his identity as a Black man and by history" (he really hates the word "placemaking"), and his landscape/art project for Henry Cobb's International African American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina.
- [Audrey Wachs](#) reports on the Cultural Heritage Stewardship Initiative, established by an impressive list of preservation groups, to provide "financial and technical resources to preserve buildings and landscapes" (many designed by African-American architects) at up to eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- [Jennifer](#) Baum Lagdameo reports on the fascinating "unsung story of Eichler Homes and how they helped integrate American neighborhoods. In 1958, Joseph Eichler resigned from the National Association of Home Builders when they refused to support a nondiscrimination policy."
- [Kaley Overstreet](#) x 2: She ponders the very different fates of Natalie de Bois/SOM's 270 Park Avenue and Philip Johnson's 550 Madison Avenue: "Why will one be torn down without much opposition and the other is so heavily guarded? What makes one building more important than another?"
- [She brings](#) us eyefuls of photographer Amanda Large's black & white series "Fifty/50" that documents 50 Modernist churches in Toronto in "an ode to their enduring importance to the city" - and "also raises questions about preservation and architectural legacy in Toronto."
- [Moore cheers](#) the new Maggie's Centre in Leeds: "I am a Heatherwick-sceptic: too many of his works are cute ideas and glib gestures that under-deliver," but here, the "commission has brought out the very best in him - the project rises to the ambition, stated in the brief."
- [Kimmelman](#) takes his second "walking" tour with conservation ecologist Eric W. Sanderson, this time in the Bronx, from Yankee Stadium to the Bronx Zoo, imagining what it was before it became part of NYC in 1898 (the beavers are back!).
- [Sitz reports](#) on a partnership between the Architectural League of New York and two CUNY colleges that "pairs students with local professionals" to introduce them "to the broader professional community - particularly important for students who may lack the built-in network that comes with attending a 'name- brand' school."
- [Aaron Smithson](#) talks to educators and researchers at Harvard GSD re: what they're doing "to analyze and challenge systems of oppression, both within the disciplines and more generally, in building just cities."

● [The University](#) of Minnesota School of Architecture's Jennifer Yoos and many students and faculty are working "to address racial justice - and refocus the curriculum, improve recruitment, contribute to environmental justice, and more" (a survey wasn't all that helpful).

● [Industry](#) organizations, like IWBI, UIA, WorldGBC, etc., and built environment experts totaling 680 from 51 countries petition the World Health Organization "urging enhanced guidance on the role of buildings in addressing COVID-19."

● [The ASLA-supported](#) Great American Outdoors Act becomes a new law that "permanently and fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provides funds to address the maintenance backlog in our national parks and other public lands."

● [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Samuel G. White: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic buildings - more timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings ["architectural pudding" included].

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[Alexa Vaughn-Brainard/OLIN: The ADA at 30: The Battle for an Accessible and Inclusive Future Continues: As a Deaf woman and as a landscape designer, I have experienced public space in the post-ADA era both personally and professionally...it's time to examine whether...both the Americans with Disabilities Act and the design professions have done enough to guarantee our right to fully access the public realm...it does not address the broad spectrum of disabilities...designers need to...recognize that the built environment itself is the real problem...designers and planners have the chance to rethink access and what it means in the public realm.](#) - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

[Elsa Lam: Reforming Justice Architecture: ...groups in several Canadian cities have called for a rethink of policing and police funding. What would this mean for the architecture of the justice system...Some answers may already be visible...pressures of the protests and the pandemic may have a swift impact on new justice buildings...It is an opportune time to rethink how such facilities can be constructed to honour community, offenders, and victims alike...A reform of policing will also entail a reform of the architecture of justice. Both will be welcome changes.](#) -- [figurr architects](#); [Richard Henriquez](#); [Gregory Henriquez/Henriquez Architects](#); [Robert Boraks/Parkin Architects](#) - Canadian Architect magazine

[Cathleen McGuigan: Three Scholars Discuss Racism and Whiteness in the Built Environment: ...three professionals in practice and education - Mabel O. Wilson, Mario Gooden, and Justin Garrett Moore - explore how racism has shaped, and operated within, the profession of architecture: "To be Black and in architecture, you cannot be mediocre: to be visible, you have to be excellent. And you have to be excellent at every second of every moment of the day... Yet, sometimes, even with excellence, you can still be invisible."](#) -- [Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation \(GSAPP\)](#); [Studio &](#); [Huff + Gooden](#); [NYC Public Design Commission](#); [Urban Patch](#) - [Architectural Record](#)

[Cathleen McGuigan: Walter Hood on History and Race in Landscape Design: Q&A re: with the landscape architect about his work in the public realm and his forthcoming book, "Black Landscapes Matter" and how his design work increasingly is inspired by his identity as a Black man and by history: "People](#)



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have ideas about what a place should become, without any understanding of what's there. You hear people say "placemaking," which I really hate. It's this colonial attitude, versus going into a place and trying to cultivate what's there." -- Hood Design Studio - Architectural Record

Audrey Wachs: Preservation groups launch initiative for campus architecture at HBCUs: ...a pilot program to plan care for cultural resources at up to eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities...The Cultural Heritage Stewardship Initiative will give...financial and technical resources...to preserve buildings and landscapes...Many buildings were designed by African-American architects...initiative...giving money to schools to hire preservation consultants...There's a social infrastructure component, as well... -- National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP); African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund; National Endowment for the Humanities; Ford Foundation; The JPB Foundation; J.M. Kaplan Fund; The Executive Leadership Council - The Architect's Newspaper

Jennifer Baum Lagdameo: The Unsung Story of Eichler Homes and How They Helped Integrate American Neighborhoods: Joseph Eichler not only defined the middle-class home of the midcentury period, but also worked to dismantle racist housing policies: In 1958, Eichler resigned from the National Association of Home Builders when they refused to support a nondiscrimination policy...So why is it that for the most part, Eichler's legacy of integration isn't better known? -- A. Quincy Jones & Frederick Emmons; Anshen & Allen; Oakland & Associates; Jones & Emmons; Raphael Soriano; Klop Architecture - Dwell

Kaley Overstreet: A Tale of Two Buildings: The Argument Behind Preservation and Reuse: 270 Park Avenue [Natalie de Bois/SOM, 1961], once hailed by Ada Louise Huxtable as one of the city's contributions to a "dramatic revolution in architectural design...When the plan to raze it was announced, the public appealed...the request fell on deaf ears and [it] is expected to come down in early 2021...Philip Johnson's 550 Madison Avenue has faced a much more tumultuous and drama-filled history...So why will one be torn down without much opposition and the other is so heavily guarded? What makes one building more important than another? -- Foster + Partners; Snøhetta - ArchDaily

Kaley Overstreet: Documenting 50 Modernist Churches in Toronto by Photographer Amanda Large: ...black and white photography series, "Fifty/50"...is an ode to these churches, and a celebration of their enduring importance to the city...also challenges some tropes that are prevalent in architectural photography. The photographs are purposefully taken almost exclusively in winter...leave blemishes and damage to the buildings without retouching...Beyond documenting a largely ignored subset of modernist architecture...Fifty/50 also raises questions about preservation and architectural legacy in Toronto. - ArchDaily

Rowan Moore: Maggie's Centre, St James's hospital, Leeds - a safe place for flamboyance: Thomas Heatherwick has risen to an important challenge, bringing...this latest in a series of bespoke, calming environments for people with cancer: .I am a Heatherwick-sceptic: too many of his works are cute ideas and glib gestures that under-deliver...What I can say about his building in Leeds, though, is that the Maggie's commission has brought out the very best in him and his practice...the project rises to the ambition, stated in the brief...If only humane architecture could become a rule rather than an exception in the NHS. - Balston Agius- Observer (UK)

Michael Kimmelman: When the Bronx Was a Forest: Stroll Through the Centuries: Yankee Stadium was the site of a salt marsh. Concourse Plaza was a valley. A walk with Eric W. Sanderson, a conservation ecologist: ...the Bronx is a vast, vibrant megalopolis, which also happens to be New York City's greenest borough...we explore a swath...before it was consolidated and became part of NYC in 1898...He recommended hopping the BX21 bus on the floor of an ancient creek bed carved thousands of years ago by a glacier...[now] called Third Avenue. -- Wildlife Conservation Society; Joseph H. Freedlander; Max L. Hausle; Charles Keck; Rafael Viñoly - New York Times

Miriam Sitz: Architectural League Program Fosters 'Sense of Belonging' to Larger Design Community Among Local College Students: A partnership between the Architectural League of New York and two community colleges in the city pairs students with local professionals, to introduce emerging designers to the broader professional community: This mission is particularly important for students of the two CUNY colleges, who may lack the built-in network that comes with attending a "name- brand" school. -- Sanjive Vaidya/Claudia Hernandez/City Tech (New York City College of Technology); Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of New York (CCNY); Thomas Phifer and Partners; Leroy Street Studio - Architectural Record

Aaron Smithson: Harvard GSD faculty take on the challenge of building just cities: As design schools across the country begin to respond to longstanding criticism over their wholesale embrace of whiteness in pedagogy, it is useful to examine the work that some educators and researchers are doing to analyze and challenge systems of oppression, both within the disciplines and more generally in U.S. cities. AN talked to several practitioners at the department of urban planning and design at Harvard's Graduate School of Design about the work they've been doing in this area. -- Stephen Gray/Urban Design and the Color Line; Lily Song/CoDesign/Design Studio First Aid Kit; Toni L. Griffin/Design for the Just City/Just City Lab - The Architect's Newspaper

University of Minnesota's School of Architecture works to address racial justice: ...Jennifer Yoos and many students and faculty...are working to refocus the curriculum, improve recruitment, contribute to environmental justice, hold faculty and staff accountable and more...The Women in Architecture Student Organization, American Institute of Architecture Students and The Architecture Lobby collaborated to release a survey...Due to the lack of BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and People of Color] students who answered, the survey was not as helpful or representative as it could have been - Minneapolis Star Tribune

Hundreds of Built Environment Experts Join Forces In Statement to WHO [World Health Organization] Urging Enhanced Guidance on Role of Buildings In

Addressing COVID-19: More than 680 experts from 51 countries...urging public health leaders to adopt and advance indoor environment best practices proven to help protect building occupants worldwide from the spread of COVID-19. -- International Union of Architects (UIA); World Green Building Council (WorldGBC); International Living Future Institute (ILFI); International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI) - International WELL Building Institute (IWBI)

ASLA-Supported Great American Outdoors Act Becomes Law: The new law permanently and fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and provides funds to address the maintenance backlog in our national parks and other public lands. ASLA President Wendy Miller: "Many landscape architects rely on funding from LWCF to finance important projects that otherwise would never get off the ground...the role of landscape architects as responsible stewards of the land has never been more important. This law will go a long way toward helping us continue that work." - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: Additions to Historic Buildings: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic buildings - more timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, August 6, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, August 11. We've taken a break from COVID-19 news today (alas, more to come next week). In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe.

- [Kennicott's](#) eloquent take on the "deft and daring" Eisenhower Memorial (Gehry chimes in, too): "It is unlike any other memorial in Washington, or the world - at night, one can still detect some of the melancholy that was subtly woven into his original plan. My guess is that in a few years, it will be primarily regarded with affection as a green island of old-fashioned geniality in a failing city that was once the capital of the free world."
- [Michael](#) Allen, of Sam Fox School of Design, minces no words re: design schools that (and fellow academics who) "offer sweeping public statements" about their solidarity when it comes to improving "societal ills" - but "students are not fooled" and "are reclaiming the political, visionary legacy of design schools in years past."
- [Wainwright](#) sees efforts to reform the planning system in England as more like a "race to the bottom. It aims for beauty, quality and affordability, but it will likely unleash smaller, meaner, less affordable homes - and nothing left in the way to stop them" (heed lessons from overseas).
- [Simon Jenkins](#) explains why "scrapping regulations in England will unleash a wave of urban sprawl, worsen inequality - and cancel the democratic right of people to exercise some control over the character and appearance of their neighborhood - to be smothered by commissars."
- [Glentzer](#) walks us through the "audacious idea" that is Nelson Byrd Woltz's land bridge as it begins construction in Houston's Memorial Park that "will create 25 acres of green space somewhat out of thin air over six lanes of roadway" - Thomas Woltz calls it "the physical manifestation of 'We can do that.'"
- [Gamolina's](#) great Q&A with Mecanoo's Francine Houben re: her design process, urban renewal, what makes a good building, and advice for young architects to follow their values: "It's hard work. If we do it well, we can have an impact in a very positive and important way."
- [Belogolovsky's](#) 2-part Q&A with Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal - Part 1: He talks about "his unique architecture and its origins, his professional path, and key milestones. 'I try to make all my buildings spiritual. All buildings should inspire people.'"
- [Cardinal](#), Part 2: "A building should be nurturing and protect people within. Architecture should be comforting, protecting, and caring everyone who enters the space" (great pix in both).
- [Tanner Morton](#) profiles the amazing Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, the 2020 RAIC Gold Medalist, ranging from her preliminary design for Expo 67 and the preservation of Old Montreal, to "her foundational research on women architects" - also the first woman to be dean of a North American architecture school, and the first woman to garner the "F" in FRAIC (aussi en français).
- [Call for](#) entries: 2nd Annual C2A / Creative Communication Award (international): to celebrate creativity, excellence, and outstandingly executed ideas across 18 different categories in communication design; open to professionals and students.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Samuel G. White: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic buildings - more

timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings ["architectural pudding" included].

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [Gideon Fink](#) Shapiro takes a deep - and fascinating! - dive into Carlos Mínguez Carrasco's "Kiruna Forever" at ArkDes in Stockholm (and online) that explores the forced relocation of the Swedish city that "is more than a gigantic architectural project" - the show "deserves praise for highlighting" the juxtaposition of "the confidence of master planning with the shakiness of people's reactions - and a hidden optimism."
- [And because](#) it's August 6: Mark Brown parses "I Saw the World End," a "powerful 10-minute video artwork" by stage designers Es Devlin and Machiko Weston and commissioned by London's Imperial War Museum to mark the 75th anniversary of nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (powerful, indeed).
- [Nate Berg](#) says "move over HGTV" - now we have the new video streaming service "Shelter" - a "mix of nerdy and beautiful, the service focuses exclusively on architecture and design - and not just trivial home makeovers."
- [Because](#) we miss him so: The Architectural Review releases "7 carefully chosen" essays by Michael Sorkin from its archive, free for registered users: He "did not idealize architecture - yet he was undoubtedly hopeful for what architecture might achieve, particularly in the fight for social justice."
- [Magdalena](#) Milosz parses "Race and Modern Architecture," edited by Cheng, Davis II & Wilson: "It is not easy reading. However, it represents a significant contribution that will aid scholars, educators, practitioners and students in better understanding the role of race in Western architecture and provide a much-needed corrective to the silence surrounding race in architectural education."
- [Despina](#) Stratigakos offers an excerpt from her new book "Hitler's Northern Utopia: Building the New Order in Occupied Norway" that "tells the story of how Nazi architects and planners began to build a Nordic empire in Norway," and includes "extraordinary unpublished diaries, photographs, maps, and newspapers from the period" (some included here).
- [James Tarmy](#) cheers Ian Volner's "Philip Johnson: A Visual Biography" that demonstrates how "he managed to shape America's architecture to an almost unfathomable degree" (and a good companion to Lamster's "The Man in the Glass House").
- [Elizabeth](#) Stamp takes us inside Philip Jodidio's "Zaha Hadid. Complete Works 1979 - Today," updated from the 2009 edition - "there is much more to the late architect's oeuvre than her most famous designs."



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Philip Kennicott: The new Eisenhower Memorial is stunning, especially at night. But is this the last of the 'great man' memorials? Frank Gehry...isn't dwelling on the turmoil and rancor stirred up by those who opposed his design. He sounds like a happy man...Over the past decade...the project was dogged by controversy...and eventually earned the family's support...It is unlike any other memorial in Washington, or the world...at night, one can still detect some of the melancholy that was subtly woven into his original plan...it feels a bit like the last memorial of a passing age...My guess is that in a few years...[it] will be primarily regarded with affection as a green island of old-fashioned geniality in a failing city that was once the capital of the free world. - Washington Post

Michael Allen: Design Schools, Now Is the Time to Answer: Who Are We For? Design and architecture schools have been far slower to make commitments than they were to offer sweeping public statements. In this void, students are reclaiming the political, visionary legacy of design schools in years past: ...power has a way of looking like change long enough to make things stay exactly the same. Art and design students are not fooled...To the public, the universities



front solidarity and increased investigation of societal ills. Internally, they double down on protecting their tax-free hoarded wealth...statements aim to make the current uprising relevant to their own sources of power...Hopefully architecture students and faculty members keep pushing. -- Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University in St. Louis - Hyperallergic

Oliver Wainwright: Race to the bottom: reform to planning system in England could be catastrophic: Government's dramatic building reforms likely to cut democratic input into the planning process by half: ...there is precious little evidence that any of the new measures could lead to higher quality, more attractive or more affordable homes...proposals look set to deliver the exact opposite...The rule book is also being shredded in the name of "beauty"...It aims for beauty, quality and affordability, but it will likely unleash...smaller, meaner, less affordable homes - and nothing left in the way to stop them. - Guardian (UK)

Simon Jenkins: Boris Johnson cries 'nimbyism', but his planning changes will be disastrous: Scrapping regulations in England will unleash a wave of urban sprawl, worsen inequality - and leave locals powerless to stop it: Local councils and those they represent...to be replaced by central government "zoning" commissions...commissioners will merely have to designate land as developable, whereupon owners can legally do what they like...It cancels the democratic right of people to exercise some control over their immediate surroundings, over the character and appearance of their neighbourhood...it is a civil right that deserves better than to be smothered by commissars. - Guardian (UK)

Molly Glentzer: 'An audacious idea': Construction begins on Memorial Park land bridge: Houston's growing reputation as one of America's leading "green" cities will gain more traction...when construction begins on the much-anticipated land bridge across Memorial Drive...designed to improve safety for humans and wildlife...will create 25 acres of green space somewhat out of thin air over six lanes of roadway...Thomas Woltz calls [it] ..."the physical manifestation of 'We can do that.'" -- Hare & Hare (1930s); Charles Birnbaum/Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); Nelson Byrd Woltz - Houston Chronicle

Julia Gamolina: Being Visionary: Mecanoo's Francine Houben on Urban Renewal, Simple Values, and Star Architects: Q&A re: her design process and what makes a good building, advising young architects to follow their values: "It's extremely interesting to work with clients on social issues, sustainability

issues, food production - it's creative to bring all of these basic needs together as an architect. It's hard work...If we do it well, we can have an impact in a very positive and important way." - Madame Architect

Vladimir Belogolovsky: Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal believes buildings must grow out of nature: Being influenced by his father, a Blackfoot Indian, a forest ranger and hunter, as well as his mother, who imagined for her son to become an architect...he wanted to create buildings that would respond to nature and the organic rhythm of life....Q&A re: his unique architecture and its origins, his professional path, and key milestones: "I studied Art Nouveau. I like that a lot. That was architecture. That was art. So, you can understand my resistance to accept the Bauhaus and International Style...I try to make all my buildings spiritual...All buildings should inspire people." - STIR (See Think Inspire Reflect)

Vladimir Belogolovsky: "A Building Should Be Nurturing and Protect People Within": In conversation with Douglas Cardinal: "...a building should be like a woman. In other words, it should be nurturing and protect people within. Architecture should be comforting, protecting, and caring everyone who enters the space...most of my projects are direct commissions. I don't like entering competitions because there is no connection to the local communities who I always involve." - ArchDaily

Tanner Morton: 2020 RAIC Gold Medal: Blanche Lemco van Ginkel: ...a champion of modernism and urban design...Through ambitious work such as the preliminary design for Expo 67, the socially minded preservation of Old Montreal, and her foundational research on women architects, her career has left a profound impact on Canada as we know it today...one of the first women to enroll in McGill University's school of architecture...[inducted] into the RAIC College of Fellows in 1973 - the first woman...the first woman to be Dean of an architecture school in North America... -- Siasia Nowicki/Robert Geddes/Philadelphia CIAM Group for Architectural Investigation; Harmen Peter Daniel (Sandy) van Ginkel - Canadian Architect magazine

Call for entries: 2nd Annual C2A / Creative Communication Award (international): to celebrate creativity, excellence and outstandingly executed ideas across 18 different categories in communication design; open to professionals and students; deadline: September 30 - Farmani Group / IDA International Design Awards

Gideon Fink Shapiro: Kiruna, Forever Changing: The forced relocation of the northernmost city in Sweden is more than a gigantic architectural project. It is also a test for a society at the crossroads: Sensible master planning conceals the environmental recklessness of the large-scale extractive industry that is at once [its] reason for existence and the cause of its partial self-destruction..."Kiruna, Forever" is dense, layered, and messy in a good way...deserves praise for highlighting its contradictions...juxtaposes the confidence of master planning with the shakiness of people's reactions...and a hidden optimism. ArkDes, Stockholm, thru February 7, 2021 -- Carlos Minguez Carrasco; Ralph Erskine; White Arkitekter; Ghilardi + Hellsten Arkitekter; Henning Larsen; Iwan Baan; Artur von Schmalensee - Places Journal

Mark Brown: Imperial War Museum unveils film marking 75 years since

Hiroshima bomb: "I Saw the World End" by stage designers Es Devlin and Machiko Weston tells story of nuclear bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki: A powerful 10-minute video artwork..The museum commissioned...the piece, which tells the stories and explores the impact of the bombings from different perspectives...was due to be officially unveiled on Thursday morning on a 45-metre screen in London's Piccadilly Circus but events in Beirut led organisers to cancel. - Guardian (UK)

Nate Berg: Move over HGTV. This new video streaming service is entirely dedicated to design: "Shelter," launched by Australian actor Dustin Clare, aims to make design-related films and shows available to people who want to know more about how great spaces get made - and not just watch trivial home makeovers: A mix of nerdy and beautiful, the service focuses exclusively on architecture and design...documentaries like "Kevin Roche: The Quiet Architect" [and] "Visual Acoustics" [about] architectural photographer Julius Shulman...service has also partnered with Dwell magazine and the Australian sustainable design-focused Green Magazine... - Fast Company / Co.Design

AR Reading List 020: Michael Sorkin: 7 carefully chosen pieces from our archive, free for registered users...He saw design and criticism as "simply different registers of the same expression"...did not idealise architecture - he was aware that any transformation would not come without a struggle for wider political change - yet he was undoubtedly hopeful for what architecture might achieve, particularly in the fight for social justice. - Architectural Review (UK)

Magdalena Milosz: "Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present" edited by Irene Cheng, Charles L. Davis II & Mabel O. Wilson: ...highlights both the pervasiveness of race in modern architecture and its simultaneous omission from the so-called canon of architectural history and pedagogy...Although it doesn't directly address the Canadian context, [it] touches on American and European cases with which many Canadian readers will be familiar...it is not easy reading. However, it represents a significant contribution that will aid scholars, educators, practitioners and students in better understanding the role of race in Western architecture and provide a much-needed corrective to the silence surrounding race in architectural education. - Canadian Architect magazine

Despina Stratigakos: "Hitler's Northern Utopia: Building the New Order in Occupied Norway": In her new book, Stratigakos tells the story of how Nazi architects and planners began to build a Nordic empire in Norway during World War II: Drawing on extraordinary unpublished diaries, photographs, and maps, as well as newspapers from the period, [the book] tells the story of...completed and unrealized architectural and infrastructure projects far beyond the well-known German military defenses built on Norway's Atlantic coast. -- Albert Speer; Wilhelm Kreis - Metropolis Magazine

James Tarmy: Why Hasn't 'Starchitect' Philip Johnson Been Canceled? "Philip Johnson: A Visual Biography" shines a light on his enduring architectural legacy, despite a "flirtation" with Nazism: ...it wasn't the only piece of the superstar architect's character that was reprehensible...as Ian Volner's illustrated, 400-page book demonstrates...through each of Johnson's iterations - as a modernist, socialite, New York power broker, art collector, and finally, corporate postmodernist - he managed to shape America's architecture to an almost

unfathomable degree..."his patronage and his practice anticipated and pushed the field forward at each step"...a companion to major biographies that include Mark Lamster's "The Man in the Glass House" - goes a long way toward shedding light on Johnson and his enduring legacy. - Bloomberg News

Elizabeth Stamp: See Inside Zaha Hadid's Revolutionary Oeuvre: A new book by Taschen surveys the Pritzker Prize-winning architect's process, including her paintings and drawings - which are works of art in their own right: ...there is much more to the late architect's oeuvre than her most famous designs. Philip Jodidio...explores her groundbreaking career in "Zaha Hadid. Complete Works 1979-Today"...which updates the monograph first published in 2009...Also on display are the architects product designs, exhibitions, and installations. - Architectural Digest

ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: Additions to Historic Buildings: The Legacy of Paul Spencer Byard: The author of "The Architecture of Additions," published 20 years ago, proposed parameters for evaluating additions to historic buildings - more timely than ever considering the proposed Executive Order mandating classical architecture for federal buildings. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, August 11, 2020

- [Saffron](#) parses what looks to be a building boom in Philly that includes 3,600 new apartments (and some "bird-killing all-glass towers"): "A real neighborhood could finally emerge on the Delaware River. And that's just the waterfront" (developers "scrambling" to cash in on a "lucrative" property tax abatement program before it expires).
- [King parses](#) RAMSA's deluxe Nob Hill condo project and Leddy Maytum Stacy's Mission Bay apartment building that includes units reserved for formerly homeless veterans: They "serve much different needs" but share "something more basic - the need for all housing to offer a sense of being at home - crucial if we're to build diverse, livable cities that will last" (backyards "to die for" included).
- [Eyefuls](#) of the "father of New Urbanism" Leon Krier & Ben Pentreath's resoundingly approved Fawley Waterside "smart town" on the Hampshire coast that will include 1,500 homes and "swathes of other facilities" that "will sprawl beyond the boundaries of the now-demolished power station on to the surrounding national park."
- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on MAD Architects' "sinuous" Wormhole Library on the Chinese island of Hainan overlooking the South China Sea - the first in a series of seven pavilions to be "built as part of a rejuvenation plan to improve public space along the coastline of Haikou Bay."
- [William](#) Morgan cheers two new bus shelters near Providence, RI's new pedestrian bridge that are "handsome and distinctive - almost elegant, but could their design have been a little more adventurous? Why do we so often attempt architecture without architects?"
- [Dickinson](#) parses Christopher Alexander "building a legacy in beauty. Starting with humanity in architecture that uses AI as a tool - versus the driver - of architects," it has evolved into the Building Beauty Program in Sorrento, Italy + perspectives of "5 central creator/implementators."
- [Harvard](#) GSD's student- and recent grad-organized "Design Yard Sale raises \$126,000 to benefit non-profit anti-racism organizations - a constructive way to celebrate both design's tangible fruits, and its potential for social agency."
- [Kate Wagner](#) offers the fascinating "secret history of America's worthless Confederate monuments. Far from 'magnificent' artistic masterpieces, they are the Campbell's Soup Cans of Confederate hagiography - about as easy to produce as the average fire hydrant."
- [Architectural](#) historian and preservationist Anna Marcum calls for "mass-removal" of "mass-produced" Confederate monuments: "They will not be missed. Put them in a field in the middle of nowhere. A simple plaque cannot right the ideological wrongs of the Confederacy."
- [Brazil's](#) "government seeks to install antennas and cables above three architectural masterpieces by Oscar Niemeyer - reportedly designed to detect and 'neutralize' drones. Brazil's National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage was reportedly unimpressed by the plans."
- [Call for](#) entries: Biodesign Challenge 21, international competition that partners high school and university students with scientists, artists, and designers to envision, create, and critique transformational applications in biotech.

- [Call for submissions](#): 1<WORLD<2: McHarg Center's McBlog is looking for perspectives on other ways of knowing/producing knowledge outside of the Western traditions; open to all students and early-career practitioners who wish to contribute to discourse re: ways of drawing and acting in the world-in-process.

COVID-19 news continues:

- [Davidson](#): "Pundits fired up their anti-New York prejudices: city folk are constantly exhaling all over each other. When hell is other people, the path to salvation runs through a cul-de-sac. Turns out it isn't" - as a new study reported in the Journal of the American Planning Association found - "density is not the enemy."
- [Crosbie's](#) great Q&A with planner, urban designer, and Smart Growth advocate Shima Hamidi, who led the "new, landmark study" that "challenges assumptions about urban design and pandemics - density doesn't kill - sprawl does."
- [Mathias](#) Agbo, Jr. pens a thoughtful letter from Nigeria: "As an African, my perspective is both unique to our continent and universal to everyone. Solving the new problems created by Covid-19 will ultimately mean tackling the old ones. So many designers and planners have offered viable solutions - now is the time for authorities to listen."
- [An impressive](#) group of Canadian architects weigh in on how architectural design and practice is "changing in the face of the pandemic" - and "the sometimes worrisome, but often hopeful impacts of COVID-19 so far, in 11 different sectors."
- [AEC firms](#) serving the hospitality sector "foresee mostly renovation and adaptive reuse, rather than new construction," and are "girding for a spate of hotel foreclosures - some of these properties will likely be converted to multifamily, mixed use, or student housing."
- [An illustrated](#) scenario of "what coronavirus will do to our offices and homes," followed by input from Burney, Pearman, Choi, and others.



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[Inga Saffron](#): Thousands more apartments are being proposed in Philly. Who will live there? Nevermind the pandemic and economic uncertainty, developers believe this is a good time to be building: A real neighborhood could finally emerge on the Delaware River. And that's just the waterfront. Across the city, developers are scrambling to put together housing proposals before Philadelphia's lucrative 10-year property tax abatement expires Dec. 31...August proposals would produce 3,600 new apartments - just slightly less than all the housing units that were approved in 2019...but how many of these projects are likely to be built? -- ISA; SCB; JKRP architects; Harman Deutsch Ohler Architecture - Philadelphia Inquirer

[John King](#): On Nob Hill and in Mission Bay, two new housing projects serve much different needs: But they share one profoundly satisfying aspect: Their backyards are to die for...Crescent, 44 deluxe condominiums...Edwin M. Lee Apartments, where 62 of the 119 units are reserved for formerly homeless veterans...The appeal in each case...[is] something more basic - the need for all housing, no matter the price level or architectural approach, to offer a sense of being at home...crucial if we're to build diverse, livable cities that will last. -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects; Saida + Sullivan Design Partners; GLS Landscape Architecture - San Francisco Chronicle

[Greg Pitcher](#): Poundbury mastermind Leon Krier's south coast 'smart town' approved: to replace 1960s power station with 1,500 homes swathes of other facilities to forge a 'smart town' on the Hampshire coast: ...proposed Fawley



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Waterside scheme...will house up to 3,500 people and create almost 100,000m² of commercial, civic and employment space...will sprawl beyond the boundaries of the now-demolished power station on to the surrounding national park. -- Ben Pentreath - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Tom Ravenscroft: MAD Architects reveals Wormhole Library overlooking the South China Sea: ...intended "to be a wormhole that transcends time and space"...in the city of Haikou on the Chinese island of Hainan...curved concrete building will house a library and facilities for users of the park...the first in a series of seven pavilions that are going to be built along the coast of Haikou Bay as part of the rejuvenation plan. -- Ma Yansong - Dezeen

William Morgan: RIPTA's New Bus Shelters: Bus stop shelters are a decidedly un-dramatic and non-sexy topic...the pair of just completed bus shelters.near the pedestrian bridge...are worth reviewing as attractive new contributors to the city's streetscape. These handsome and distinctive architectural elements were a real surprise...almost elegant, but could their design have been a little more adventurous...What if RIPTA had considered a competition...Why accept the good, when we might have had the great? Why do we so often attempt architecture without architects? -- WSP; Moskow Linn Architects - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Duo Dickinson: Christopher Alexander is Building a Legacy in Beauty: Artificial Intelligence (AI) might just eliminate architecture as a career...architect, educator, and author...has spent over 50 years revealing humanity in design and creation. Starting with humanity in architecture that uses AI as a tool - versus the driver - of architects...evolved to be an academic crystallization of his extraordinary theory and practice, the Building Beauty Program in Sorrento, Italy...University of Hartford has extended full academic credit for the...program's fully crafted pedagogy and classes...5 central creator/implementators are at the core...Their perspectives reveal why, how and what the program is: -- Maggie Moore Alexander; Sergio Porta; Yodan Rofè; Susan Ingham/KASA Architecture;

Or Ettlinger - ArchDaily

Student-organized Design Yard Sale raises \$126,000 to benefit non-profit anti-racism organizations: ...a cohort of five Harvard GSD students and recent graduates...felt driven to rewire design's agency amid a national reckoning on race and justice, one in which the design fields have been directly implicated...the concept of offering distinctive design items...arose as a constructive way to celebrate both design's tangible fruits, and its potential for social agency...group secured fiscal sponsorship from the Architectural League of New York... - Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD)

Kate Wagner: The Secret History of America's Worthless Confederate Monuments: They're cheap, mass produced, and celebrate the Jim Crow South. Far from "magnificent" artistic masterpieces, [they] are the Campbell's Soup Cans of Confederate hagiography...about as easy to produce as the average fire hydrant...In the late 19th and early 20th century, the Monumental Bronze Company...sold versions...for as little as \$450...On Richmond's Monument Avenue, the stone base of Robert E. Lee's bronze statue is now painted over with graffiti and signage...a living monument...anticipates a more participatory city - the very antithesis of what it was originally meant to convey. -- Society of Architectural Historians (SAH); McMansionHell - The New Republic

Anna Marcum: Mass Produced, Mass Removal: Op-Ed: A Confederate monument graveyard is within our grasp: I am frequently asked my opinion... "so, what do you think we should do about Confederate monuments?" My answer? Take them down. Unequivocally. Remove them from town squares, parks, boulevards, and civic buildings. They will not be missed...My proposal? Put them in a field in the middle of nowhere...A simple plaque cannot right the ideological wrongs of the Confederacy. - The Architect's Newspaper

Brazil's modernist palaces could soon be disfigured by anti-drone systems: Government seeks to install antennas and cables above three architectural masterpieces by Oscar Niemeyer, report claims: President Jair Bolsonaro's security chiefs are cooking up plans that could radically disfigure three of the modernist palaces at the heart of Niemeyer's masterpiece...antennas - reportedly designed to detect and "neutralize" drones...increasingly used for "threatening and hostile acts"...Brazil's National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage was reportedly unimpressed by the plans. - Guardian (UK)

Call for entries: Biodesign Challenge 21, international competition partners high school and university students with scientists, artists, and designers to envision, create, and critique transformational applications in biotech; early bid registration deadline (save money!): September 1 (regular & late registration: December 18 & January 15) - Biodesign Challenge

Call for submissions: 1<WORLD<2: McHarg Center's McBlog is looking for perspectives on other ways of knowing/producing knowledge outside of the Western traditions; open to all students and early-career practitioners who wish to contribute to discourse surrounding ways of drawing and acting in the world-in-process. - McHarg Center for Urbanism and Ecology, University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design

Justin Davidson: COVID-19 Studies Are Proving That Density Is Not the Enemy:

Pundits fired up their anti-New York prejudices: city folk are constantly exhaling all over each other; suburbanites can relax in their roving decontamination chambers on wheels. When hell is other people, the path to salvation runs through a cul-de-sac...Turns out it wasn't...A new report in the Journal of the American Planning Association [APA]...concludes that density doesn't make a city sick; crowding and connectivity do. It's important to disentangle those concepts...It's not about how close your neighbors are; it's about where you go and whom you see...density isn't destiny...It's the mutual interdependence of cities and suburbs that defines both our richness and our vulnerability. -- Shima Hamidi/Johns Hopkins; Sadegh Sabouri & Reid Ewing/University of Utah - New York Magazine

Michael J. Crosbie: When It Comes to Covid-19, Density Doesn't Kill - Sprawl Does: A new, landmark study challenges assumptions about urban design and pandemics: ...Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health challenges much of this "conventional wisdom"...led by Shima Hamidi...a planner, urban designer, and Smart Growth advocate...Q&A re: her research and the implications for community and urban design: "Crowded places are the source of transmission of the disease, not the density of a city...Our research wanted to distinguish between the two...findings suggest that architects', planners', and urban designers' roles in addressing the pandemic crisis are not in changing the paradigm of compact community design...pandemics are deadlier in low-density and isolated areas..." - Common Edge

Mathias Agbo, Jr.: Letter From Nigeria: Covid and the African City: As an African, my perspective is both unique to our continent and universal to everyone: ...there's much speculation about what our cities will look like in a post-Covid era. Many believe there will be a significant shift in the planning, design, and operation of cities...predicting the future...while in the middle of a pandemic, is problematic at best...it might be more helpful to look at how the pandemic has exposed and amplified longstanding urban problems...Solving the new problems created by Covid-19 will ultimately mean tackling the old ones...long-standing and well-documented. So many designers and planners and theorists have offered viable solutions. I believe now is the time for authorities to listen. - Common Edge

Pandemic effect: How are architectural design and practice changing in the face of the pandemic? We spoke to Canadian architects about the sometimes worrisome, but often hopeful impacts of COVID-19 so far, in 11 different sectors. -- Michel Broz/Jodoin Lamarre Pratte; Darryl Condon & Melissa Higgs/HCMA; Robert Davies/Montgomery Sisam; Jason-Emerly Groen/HDR; Susan Gushe & Kathy Wardle/Perkins and Will; Bruce Kuwabara, Mitchell Hal, Kael Opie & Geoff Turnbull/KPMB Architects; Matthew Lella/Diamond Schmitt; Caroline Robbie/Quadrangle; Graeme Stewart & Ya'el Santopinto/ERA; Vincent Van Den Brink/Breakhouse; Betsy Williamson/Williamson Williamson - Canadian Architect magazine

Renovations could be hospitality's stopgap for next few years: Modular and prefab construction are already more prominent: ...AEC firms serving this sector ...foresee mostly renovation and adaptive reuse, rather than new construction...girding for a spate of hotel foreclosures...Distressed and half-built assets will be in demand among private equity firms, and some of these properties will likely be converted to multifamily, mixed use, or student

housing...Hotel survival is all about rebuilding guests' confidence about their safety... HKS; CetraRuddy; SmithGroup; Cooper Carry - Building Design + Construction (BD+C)

This is what coronavirus will do to our offices and homes: One day, the virus will subside. It could be eradicated. But even then, life will not simply return to the way it was before Covid-19...Architects envisage that creative thinking and new technology will help keep them relevant. -- David Burney; Hugh Pearman/Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA); Grace Choi; Dale Sinclair/AECOM; Ben Channon/Assael Architecture; Sadie Morgan/dRMM - BBC News

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Today's News - Wednesday, August 12, 2020

- [Betsky delves](#) into "how a photograph from the protests in Detroit can serve as a guidebook for the profession": The Renaissance Center "is now an emblem of how increasingly useless buildings as objects have become. We need to design the commons, not the castle - if architects understand that they must work with and for the people who were pictured, then they will have a good sense of the task at hand."
- [Part 1 of](#) Susannah Black's great Q&A with architect, urbanist, author, and educator John Massengale re: "urbanism after the pandemic": "We don't need to go back to normal - we can use this time to make places that are better than normal" (he takes on Robert Moses, Modernism, and more).
- [Overstreet](#) dispels the doom-and-gloom sayers re: city folk decamping to the 'burbs: The data "predicts a different and more vibrant future for our cities. City dwellers aren't looking for homes in the suburbs, but other similar cities - a place not so different from where they were already living."
- [Law professor](#) Jonathan Zasloff explains why Trump scrapping the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule isn't a bad thing: "I have spent my career advocating for fair housing. It's good to see Obama's rule go - it didn't include the policy tools necessary to achieve fair housing."
- [Biron talks](#) to an impressive array of urban planners and designers re: how the policing debate is bringing about an "urban design rethink. City planning can tear communities apart or bring them together. Design and planning should be receiving more attention in conversations about community rebuilding" ("We took down all of our 'no' signs").
- [NYC-based](#) architect Michael Caton explains why "architecture needs a culture shift" - and the two components design firms grappling "with the pervasiveness of institutional racism" must take into account: "The path to combat organizational biases runs through organizational cultures of candor and trust - held accountable by data."
- [Rachel Shabi](#) explores how Britain's "city parks and green spaces have 'become living rooms' during the pandemic [people cleaning up litter!] - the worry is that they will become ever-more commercialized, rendering them less inclusive or accessible precisely at the time we value them most."
- [Kamin cheers](#) Dirk Denison's "vibrant remake" of Mies's "workhorse tower Kacek Hall into a dorm at Chicago's IIT, reminding us that often "the workhorses are worth saving, too" ("even the so-called Mies police are unlikely to object to the result").
- [Hickman](#) reports that Gensler is taking on EE&K's 2001 Hollywood & Highland complex in L.A., renamed Ovation Hollywood, as "part of a major \$100 million design overhaul" to give it "a new, less retail-centric purpose" to appeal to both locals and tourists.
- [Buday offers](#) an interesting(?) take on "why learning to tell tall tales might help the profession - disinformation works and works well - opportunities await" architects who get it (he's "not sanctioning moral abandonment or ethics code violations" - but a bit of "fiction for the betterment of humankind" is o.k.).
- [Hopkirk](#) x 2: She reports that AHMM's Simon Allford won the RIBA presidential election - "but turnout was just 13%."
- [She talks](#) to British architects who "lament 'lowest turnout in 30 years'" and the "calls for review as 'pitiful'"

13.2% bother to vote for RIBA president." + RIBA's Alan Jones responds.

● [ASLA announces](#) Torey Carter-Conneen, who has spent "a lifetime of committed advocacy for a more just society," as its new Chief Executive Officer (great pick!).

● [Exhibit](#) Columbus announces its 2020-2021 curatorial theme, "New Middles: From Main Street to Megalopolis, What is the Future of The Middle City?" - and the 5 (very cool!) recipients of the Miller Prize who hail from Minneapolis, Miami and Madrid, Chicago, Brooklyn, and London.

● [Wachs reports](#) on the 30 recipients of new National Organization of Minority Architects fellowships that support BIPOC architecture students who will now take on "paid internships at firms across the country, virtually" ("take note: Most are looking for full-time work when they graduate").

● [The German](#) Design Council bestows the ICONIC AWARDS 2020 on Kengo Kuma and Associates as Architects of the Year, and Alberto Caiola Studio as Interior Designers of the Year + link to "a comprehensive summary of all winners."

● [Eyefuls](#) of Dominique Perrault Architecture's winning entry in the Hangang District Urban Design International Master Competition, along with eyefuls of 2nd place winners and other invited entrants.

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[Aaron Betsky: An Image of Our Post-Covid Future: how a photograph from the protests in Detroit can serve as a guidebook for the profession: What struck me...was the confluence of symbolism...The Renaissance Center is now...a relic of a bygone era of urban renewal...an emblem of how increasingly useless buildings as objects have become...it makes me wonder why anybody is still building new office buildings...the pandemic and the civil unrest has pointed to an even larger issue...We need to think beyond such objects...We will design the commons, not the castle...if architects understand that they must work with and for the people who were pictured...then they will have a good sense of the task at hand. -- Laura Walker/SmithGroup - Architect Magazine](#)

[Susannah Black: Not Back to Normal - Part 1: An interview with \[architect, urbanist, author, and educator\] John Massengale on urbanism after the pandemic: "I think what we have now is an opportunity. We don't need to go back to normal, or just stick it out - we can use this time to make places that are better than normal...the first step toward a more livable city is to make it a city for people and not cars...I think that this pandemic can allow us to question a lot of Modernism with a capital "M." Not just sprawl, not just highways, but a lot of aspects of urban form." - Breaking Ground](#)

[Kaley Overstreet: Why It's Not Quite Time to Give Up City Living: Although it's true that some suburban transplants have unshackled their lives from the urban areas that they once called home...the real story lies with the data that predicts a different, and more vibrant future for our cities...There are undoubtedly people who have flocked to the more rural areas and who won't return...but a close look at the numbers shows that the movement isn't as great as we may think...City dwellers aren't looking for homes in the suburbs, but other similar cities...a new lease on life in a place not so different from where they were already living. - ArchDaily](#)

[Jonathan Zasloff: I Have Spent My Career Advocating for Fair Housing. It's Good to See Obama's Rule Go: The Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule, as adopted by the Obama administration and scrapped by the Trump administration, didn't include the policy tools necessary to achieve fair housing:](#)



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Withdrawing the rule represents a crucial first step in breaking down racial segregation - for reasons completely opposite to Trump's intentions...In fairness to AFFH rule, it certainly helps to establish a unified Assessment Tool for state and local governments...But the rule does nothing to advance fair housing... Celebrating the AFFH rule presents the real danger that it will become a ceiling rather than a floor for future fair housing policy. - PLANetizen

Carey L. Biron: 'Unite us': Policing debate spurs U.S. urban design rethink: City planning can tear communities apart or bring them together, practitioners say: As the United States grapples with issues of race, inequality and policing...Justin Garrett Moore/NYC Public Design Commission and others say the conversation needs to include a focus on the role of urban planners and designers...Design and planning should be receiving more attention in conversations about community rebuilding..."We took down all of our 'no' signs." -- Julian Agyeman/Tufts University; Kurt Christiansen/American Planning Association/APA; Bryan Lee Jr./Design Justice; Jay Pitter/Canadian Urban Institute; Mark Treskon/Urban Institute- Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Michael Caton: Architecture Needs a Culture Shift: As society grapples with the pervasiveness of institutional racism, design firms looking to take action must factor in two components: Being on the right side of history is seldom comfortable nor overwhelmingly popular...The path to the formation of specific solutions to combat organizational biases runs through organizational cultures of candor and trust - held accountable by data. Amid the sweeping awakening to the insidiousness of racial caste in America, organizational inaction is complicity in sustaining systems of inequity. - Architect Magazine

Rachel Shabi: Sanctuary in the city: how urban parks saved our summer: Created by the Victorians as Britain industrialised, city parks and green spaces have 'become living rooms' during the pandemic: The surge in use created greater interest in previously overlooked green spaces...Historians think we are currently using parks in the manner originally intended...Some particulars of the coronavirus crisis have helped forge our reclamation of urban green spaces...the worry is that parks will become ever-more commercialised, rendering these landscapes less inclusive or accessible precisely at the time we value them most. - Guardian (UK)

Blair Kamin: Mies van der Rohe's workhorse tower gets a vibrant remake as a dorm at Chicago's Illinois Institute of Technology: ...Kacek Hall...that Mies designed in the mid-1950s as faculty, staff and married student housing and that...Dirk Denison has creatively converted into an undergraduate dorm...squat, lacking the perfect proportions and elegant refinements of Mies' iconic, steel-and-glass high-rises...But it speaks with an honest, sometimes stirring, voice...Even the...so-called Mies police, are unlikely to object to the result...it all feels fresh, not nostalgic...[It] isn't Crown Hall...but not every building has to be a masterpiece to merit preservation. The workhorses, this fine renovation reminds us, are worth saving too. -- Justin DeGross - Chicago Tribune

Matt Hickman: Los Angeles's Hollywood & Highland complex to get new name, shift focus away from retail: ...the over-400,000-square-foot entertainment and shopping complex...will be getting a new name and a new, less retail-centric purpose as part of a major \$100 million design overhaul...will be rechristened as Ovation Hollywood...has struggled and long been a frequent target of criticism, much of it design-focused...Instead of a tourist-snaring shopping mall presented in a mishmash of architectural styles, [it] is meant to be a toned-down and diversified town square of sorts catering to both locals and tourists. -- EE&K (2001); Gensler- The Architect's Newspaper

Richard Buday: Modern Architects Stink at Lying. Luckily, That's Fixable: Why learning to tell tall tales might help the profession: ...modern architects' most conspicuous trait is their aesthetic honesty...Sincerity leaves little room for imagination...disinformation works and works well. For architects who realize and embrace this phenomenon...The opportunity for architects to reshape reality and, therefore, society cannot be overstated...Successful influencers appeal to people's emotional center, not their reasoning mechanism...I am not sanctioning moral abandonment or ethics code violations. My credo is always be truthful...Except in design. There, we are free to sully ourselves in fiction for the betterment of humankind. - Common Edge

Elizabeth Hopkirk: Simon Allford wins RIBA presidential election: AHMM co-founder beat four other contenders - but turnout was just 13%: ...the first time students have been allowed to vote...Turnout was just 13.2%. Allford was elected at the fourth stage with 58.9% of the votes. The RIBA said 17.2% of chartered members voted and just 6.66% of newly enfranchised student, associate and affiliate members voted. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Elizabeth Hopkirk: Architects lament 'lowest turnout in 30 years': Calls for review as 'pitiful' 13.2% bother to vote for RIBA president: Jack Pringle: "If the turnout was low, it just underlines the work we have in front of us to make RIBA relevant to all architects again." + RIBA's Alan Jones' response- BD/Building Design (UK)

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Announces Torey Carter-Conneen as New Chief Executive Officer: He most recently served as Chief Operating Officer of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Prior to his leadership at AILA, Torey was the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Center For American Progress (CAP), COO and later Acting President and CEO at the LGBTQ Victory Fund and Institute... - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Exhibit Columbus reveals 2020-2021 curatorial theme and Miller Prize recipients: ...the just-announced curatorial theme..."New Middles: From Main Street to Megalopolis, What is the Future of The Middle City?"...5 recipients of the J. Irwin and Xenia S. Miller Prize, all of which, at the invitation of Zeiger and Gil, will conceive site-responsive outdoor installations... -- Mimi Zeiger; Iker Gil/MAS Studio; Dream the Combine (Minneapolis); ecosistema urbano (Miami and Madrid); Future Firm (Chicago; Olalekan Jeyifous (Brooklyn); Sam Jacob Studio (London)- The Architect's Newspaper

Audrey Wachs: New National Organization of Minority Architects fellowship supports BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, and People Of Color] architecture students: ...accepted 30 to a new fellowship that places future architects in paid

internships at firms across the country, virtually. The NOMA Foundation Fellowship allows recipients to do design research at participating firms under the guidance and mentorship of senior architects...funded by the American Institute of Architects Large Firm Roundtable (AIA LFRT)...take note: Most of the following fellowship recipients are looking for full-time work when they graduate.
-- Kimberly Dowdell/HOK - The Architect's Newspaper

ICONIC AWARDS 2020: Kengo Kuma and Associates Named 'Architects of the Year' by the German Design Council: ...Alberto Caiola Studio ("Interior Designers of the Year"). The "Architects' Client of the Year" honor went to Adidas AG + A link to a comprehensive summary of all winners. - ArchDaily

Results: Hangang District Urban Design International Master Competition: "The Transformation and Revival of Industrial Heritages" -- Dominique Perrault Architecture; WANG Jianguo Team; ZHUANG Weimin Team; Coop Himmelb(l)au Team; UNStudio Team; Academician CHENG Taining - 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

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Today's News - Thursday, August 13, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, August 18. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe.

- [Chakrabarti's](#) PAU responds to Betsy's rather negative response to PAU's proposal to ban private vehicles in Manhattan: "Calling our proposal a 'fairy tale' is not only factually unsubstantiated, it is highly irresponsible given that serious and similar discussions are being advanced all over the world."
- [Fazzare](#) gets feedback from "15 architects on being Black in architecture - their challenges, successes, and hopes for the future in the architecture industry, where change is a long time coming."
- [Harvard](#) GSD's no-holds-barred interview series "Dismantling Systemic Racism in Pedagogy and Practice" offers faculty (Mori, Mehrotra, Whiting, Waldheim & many more!) discussing "systemic racism and anti-Black violence embedded in and facilitated by the disciplines of design and planning" and "the need to rebuild pedagogies, institutional structures, forms of professional practice, and accountability in moving forward."
- [A round-up](#) of 6 initiatives around the world "that empower women in the architectural and construction sectors."
- [Former RIBA](#) president and chair of HTA Design Ben Derbyshire considers how the U.K. "should approach a nationwide design code. It's really important that these proposals are not subverted by a political sensibility with its roots in a conservative predilection for all things 'traditional'" (traditional "'houses that look like houses' came 6th and last in the ranking of spontaneous likes" in one study).
- [Parman explains](#) why the attempt to end local control of housing development in the U.K. echoes similar attempts in California - in both places, "the top-down proposals present a Hobson's Choice between dysfunctional local control and top-down measures that resolve it by eliminating it. Back to the drawing board!"
- [Meanwhile](#), Prince Charles offers encouragement in a message to Gerald Bauer and Austin Tunnell, winners of the Award for Emerging Excellence in the Classical Tradition, bestowed by ICAA, The Prince's Foundation, and INTBAU.
- [NYC-based](#) Stephen B. Jacobs, "known for his multimillion-dollar creations - recently finished a much different project - and charged nothing" - a Holocaust memorial in Tirana honoring Albanians who saved Jews; he also designed a memorial at Buchenwald, where he spent time as a child.
- [Novakovic-](#) is quite taken by "Magical Imperfection: The Life and Architecture of Raymond Moriyama," a new documentary that "traces the architect's commitment to social justice and public good through the built environment - with vivid narration from the 90-year-old architect. It's refreshing (and rare) to see the built environment's potential explained so clearly."

COVID-19 news continues:

- [The latest](#) version of "Manual of Physical Distancing" offers 211 pages of new updates and drawings "that make legible the spatial, architectural, and urban issues and impacts of COVID-19," created by LTL Architects in collaboration with Guy Nordenson, and supported in part by Princeton University Covid-19 Research Projects.

● [MASS Design](#) Group's Alan Ricks "says that long before COVID, the poor condition of public school buildings was a problem - challenging us to face the reality of our failures. We need a radical reimagining of schools as a critical infrastructure - there is no physical and social infrastructure more important."

Page-turners:

● [A great](#) Q&A with Inga Saffron re: her new book "Becoming Philadelphia: How an Old American City Made Itself New Again": What is the state of architecture in Philadelphia? "Not good - we're still so traumatized by the bad years that we're afraid to demand good design from developers."

● [Wainwright](#) parses Diana Darke's "Stealing from the Saracens: How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe" - an "exhilarating, meticulously researched book that sheds light on centuries of borrowing" - and "takes an eloquent sledgehammer to ignorant, dog-whistle propaganda" of right-wing nationalist groups.

● [Pagliacolo](#) cheers Bruce Mau's "MC24" that "provides a roadmap for radical optimism - full of bold, big-hearted vision. There's never been a better time for bringing down the house and building something better in its place. Mau has laid out the ultimate how-to."

● [Pedersen's](#) essay in the book "Jewel Changi Airport": Safdie's "boldest achievement: an astounding public space - an audacious experiment in placemaking, the urban garden. To experience this makes me giddy" (we want to see this "friendly invader (think E.T.'s rescue ship)!").

● [Gideon Fink](#) Shapiro cheers the 21 essays in "Frederick Kiesler: Face to Face with the Avant-Garde" that "are like 21 faces of a prism that reveals Kiesler" and "sheds light on projects and events [and] sometimes warm, sometimes fraught relationships of this ever-beguiling artist-architect."

● [Leilah Stone](#) cheers the Canadian Centre for Architecture's "Architecture Itself and Other Postmodernist Effects," based on Sylvia Lavin's 2018 exhibition and "richly illustrated with unassuming items lost or disregarded in prominent histories."

● [Catherine](#) Bauer's "Modern Housing," first published in 1934, is being reissued with a foreword by architectural historian and Places columnist Barbara Penner - "it seemed strange to have to 'introduce' Bauer - for three decades one of America's most prominent advocates for public housing - at all. But the inaccessibility of much of her writing has meant that her work has been little discussed in architectural histories."



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Our Carless Future: PAU Responds to Aaron Betsky's Story: Practice for Architecture and Urbanism argues the merits of its proposal to ban most private vehicles from Manhattan: In the story "Welcome to Our Carless Future"...Betsky fails to grasp primary elements of what our firm proposed...despite the fact that these elements could have been found easily had he done the most basic research...calling our proposal a "fairy tale" is not only factually unsubstantiated, it is highly irresponsible given that serious and similar discussions are being advanced by sustainability and equity advocates all over the world. -- Vishaan Chakrabarti; Janette Sadik-Khan - Architect Magazine

Elizabeth Fazzare: 15 Architects On Being Black In Architecture: Though anti-racism statements have been made and justice, equity, diversity and inclusion actions have been pledged, the fact remains that only 2% of all of the licensed architects in the U.S. are Black. We spoke with...15 about their challenges, successes and hopes for the future in the architecture industry, where change is a long time coming. -- Katherine Williams; Steven Lewis/ZGF Architects; Samantha Josaphat/Studio 397 Architecture; Richie Hands/Lamar Johnson Collaborative; Daimian S. Hines/Hines Architecture + Design; Kwesi Daniels/Tuskegee University; Melanie Ray/Hord Coplan Macht; Sekou Cooke;



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Podcast

Pascale Sablan/S9 Architecture; Ibrahim Greenidge/BOLT Architecture; Jason Pugh/Gensler; Richey Madison/Stantec; Kwesi Daniels; Anzilla R. Gilmore/Rice University; Renauld Deandre Mitchell/Moody Nolan; Tiffany D. Brown/SmithGroup - Cultured Magazine

Dismantling Systemic Racism in Pedagogy and Practice: An Interview Series: faculty at the Harvard Graduate School of Design discuss systemic racism and anti-Black violence embedded in and facilitated by the disciplines of design and planning in the U.S...[and] the need to rebuild pedagogies, institutional structures, and forms of professional practice across the design disciplines, and the accountability of leading institutions like the GSD in moving forward. -- Toshiko Mori; Rahul Mehrotra; Sarah M. Whiting; Charles Waldheim; Sean Canty; Abby Spinak; Diane Davis; Mark Lee; Chris Reed; Anita Berrizbeitia; Krzysztof Wodiczko; Alex Krieger; Dan D'Oca; Erika Naginski; Malkit Shoshan; Preston Scott Cohen - Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD)

6 Initiatives that Empower Women in the Architectural and Construction Sectors: ...everywhere around the globe. Playing a huge role in the integration of female power into these disciplines, these movements take on many forms such as organizations, websites, platforms, etc. working with professionals, artisans, and workers. -- Tiffany Brown, 400 Forward; Anastasia Elrouss/Warchée (Middle East); Carina Guedes/Architecture in the Periphery (Brazil); Rebelarchitette; Pioneering Women of American Architecture/Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BAAF); Carol Vasques/Débora Boniatti/MMW - Mulher, Mulher, Woman - ArchDaily

Ben Derbyshire: Beauty, privacy and cupboards. What do the people really want? He asks how we should approach a nationwide design code: ...Urbed (Urbanism, Environment and Design), has been appointed...to come up with a national model urban design code...It's really important that these proposals are not subverted by a political sensibility with its roots in a conservative predilection for all things "traditional"...Three studies confirm that the lay public have a wide view of what outcomes they are seeking from the development of new homes and neighbourhoods - and beauty is just one of these...Traditional architecture or 'houses that look like houses' came sixth and last in the ranking of spontaneous likes... -- HTA Design - BD/Building Design (UK)

John J. Parman: Boris Johnson's Wake-Up Call to Housing Advocates in California: His attempt to end local control of housing development echoes attempts in the Golden State: What Johnson and his Steve Bannon-like lieutenant...are proposing is a hodgepodge of Prince Charles-inflected New Urbanism with John Ruskin-inspired borrowings from Roger Scruton...proposing to control real estate development from the top and gut local control...Both in California and in the U.K., the top-down proposals on offer present a Hobson's Choice between dysfunctional local control and top-down measures that resolve it by eliminating it...My sense is that we have better options. Back to the drawing board! - Common Edge

Prince Charles Champions Classical Architecture and Its Emerging Talents: [He] shared a message with the winners of the Award for Emerging Excellence in the Classical Tradition: ...issued by the Institute of Classical Art & Architecture (ICAA), The Prince's Foundation, and the International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture & Urbanism (INTBAU)...his statement expressed a belief that the classical tradition can build a bridge linking the past, present, and future of architecture and design. -- Gerald Bauer/Wade Weissmann Architecture; Austin Tunnell/Building Culture - Architectural Digest

This Holocaust survivor turned architect designed a memorial honoring Albanians who saved Jews: ...Stephen B. Jacobs is known for his multimillion-dollar creations...But he recently finished a much different project - and charged nothing...a Holocaust memorial for Albania's capital...at the entrance to the Grand Park of Tirana...Jacobs himself is a Holocaust survivor who spent time in a Nazi concentration camp as a child...His career ended up bringing him back to Buchenwald...commissioned to create a memorial for the "little camp," a quarantine zone where new prisoners, including Jacobs, stayed in brutal conditions. - Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Stefan Novakovic: Magical Imperfection: A New Documentary Explores the Life of Raymond Moriyama: ...the film traces the architect's commitment to social justice and public good through the built environment: "Magical Imperfection: The Life and Architecture of Raymond Moriyama" offers an approachable look at the work of a luminary. Anchored by vivid narration from the 90-year-old architect, Scott Calbeck's film situates [his] built work in a powerful historical and social context...It's refreshing (and rare) to see the built environment's potential explained so clearly. -- Moriyama & Teshima Architect - Azure magazine (Canada)

Manual of Physical Distancing: latest version is a 211 pages of new drawings that make legible the spatial, architectural and urban issues and impacts of COVID-19...includes updates and new sections: Additional designs for public spaces, parks and streets to accommodate increased demand for exterior areas; Techniques and proposals for expanding cycling infrastructure; etc. -- LTL Architects; Paul Lewis; Marc Tsurumaki; David J. Lewis; Guy Nordenson; Princeton University Funding Program for Rapid, Novel and Actionable COVID-19 Research Projects - LTL Architects

Alan Ricks: What "Back to School" Should Mean in America: MASS Design Group's founding principal and chief design office says that long before COVID, the poor condition of public school buildings was a problem. Let's seize this moment to fix that: While it's clear that the pandemic didn't create the state of America's public school buildings, it is challenging us to face the reality of our

failures...our grand vision of elevating schools has been left to rot over the last 60 years...here are three among many adaptations we can and must make...We need a radical reimagining of schools as a critical infrastructure...It's time to recognize there is no physical and social infrastructure more important. -

Metropolis Magazine

America's Biggest Small Town: Inga Saffron discussed her new book "Becoming Philadelphia: How an Old American City Made Itself New Again" and the state of the city with Charles F. McElwee: What is your takeaway from the city during that 20-year period [1999-2019]? "The city has gone from trying to manage decline to trying to manage success"...What is the state of architecture in Philadelphia? "Not good...we're still so traumatized by the bad years that we're afraid to demand good design from developers." - City Journal/The Manhattan Institute

Oliver Wainwright: Looted landmarks: how Notre-Dame, Big Ben and St Mark's were stolen from the east: ...an explosive new book [says] the designs of Europe's greatest buildings were plundered from the Islamic world: "Stealing from the Saracens: How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe" by Diana Darke, an exhilarating, meticulously researched book that sheds light on centuries of borrowing...book comes at a charged time, when supposedly western architecture is being mobilised by right-wing nationalist groups to bolster their idealised vision of a "pure" European identity...Darke's work takes an eloquent sledgehammer to such ignorant, dog-whistle propaganda... - Guardian (UK)

Elizabeth Pagliacolo:"MC24," Bruce Mau's New Book, Provides a Roadmap for Radical Optimism: Arriving at an unprecedented moment, the Massive Change founder's latest offering presents 24 principles for transforming your life, work and world: It is the worst of times...book arrives in the midst of a ravaging global pandemic and an anti-racist movement...But could it also be the best of times for designers? ...book is full of bold, big-hearted vision...And it's all good. There's never been a better time for bringing down the house and building something better in its place...Mau has laid out the ultimate how-to. - Azure magazine (Canada)

Martin C. Pedersen: Changi Airport's Jewel: For Every Traveler, a Garden: It's an astounding experience for both travelers and Singapore locals: Once upon a time, we're told, there was a "golden age" of air travel...No one without a ticket goes to the airport [today]. Fortunately...Changi's boldest achievement: an astounding public space...audacious experiment in placemaking, the urban garden...To experience this...makes me giddy...Changi (along with Tokyo Narita) is an anomaly: an actual "Aerotropolis" heavily frequented by local residents...spatially oriented...toward its beating heart. You're always aware of the garden...if the great garden...inspires imitators...then that will have been just one of Jewel's great legacies. -- Safdie Architects; Thomas Heatherwick; KPF-Common Edge

Gideon Fink Shapiro: "Frederick Kiesler: Face to Face with the Avant-Garde" argues Kiesler was the influencer at the center of American modernism: Its 21 essays "on network and impact" are like 21 faces of a prism that reveals Kiesler...It's jarring, at first, to see a serious artist-architect characterized as "a dedicated networker"...But the truth is he spent a lot of time schmoozing...helped fuel his career...sheds light on...projects and events [and] sometimes warm, sometimes fraught relationships...To this day [The Endless House] brings new

designers and thinkers into the orbit of this ever-beguiling artist-architect... -- Peter Bogner); Hani Rashid; James Wines/SITE - The Architect's Newspaper

Leilah Stone: Finding Purpose in the Quotidian Relics of "Postmodernization": A new book from the Canadian Centre for Architecture gathers the "obsolete artifacts" often overlooked by Postmodernism's historians: "Architecture Itself and Other Postmodernist Effects" is a compilation of research that fueled CCA's 2018 exhibition...curated by Sylvia Lavin...filled with unassuming items lost or disregarded in prominent histories of Postmodernism...richly illustrated...objects and ephemera are accompanied by essays from 16 contributors... -- Giovanna Borasi - Metropolis Magazine

A New Edition of Catherine Bauer's "Modern Housing": ...first published in 1934...being reissued by University of Minnesota Press with a foreword by architectural historian and Places columnist Barbara Penner...As she wrote [in 2018], it seemed strange to have to "introduce" Bauer - for three decades one of America's most prominent advocates for public housing - at all. But surveying her prodigious accomplishments as a public intellectual, writer, curator, activist, and educator...found that the inaccessibility of much of her writing - out of print, undigitized, or hidden behind paywalls - has meant that her work has been little discussed in architectural histories. - Places Journal

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Today's News - Tuesday, August 18, 2020

- [Holland Cotter](#) re: Höweler + Yoon et al.'s Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville: It turns "grief for a hidden past into a healing space. Power is not its language. Closure is not its goal. Active, additive remembrance is."
- [Moore minces](#) no words re: Fawley Waterside in Hampshire: It's "a hollow classical tribute act" that "resembles a prissy Poundbury" (ouch!). Even though Léon Krier resigned, it still has "recognizably Krieresque aspects."
- [Morgan minces](#) no words about "the invasion of the over-scaled buildings" in Providence that is "reaching a crisis point" (an "egregious leviathan" and "apartment house elephantiasis" included).
- [GGLO's Gerhard Mayer](#) minces no words about why "whack-a-mole urban planning in Los Angeles is not working. The region needs to enact many simultaneous interventions aimed at an improved and integrated whole" (there are places getting it right).
- [Gibson](#), on a brighter note, reports on Carlo Ratti's million-square-meter BIOTIC innovation district extension to Brasília that will include residential, monumental, gregarious, and bucolic urban scales. "Unlike the original design, it will integrate them with each other rather than keeping them separate."
- [Fender Katsalidis](#) and SOM win the competition to design the \$2.5 billion Central Place Sydney that will include a 37- and a 39-story tower that "will run on 100% renewable energy."
- [Harriet Thorpe](#) reports on the 6 BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic)-led architecture studios in the running "to design better housing for diverse communities" in London, sponsored by Brick By Brick and the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust.
- [Studio Gang](#), Henning Larsen, and Snøhetta went to Medora, North Dakota, to present their shortlisted designs for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library (lots of pix!).
- [Clare Dowdy](#) brings us eyefuls of "design's new happy mood" with "polychrome interiors, installations, and murals. While it may look like child's play, these evangelists take color seriously" (sunglasses recommended).
- [Robert Sullivan](#) brings us the fascinating tale of "how the world's largest garbage dump evolved into" the 2,200-acre Freshkills Park in Staten Island: "Bury the trash, plant some grass and do nothing for 20 years" - James Corner Field Operations' "idea was not just to build a park but to reimagine the idea of park."
- [In London](#), "new artificial trees guzzle as much pollution as 275 regular trees. City Trees are actually towers filled with different types of moss, which eat up particulates and nitrogen oxides while simultaneously producing oxygen" (benches included).
- [Design Miami/](#) CEO Jen Roberts and curatorial director Aric Chen talk about "their support for GlobalGiving's charitable efforts for COVID-19 relief" via the recently launched Design Miami/ Shop, and "the possibilities of a more accessible post-pandemic design fair" (and avoiding "fair fatigue").
- [Wanda Lau](#) asks 12 designers of color two questions to discern "what would convince them that the recent calls and vows to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the AEC sector would lead to meaningful, lasting change."
- [Plan to](#) spend some time with this series of articles that parse what "practitioners, educators, young professionals, industry leaders, and diversity, equity, and inclusion experts" say "to see what real change can

look like and to identify actions that every firm can take."

- [Bucharest-based](#) architect Andreea Cutieru looks at "the political dimension of architecture - some architects not only advocate for change, but actively get involved in jumpstarting the social progress through activism."
- [Two we couldn't](#) resist: A look at some of the 17 new public toilets in Tokyo in a new initiative between the Nippon Foundation and "some of the biggest names in the architecture" like Tadao Ando, Toyo Ito, and Fumihiko Maki (Shigeru Ban's are transparent - until they're not).
- [In celebration](#) of Brasilia's 60th anniversary, two star skateboarders "were granted unheard-of access, the ability to grind, skate and leap over the 13 structures" by Oscar Niemeyer - "a sight to behold" (indeed!!!).

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Holland Cotter: Turning Grief for a Hidden Past Into a Healing Space: The University of Virginia in Charlottesville, designed by Thomas Jefferson, was built by enslaved people. The Memorial to Enslaved Laborers acknowledges that long-suppressed history: As with any abstract form, this one invites many readings...But it's also embedded with hard factual data...During a stormy sunrise, rain...water dropping down the face, augmenting the engravings and memory marks, as though weeping for the enslaved...Power is not its language. Closure is not its goal. Active, additive remembrance is. -- Eric Höweler/Meejin Yoon/Höweler + Yoon Architecture; Mabel O. Wilson; Gregg Beam Landscape Architect; Frank Dukes; Eto Otitigbe - New York Times

Rowan Moore: Fawley Waterside, Hampshire: a hollow classical tribute act: Despite the government's new planning design codes, this New Forest 'mercantile city' development resembles a prissy Poundbury: ...for all that it intends to attract tech businesses and their employees, doesn't particularly look like the future...This old look is the point...Léon Krier...resigned when he felt his ideas were getting watered down...[still has] recognisably Krieresque aspects...comes with many admirable promises...It also comes...with a set of design codes...The government has called for a return to "pattern books"...a complex task, requiring resources and expertise. Let's hope the government means to fund it. - Observer (UK)

William Morgan: The Invasion of the Over-Scaled Buildings: Providence is undergoing an extreme scale shift. Buildings are not only getting bigger, but they are eroding the harmonious streetscape that makes this city special...The construction of new buildings that are outsized for their locations is reaching a crisis point...The problem is equally acute with smaller size projects that upset the balance between people, amenities, and civic responsibilities...new housing projects...are simply too big for their streetscapes, and thus erode a vital townscape. -- William Rawn Associates; Eric Zuena/ZDS Architecture; Kite Architects - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Gerhard W. Mayer/GGLO: Whack-a-Mole Urban Planning in Los Angeles Is Not Working: Solving one problem adds troubles somewhere else. The region needs to think holistically: Design and planning should enact many simultaneous interventions, creating a broad paradigm shift aimed at an improved and integrated whole...The post-Covid era will be an opportunity to define a new norm...a renewed public appreciation for urban development...This can happen...Our lives will depend on it. - Common Edge

Eleanor Gibson: Carlo Ratti unveils innovation district extension to Brasília

masterplan: ...will be an extension to the Lúcio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer-designed city...The one-million-square-metre district called BIOTIC will be...on a triangular plot of land near to the city's National Park...intended to solve some of the issues caused by the fragmentation of activities in Brasília...will include the four urban scales...residential, monumental, gregarious and bucolic. Unlike the original design, it will integrate them with each other rather than keeping them separate. -- MIT SENSEable City Lab - Dezeen

Fender Katsalidis and SOM [Skidmore, Owings & Merrill] design \$2.5 billion two-tower Central Place Sydney: ...will sit adjacent to the proposed headquarters of Atlassian by SHoP Architects and BVN...development will accommodate 150,000 square metres of office and retail spaces, as well as civic spaces wrapped around its edges...responds to the scale and materiality of the surrounding heritage precinct...will run on 100% renewable energy... - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Harriet Thorpe: London competition challenges architects to design better housing for diverse communities: A shortlist of BAME-led architecture studios has been announced by development company Brick By Brick and the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust...architects to design better housing for diverse communities...and giving promising smaller practices opportunities: ...six practices each demonstrated a variety of approaches, starting points and concepts. -- Architecture Doing Place; Gbolade Design Studio; Kristofer Adelaide Architecture; NimTim Architects; Jas Bhalla Architects;. McCloy + Muchemwa (supported by CZWG)wallp - Wallpaper*

Architecture firms unveil competing designs for Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in North Dakota: Representatives from Chicago-based Studio Gang, Copenhagen-based Henning Larsen and Oslo-based Snøhetta gathered in Medora to woo board members, potential donors and locals with high-definition renderings of their unique approaches to the project...Each firm is being paid \$50,000 and reimbursed for travel to Medora. -- Craig Dykers; Jeanne Gang; Michael Sørensen; Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects - Jamestown Sun (North Dakota)

Clare Dowdy: Design's new happy mood: There's a wave of positivity, fun and risk-taking emerging across the globe: These polychrome interiors, installations and murals are a far cry from the restrained, minimalist aesthetic that has dominated in some countries in recent times...Adam Nathaniel Furman has dubbed this phenomenon 'New London Fabulous'...While it may look like child's play, these evangelists take colour seriously..."It's about taking risks and having fun"... -- Amber Road; Lymesmith; Craig & Karl; Azab; Deborah Richards; Haruna Yamada/Hirokazu Kobayashi/Spread; Yinka Ilori; Ilori, Camille Walala; Morag Myerscough; Lara Lesmes/Space Popular - BBC Designed

Robert Sullivan: How the World's Largest Garbage Dump Evolved Into a Green Oasis: The radical fix for a noxious landfill in Staten Island: Bury the trash, plant some grass and do nothing for 20 years: A little less than two decades ago, the last steaming load of garbage arrived at Fresh Kills Landfill...possibly the least likely poster child for urban ecological restoration in the world, and it is radical not just for the way it works...as big as Lower Manhattan south of 23rd Street...James Corner Field Operations...idea was not just to build a park but to reimagine the idea of park. - New York Times

London's New Artificial Trees Guzzle As Much Pollution As 275 Regular Trees: Next in the war on global warming are...a series of CO2-filtering structures which have just been installed in Leytonstone...City Trees are actually towers filled with different types of moss, which eat up particulates and nitrogen oxides whilst simultaneously producing oxygen...also collect data about the surrounding environment, which can then be used to inform further green solutions. - Science and Nature

The recently launched Design Miami/ Shop offers over 800 collectibles for purchase: CEO Jen Roberts and curatorial director Aric Chen talk to AD India about...their support for GlobalGiving's charitable efforts for COVID-19 relief, and the possibilities of a more accessible post-pandemic design fair: "I think pre-Coronavirus, there was already a sense that the whole fair system needed to evolve...[also] an attempt to promote and encourage independent designers who may otherwise struggle for visibility. - Architectural Digest India

Wanda Lau: What Does Real Action Toward Achieving an Equitable Profession Look Like? 12 designers of color to share what would convince them that the recent calls and vows to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the AEC sector would lead to meaningful, lasting change: We asked two questions: 1. What will convince you that this call for change is different? 2. What actions, from your own experiences or observations, have effected real change? -- Maya Bird-Murphy/Chicago Mobile Makers; Teri Canada/Edwin Harris/Evoke Studio Architecture; Melissa R. Daniel/AMAR Group; Kathy Dixon/K. Dixon Architecture; Rainy Hamilton Jr./HamiltonAnderson; Alvin Huang/Synthesis Design + Architecture; Samantha Josaphat/Studio 397 Architecture/nycoba/NOMA; Rico Quirindongo/DLR Group; Quilian Riano/DSGN AGNC; Summer Sutton/Indigenous Scholars of Architecture, Planning and Design, Yale University School of Architecture; Alicia Volcy/Studio Volcy Design + Developmen - Architect Magazine

Be Part of the Change: Dismantling systemic racism in architecture will require time, hard work, and commitment...practitioners, educators, young professionals, industry leaders, and diversity, equity, and inclusion experts to see what real change can look like and to identify actions that every firm can take: How Do We Elevate the Next Generation of Architects of Color?; Meet NOMA's First Class of Foundation Fellows; DEI [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion] Experts List First Steps Toward a More Inclusive Workplace; Kimberly Dowdell Asks: Will You Join Us? - Architect Magazine

Andreea Cutieru: The Political Dimension of Architecture: Activism Through Design: ...do architects have the tools to make their own stand? Does architecture have the power to disrupt the status quo? Given the important role of the profession in shaping the built environment and urban life, some architects double their efforts and not only advocate for change, but actively get involved in jumpstarting the social progress through activism. Architects in Politics; The Right to Shelter; Public Space. -- Rem Koolhaas; Stephan Petermann; Stéphane Malka; Rebar/Park(ing) Day; Fine Young Urbanists; SHoP Architects - ArchDaily

Tokyo's latest attraction: Transparent public toilets: Though the restrooms sound risqué, they're actually part of an innovative project aimed at changing people's perceptions of public toilets...part of the newly launched Tokyo Toilet Project, a

series of re-invented public toilet facilities...Nippon Foundation...has partnered with some of the biggest names in the architecture and creative industries...to create 17 new public toilet facilities around Shibuya. -- Shigeru Ban; Tadao Ando; Toyo Ito; Masamichi Katayama/Wonderwall; Fumihiko Maki; Nao Tamura - CNN Travel

Skateboarders Transform Iconic Brazilian Architecture into Sensational Skate Parks: Brasilia celebrates 60 years since its inauguration as Brazil's capital...to commemorate the event, Red Bull teamed up with skateboarders Pedro Barros and Murilo Peres to honor some of the most iconic buildings around. Both were granted unheard-of access, the ability to grind, skate and leap over the 13 structures conjured from the mind of architect Oscar Niemeyer...a sight to behold. - Sports Illustrated

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Today's News - Wednesday, August 19, 2020

- [Oscar Holland](#) reports on the world's tallest prefab skyscrapers rising in Singapore - the Avenue South Residences, two 56-story towers with 988 apartments "formed from almost 3,000 vertically stacked 'modules' - being built in Malaysia."
- [Menna A. Farouk](#) reports on the "cautious hopes" and challenges for an initiative in Egypt to relocate some 850,000 slum dwellers to social housing units.
- [Uruguayan](#) architecture firm Gómez Platero has designed the "world's first large-scale memorial" for the victims of COVID-19 that "aims to be a space for mourning and reflection - and emotionally impactful - discussions with the Uruguayan government are currently" underway to choose an urban waterfront site.
- [Beth Broome](#) takes us on a tour of Pier 3, the last of five piers to be developed at Brooklyn Bridge Park by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (a "Discovery Garden, with its funhouse mirrors and a 'whisper room'" included).
- [Kara Mavros](#) takes on a tour of the 2.6-acre "Beach," a privately owned park by Surfacedesign on the Expedia Group campus that is open to the public on the shores of Seattle's Puget Sound (using a "bioretention strategy considered 'salmon-safe'").
- [Nate Berg](#) introduces us to BlackSpace, a collective of 200 Black architects, designers, artists, and urban planners "reimagining how cities get built - through community workshops, planning exercises, and cooperative design efforts to proactively bring Black voices and concerns into a development process that has long ignored them" (a manifesto included).
- [Keith Loria's](#) great Q&A: Deryl McKissack, who founded her namesake Washington, DC-based firm 30 years ago, re: the "challenges women and minority enterprisers in AEC confront - she has experienced firsthand the challenges of being a Black female CEO, and seen the lack of diversity in the AEC industry": "I have a seven-step plan to start to right these wrongs, and I'm asking my peers to commit to change using it."
- [Educator](#) to educator: Doreen Lorenzo's great Q&A with OCAD's Dori Tunstall re: how "the world's first Black and Black female dean of a design school is rewriting the rules of design education - using design to fight harmful design ideas and practices for BIPOC students."
- [Phil Bernstein](#) imagines architecture in 2031 via the tale of Kimberly Sklarek, a Black architect who, "seeing the white male leadership team clearly through the glass ceiling, decided to leave before she hit it"- and starts her own design-justice firm.
- [John Ronan's](#) "advice for young designers entering the profession: Learn how to hit curveballs. Passion is overrated. Beware desire. Avoid goals. Failing is good. Be an onion."
- [Eyefuls](#) of the Top 20 A' Design Award Winners + link to 2021 call for entries - deadlines: September 30 - February 28.
- [Architect-photographer](#) David Heymann, "seeking open space during lockdown in his hometown of Austin, Texas, finds himself in walking meditations in the particular kind of public space that is a cemetery."

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Oscar Holland: World's tallest prefab skyscrapers will rise in Singapore - but they're being built in Malaysia: ...two 192-meter-tall (630 feet) towers...named Avenue South Residences, will see 988 apartments formed from almost 3,000 vertically stacked "modules"...ADDP Architects, says the building method, known as Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC), is less labor-intensive and can help reduce waste and noise pollution...can help minimize disruption to those living nearby...facades will feature balconies, sun-shading screens and a number of "sky terraces" filled with trees and plant life.- CNN Style

Menna A. Farouk: Cautious hopes for slum dwellers relocated in Egypt housing project: A government scheme is relocating hundreds of thousands of slum dwellers to social housing units: But relocated residents point to challenges such as higher overall expenses...and an uncertain future for the informal businesses they used to run in slums...housing scheme is part of a five-year government project started in 2016 to either demolish or upgrade unsafe slums and relocate some 850,000 people...New compounds include gardens, schools, sports facilities, medical centres, shops, places of worship and access to public transport.- Thomson Reuters Foundation News

World's First Large-Scale COVID Memorial Designed for Victims of the Pandemic: ...to be an expression of hope in an uncertain time...called the "World Memorial to the Pandemic." It aims to be a space for mourning and reflection that's environmentally conscious and emotionally impactful...located on the edge of an urban waterfront...discussions with the Uruguayan government are currently in motion to choose a specific site...will take six months to complete. -- Gómez Platero- ArchDaily

Beth Broome: Pier 3 at Brooklyn Bridge Park by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates: An epic 85-acre waterfront park in New York nears completion as its final pier is developed for active and passive use: Over 20 years...MVVA has transformed a 1.3-mile stretch of a once-gritty industrial waterfront into a lush and treasured resource for New York...Pier 3...the final of five piers to be developed - has been timely, providing a verdant landscape for locals to retreat to during the pandemic.- Architectural Record

Kara Mavros: The Beach at Expedia Group by Surfacedesign: A San Francisco-based landscape firm creates a public waterfront park on a corporate site in Seattle: 2.6-acre "Beach"...on the shores of Seattle's Puget Sound...a privately owned park that is open to the public, is part of a larger campus that includes a new building by ZGF and a small pavilion by Aidlin Darling...has been hosting small musical performances, yoga, and other open-air activities, even during recent months seized by COVID-19. "Especially in these times, it has been a huge relief," says James Lord. -- Roderick Wyllie- Architectural Record

Nate Berg: Meet the Black design collective reimagining how cities get built: Urban planning often neglects or harms communities of color by cutting them out of the decision-making process. BlackSpace, a collective of 200 architects, designers, artists, and urban planners, is quietly working to change that: ...the organization works through community workshops, planning exercises, and cooperative design efforts to proactively bring Black voices and concerns into a development process that has long ignored them...principles of the manifesto

are now ingrained in the way [Justin Garrett Moore/NYC Public Design Commission] approaches his job... -- Emma Osore/New Museum New Inc.; Justin Garrett Moore/NYC Public Design Commission; Kenyatta McLean - Fast Company

Keith Loria: Q&A: Deryl McKissack On Challenges Women and Minority Enterprisers in AEC Confront: ...a civil engineer by training, founded her namesake Washington, DC-based firm 30 years ago...she has experienced firsthand the challenges of being a Black female CEO, and seen the lack of diversity in the AEC industry...[she talks] about her career and how minority firms in AEC can break ground, but can't gain ground, in the business: "I have a seven-step plan to start to right these wrongs, and I'm asking my peers to commit to change using it." -- McKissack & McKissack - Commercial Observer

Doreen Lorenzo: How OCAD's Dori Tunstall is rewriting the rules of design education: the world's first Black dean of a design school, is on a mission to redesign design education itself: "There's a lot of talk about how design is going to save the world after COVID-19. I approach that talk with a sense of cynicism, because design hasn't even addressed how it's harmed communities for the last few hundred years...Until design is able to reckon with itself in its role of past oppression, I don't see how it's going to be a liberator or savior in a post-COVID-19 future." -- Ontario College of Art and Design University - Fast Company / Co.Design

Phil Bernstein: Fast Forward: Imagining Architecture in 2031: In this work of fiction, Yale Architecture associate dean...imagines the future of the profession: Kimberly Sklarek...the only Black woman hired that year. Two years later she was a lead designer, but, seeing the white male leadership team clearly through the glass ceiling, she decided to leave before she hit it. She sensed an opportunity to capitalize on the emergent design-justice market - Architectural Record

John Ronan: Advice for Young Designers Entering the Profession: Life has thrown you a curveball, but it won't be the last time...so get used to it. Learn how to hit curveballs. Architecture school teaches you how to be a good student, but it doesn't teach you how to be a good architect...Here are suggestions to help you avoid some common missteps and hopefully make seeing your path a little easier: Passion is overrated: I don't care about your passions; I only care what you are good at. Beware desire. Avoid goals. Failing is good. Be an onion. - Architectural Record

Top 20 A' Design Award Winners: The best products, projects, and services worldwide that demonstrate superior design, technology, and creativity. -- Tetsuya Matsumoto; Kotaro Anzai; Jie Lee - Challenge Design; Hejingtang Studio; Aedas; Nie Jianping; Snorre Stinnesen; Shimao Group; Shenzhen IN Lab Design and Consultancy; etc. - ArchDaily

David Heymann: The Velvet Coffin: Seeking open space during lockdown in his hometown of Austin, Texas, an architect-photographer finds himself in walking meditations in the particular kind of public space that is a cemetery, where a history of the city is laid out in stone: In these photographs, I'm interested in capturing the scalar disjunction between apprehension of place by an individual...and landscape organization...cartographic in intent...all made before

[the murder of George Floyd...There are other ways to walk today, not in silence, and with different purpose. Yet I feel these photographs remain relevant to this moment.](#) - Places Journal

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Today's News - Thursday, August 20, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, August 25. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe.

- [ANN feature](#): Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee explain why they and a group of industry leaders launched a petition to the World Health Organization to work with built environment experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance that is currently hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best.
- [KPF's Hana Kassem & Parsons' Healthy Materials Lab's Jonsara Ruth](#) delve into "designing for equity and well-being in the COVID-19 Era. It is the responsibility of the designer and architect to understand the impact of our immediate surroundings on our cognitive, physical, and emotional well-being" (especially for "historically underserved" communities).
- [ThinkLab's](#) Amanda Schneider parses new research that "highlights the need to balance the emotional and physical needs of all employees, whether they work in the office or remotely" - and talks to designers "to develop a list of best practices and create a road map" for "an eventual shift back to the shared office."
- [Mehaffy & Salingaros](#) use "The Babushkas of Chernobyl," a "remarkable film" that follows the "elderly women who illegally returned to their houses after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster," to "raise important questions about health and the power of place - relevant in the current pandemic - we need to broaden our architectural thinking."
- [Fred A. Bernstein](#) visits Gehry's controversial Eisenhower Memorial: Its scale "is staggering," but "in a neighborhood of overbearing bureaucratic architecture, Gehry's handiwork is gentle and unobtrusive" and "should win over even his most hardened critics. Especially if they visit at night."
- [A look at](#) how NEXT architects and team "combine Chinese and Dutch cultures" to transform one of 102 abandoned villages in China's Jiangxi Province into "a unique art village" that "becomes an interactive environment constantly able to re-invent itself."
- [Kamin cheers](#) "an architecturally arresting pot shop" in Skokie, Illinois: "To say that the cannabis dispensary is startling would be an understatement. The exuberant design is even more startling when you realize that this is not a new building, but the renovation of a former bank branch - it's a head-turner."
- [Sheri Koones'](#) Q&A with Trey Trahan: "I was interested in his work because of his commitment to altering thoughts about architecture to meet the current crises plaguing" the world.
- [Gregory Wessner](#) is leaving Open House New York to be executive director at National Academy of Design, where he "will help shape and implement new forms of service to artists and architects and reimagine cultural advocacy for the 21st century."
- [The National](#) September 11 Memorial & Museum "reverses decision to scrap this year's 'Tribute in Light'" - it "will indeed grace the night sky over Lower Manhattan next month as was originally planned."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: "Here's what four iconic NYC landmarks could have looked like: These crazy construction plans never saw the light of day."

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [Wainwright](#) "goes behind the scenes at architecture's Antepavilion prize" - and meets "SHARKS!" by architect Jaimie Shorten - his "five man-eaters will blow bubbles, sing songs and deliver lectures about urbanism - if the council doesn't confiscate the fearsome creatures first."
- [Mariana](#) D'Aprile visits "Edith Farnsworth Reconsidered" at her Mies-designed Farnsworth House that "attempts to fill the gaps in her story. One can almost feel her struggling to be human - of wanting to reclaim her identity as a self-possessed, highly respected professional woman. Well, of course she was."
- [Michelle](#) Young brings us "#IfThenSheCan - The Exhibit" that has popped up in NYC's Central Park Zoo, and "shows six of the future 122 female statues that will be on display showcasing contemporary women in STEM careers."
- [Betsy](#) cheers Terreform ONE's monograph, "Design with Life: Biotech Architecture and Resilient Cities" - despite its limitations, it "made me smile and hope - if architecture is going to help save our planet, I hope it does so with forms as beautiful as" these.
- [Emily Anthes](#) offers an excerpt from her "The Great Indoors: The Surprising Science of How Buildings Shape Our Behavior, Health, and Happiness": "Thousands of studies have now made it abundantly clear: Good design is powerful medicine."
- [MPavilion](#): Encounters with Design and Architecture" features essays by the star-studded participating architects, and "aims to open up a broader conversation about cities, pavilions, parks and public spaces today, and their role in creating healthier places to live and work."

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ANN feature: Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee: The Role of Buildings in Combating COVID-19: As information on how to address the potential spread of COVID-19 via airborne aerosol emissions is hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best, a group of industry leaders launch a petition to the World Health Organization to work with built environment experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance. - ArchNewsNow.com

Designing for Equity and Well-Being in the COVID-19 Era: Hana Kassem, principal at KPF, and Jonsara Ruth, co-founder of Parsons' Healthy Materials Lab, outline the effects of the built environment on our well-being: ...pandemic has clearly highlighted the importance of healthy interior environments for all, especially low-income Black and Latinx communities that have been historically underserved...It is the responsibility of the designer and architect to understand the impact of our immediate surroundings on our cognitive, physical, and emotional well-being...Most importantly, these services should be provided regardless of budget constraints and the economic status of the stakeholders. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates - Metropolis Magazine

Amanda Schneider: Maintaining Work-Life Balance During and After a Pandemic: New research from ThinkLab highlights the need to balance the emotional and physical needs of all employees, whether they work in the office or remotely: ...a disproportionate number of young people report struggling with the transition...ThinkLab sat down with members of the design community to develop a list of best practices and create a road map that also takes into account an eventual shift back to the shared office. -- Eric Yorath/Figure3; Christina Brown/Eastlake Studio; Sarah Kuchar - Metropolis Magazine

Michael W. Mehaffy & Nikos A. Salingaros: The Chernobyl Paradox: The



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Intense Connection Between Health and Living Structure: A remarkable film, "The Babushkas of Chernobyl," raises important questions about health and the power of place: ...follows a group of elderly women who illegally returned to their houses shortly after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Surprisingly...[they] seemed to enjoy better health compared with their peers...relocated to other environments...the complexity of our environments plays a much larger role than is usually recognized...urges an important new study that would prove to what extent the environment is capable of overriding external impacts, some as toxic as radiation...Biophilia and design patterns together promote a healing environment...If we want to create healthier environments...we need to broaden our architectural thinking. - Common Edge

Fred A. Bernstein: A First Glimpse of Frank Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial: [He] visits the controversial project and finds that the architect managed to rise above his critics: The scale of the memorial...designed...in partnership with AECOM, is staggering...when the sun goes down, [it] comes alive. Thanks to the lighting scheme by...L'Observatoire International...in a neighborhood of overbearing bureaucratic architecture, Gehry's handiwork is gentle and unobtrusive...four-acre site... feels more like a park than a memorial...I still don't know if the memorial was necessary. But Gehry's design should win over even his most hardened critics. Especially if they visit at night. -- Roger Courtenay; Sergey Eylanbekov - Architect Magazine

NEXT architects combine Chinese and Dutch cultures to create unique art village: ...together with IVEM (Dutch Institute for heritage and marketing), Smartland Architects...Total Design (graphic design) and numerous artists were asked by the Government of Jinxi, Jiangxi Province to develop...for one of its 102 abandoned villages, Dafang...designed a flexible and attractive environment for Chinese and Dutch artists to work...The whole village, including its architecture and landscape, becomes an interactive environment constantly able to re-invent itself. - World Architecture News (UK)

Blair Kamin: In Skokie, an architecturally arresting pot shop reveals how marijuana has gone mainstream: To say that the soon-to-open Greenhouse cannabis dispensary...is startling would be an understatement. Amid the banality of a suburban commercial strip...a bright white, pleated facade sweeps across the building's front like a rising theater curtain. The exuberant design is even more startling when you realize that this is not a new building, but the renovation of...a former [bank] branch...It's no masterpiece, but its energy and presence are undeniable...it's a head-turner... -- Peter Theodore/Stephen Coorlas/CT architects - Chicago Tribune

Sheri Koonce: Interview With Trahan Architects - Named #1 Design Firm By AIA Architect Magazine: I had the opportunity to interview Trey Trahan...I was interested in his work because of his commitment to altering thoughts about architecture to meet the current crisis' plaguing this country [and] around the world...How do you see architecture evolving in general in the next several years? "The private domain is going to become more and more important...modes of transportation are going to be seriously affected, evaluated and re-thought." - Forbes

Kara Mavros: National Academy of Design Names Gregory Wessner New Executive Director: ...[he] spent over two decades with the Architectural League

of New York before becoming executive director of Open House New York in 2013...In this new role, Wessner will help shape and implement new forms of service to artists and architects and reimagine cultural advocacy for the 21st century. - Architectural Record

9/11 Museum reverses decision to scrap this year's "Tribute in Light": The National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City submitted an abrupt about-face...[it] will indeed grace the night sky over Lower Manhattan next month as was originally planned. Just two days earlier, the museum had announced it would cancel this year's staging...due to, no surprise, the coronavirus crisis...New York State will provide health personnel & supervision... - The Architect's Newspaper

Here's what four iconic NYC landmarks could have looked like: These crazy construction plans never saw the light of day: Midtown Manhattan Airport on Manhattan's west side; Civic centers on Roosevelt Island - Thomas J. George, 1902; A massive George Washington monument at Union Square - Calvin Pollard, 1800s; Totem-style tower in Times Square - George Ranalli, 1984 - Time Out New York

Oliver Wainwright: Sharks! Why are five man-eaters being unleashed into a popular canal? They'll blow bubbles, sing songs and deliver lectures about urbanism. Our writer goes behind the scenes at architecture's Antepavilion prize - and finds out why this year's winning entry has bite: ...latest iteration of the Antepavilion, an annual commission organised by Russell Gray's company, Shiva, in collaboration with the Architecture Foundation. That's if the council doesn't confiscate the fearsome creatures first..."SHARKS!" is by Jaimie Shorten, a Hackney-based architect more used to designing residential schemes than great whites.

Gray has a long record of baiting the authorities. - Guardian (UK)

Marianela D'Aprile: The Farnsworth House gets period decor in an effort to shine light on its mysterious owner: The inner life of Edith Farnsworth remains something of a mystery...eclipsed by two names - her own (surname) and that of...Mies van der Rohe. "Edith Farnsworth Reconsidered" staged inside Edith's eponymous, Mies-designed house in Plano, Illinois, attempts to fill the gaps in her story...One can almost feel her struggling to be human...exhibit exudes a sense of wanting to reclaim her identity as a self-possessed, highly respected professional woman...Well, of course she was... -- Peter Palumbo; National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) - The Architect's Newspaper

Michelle Young: All-Female Statues in "#IfThenSheCan - The Exhibit" Pops Up in Central Park Zoo: Timed with the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote...shows six of the future 122 female statues that will be on display showcasing contemporary women in STEM careers...it will constitute the most women statues ever assembled in one location, at one time...Stay tuned as we share with you the unveiling of the Women's Rights Pioneers Monument in Central Park week! -- Lyda Hill Philanthropies IF/THEN Initiative - Untapped Cities

Aaron Betsky: Terreform ONE and the Quest for a New Garden of Eden: the firm's monograph, "Design with Life: Biotech Architecture and Resilient Cities," a

study in how architecture can help save the planet: ...no firm working today is better at pushing [the] convergence of natural and technological processes...Mitchell Joachim and Maria Aiolova collect their projects from the last two decades and shows the full breadth - but also the limitations - of that work...book's limitation...it never develops an argument beyond its fairly straightforward premise...[it] made me smile and hope, that made me marvel at the inventiveness of the forms... if architecture is going to help save our planet, I hope it does so with forms as beautiful as those Joachim and Terreform ONE create. - Architect Magazine

Emily Anthes: Architecture of Healing: Healing in the Hospital Starts With the Architect: When it comes to hospitals, the right design can speed up recovery - or slow it: Thousands of studies have now made it abundantly clear: Good design is powerful medicine...Roger Ulrich's study, which was published in Science in 1984, is frequently cited as the beginning of a new era, the birth of what became known as evidence-based design. - Discover Magazine

Melbourne's MPavilion reflects upon its contribution to urban health: The annual temporary pavilion commissioned by the Naomi Milgrom Foundation has launched "MPavilion: Encounters with Design and Architecture," featuring essays by participating architects: [Pavilion] is a worthy example of the benefits that architecture can have on public spaces and the urban community...[brings] together stories about its social impact through images and essays by architects and writers...aims to open up a broader conversation about cities, pavilions, parks and public spaces today, and their role in creating healthier places to live and work. -- Amanda Leveté; Bijoy Jain; Rem Koolhaas; Sean Godsell; David Gianotten; Carme Pinós; Glenn Murcutt - Wallpaper*

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Today's News - Tuesday, August 25, 2020

- [Sisson delves](#) into how "Covid-19 has exposed the lethal vulnerabilities of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities - exposing a deadly dilemma at a challenging time," and talks to architects about how they're dealing with it.
- [Darran Anderson](#) delves into "why every city feels the same now. A return to vernacular architecture is overdue. If there is to be a habitable future, it will need to be vernacular" - not "monumental follies."
- [Lamster](#) bemoans the selection process for the team (led by Weiss/Manfredi) tasked with the transforming "the ugliest building in Dallas - the dreary" Dawson State Jail - into a gateway to a new park; by not including the public - "the result has the unfortunate appearance of a preordained outcome."
- [Wainwright](#), on a brighter note, cheers "an astonishing variety of 20 postwar living landscapes and buildings being awarded protection" that includes factory ponds and a car park near Heathrow - "an eye-opening move that might make you look again at an innocuous bit of verge or a concrete bench."
- [Luo Jingmei](#) parses how architects are using biophilic design to "bring more greenery to Singapore - already a poster child for biophilic architecture" because of long-standing "astute directives and incentives that have supported the creation of a lush urban landscape, which has become part of our collective psyche."
- [Edwin Slipek](#) uses "a sublime and mind-bending" show at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts as the jumping-off point to explore the Egyptian Revival treasures in Richmond.
- [Poet, activist](#), journalist, and essayist Claire Schwartz brings us the fascinating tale of how (the mostly unsung) June Jordan and Buckminster Fuller "tried to redesign Harlem" with "a plan for public housing without displacing any of its existing residents, who often became the collateral damage of 'urban renewal.' Though 'Skyrise for Harlem' wasn't built, it wasn't a failure."
- [Speaking](#) of Harlem, Kimmelman takes us on another of his wonderful walkabouts - this time in "New York's most storied neighborhood" - with David Adjaye, who moved to Harlem with his family in 2015, when he was tapped to design a new home for the Studio Museum.
- [Speaking](#) of Kimmelman: Spencer Bailey's great Q&A with the critic re: "his lesser-known talents as a pianist, his three-plus-decade path at The New York Times, and his goal as architecture critic to build a greater discourse around designing cities that are better, healthier, and simply fairer for all": "As with all architecture, intent and result are very often not the same thing."
- [Meghan Edwards'](#) great Q&A with S9 Architecture's Pascale Sablan, "a deeply committed and passionate advocate for the marginalized and underserved" - and "the 315th living female Black registered architect in the U.S." (September 1 is deadline to submit to her SAY IT LOUD initiative that is elevating the voices and work of women and diverse architects and designers).
- [NCARB launches](#) its Destination Architect campaign, a new educational STEAM resource for aspiring architects and mentors, that includes a guide to earning and helps shorten the path to licensure.
- [Sarah Holder](#) talks to Brad Hargreaves, founder and CEO of Common, the largest co-living company in the U.S., re: his intentions in launching Remote Work Hub, "a public competition in the hopes that under-the-radar, more affordable cities will apply to host a housing and office project purpose-built to capture remote workers."

● [Request](#) for Proposals/RFP: Common's Remote Work Hub site selection competition. Stage 1 Expression of Interest/EOI deadline: October 16.

● [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee explain why they and a group of industry leaders launched a petition to the World Health Organization to work with industry experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance that is currently hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best.

Winners all!

● [Robert Booth](#) talks to some of the six shortlisted architects in the U.K.'s Home of 2030 design competition, many who "hope to tear down garden fences of England's future homes. But entrants fear their designs will be resisted by builders determined to stick with existing blueprints."

● [Egyptian](#) Architect Abdelhalim Ibrahim Abdelhalim, founder of Community Design Collaborative Abdelhalim, takes home the 2020 Tamayouz Lifetime Achievement Award - and eye-fuls of some of his stunning projects!

● [One of the](#) Deborah J. Norden Fund 2020 travel grant winners "will explore placemaking tactics used in Brooklyn, Illinois, the first Black incorporated village in the U.S."; the other "will visit and study enclave communities for adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities across the country."

● [The International](#) Committee of Architectural Critics announced its 2020 shortlist for the Dennis Sharp CICA Awards for Architectural Criticism - Kamin & Kimmelman (two of our faves) are in the running.

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[Patrick Sisson: Getting Old Needs a New Look: Covid-19 has exposed the lethal vulnerabilities of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities. Can better design make aging safer? For the entire multibillion-dollar ecosystem of senior living in the U.S...the pandemic is exposing a deadly dilemma at a challenging time...design trends have been pushing...more independence and social connectivity...But the deadly impact of the coronavirus is forcefully pushing back in the opposite direction...the true dimensions of the silver tsunami are only now becoming clear. -- Matthias Hollwich/Hollwich Kushner/HWKN; Anthony Vivirito/The Architectural Team; MASS Design Group - Bloomberg CityLab](#)

[Darran Anderson: Why Every City Feels the Same Now: Glass-and-steel monoliths replaced local architecture. It's not too late to go back: A return to vernacular architecture...is overdue. It can combat the placelessness that empires and corporations have imposed...\[It\] aims for harmonious interaction with the environment...The goal is not to replace glass skyscrapers with thatch huts, but to see vernacular as the future...rather than abandoning it to the past...If there is to be a habitable future, it will need to be vernacular: reengaging with people where they actually live rather than fixated on monumental follies. -- Mies van der Rohe; Minoru Yamasaki; Marwa al-Sabouni; Minnette de Silva; Lina Bo Bardi; Muzharul Islam; Jørn Utzon; Alvar Aalto; Vann Molyvann; Carlo Scarpa; Rifat Chadirji; Hassan Fathy - The Atlantic](#)

[Mark Lamster: A makeover for the ugliest building in Dallas: Weiss/Manfredi has been selected for the coveted project to reinvent Dallas' notorious Dawson state jail, but like the jail itself, the process to get there was opaque - and raises serious questions about diversity: ...transformation would reinvent \[dreary beige-block jail\] as a gateway to the forthcoming Trinity Park \[200-acre Harold Simmons Park\]...Given the import of the commission, the Trinity Conservancy could have moved forward with a more public selection process, at minimum a public review of the finalists. Instead...the result has the unfortunate appearance](#)



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of a preordained outcome. -- Malone Maxwell Dennehy; Mell Lawrence Architects; Michael Van Valkenburgh - Dallas Morning News

Oliver Wainwright: Let's hear it for the Jammie Dodgers factory ponds! Everyday marvels win protection: From a car park near Heathrow to the water features of a Wirral biscuit factory, an astonishing variety of postwar living landscapes and buildings are being awarded protection. Is this a revolution? Historic England and the Gardens Trust want you to think differently...a fascinating new list of 20 postwar [sites]...an eye-opening move that might make you look again at an innocuous bit of verge or a concrete bench...refreshing list points to a time when parks, gardens and the wider public realm were treated with an ambition and level of care that we could do well to learn from. -- Beth Chatto; Geoffrey Jellicoe; Michael Brown; Eric Lyons; Roche-Dinkeloo; Dan Kiley - Guardian (UK)

Luo Jingmei: How Architects Are Bringing More Greenery To Singapore With Biophilic Design: Singapore is already a poster child for biophilic architecture...Over the years, astute directives and incentives have supported the creation of a lush urbanscape, which has become part of our collective psyche even before biophilic architecture became popular in other parts of the world. -- Moshe Safdie; WOHA; RMJM; Thomas Heatherwick; Serie Architects; Tan Szue Hann/Singapore Institute of Architects; Grant Associates; WilkinsonEyre; Wow Architects - Singapore Tatler

Edwin Slipek: Egyptian Revival Treasures in Richmond: "Treasures of Ancient Egypt: Sunken Cities" at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts [thru January 18, 2021] delivers a sublime and mind-bending experience...Richmond has a number of Egyptian revival structures built in the first half of the 19th century...Perhaps no Egyptian form is more ubiquitous than obelisks... -- B. Henry Latrobe; Robert Mills; Baskervill & Son - Style Weekly (Richmond, VA)

Claire Schwartz: When June Jordan and Buckminster Fuller Tried to Redesign Harlem: The "Skyrise for Harlem" project speaks with resonant clarity in this summer of uprisings: ... a plan for public housing that was attuned to the well-being of 250,000 of the neighborhood's residents, most of them Black...would transform Harlem without displacing any of its existing residents, who often became the collateral damage of "urban renewal"...15 fireproof, conical towers could take place above existing buildings...would contain...light-filled apartments of 1,200 square feet, each equipped with a balcony and parking spot...Though "Skyrise for Harlem" wasn't built, it wasn't a failure... - New Yorker

Michael Kimmelman: A Walk Through Harlem, New York's Most Storied Neighborhood: ...David Adjaye about Hotel Theresa, Marcus Garvey Park, the home of Langston Hughes, the Y.M.C.A. and other landmarks: Harlem is the American saga packed into one neighborhood, its architecture a palimpsest of African-American and Latino experience in the city...[Adjaye] began to explore the area while working on a mixed-used housing development...Sugar Hill, which opened in 2015. That same year he won the commission to do a new home for the Studio Museum in Harlem and moved to Harlem with his family...We "met" on 120th Street... -- Marble Fairbanks; SCAPE; James Cameron Mackenzie Jr.; Vertner Woodson Tandy; George Washington Foster; Costas Machlouzarides; Renzo Piano - New York Times

Spencer Bailey: Michael Kimmelman on Building More Beautiful and Equitable Cities: ...more often than not [he] sees the bigger picture and, at the same time, injects his own shrewd, deeply studied understanding of the subject at hand...Q&A re: his lesser-known talents as a pianist, his three-plus-decade path at The New York Times, and his goal as architecture critic to build a greater discourse around designing cities that are better, healthier, and simply fairer for all. - Time Sensitive

Meghan Edwards: 10 Questions With ... Pascale Sablan, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP: A deeply committed and passionate advocate for the marginalized and underserved...[she] often leads with the statement that she is "the 315th living female Black registered architect in the U.S."...founder and executive director of Beyond the Built Environment...showcases the work of women and diverse architects and designers...SAY IT LOUD has elevated the voices and work of 250 designers and architects..."being a great architect also lies in empowering those without a voice...Our charge is making sure the world is more equitable and just...to change policy that inches us closer to the inclusive and just profession and world that we all deserve." -- S9 Architecture; Aarris Architects; FXCollaborative- Interior Design magazine

NCARB Launches Destination Architect Campaign for Aspiring Architects: The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards launched...a new educational STEAM resource...designed to raise awareness of the architect's role and how to earn an architecture license through a video-based format...also highlights data-driven tips to help shorten the path to licensure. - ArchDaily

Sarah Holder: The Race to Make a Better Brand of Home Office: The co-living company Common will have cities compete to host a housing and office project purpose-built to capture remote workers: ...presenting this site selection process as a public competition in the hopes that under-the-radar, more affordable cities will apply...the focus on individual workers demonstrates that the principles of economic development bidding wars may be shifting to a more employee-based approach. - Bloomberg CityLab

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP: Remote Work Hub: site selection competition to create a live/work product that addresses the challenges associated with the accelerated growth of the distributed workforce; Stage I Expression of Interest/EOI deadline: October 16- Common

Robert Booth: Architects hope to tear down garden fences of England's future homes: Finalists in Home of 2030 design contest plan communal gardens to boost social integration on estates: ...six teams of designers to be teamed with volume housebuilders in an attempt to make the next generation of housing estates greener, healthier, better for elderly people and quicker to build...But entrants fear their designs will be resisted by builders determined to stick with existing blueprints for homes. -- Chris Brown/Igloo; Patrick Osborne/Perpendicular; Michal Pajakiewicz/Studio Open; HLM Architects; Outpost Architects; Openstudio Architects- Guardian (UK)

Egyptian Architect Abdelhalim Ibrahim Abdelhalim - 2020 Tamayouz Lifetime Achievement Award: ...established in 2014 as part of the Tamayouz Excellence Award programme, which champions and celebrates the best architecture worldwide...Over the last 40 years, he has...collaborated with some of the

world's most renowned architects...and his projects can be seen all over the world... -- Community Design Collaborative Abdelhalim (CDC Abdelhalim)- Bustler

The Deborah J. Norden Fund 2020 travel grant winners: Alicia Ajayi will explore placemaking tactics used in Brooklyn, Illinois, the first Black incorporated village in the United States...Chris Starkey and William Doran will visit and study enclave communities for adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities across the country. - Architectural League of New York

The International Committee of Architectural Critics shortlist announced for Dennis Sharp CICA Awards for Architectural Criticism 2020: ...four categories; CICA Bruno Zevi Book Award 2020, CICA Julius Posener Exhibition Catalogue Award 2020, CICA Pierre Vago Journalism Award 2020 and CICA Marina Waisman Digital Communication Award 2020...Chicago Tribune architecture critic Blair Kamin, The New York Times architecture critic Michael Kimmelman, Rice Design Alliance editor Jack Murphy compete in the CICA Pierre Vago Journalism Award 2020 category. - World Architecture News (UK)

ANN feature: Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee: The Role of Buildings in Combating COVID-19: As information on how to address the potential spread of COVID-19 via airborne aerosol emissions is hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best, a group of industry leaders launch a petition to the World Health Organization to work with built environment experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, August 26, 2020

- [Cuozzo offers](#) a "sound debunking" of a hedge-fund entrepreneur & comic's "so far over the top" op-ed claiming "New York City is dead. Companies have long-term confidence that belies 'exodus' prognostications. Every one of these commitments was made during, not prior to, the COVID crisis. A new Big Apple will rise on the ashes without his act."
- [Ellen Wulfhorst](#) delves into how "a drop in public transport ridership puts urban liveability at stake - city officials and transport experts are pulling out the stops to lure residents back" (a city "without a transit system is like a skyscraper without an elevator").
- [Les Shaver](#): "Now that the realities of the pandemic have sunk in," a principal of a venture capital firm considers "what to do with that glut of office construction - residential conversions" and "probably a hybrid office structure after the pandemic."
- [Plumer & Popovich](#) take a deep dive into "how decades of racist housing policy left communities of color far more vulnerable to rising heat," and how Richmond, Virginia "officials are paying much closer attention to racial inequality as they draw up plans to adapt to global warming."
- [Valerie Yurk](#) looks at how a number of "U.S. cities are spending millions on trees to fight heat - but are their plans equitable?" Seattle, as one example, "uses a Racial Equity Toolkit to prioritize communities with lower canopy coverage - time is against the efforts."
- [Cathy Watson](#), of the Center for International Forestry Research, parses how "COVID-19 has triggered incredibly positive change in Kenya," where "the government has almost doubled usable green space in Nairobi. Other cities can, too."
- [Laura Bliss](#) spends time in Paradise, California, "almost completely destroyed" by a devastating wildfire in 2018. "Now local leaders are proposing an ambitious scheme to protect the town from future blazes" that "could be a model for other communities living on the edge of an environment that is bound to ignite."
- [Sitz reports](#) that a 7-acre state park in Brooklyn is renamed to honor LGBTQ activist Marsha P. Johnson - the city's LGBTQ community will be consulted on its design and content of new public art (already lots of color!).
- [Chicago](#) issues its first of several RFPs for the city's INVEST South/West initiative seeking "pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use projects. These historically Black and Latino areas have been underserved and underinvested in for decades."
- [A model](#) for cities to follow! Chicago has launched the Winter Design Challenge "to find solutions to winter outdoor dining" (please repeat elsewhere!).
- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on Foster's "uniquely British" proposal for "a reusable temporary parliament wrapped in a bomb-proof glass and steel shell" - an alternative to proposals by AHMM and Gensler.
- [Cajsa Carlson](#) reports on Beirut-born type designer Nadine Chahine's Li Beirut ("For Beirut") initiative that reached out to fellow designers to collaborate on ceating a typeface to support victims of the devastating August 4 blast, resulting in "over 300 glyphs designed by 157 creatives from all over the world that can be downloaded as part of the fundraiser. All products will be printed and shipped from Beirut."
- [One we couldn't resist](#): Patino reports that IKEA has put 70 years of its catalogs online - "19,000 pages of mid-

century Scandinavian design - an excellent and Covid-safe alternative distraction" (things "get really interesting" in the late 1960s and '70s).

• [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee explain why they and a group of industry leaders launched a petition to the World Health Organization to work with industry experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance that is currently hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best.

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Steve Cuzzo: New York City will rise again: NYC is dead! So claimed hedge-fund entrepreneur, prolific author and...professional comic James Altucher...[he] found no hope for the pandemic-ravaged...everyone's gonna work from home forever! Broadway's extinct! Flesh-eating mobs rule the streets! ...like other dystopian end-of-the-city scenarios, [he] is so far over the top, it begs for a sound debunking...Companies have long-term confidence that belies "exodus" prognostications...Every one of these commitments was made during, not prior to, the COVID crisis...A new Big Apple will rise on the ashes without his act. - New York Post

Ellen Wulforst: Silent trains to masks: U.S. cities fight to revive public transport: A drop in ridership puts urban liveability at stake, researchers and advocates say: U.S. city officials and transport experts are pulling out the stops to lure residents back...Ridership of buses and trains shrank by 75% in New York City and 90% in the San Francisco Bay Area in April... - Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Les Shaver: What To Do With That Glut of Office Construction: COVID-19 might not just halt new building, but also force some residential conversions: Now that the realities of the pandemic have sunk in, attention is turning to what will become of that excess inventory...people will eventually end up back at work around their coworkers...there will probably be a hybrid office structure after the pandemic. - GlobeSt.com

Brad Plumer & Nadja Popovich: How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering: Redlining helped reshape the urban landscape of U.S. cities. It also left communities of color far more vulnerable to rising heat: ...a recent study found formerly redlined neighborhoods are today 5 degrees hotter in summer...with some cities seeing differences as large as 12 degrees...Redlined neighborhoods...have more paved surfaces...that absorb and radiate heat...in Richmond, Virginia...officials are paying much closer attention to racial inequality as they draw up plans to adapt to global warming. - New York Times

Valerie Yurk: US cities are spending millions on trees to fight heat - but are their plans equitable? As US cities cope with rising temperatures, some are investing in planting and maintaining trees - but experts warn the coverage might benefit wealthy neighborhoods more: Discriminatory practices like redlining...are among the biggest predicting factors for heat inequities...a study [found] formerly redlined neighborhoods were hotter than their non-redlined neighbors 94% of the time...Seattle uses...the Racial Equity Toolkit, to prioritize communities with lower canopy coverage...time is against the efforts. - Guardian (UK)

Cathy Watson: Nairobi recovers its green spaces during pandemic. Other cities can too: All cities need parks. It should not require a global crisis to make this

clear: But COVID-19 has triggered incredibly positive change in Kenya...government has almost doubled usable green space in Nairobi, created hundreds of green jobs, invited the public to plant roundabouts...in developing countries urban green space lags far behind the 9 square meters per person that the World Health Organization recommends...marginalized populations can benefit the most from local green space. -- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)- Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Laura Bliss: The Price of Saving Paradise: In 2018, Paradise, California, was almost completely destroyed by the worst wildfire in state history. Now local leaders are proposing an ambitious scheme to protect the town from future blazes: Now, amidst a haunting landscape...the town is rebuilding... in the early phases of acquiring swaths of land along the town's perimeter...a dual-purpose greenbelt...a moat of green acreage could provide space for respite and play [and] serve as a fuel break...could be a model for other communities living on the edge of an environment that is bound to ignite...project is likely to face many hurdles... - Bloomberg CityLab

Miriam Sitz: New York Park Honors LGBTQ Activist Marsha P. Johnson: The 7-acre waterfront space [in Brooklyn] is the first state park in New York named for an LGBTQ person and trans woman of color. Public art and infrastructure improvements are planned for 2021: Formerly known as the East River State Park, the newly christened space is one of eight state parks in NYC...State Parks...will consult with the city's LGBTQ community on design and content of the new artworks. - Architectural Record

Chicago issues first RFPs for the city's INVEST South/West initiative: Request for Proposals for developer teams to propose pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use projects...These historically Black and Latino areas have been underserved and underinvested in for decades; deadline: November 24- The Architect's Newspaper

Chicago launches restaurant design challenge to find solutions to winter outdoor dining: City of Chicago is putting on the Winter Design Challenge...offering a \$5,000 cash prize to three winners...will run through Sept. 7, and is open to all residents... -- IDEO- Streetsblog.org

Tom Ravenscroft: Norman Foster unveils "uniquely British" reusable temporary parliament: ...would contain an exact replica of the House of Commons debating chamber along with offices for 650 members of parliament wrapped in a bomb-proof glass and steel shell...would cost £300 million...designed as a lower-cost alternative to the Allford Hall Monaghan Morris redevelopment of Richmond House, a government building in nearby Whitehall...Gensler proposing a floating bubble-like structure that would be built alongside the Palace of Westminster on the River Thames. -- Foster + Partners- Dezeen

Cajsa Carlson: Global designers collaborate on Li Beirut typeface to support victims of blast: Beirut-born type designer Nadine Chahine has commissioned a typeface...Li Beirut, which means "For Beirut" in Arabic, consists of over 300 glyphs and was designed by 157 creatives from all over the world. The glyphs have been combined into a working typeface that can be downloaded as part of the fundraiser...All products will be printed and shipped from Beirut..."The funds will go to UK-based charities that are operating in Lebanon, starting with the Red Cross and Save the Children." - Dezeen

Marie Patino: [Get Lost in 70 Years of Old IKEA Catalogs: The Swedish furniture giant dropped its catalog archives online, letting shoppers browse 19,000 pages of midcentury Scandinavian design: ...an excellent and Covid-safe alternative distraction...early catalogs are comparatively utilitarian affairs; things don't get really interesting until the late 1960s and '70s...illustrations also serve as a timeline of household technology. The first television shows up on page 88 in 1958.](#) - Bloomberg CityLab

ANN feature: [Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee: The Role of Buildings in Combating COVID-19: As information on how to address the potential spread of COVID-19 via airborne aerosol emissions is hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best, a group of industry leaders launch a petition to the World Health Organization to work with built environment experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Thursday, August 27, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're taking an end-of-summer break next week (yay!). We'll be back Tuesday, September 8 (the day after Labor Day). In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe.

- [ANN feature](#): RKTB's Carmi Bee parses the firm's Infill Housing Prototype that offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures.
- [Welton introduces](#) us to Lagos, Nigeria-born Victor Body-Lawson and his "mission to humanize public housing - he has built his career by designing some of the most humble architecture in New York with balance, cadence, and attention to detail."
- [Kamin considers](#) the high hopes - and pitfalls - of Chicago's \$750 million Invest South/West program: "Woe to the city planner who paints a rosy picture of a shining tomorrow but fails to deliver. He doesn't just flop - he breeds distrust among those who put faith in him. That's the danger confronting Maurice Cox" ("Buck Rogers razzle-dazzle" not included).
- [Nadine Post](#) reports on the U.S. Representative "demanding answers from the head of the GSA about newly released criteria for construction, which call for two new courthouses to be built in the 'classic architectural style'" (a precursor to the proposed executive order "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again").
- [Vanamee](#) reaches out to TCLF's Charles Birnbaum re: "why it's good that we fought about the White House Rose Garden redesign": "Managing change and the dynamism of the White House grounds is always an issue worth raising questions about. We're having this conversation today because of this ruckus."
- [OMA New](#) York unveils its design for a 3-story glass volume atop Tiffany & Co's New York flagship store on Fifth Avenue that will be used for exhibitions and events.
- [A wonderful](#) profile of Perkins and Will's Vancouver-based Annie Boivin, and how she "conquered the world of architecture": "I am someone living with a disability, and I am proud and comfortable about that. But I am much more than my disability" (truly inspiring!).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee explain why they and a group of industry leaders launched a petition to the World Health Organization to work with industry experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance that is currently hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best.

COVID-19 news continues:

- [We cheer](#) three recent initiatives that "outline how experts in the built environment are advocating for policy changes on public health and climate change," including petitioning WHO, AIA's Platform 2020: "Building a Healthy America," and new USGBC credits.
- [Erika Morphy](#) parses a KPMG survey that found "large company CEOs plan to decrease their office footprint. The work-from-home genie is out of the bottle" - but "large leases are still being inked, showing that the office is not dead."
- [Nate Robson](#) parses a Gensler survey to find out what changes employees want "before returning to the office

in the wake of COVID-19" - they're "also wary of being discouraged from using public transit" (and millennial and Gen Z'ers are "the least prepared to work from home" gasp!).

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [Deane Madsen](#) talks to the SmithGroup designers who are installing "Society's Cage," a temporary pavilion opening tomorrow on the National Mall - the "intimate platform for grappling with racial injustice" will be on view only until September 4.
- [Another](#) great reason to head to Washington, DC, tomorrow: "Murals That Matter: Activism Through Public Art" opens on the National Building Museum's west lawn, featuring street art created in response to social justice protests and commissioned pieces (meet the artists tomorrow and Saturday!).
- [Steven Holl's](#) 'T' Space in Rhinebeck, New York, is hosting "Hiroyuki Hamada: Recent Works" in which the Guggenheim Fellow's "powerful, meditative sculptures will enter a spatial dialogue with Holl's architecture."
- [The show](#) you won't see - at least for now: Architect Jaimie Shorten's "SHARKS!," winner of the Architecture Foundation's Antepavilion competition, will not be swimming in the Regent's Canal because the local council's planning department issued a court injunction (called "pathetic" by a juror).
- [Stephanie](#) Rogers cheers Hillel's "City Dreamers" that "sheds light on the work of Phyllis Lambert, Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, and Denise Scott Brown - if it weren't for the patriarchal glass ceiling they continually had to fight back against, they'd probably be celebrated alongside their most famous mentors and colleagues."
- [Amy Plitt's](#) great Q&A with Jason Diamond re: his book "'The Sprawl: Reconsidering the Weird American Suburbs,' the cultural power of the American suburb, why stereotypes about it persist, and how life among the cul-de-sacs could change."
- [Sara Hendren:](#) "The tyranny of chairs: why we need better design: Most chairs aren't designed to serve human bodies - but a better seat is possible" - great excerpt from her book, "What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World."



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[ANN feature: Carmi Bee, FAIA: Health and Safety in Urban Housing: RKTB's Infill Housing Prototype offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

[J. Michael Welton: Inside Victor Body-Lawson's Mission to Humanize Public Housing: Combining experience at Davis Brody Bond and his own paintings from his studio, the New York architect aims to enhance the lives of residents: ...born in Lagos, Nigeria...has built his career by designing some of the most humble architecture in New York...And he does it with balance, cadence, and attention to detail...J. Max Bond took the young Nigerian under his wing...He left a lasting influence...\[he\] often donates his abstract paintings to his projects... -- Richard Gonzalez; Body Lawson Associates; Jack Travis; Claire Weisz/WXY Studio - Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Blair Kamin: Time to stop planning and start building: It's crunch time for Mayor Lightfoot's drive to revive South and West sides: ...woe to the city planner who paints a rosy picture of a shining tomorrow but fails to deliver. He doesn't just flop - he breeds distrust among those who put faith in him. That's the danger confronting...Maurice Cox...\\$750 million Invest South/West program... Chicago Architecture Center...to announce the winners of a juried competition that winnowed nearly 200 architects down to 32 design teams...44% minority-](#)



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owned...Conceptual renderings...wisely do not indulge in Buck Rogers razzle-dazzle or wiping the slate clean...may yet turn out to be something greater and more enduring than a public relations gesture emanating from City Hall. - Chicago Tribune

Nadine M. Post: Conflict Heightens Over GSA's New Design Criteria: U.S. Representative Dina Titus is demanding answers from the head of the General Services Administration about...newly released criteria for construction, which call for two new courthouses - in Florida and Alabama - to be built in the "classic architectural style"...criteria signal that the Trump administration is moving ahead with plans to dictate architecture style across the country...taking away...principles of local control and community input as outlined in GSA's own Design Excellence Program..."Design must flow from the architectural profession to the government, and not vice versa." - ENR/Engineering News Record

Norman Vanamee: Why It's Good That We Fought About the White House Rose Garden Redesign: Melania Trump recently unveiled a "renewed" [garden]. Things got ugly fast: ...set off a firestorm of criticism...T&C reached out to Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation: "Managing change and the dynamism of the White House grounds is always an issue worth raising questions about...I'm excited when people want to talk about landscape...We're having this conversation today because of this ruckus." -- Oehme, van Sweden & Associates; Perry Guillot; TCLF; Rachel Lambert "Bunny" Mellon - Town & Country

Kristine Klein: OMA New York, led by Shohei Shigematsu, designs glass volume to top Tiffany & Co's New York flagship store on Fifth Avenue: The project involves...a renovation of its ground floor and the construction of a rectangular glass volume that will span three storeys, adding space for hosting exhibitions and events...In 1980 an upper volume was added...to house offices, which will be demolished and replaced by the new glass structure... -- Cross & Cross (1940); Jason Long - Dezeen

Rachel Rose: Bigger Than Her Body: How Annie Boivin Conquered the World of

Architecture While Living with a Disability: "I am someone living with a disability, and I am proud and comfortable about that. But I am much more than my disability...In school, people didn't discriminate against me. The buildings did"...For most people pursuing registration, the process is mentally and physically challenging. For Boivin, it was even harder - especially the requirement that she spend 250 hours reviewing work on active construction sites. -- Meredith Greene/Nelson\Nygaard; Peter Busby; Susan Gushe/Perkins and Will - Canadian Architect

Leilah Stone: Architects and Designers Urge Action on Healthier Policy Priorities: Three recent initiatives outline how experts in the built environment are advocating for policy changes on public health and climate change: According to the World Health Organization, 19% of factors that affect our health and well-being are directly related to the built environment, making architects and designers key to protecting public health: Built Environment Experts Petition to the WHO Urging Enhanced Guidance on the Role of Buildings in Addressing COVID-19; USGBC Creates New LEED Safety First Pilot Credits + Healthy Economy Commitment; AIA Launches Policy Platform 2020: "Building a Healthy America" - Metropolis Magazine

Erika Morphy: It Appears that Companies Really Do Plan to Reduce Their Office Footprints: At the start of the pandemic, landlords were unsure what to make of companies declaring that their employees were just as productive at home as they were at work. Now it is clear this is a viable trend: ...survey by KPMG finds that 68% of large company CEOs plan to decrease their office footprint. The work from home genie is out of the bottle...large leases are still being inked...show that the office...is not dead. But its role is certainly changing...Just how depends on [who] you ask. Ultimately...companies will keep offices...with more flexible workspace options. - GlobeSt.com

Nate Robson: Employees Want Changes Before Returning to the Office in Wake of COVID-19: While employees expect offices to be flexible with working from home...people do miss the collaboration and socialization from being in an office: ...according to a new Gensler survey..."also wary of being discouraged from using public transit." Nearly 55%...said it's harder to collaborate when everyone is telecommuting, and 51% said it's more difficult to keep up with what their colleagues are working on...Millennial and Gen Z employees were the least prepared to work from home..."report a far more challenging experience...than their older peers. They are less likely to feel accomplished at the end of a typical day." - GlobeSt.com

Deane Madsen: Designers Quantify Racial Injustice in Data-Driven Installation on National Mall: A temporary pavilion opening August 28 for the March on Washington uses physical manifestations of data to show systemic oppression: ...designers from the local office of SmithGroup - mostly people of color - are installing an intimate platform for grappling with racial injustice, called "Society's Cage"...temporary pavilion formed by a forest of vertical bars serves as an interpretive space as well as a contemplative one. -- Dayton Schroeter; Julian Arrington; Michael Ford - Architectural Record

"Murals That Matter: Activism Through Public Art": ...features D.C. street art created earlier this summer in response to social justice protests...The murals speak to the impact that art can have on the built environment as well as the

nation's urgent need for dialogue and reflection...meet their creators August 28-29. National Building Museum west lawn, Washington, DC, thru November - National Building Museum

"Hiroyuki Hamada: Recent Works": Guggenheim Fellow's powerful, meditative sculptures will enter a spatial dialogue with the architecture of Steven Holl's naturally-lit T2 Gallery at 'T' Space, Rhinebeck, New York, thru October 31 - 'T' Space (Rhinebeck, New York)

India Block: Antepavilion juror attacks "pathetic" Hackney Council for blocking "Sharks!" installation with court injunction: Four of the five [fibreglass sharks by Jaimie Shorten/Barker Shorten Architects] had already been lowered into the Regent's Canal...planning department issued a court injunction...against the Architecture Foundation...Ironically, this year's Antepavilion brief called for designs that commented on the project's ongoing battles with planners...concept was supposed to be a tongue-in-cheek response to the brief about Antepavilion's previous planning battles. - Dezeen

Stephanie Rogers: "City Dreamers" Documentary Highlights 4 Influential Women in Architecture: ,,directed by Joseph Hillel, sheds light on the work of Phyllis Lambert, Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, and Denise Scott Brown. All now between the ages of 87 and 97, the women broke into the traditionally masculine industry just after the Second World War...their highly original work addressed major societal issues rising at the time...if it weren't for the patriarchal glass ceiling they continually had to fight back against...they'd probably be celebrated alongside their most famous mentors and colleagues. - Dornob.com

Amy Plitt: Suburbia, Reconsidered: In "The Sprawl: Reconsidering the Weird American Suburbs," Jason Diamond argues that America's much-maligned suburbs are more diverse, culturally rich, and strange than you thought: ...and poverty is rising in the suburbs at a faster pace than in urban or rural areas...“the suburbs were a smart, practical idea that was put into practice in all the wrong ways." Q&A re: the cultural power of the American suburb, why stereotypes about it persist, and how life among the cul-de-sacs could change. - Bloomberg CityLab

Sara Hendren: The tyranny of chairs: why we need better design: Most chairs aren't designed to serve human bodies - but a better seat is possible. [excerpt from "What Can a Body Do? How We Meet the Built World"]- Guardian (UK)

ANN feature: Mary Ann Lazarus & Joyce Lee: The Role of Buildings in Combating COVID-19: As information on how to address the potential spread of COVID-19 via airborne aerosol emissions is hard to find, contradictory, and minimal at best, a group of industry leaders launch a petition to the World Health Organization to work with built environment experts to develop much-needed indoor environment guidance. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, September 8, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: It feels like we've been away since forever - we're glad to be back! With lots of catching up to do...

- [Goldberger's](#) eloquent tribute to developer and "architects' 'Medici'" Gerald D. Hines, who held "to the credo that good design is good business - what he cared about most was fusing a point of intersection between serious design and profit-making real estate development. He took issue with colleagues who saw creative architects as dangerous to the bottom line."
- [WSJ critic](#) Michael J. Lewis: "It is hard to know which prospect is worse - that we are no longer capable of making beautiful public spaces, or that we no longer desire them" - that the City Beautiful movement "could die seems inconceivable. Yet die it did, and largely because of modernism" that "still works against the making of beautiful public space."
- [Jeff Andrews](#) explains why, "despite what cable news is saying every day, a mass migration to the suburbs isn't happening: There is zero empirical evidence to support such a trend. So why do they keep repeating this thoroughly debunked narrative?"
- [Davidson's](#) fab takedown of the gloom-and-doomers - despite meeting friends in the park, farmers' markets, and such, "obviously, New York is a fiery hellscape of crime, anarchy, and misery - from the godlike vantage point of Greenwich, Scarsdale, or Water Mill - nobody could possibly want to live in this ravaged Aleppo-on-Hudson."
- [Jessica](#) Helfand's fab Q&A with Allison Arieff, who "reflects on where we are six months into a crisis that has laid bare racial and economic inequalities - 'planning, architecture, city building are in a time of reckoning right now - undergoing this massive period of soul searching and trying to figure out how to do something different.'"
- [Janette](#) Sadik-Khan offers her vision for rethinking "our streets to create the six-foot city" and "a pandemic recovery led by returning urban space to citizens. Streets in the time of Covid-19 offer the precious territory needed to reimagine a new, safer, more inclusive and equitable century."
- [Kimmelman](#) "strolls" Jackson Heights, Queens, "the city's most global neighborhood, with author Suketu Mehta: "If I were Baudelaire," the pedestrianized Diversity Plaza "is where I would do my flâneur thing" - Scrabble was invented in Jackson Heights by an unemployed architect (who knew? We want a Kitchen Sink Sundae for eight!).
- [Saffron](#) parses the Philadelphia 76ers' vision for Philly's Penn's Landing on the Delaware waterfront: "Depending on how you feel about a bunch of sports executives taking on [the city's] most cursed real estate project, the proposal is either a display of canny ambition or ill-informed greed. There are other reasons to be skeptical."
- [UNSW Sydney's](#) Melonie Bayl-Smith "says debates about what is inspired and copied in architecture cut to the heart of the worst aspects of the drive for originality - architecture today suffers not because of plagiarism, but from an originality syndrome - they don't necessarily produce a better building" ("There are no prizes for reinventing the wheel").

- [Gabon-born](#), NYC-based Naila Opiangah bemoans that "Black architects are forced to be palatable in order to be successful - I long for the day where suppressing my identity is no longer part of the job."
- [The Architects](#) Foundation aims to help change that with a Black Women in Architecture Scholarship with the Desiree V. Cooper Memorial fund (over 30 architecture firms and studios have committed to matching donations).
- ["Architects](#) are the Rodney Dangerfields of the building world," says Vancouver architect Michael Geller: "We get no respect" - it's 'terribly wrong' that architects get so much less than real estate agents"; HMDA's Darryl Condon and Omicron's Kevin Harvey weigh in as well.
- [Hausman](#) & Rossman offer tips for "strategically planning your firm past the COVID-19 pandemic - become nimble, quick, and ready to pivot as circumstances demand: Practice may not make perfect, but it certainly makes you more prepared - planning is not just a spreadsheet of statistics."
- [California](#) architect Bill Melby creates a free, downloadable handbook that "cites the types of calamities for which a business should plan, and the tips, tactics, why and how-to of minimizing disaster consequence."
- [Hopkirk](#) was the first to report that Richard Rogers is stepping down from RSHP - "his name will be dropped from his practice by July 2022 at the latest" (the plan has been in the works since 2007).
- [Wainwright](#) parses "Richard Rogers' thrilling legacy - he has probably influenced the face of urban Britain more than any other architect of the late 20th century" by "his influence on public policy" + link to Wainwright's "Rogers' 10 best buildings - in pictures."
- [Ben Flatman](#) ponders: "Where will the next Rogers and Foster come from? We urgently need architects who can capture the public imagination - we seem to lack recognizable and effective public advocates and influencers - it's hard not to feel that the profession and our built environment would both benefit from a new Foster or Rogers sometime soon."
- [ANN feature](#): RKTB's Carmi Bee parses the firm's Infill Housing Prototype that offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures.



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Obituary by Paul Goldberger: Gerald D. Hines, Developer and Architects' 'Medici,' 95: He transformed skylines around the world by recruiting blue-chip architects and holding to the credo that good design is good business...a soft-spoken engineer who started out as a builder of small, anonymous warehouses in Houston and went on to transform the business of commercial real estate development...what he cared about most was fusing a point of intersection between serious design and profit-making real estate development. He took issue with colleagues who saw creative architects as dangerous to the bottom line...[he] was the first real estate developer to win the Urban Land Institute J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionary Urban Development... -- I.M. Pei, Harry Cobb; Philip Johnson; John Burgee; Cesar Pelli; Kevin Roche; Jean Nouvel; Frank Gehry; Robert A.M. Stern; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) - New York Times

Michael J. Lewis: The Death of Public Beauty: How city planning went wrong: Have we lost the art of making fine public spaces? It is hard to know which prospect is worse - that we are no longer capable of making beautiful public spaces, or that we no longer desire them...Technically speaking, the public space is not quite dead; we still pour extravagant resources into their making...there should be no question that something has gone badly wrong...City Beautiful movement...That such a vital and visually satisfying tradition...could die seems inconceivable. Yet die it did, and largely because of modernism...the legacy of modernism still works against the making of beautiful



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public space. -- Frank Gehry; Le Corbusier; Mies van der Rohe; Louis I. Kahn; Jane Jacobs; William H. Whyte; Charles Moore; Richard Serra; Roger Scruton- National Review

Jeff Andrews: No, the Pandemic Is Not Emptying Out America's Cities: Despite what cable news is saying every day, a mass migration to the suburbs isn't happening: There is zero empirical evidence to support such a trend. None. Nothing. Zero...housing-market data do not support the theory of an urban exodus...So why do news outlets keep repeating this thoroughly debunked narrative? Well, there are half-truths to the narrative that...form what sounds like a logical idea...journalists seem to be confusing the minor outbound migration from two ridiculously expensive areas [San Francisco and Manhattan] with the double dose of demand happening across the country. - Curbed

Justin Davidson: Obviously, New York Is a Fiery Hellscape of Crime, Anarchy, and Misery: Bicycling. Meeting friends in the park. Late-summer produce. Nightmarish: Gaze upon New York City from the godlike vantage point of Greenwich, Scarsdale, or Water Mill and you behold an urban wasteland...the trappings of contentment cloak depths of urban misery...nobody could possibly want to live in this ravaged Aleppo-on-Hudson...those who populate the metropolis now are the sad cases, the addled, and the left-behind. That must be true, because by now anyone with any sense or resources, or a healthy sense of fear, has surely heeded the message that hisses ceaselessly through the dead city's streets: Go! Get out! Head for Greenwich, Scarsdale, or Water Mill! - New York Magazine

Urban Reckoning: Jessica Helfand talks with writer, editor, and urbanist Allison Arieff. Having written early on in the pandemic about a possible silver lining for cities, Allison reflects on where we are six months into a crisis that has laid bare racial and economic inequalities: "...planning, architecture, city building, etc. are really in a time of reckoning right now...cities and all the people who work on them are just undergoing and need to undergo this massive period of soul searching and trying to figure out how to do something different." - Design

Observer

Janette Sadik-Khan: we must rethink our streets to create the six-foot city: New York's former transport commissioner explains her vision of a pandemic recovery led by returning urban space to citizens: Masks are the most visible line of defence against the coronavirus...But physical distance is the invisible yet even more crucial barrier against infection...creating a six-foot city is a challenge not of epidemiology but of the geometry of street design...Streets in the time of Covid-19 offer the precious territory needed...to reimagine our avenues for a new, safer, more inclusive and equitable century. School space; Voting space; Commercial space; Transportation space; Social/active space. -- Seth Solomonow - Guardian (UK)

Michael Kimmelman: Jackson Heights, Queens: Walk Where the World Finds a Home: Stroll through the city's most global neighborhood with the author Suketu Mehta: [We] "met"...at Diversity Plaza...pedestrianized in 2012, which has become Jackson Heights's de facto town square and a proud symbol of Queens as the city's most international borough..."If I were Baudelaire, this is where I would do my flâneur thing...Scrabble was the invention of a Jackson Heights resident (an unemployed architect) named Alfred Butts...architecturally speaking, the neighborhood is not Versailles. There are some really unlovely buildings and shabby dwellings...comes down to its people and their stories - and to the surprise and joy you feel walking down a street like 37th Avenue." - New York Times

Inga Saffron: Sixers eye more than a new basketball arena along Philly's Delaware waterfront: Philadelphia 76ers are promising to bring thousands of apartments, a hotel, two museums, a dozen restaurants, a supermarket, a new public school - along with that 19,000-seat arena...team's vision for Penn's Landing...one of several...development proposals...Depending on how you feel about a bunch of sports executives taking on [the city's] most cursed real estate project, the Sixers' proposal is either a display of canny ambition or ill-informed greed...There are other reasons to be skeptical... -- Hargreaves Associates; Cooper Robertson - Philadelphia Inquirer

Architecture: the fine line between inspired and copied: Melonie Bayl-Smith/UNSW Built Environment says debates about what is inspired and copied in architecture cut to the heart of the worst aspects of the drive for originality...architecture today suffers not because of plagiarism, but from an originality syndrome. "When architects try to do something completely original, they don't necessarily produce a better building"...the imperative to be unique could be to the detriment of the field...doing something well is more important than doing something for the sake of its novelty. Historically, this is how architecture was principled...many architects are...celebrated for paying homage to their influences...There are no prizes for reinventing the wheel." - UNSW Sydney Newsroom (University of New South Wales, Australia)

Naila Opiangah: "I long for the day where suppressing my identity is no longer part of the job": Black architects are forced to be palatable in order to be successful, says New York architectural designer...who shares her experiences of racism within the industry: "Blooming into my full self and attempting to exert my full potential was always something that I felt could negatively affect my career growth; unfortunately, it did...Although a very few of us manage to make

it as far as possible, the treatment of the majority of us remains increasingly appalling." - Dezeen

Katherine Guimapang: Architects Foundation Launches Black Women in Architecture Scholarship: The AIA's philanthropic partner...Desiree V. Cooper Memorial fund...Created to honor the late...DC-based architect who sadly passed in 2015, the scholarship celebrates her work and highlights her efforts as a Black licensed architect in the U.S...over 30 architecture firms and studios have committed to fundraising donations...will be matching donations... - Archinect

"Architects are the Rodney Dangerfields of the building world," says Vancouver architect Michael Geller: "We get no respect"...it's "terribly wrong" that architects get so much less than real estate agents. "And architects have more legal liability worries than real estate agents...Society would benefit in the form of better buildings if architects received greater recognition and earned more for their designs"...Darryl Condon/HCMA Architecture + Design: "The possible business models are many and varied and that's a good thing"; Kevin Hanvey: "The architectural profession began to fragment in the middle of the 20th century, with more and more responsibilities formerly undertaken by architects being taken over by a new generation of specialists. Now, Omicron and other architectural practices are...putting them under one roof again." - Journal of Commerce (Vancouver)

Tami Hausman & Lonny Rossman: Strategically planning your firm past the COVID-19 pandemic: As AEC firm leaders consider worst-case scenarios and explore possible solutions to surmount them, they learn to become nimble, quick, and ready to pivot as circumstances demand: Practice may not make perfect, but it certainly makes you more prepared...planning is not just a spreadsheet of statistics. It also requires big-picture thinking about qualitative ideas. -- Matthew Mueller/PBDW Architects; Jonathan Marvel/Marvel Architects; Jim Donaghy/The STO Building Group - Building Design + Construction (BD+C)

How Ready is Your Firm's Emergency Readiness? California architect Bill Melby's handbook cites the types of calamities, i.e., hurricane, wildfire, earthquake or other unforeseen events, for which a business should plan, and the tips, tactics, why and how-to of minimizing disaster consequence: COVID-19 is a slow-moving disaster but regular run-of-the-mill disasters can still happen any time...he decided to create a free downloadable handbook with more details than the typical "top fives" and "stop, drop and roll" educational efforts...cites the types of calamities for which a business should plan, then gets into the tips, tactics, why and how-to of minimizing the consequences of disaster. -- Ordiz-Melby Architects - GlobeSt.com

Elizabeth Hopkirk: Richard Rogers steps down from RSHP: Exclusive: Architect announces his retirement after more than six decades: The decision...means his name will be dropped from his practice, Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners, by July 2022 at the latest...in a statement issued to BD the practice said his retirement from the board had been "planned since 2007, as part of the comprehensive succession planning strategy established when the Richard Rogers Partnership became Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners." -- Graham Stirk; Ivan Harbour - BD/Building Design (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: Bamboo airports and psychedelic oil refineries: Richard

Rogers' thrilling legacy: The visionary architect behind some of the world's favourite landmarks - and some of its most expensive housing - is hanging up his pencil. Our critic assesses his impact: ... as an advisor to government, [he] has probably influenced the face of urban Britain more than any other architect of the late 20th century...his impact...has been less about his own buildings and more to do with his influence on public policy...a vision of Barcelona street life transplanted to British shores, sometimes at a cost to existing communities...His early buildings remain by far the most compelling... -- Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners; Renzo Piano - Guardian (UK)

Ben Flatman: Where will the next Rogers and Foster come from? We urgently need architects who can capture the public imagination - response to...Richard Rogers retiring at 87: His seductive and exciting pitch of frumpy British cities transforming themselves into liveable European-style hubs of vibrant city centre living...helped drive two decades of urban revival in the UK...And yet we seem to lack recognisable and effective public advocates and influencers...who government ministers know they must consult...it's hard not to feel that the profession and our built environment would both benefit from a new Norman Foster or Rogers sometime soon. - BD/Building Design (UK)

ANN feature: Carmi Bee, FAIA: Health and Safety in Urban Housing: RKTB's Infill Housing Prototype offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, September 9, 2020

- [Rowan Moore](#) talks to Gehry about his Eisenhower Memorial: He stressed "that he respected at least some of the criticism," but holds contempt for the "'arbitrary bullsh*t' that 'it should be classical architecture, period'" (per Moore, it "doesn't look like the soulless monster that its opponents described").
- [Shawn Micallef](#): "Toronto has embraced the outdoors this summer," but "with fall and winter on the horizon, a dire feeling is settling in - maybe we can finally figure out how to accept winter and end the seasonal grief" (tho' homeless encampments are "an ominous sight").
- [Ed Pilkington](#): "Is New York dead?" is "the wrong question. Look instead at the structural problems that were festering long before Covid-19 came along - the pandemic has laid bare uncomfortable truths" about "the New Yorkers who are excluded from the bubble in which [millionaires] Seinfeld and Altucher bicker."
- [Liz Ohanesian](#) parses architecture firm Omgivning's "vision for a more equitable post-pandemic L.A. that goes beyond social distancing," and its "Reimagining Spaces: A Post-Pandemic Design Report" (available online) that could change the face of Los Angeles.
- [Alissa Walker](#) cheers that Gensler's makeover of L.A.'s Hollywood & Highland mall includes removing "a full-scale replica of a portion of the set from D.W. Griffith's 1916 film 'Intolerance' - one of the most notoriously racist films ever made" (some preservationists "question the removal").
- [Jen St. Denis](#) x 2: "Hundreds of new homes announced for Vancouver to counter rising homelessness - but the units aren't specifically intended for residents of the Strathcona Park encampment" - considered Canada's largest tent city.
- [She parses](#) how "tiny homes for the homeless flourish elsewhere," but "they're a hard-sell in Vancouver," despite having "shown to be warmer and safer than tent cities, and 'a bridge' to stable living."
- [William Morgan](#) cheers Friedrich St. Florian being on board for new housing in a historic Providence neighborhood: "This is where having an experienced and sensitive architect pays real dividends - a master of both classical and modern can be trusted to integrate a new residence into an older neighborhood - and create history for the future."
- [Julia Gamolina's](#) great QA with Neri Oxman re: "growing up with architecture, forming her own field, and the forces that have influenced her work": What is your core mission? "To radically change the design landscape. To question the very nature of how we make things, and how we can make them in different and better ways."
- [Sean Joyner's](#) conversation with Trey Trahan, "architecture's business-centric polymath": "Expanding the definition of beauty beyond mere physicality is extremely important to me. Beauty is much more - it is about ethics, humility, justice, kindness, and faith."
- [Jeff Wood's](#) great Q&A with UPenn McHarg Center's Billy Fleming re: "the legacy of a wall-breaking landscape designer Ian McHarg, the Green New Deal, and how the Center seeks to find where design fits into the larger discussion of human life and policy."
- [Q&A](#) with George Ranalli and Anne Valentino re: "their interdisciplinary practice - modeling a kind of future we were never capable of imagining a few months ago" - by understanding and respecting history, they are "empowered to address extraordinary challenges of our not so distant future."

• [Kamin talks](#) to Lynn Osmond about she's steering the Chicago Architecture Center "through turbulent waters - the center's CEO has been improvising. She and her staff had to rethink nearly every aspect of the center" - they "solve one problem and 'then it's on to the next crisis.'"

• [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: RKTB's Carmi Bee parses the firm's Infill Housing Prototype that offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures.

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Rowan Moore: Frank Gehry on his Eisenhower Memorial: On the eve of the opening...in Washington DC, he talks about creating a monument worthy of its quietly heroic subject: From Justin Shubow's point of view its greatest crime was its refusal to follow the classical style of past presidential memorials...Gehry [stresses] that he respected at least some of these criticism...His contempt is reserved for the "arbitrary bullshit" that "it should be classical architecture, period, and there's no room for any invention or new expression"...memorial doesn't...look like the soulless monster that its opponents described. It appears to combine dignity with intimacy...where you can choose whether to eat a sandwich or think about world war, or both. -- Sergey Eylanbekov; National Civic Art Society - Observer (UK)

Shawn Micallef: Toronto has embraced the outdoors this summer. Can we learn to love the winter? ...people...have largely got the hang of the new pandemic reality...Physical distancing and all that goes with it is like learning a new language...That it was difficult to do is perhaps a testament to how much we need close contact with each other...An ominous sight that grew...small encampments that have appeared in parks and slivers of vacant land across the city...Torontonians have mostly been empathetic to their presence...with fall and winter on the horizon, a dire feeling is settling in...maybe we can finally figure out how to accept, even embrace, winter and end the seasonal grief...the sun is never as bright as when it's shining and reflecting on snow. - Waterloo Chronicle (Canada)

Ed Pilkington: New York's not dead, but pandemic has laid bare deep-seated problems: Jerry Seinfeld got into a spat about the Big Apple with a fellow millionaire, but for others, racial and class inequalities give debate about the city's health a very different look: "Is New York dead?" is posing the wrong question. Look instead at the structural problems that were festering...long before Covid-19 came along...in the Bronx you don't have to scratch the surface very far to expose the raw, bloody wounds of racial inequality...the pandemic has laid bare uncomfortable truths...unemployed...are the New Yorkers who are excluded from the bubble in which Seinfeld and Altucher bicker. In the Bronx, you don't have time to sit around pontificating about whether New York is dead because you're too busy trying to keep yourself and your family alive. - Guardian (UK)

Liz Ohanesian: Will the Pandemic Change the Face of Los Angeles Architecture Forever? A downtown architecture firm is shaping a vision for a more equitable post-pandemic L.A. that goes beyond social distancing: In only a decade...Omgivning...has put its stamp on about 400 L.A.-area buildings...The COVID-19 pandemic has shined a light on the inequity that exists...[firm] has responded...with "Reimagining Spaces: A Post-Pandemic Design Report" ...details design solutions for the workplace; "urban

reprogramming"...new uses for commercial and industrial properties; and multi-family housing...ideas include converting empty strip malls into housing. -- Karin Liljegren - Los Angeles Magazine

Alissa Walker: It's About Time Hollywood's D.W. Griffith Monument Came Down: Hollywood & Highland's whitest white elephants are an homage to L.A.'s most openly racist filmmaker: ...a full-scale replica of a portion of the set from D.W. Griffith's 1916 film "Intolerance"...one of the most notoriously racist films ever made. This well-intentioned architectural folly is literally the elephant in the room, and it won't be there much longer...the complex will be receiving a makeover, which will include the removal of the replicas of ancient Babylon...the plan for Ovation Hollywood - or "OH!"...is to turn the mall into something it never was: a place for locals. Without elephants. -- Daveed Kapoor; David Glover/Gensler - Curbed

Jen St. Denis: Hundreds of New Homes Announced for Vancouver to Counter Rising Homelessness: BC's housing minister says COVID-19 measures caused homeless numbers to rise as cities grapple with growing tent cities: a 98-unit modular housing building...is located just blocks away from what's estimated to be the biggest tent city in Canada....but the units aren't specifically intended for residents of the Strathcona Park encampment. - The Tyee (Vancouver)

Jen St. Denis: As Tiny Homes for Homeless Flourish Elsewhere, They're a Hard Sell in Vancouver: City staff dismiss the model, shown to be warmer and safer than tent cities, and 'a bridge' to stable living: ...Strathcona Park continues to host what's estimated to be Canada's largest tent city...Vancouver has continuously had a tent city in one location or another since 2016. The idea of formalizing one or more sites for legal camping, or adding small structures, is a no-go for the city. The city's current plan involves attempts to house people in supportive housing buildings or shelters. It's an approach that has so far failed to eliminate large encampments of unhoused people. - The Tyee (Vancouver)

William Morgan: Rhode Island's Celebrated Architect Friedrich St. Florian Breaking the Code in Fox Point: The process of securing permission to build new housing in the densely filled historic neighborhood...demonstrates how discussion and cooperation can lead to a design with integrity...Whether or not one admires St Florian's work, choosing [him] was a brilliant move...Because of concern over the details of the cottage, less attention has been paid to the design of the two townhouses that will be erected...This is where having an experienced and sensitive architect pays real dividends...a master of both classical and modern can be trusted to integrate a new residence into an older neighborhood...and create history for the future. - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Julia Gamolina: Intimate Links: Neri Oxman on Designing Systems, Radical Change, and Architecture as Destiny: An architect, scientist, engineer, and inventor...she talks about growing up with architecture, forming her own field, and the forces that have influenced her work, advising those just starting their careers in design to consider themselves drafted by Mother Nature: "To engage with the built environment is no longer only about designing buildings and cities"...What is your core mission? "To radically change the design landscape from the ground up. To question the very nature of how we make things, and how we can make them in different and better ways..." - Madame Architect

Sean Joyner: A Conversation with Trey Trahan, FAIA, Architecture's Business-centric Polymath: Business is a craft...something to be mastered and thoughtfully practiced. There is a holistic approach to life, with service to people and the community as the focus...Q&A re: leadership, creative philosophy, art, the recent pandemic, and architecture's more profound implications in the broader community: "Expanding the definition of beauty beyond mere physicality is extremely important to me. Beauty is much more - it is about ethics, humility, justice, kindness, and faith...we should also invest more in ethics and how ethics and humility are important to any collaborative effort." - Archinect

Jeff Wood: Talking Headways Podcast: Ian McHarg and "Design with Nature Now": Talking to Billy Fleming about the legacy of a wall-breaking landscape designer - and the Green New Deal: Director of the University of Pennsylvania's McHarg Center re: McHarg's influence and legacy since the original "Design with Nature," the influence of his work on GIS and the environmental movement, and how the Center seeks to find where design fits into the larger discussion of human life and policy... - Streetsblog.org

Virginia Cucchi: All Good Vibes (podcast): George Ranalli and Anne Valentino: Q&A re: their interdisciplinary practice - modeling a kind of future we were never capable of imagining a few months ago; an intimate symbiosis of the disciplines of Architecture and Psychology, and through the understanding of, and respect for history, empowered to address extraordinary challenges of our not so distant future. - Floornature

Blair Kamin: Lynn Osmond steers the Chicago Architecture Center through turbulent waters: With its popular and profitable boat tours reduced and the CAC closed for months, the center's CEO has been improvising: She and her staff had to rethink nearly every aspect of the center, from its Open House Chicago architecture festival to its business model...To stave off additional cuts and carry on its mission of public education, the center is moving aggressively to win grants from philanthropies...She and her staff solve one problem and "then it's on to the next crisis." - Chicago Tribune

ANN feature: Carmi Bee, FAIA: Health and Safety in Urban Housing: RKTB's Infill Housing Prototype offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, September 10, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, September 15. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe.

- [We lose](#) Bill N. Lacy, FAIA: "In a remarkable 50-year career ascending through the ranks of leadership - he achieved top positions in academia, government, non-profits," and more (president of the Cooper Union, Pritzker Prize executive director, National Endowment for the Arts Director of Architecture and Design, etc.).
- [DC-based](#) architect and author Melvin L. Mitchell says that fixing the "chronic" affordable housing problem for Black Americans "must involve Black individuals from every aspect of the building industry" - he calls for African American architects to "catalyze a Black-controlled housing industry and develop/build one million affordable new houses over next 10 years."
- [Litt reports](#) that Cleveland throttled public input over a bridge replacement, "quietly" announcing "that it had eliminated the best solution for redirecting industrial truck traffic" away from a public housing complex - "a glaring example of environmental injustice" that "appears to be a clear example of systemic racism in city planning, but it didn't start out that way."
- [Gehry releases](#) his designs for "an expansion of the Colburn School campus that includes a glass-enclosed, 1,100-seat concert hall and a 700-seat studio theater" joining "the lineup of cultural centers that currently span Grand Avenue" in Los Angeles.
- [Former NYC](#) Park Commissioner Adrian Benepe is departing the Trust for Public Land to be President and CEO of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.
- [Zoë](#) Ryan is leaving her post as Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago to lead the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania.
- [Marani's](#) Q&A with Omar Khan re: "his transition to leading the Carnegie Mellon University School of Architecture after nearly two decades at the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning - and how ideas he forged there have translated to his vision for CMU": "We want to unapologetically align architectural design to specific societal and design concerns."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: RKTB's Carmi Bee parses the firm's Infill Housing Prototype that offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures.

Deadlines:

- [Expressions](#) of Interest/EOI: The Camden Highline international competition for London's park in the sky - a 15-minute green walking route inspired by the iconic New York High Line.
- [Call for](#) entries: "Q-Village - Gangtou" International Young Designer Competition: revive the village with the power of design; cash prizes.
- [Call for](#) entries (deadline looms!): Hyperloop Desert Campus international ideas competition; cash prizes.

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [The London](#) Design Festival 2020 kicks off on Sunday: "With very little, if any, international travel, it will be a Festival for Londoners" + Heartiest congrats to Paola Antonelli who's won the London Design Medal!
- [Betsky's](#) review of "Designs for Different Futures" when it was in Philly, now about to open at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis: It "evokes nostalgia and dread as much as it inspires - strangely enough, there is a whiz-bang exuberance" and "works like an avant-garde science fair."
- [Sitz brings](#) us eye-fuls of what's on view at Chicago's Wrightwood 659, now hosting "Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People" that highlights the Pritzker Prize-winning "visionary Indian architect, urbanist, and educator's skillful melding of Modernism with the forms and techniques of his home country."
- [Holland](#) Cotter cheers the "big, beautiful wall" on the roof of NYC's Metropolitan Museum of Art: "Héctor Zamora's 'Lattice Detour' is a monument to openness over enclosure, lightness over heaviness, transience over permanence. It's also fraught with political meanings" (great pix!).
- [Brendan](#) Cormier on the V&A Dundee's "Now Accepting Contactless" that explores how the pandemic is restructuring curatorial practice, "entirely conceived and created during the lockdown" - and what went into gathering an amazing collection of "pandemic objects."
- [Betsky's](#) take on Diana Darke's "Stealing From the Saracens: How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe": "The title alone is meant to provoke - based on Darke's obsession with proving that Syria is the heart of civilization. I found the book to be a bit of a mess. Its argument, however, is worth rehashing."
- [Moore's](#) take on Drake's "Stealing from the Saracens": "Sometimes Darke overstates her case. Some of the connections she makes don't convince - but she assembles overwhelming evidence that extensive exchanges of ideas and knowledge took place - a useful reminder of the interconnectedness of civilization."



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[Obituary: Bill N. Lacy, FAIA, 1933 - 2020: In a remarkable 50-year career ascending through the ranks of leadership, \[he\] became an international ambassador for design...achieved top positions in academia, government, non-profits, and as a corporate advisor in architecture and planning...president of the Cooper Union...collaborated \[with\] Ada Louise Huxtable, serving on a jury...executive director of the Pritzker Architecture Prize for 15 years...As Director of Architecture and Design at the National Endowment for the Arts...built on the design guidelines of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan -- Rice University; University of Tennessee; American Academy at Rome; McNay - San Antonio Express-News \(Texas\)](#)

[Melvin L. Mitchell: Build Something Big! One Million New Affordable Housing Units, 2020-2030: The U.S. has an ever-growing affordable housing problem. For Black Americans, however, this problem has been a chronic condition...the work needed to fix this must involve Black individuals from every aspect of the building industry...references \[his\] book "African American Architects: Embracing Culture and Building Urban Communities"...asserts that African American architects must catalyze a Black-controlled housing industry and develop/build one million affordable new houses over next 10 years. Revisiting Three Big Black Wealth Creation Initiatives Since 1966: Soul City, North Carolina; Fort Lincoln, Washington, DC; "Buy The Block" \(BTB\) - Archinect](#)

[Steven Litt: Jackson Administration throttles public input over Willow Avenue Bridge replacement, air quality, at Lakeview Estates public housing complex: ...quietly announced...without any opportunity for public feedback that it had](#)



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eliminated...the best solution for redirecting industrial truck traffic out of the Lakeview area...has been a glaring example of environmental injustice for decades...The need to repair or replace the [bridge] represents a once-in-a-generation chance to fix the air quality problems at Lakeview...appears to be a clear example of systemic racism in city planning, but it didn't start out that way. - cleveland.com (Ohio)

Frank Gehry Reveals Designs for New DTLA [Downtown Los Angeles] Concert Halls: ...an expansion of the Colburn School campus that includes a glass-enclosed, 1,100-seat concert hall...and a 700-seat studio theater...venues will join the lineup of cultural centers that currently span Grand Avenue, such as The Broad, the Museum of Contemporary Art and The Music Center, and Gehry's \$1 billion mixed-use development, the Grand, which is currently under construction... -- Yasuhisa Toyota- Los Angeleno (California)

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Selects Former NYC Park Commissioner Adrian Benepe as its New President and CEO: Nationally recognized leader of parks, gardens, and open spaces...only the seventh leader in the Garden's 110-year history...widely recognized for spearheading one of the most dramatic expansions of city parkland in modern times...as senior vice president of the Trust for Public Land, he initiated and led a national equity drive to ensure that every city resident in America has a high-quality park within a 10-minute walk of home. - Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Zoë Ryan to lead the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania: Since 2006, Ryan has been the John H. Bryan Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design at the Art Institute of Chicago, and before that she was at the Van Alen Institute in New York...ICA arranges exhibitions by contemporary artists but has no permanent collection. - The Architect's Newspaper

Matthew Marani: Omar Khan discusses his transition to leading the Carnegie

Mellon University School of Architecture: After nearly two decades at the University at Buffalo (UB) School of Architecture and Planning...Q&A re: his tenure in Buffalo and how ideas he forged there have translated to his vision for CMU: "I am particularly proud of the Graduate Research Groups...We wanted to unapologetically align architectural design to specific societal and design concerns...At CMU we're going to have a similar opportunity to reach out to manufacturing within and around Pittsburgh...If we don't take an antiracist position right away, then this rot at the root will continue to...shape the kinds of attitudes we have toward communities. - The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: Expressions of Interest/EOI: The Camden Highline international competition for London's park in the sky: ...search for a diverse and radical team that can both design and deliver their exciting proposal for a 15-minute green walking route, inspired by the iconic New York High Line. Occupying 1.1km of disused railway viaduct; deadline: October 7 - Colander Associates / Camden Town Unlimited

Call for entries: "Q-Village - Gangtou" International Young Designer Competition: Traditional Architecture Renovation + Culture & Creativity Industry Planning: cash prizes; revive the village with the power of design, find the lost cultural memories, and rebuild the self-confidence of rural culture; registration deadline: November 15 (submission deadline: December 1) - Urban Environment Design/UED Magazine / Guangzhou Municipal Housing and Urban-Rural Development Bureau

Call for entries: Hyperloop Desert Campus international ideas competition; cash prizes; at least one team member aged from 18 to 35; registration deadline: September 20 (submissions due September 23) - Young Architects Competitions (YAC)

London Design Festival: In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been looking hard at our options for LDF 2020 going ahead. With very little, if any, international travel, it will be a Festival for Londoners...the number of Design Districts has grown. Each one has its own growing personality...We hope that these local clusters of design will be a defining feature + greater online activity...Paola Antonelli wins the London Design Medal - London Design Festival

Aaron Betsky: Unsettling Explorations of Utopia: "Designs for Different Futures" paints a disconcerting picture of the future: ...one of the best compendia of utopian thinking I have seen in a long time...evokes nostalgia and dread as much as it inspires...shows that utopias aren't what they used to be...The problem is that [it] does not really offer us something tangible to grasp or hope for...strangely enough, there is a joyfulness...that belies its message...whiz-bang exuberance...works like an avant-garde science fair... -- Neri Oxman; Andre Jacques; Francis Kéré; Alejandro Aravena; Lundén Architecture; Forensic Architecture - Architect Magazine

Miriam Sitz: Chicago's Wrightwood 659 to Host Balkrishna Doshi Exhibition: ...visionary Indian architect, urbanist, and educator...won the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2018. "Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People" highlights his skillful melding of Modernism with the forms and techniques of his home country. thru December 12 -- Vitra Design Museum - Architectural Record

Holland Cotter: What's That on the Met's Roof Garden? A Big, Beautiful Wall: Héctor Zamora's "Lattice Detour" is a monument to openness over enclosure, lightness over heaviness, transience over permanence. It's also fraught with political meanings: ...proves to be exactly right for its moment and place...Zamora, whose New York solo debut comes with this commission, has made political commentary through architecture central to his work...as both a homage and a critique of "Tilted Arc"...it reasserts the idea that public art and politics should be - just are - inseparable.- New York Times

Brendan Cormier: Pandemic Objects: .V&A Dundee...one of the first in the world to debut an exhibition that was entirely conceived and created during the period of closure...the topic of the exhibition is the pandemic itself..."Now Accepting Contactless"...to pull together an exhibition in such speed and all while working from home, an entirely different way of working had to be constructed...exhibit shows] that museums also have an important role to play in being quick-footed and reactive to the world. -- Sophie McKinlay - V&A Dundee

Aaron Betsky: When Europe Stole From Islamic Architecture: He reviews "Stealing From the Saracens: How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe," Diana Darke's account of how the West appropriated Arab design: The title alone...is meant to provoke...based on Darke's obsession with proving that Syria is the heart of civilization, a thesis she develops with shards of arguments and rehearsals of well-known bits of architecture history, leavened with footnotes citing television shows and eccentric authors...I found the book to be a bit of a mess. Its argument, however, is worth rehashing. - Architect Magazine

Rowan Moore: "Stealing from the Saracens: How Islamic Architecture Shaped Europe" by Diana Darke - a long-overlooked cultural exchange: This persuasive study argues that northern Europe's greatest gothic buildings are deeply indebted to the Arab world: Sometimes Darke overstates her case. Some of the connections she makes don't convince...but she assembles overwhelming evidence that extensive exchanges of ideas and knowledge took place...a useful reminder of the interconnectedness of civilisation. - Observer (UK)

ANN feature: Carmi Bee, FAIA: Health and Safety in Urban Housing: RKTB's Infill Housing Prototype offers a model for developing affordable urban housing on a neighborhood scale, and that also addresses health and safety measures. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, September 15, 2020

- [Moore pays](#) tribute to Terence Conran, 88, the designer and entrepreneur who "helped transform the drab, post-war culture - with the help of enlightened modern design." The founder of London's Design Museum "also supported younger designers" (he gave Heatherwick his first break).
- [McFadden](#) traces the amazing history of Conran, the "entrepreneur of mercurial moods and missionary zeal" - the "London designer and retailing magnate eased the gloom of postwar British austerity with stylish home furnishings affordable on a teacher's salary."
- [Russell](#) talks to a great mix of architects and landscape architects re: "building public places for a Covid world": They're "focusing on modest, tactical solutions - dreaming outside the 6-foot bubble - trying to invent new kinds of architecture that work around a broken policing and justice system."
- [Kamin x 2](#): "Six months into the pandemic, downtown Chicago is a humbled giant - the stakes are enormous - historians emphasize that such reversals have been predicted before, only to see downtown Chicago reinvent itself leading to spectacular bursts of growth" (some "developers are taking a bullish view").
- [He responds](#) to responses that filled his inbox, claiming "the story spent too much time on the pandemic and too little on the looting. The pandemic, not the looting, is the fundamental cause of downtown's woes - but don't count it out. Resilient cities can take a hit and still thrive."
- [Lange looks](#) into how we might "make the most of Covid winter - it's still possible to plan for pandemic-safe outdoor fun. Edmonton, Canada's WinterCity website includes actionable toolkits at multiple scales."
- [GBBN's Anne](#) Chen: "Architects are past due on creating work that speaks to inclusive values rather than reinforcing prejudicial systems that center on a white, patriarchal, privileged ideology - out-of-the-box thinking can help disrupt a system that continues to celebrate sameness. So how do we disrupt convention?"
- [Brussat](#) takes issue with Chen's take: "Disrupt architecture now! Huh? I thought that's what architects have been doing for the last century - 'white, patriarchal, privileged' architecture could as easily mean modernism. What better than modernism perpetuates a homogeneity of style that values visual sameness over the richness of diversity?" (Chen responds!)
- [Metropolis's](#) great presentation of its Game Changers 2020 - the "fresh thinkers and innovative solutions for urgent issues ranging from climate change to the housing crisis."

Winners all:

- [Nate Berg](#) parses Project Room's winning design in the competition to reimagine L.A.'s streetlights - "Superbloom' can morph into thousands of different heights and configurations" and "be augmented with benches, electric vehicle charging stations, umbrellas, and solar panels - future-looking without imposing some aggressive idea of what that future should be."
- [Eric Owen](#) Moss Architects' Conjunctive Points - The New City in Culver City, California, takes home the AIA's 2020 Twenty-Five Year Award - it "transformed a blighted, formerly industrial stretch into a sprawling office campus that still attracts big-name tenants and now holds 15,000 workers," reversing "decades of blight in the surrounding areas."

- [AIA 2020](#) Housing Awards recognize "7 exceptional residential designs," from single- and multifamily to specialized housing projects (link to great presentations!).
- [The Chicago](#) Athenaeum & the European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies announce winners of the 2020 International Architecture Awards: 125+ projects from 41 nations - now on view in "The City and the World" at Contemporary Space Athens, Greece, thru October 11.
- ["Open Source Communities"](#) water-harvesting project by Kenya-based BellTower wins the 2020 Lexus Design Award - it "captured the jury's hearts for being innovative, well-structured, extremely detailed, and having a widespread impact" + 5 (very cool!) finalists.
- [Dezeen Awards](#) 2020 names finalists for Architect of the Year; Interior Design Studio of the Year; Design Studio of the Year + the emerging talents in each category.
- [Eyefuls](#) of the Dezeen Awards 2020 architecture shortlist that includes 64 projects in 12 categories (vote for your favorite!).
- [Great presentation](#) of the ASLA 2020 Professional & Student Award winners.
- [Jared Green](#) parses Pilot Projects Design Collective's "Brooklyn Bridge Forest," winner of the Van Alen Institute's Reimagining Brooklyn Bridge Competition that proposes a "new model for sourcing sustainable hardwoods." The Young Adult category winner, "Do Look Down" glass promenade, "offers 'thrills galore' looking down."
- [Wainwright](#) cheers Ken Garland, "the moral conscience of graphic design for decades" (of peace symbol fame), winning the lifetime achievement medal from the London Design Festival for his "ruthlessly brilliant designs. He talks about why so much modern design is 'utterly mindless.'"
- [Great presentation](#) of winners of the HERE+NOW: A House for the 21st Century International Student Design Competition, sponsored by the ACSA and AIA CRAN.
- [Madlener](#) cheers the winners of the Material Lab Prize, honoring Pratt students who "convert everyday waste into viable products and materials - the design community can learn much from their inventiveness."



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[Obituary by Rowan Moore: Woks, duvets, chicken bricks: how Terence Conran restyled Britain: During his long career, the designer and entrepreneur helped transform the drab, post-war culture: ...it was the idea that postwar Britain could, with the help of enlightened modern design, both enhance the quality of everyday life and rediscover its ability to make things...shops and restaurants really did change the visual and gastronomic culture of the country...Ultimately his work was about pleasure, about making a sort of tasteful hedonism widespread...he never ceased in his ambition to restore British manufacturing greatness through the power of design...He also supported younger designers, for example giving Thomas Heatherwick his first break... - Observer \(UK\)](#)

[Robert D. McFadden: Terence Conran, Designer and Retail Magnate, 88: London designer and retailing magnate who eased the gloom of postwar British austerity with stylish home furnishings affordable on a teacher's salary, and then suffered financial reverses before reinventing himself as an international restaurateur and doyen of modern design...an entrepreneur of mercurial moods and missionary zeal...founded the Design Museum...At 19, he worked briefly for an architect who helped design the 1951 Festival of Britain...gave him a frank look at a people weary of shortages, and a glimpse of the future of commercial design.- New York Times](#)

[James S. Russell: Building Public Places for a Covid World: What are architects](#)



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and urban planners foreseeing as people cautiously gather? Streets “curated” for various uses and dynamic cityscapes that both advance wellness and knit communities together: ...focusing on modest, tactical solutions...several architects and landscape architects tell us what they are brainstorming with their colleagues, and how they are dreaming outside the 6-foot bubble...trying to invent new kinds of architecture that work around a broken policing and justice system. -- Kate Orff/SCAPE; Claire Weisz/WXY; Gensler; PBDW; SITU; Deanna Van Buren/Designing Justice/Designing Spaces; Walter Hood/Hood Design Studio; Michael Murphy/MASS Design Group; Karen Fairbanks/Marble Fairbanks - New York Times

Blair Kamin, Ryan Ori & Lauren Zumbach: Six months into the pandemic, downtown Chicago is a humbled giant. Can it get back on its feet? As tumultuous as the last six months have been, what happens in the next six...could do even more to determine whether downtown reaffirms its role as the undisputed hub of a region...the stakes are enormous...pandemic's impact is rippling through, and beyond, downtown...Not all the news is bad. Construction has continued...historians emphasize that such reversals have been predicted before, only to see downtown Chicago reinvent itself...leading not just to a rebound but to spectacular bursts of growth. - Chicago Tribune

Blair Kamin: Downtown Chicago is down, but don't count it out: ...my inbox filled with emails reacting to a news story I'd written...The story spent too much time on the pandemic and too little on the looting...This view...sees Chicago going the way of Detroit. I don't buy it...The pandemic, not the looting, is the fundamental cause of downtown's woes...To be sure, more hard times are probably ahead, especially as winter puts a crimp on outdoor dining and other outdoor activities. But in the long haul...downtown's prospects are still bright...Think of how downtown Chicago transformed itself after 9/11...And think of what we've learned since the pandemic began...Resilient cities can take a hit and still thrive. - Chicago Tribune

Alexandra Lange: How to Make the Most of Covid Winter: Don't write off the darkest season just yet. ...it's still possible to plan for pandemic-safe outdoor

fun: What if we spent Covid winter outside ... and enjoyed it? If Summer 2020 made best-sellers out of such backyard pleasures as potting soil, inflatable pools, and sidewalk chalk, Winter 2020 should see a run on long underwear, fire pits, and faux fur cushions...Edmonton, Canada's WinterCity website includes actionable toolkits at multiple scales...cities need to catch up to ski areas, which long ago figured out how to make après ski activities...as much of an attraction as the slopes. -- Maura Rockcastle/TEN x TEN; David Simor/8 80 Cities/Wintermission - Bloomberg CityLab

Anne Chen/GBBN: Let's Change the Language of Buildings for the Future: Architects are past due on creating work that speaks to inclusive values rather than reinforcing prejudicial systems that center on a white, patriarchal, privileged ideology: The nostalgic recreation of past styles...perpetuates a homogeneity that encourages communities to value visual sameness over the richness of diversity...out-of-the-box thinking can help disrupt a system that continues to celebrate sameness...So how do we disrupt convention? ...diversifying the profession...reconsider the architectural curriculum...listen to traditionally marginalized voices...When cities cling to past architectural styles, they deny showcasing the imagination, creativity, and joy of today's diverse cultural lifeblood. - Architect Magazine

David Brussat: Disrupt architecture now! So proclaims Pittsburgh architect Anne Chen...Huh? I thought that's what architects have been doing for the last century...Should we leap to the conclusion that the old, prejudicial systems she refers to are the architectural traditions of the past?...“white, patriarchal, privileged” architecture could as easily mean the modernism that's dominated the past hundred years...What better than modernism perpetuates a homogeneity of style that values visual sameness over the richness of diversity? She wants a revolution in architecture that she is unable to describe. - Architecture Here and There

Game Changers 2020: The Practices and People Changing Design: fresh thinkers and innovative solutions for urgent issues ranging from climate change to the housing crisis: Itai Palti & Liam Young on the Role of Tech in Creating Responsive Cities; Diana Anderson and General Architecture Collaborative on Wellness and Community; Claire Weisz/WXY Studio & David Seiter/Future Green on Collaborative Urbanism; Kevin Kimwelle & ICON on Social Equity in Building: South African architect and Texas construction company share the goal - Metropolis Magazine

Nate Berg: Los Angeles unveils the sun-blocking, EV-charging streetlight of the future: The streetlight is part of Los Angeles's larger push to revamp the public realm, as the city prepares to host the 2028 Summer Olympics: ...L.A. Lights the Way, an open design competition to reimagine how those streetlights could better represent the city...winning design is "Superbloom"...Able to be augmented with...benches, electric vehicle charging stations, umbrellas, and solar panels...can morph into thousands of different heights and configurations...future-looking without imposing some aggressive idea of what that future should be...competition is one of [chief design officer] Christopher Hawthorne's first major initiatives... -- Joakim Dahlqvist/Sandy Yum/Project Room; Guy Nordenson - Fast Company / Co.Design

Eric Owen Moss Architects takes home the AIA's 2020 Twenty-Five Year

Award: Conjunctive Points - The New City in Culver City, California...In 1986, Moss was tapped to transform a blighted, formerly industrial stretch...into an adaptive reuse campus for developers Frederick and Laurie Samitaur Smith...sprawling office campus that still attracts big-name tenants and now holds 15,000 workers...the successful transformation helped reverse decades of blight in the surrounding areas and raised property values. - The Architect's Newspaper

Best new homes honored with AIA 2020 Housing Awards: ...recognizes single family, production, multifamily and specialized housing projects...seven exceptional residential designs... -- Johnsen Schmalig Architects; mwworks (2); SkB Architects; Magnusson Architecture and Planning; ISA; DIGSAU - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Winners of the 2020 International Architecture Awards: 125+ New Buildings and Urban Planning Projects from 41 Nations in this Year's 15th Edition. "The City and the World" exhibition of the winners at Contemporary Space Athens, Greece thru October 11. -- Morphosis Architects; Mecanoo; Aedas/Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Omrania/Henning Larsen Architects; Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF); ASPECT Studios/Kengo Kuma; Frank Gehry; Herzog & de Meuron; SOM; WilkinsonEyre; MVRDV; NADAAA/Christ.Christ. associated architects; Pininfarina; J. MAYER H. und Partner; Trahan Architects (3); 3XN Architects; Ross Barney Architects; etc. - Chicago Athenaeum/European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies / Metropolitan Arts Press

"Open Source Communities" water-harvesting project by Kenya-based BellTower wins the 2020 Lexus Design Award: ...captured the jury's hearts for being innovative, well-structured, extremely detailed, and having a widespread impact by providing low-income communities with clean water...a sustainably built, community-owned structure...made entirely from locally available materials...entirely pre-fabricated, allowing for quick on-site assembly. - Yanko Design

Dezeen Awards 2020 finalists Architect of the Year; Emerging Architect of the Year; Interior Design Studio of the Year; Emerging Interior Design Studio of the Year; Design Studio of the Year; Emerging Design Studio of the Year -- Alison Brooks Architects; Carl Fredrik Svenstedt Architect; Thomas Robinson/Lever Architecture; Ma Yanson/MAD Architects; Nader Tehrani/NADAAA; Studio Gang; etc. - Dezeen

Dezeen Awards 2020 architecture shortlist reveals world's best buildings: 64 architecture projects in 12 different project categories...readers can choose their favourite projects... - Dezeen

ASLA Announces 2020 Professional & Student Award Winners: 31 Professional Awards; 35 Student Awards -- Walker Macy; Michael Vergason Landscape Architects; TURENSCAPE; HOK: Oehme, van Sweden | OvS; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; Beijing Forestry University / Atelier DYJG; James Corner Field Operations; Reed Hilderbrand; OLIN; MASS Design Group; PEG office of landscape + architecture; Design Workshop, Inc.; shelter_expance - sack and reicher; CMG Landscape Architecture; Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; etc. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Jared Green: Reimagining Brooklyn Bridge Competition: New Model for Sourcing Sustainable Hardwoods: ...imagine if instead of just placing a hardwood order and hoping the wood was actually sustainably harvested, designers partnered with conservationists and scientists to preserve the forest from which the wood is harvested. Brooklyn Bridge Forest, the winner of [the Van Alen Institute competition]...proposes sourcing Manchiche hardwood...multi-disciplinary team...Pilot Projects Design Collective includes landscape architect Christine Facella; the Wildlife Conservation Society, Cities4Forests, The Nature Conservancy, Grimshaw Architects, and Silman - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Oliver Wainwright: From CND to Hollywood: the ruthlessly brilliant designs of Ken Garland: The graphic designer who decried consumerism with a call-to-arms manifesto has won a lifetime achievement award. He talks about his career highs - and why so much modern design is "utterly mindless": ...the moral conscience of graphic design for decades...Next week...will be awarded the lifetime achievement medal from the London Design Festival [LDF]...for Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament...he redrew the famous peace symbol into the clean-lined graphic familiar around the world today. - Guardian (UK)

Winners of the HERE+NOW: A House for the 21st Century International Student Design Competition for the 2019-2020 academic year. Administered by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and sponsored by AIA CRAN (AIA Custom Residential Architects Network)... -- Pratt Institute, University of Louisiana-Lafayette; Syracuse University; University of Houston; Kansas State University - Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) / AIA Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN)

Adrian Madlener: Pratt Students Convert Everyday Waste into Viable Products and Materials: The new Material Lab Prize recognizes emerging talents who create designs and composites out of reclaimed waste: With superficial greenwashing still rampant in many sectors of the design industry, the challenge of transitioning to a fully sustainable circular economy is as daunting as ever...Not yet subject to the constraints of the "real world," students can learn, adopt, and experiment...the design community can learn much from their inventiveness. -- Jay Lemire - Metropolis Magazine

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Today's News - Wednesday, September 16, 2020

- [Bacchi reports](#) on research by the Coalition for Urban Transitions findings: "Investments in climate-friendly infrastructure like rooftop gardens, cycle lanes and renewable energy across world's cities could support 87 million jobs by 2030" - governments should also "invest more in green cities to beat coronavirus slump."
- [McGuigan](#) on Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial: "After a decade of contention and adaptation, [it] has finally opened as both a dramatic tribute to the war hero who became President, and as a jewel of public space - the backstage drama isn't evident in the finished memorial, a calm and gracious public space."
- [King x 2](#): He weighs in on new student housing on Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue: "If Harry Potter and Fred Flintstone designed a building together, it might look like this - a McMansion. On acid. It has nutty gravitas. The weird thing is, it works" (despite its "tangled back-story").
- [He reports](#) on the "three design contenders to become the city's next official public trash can - all contemporary in appearance, with a distant resemblance to stylish air filters."
- [Kamin re](#): a 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial: "While [it] has often baffled non-architects with jargon-laced wall text - the event, at its best, cements Chicago's identity as a global architectural capital" - but with a curator not yet named and the quandary over its format caused by the pandemic, there are a couple of options on the table.
- [Kimmelman's](#) latest walkabout: He "chats about the beloved stretch from Carnegie Hall to Lincoln Center with Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. Along with century-old jewels of Midtown, a crop of supertall, anorexic apartment towers for the ultrarich have lately redrawn the city skyline" (fab photos by Zack DeZon!).
- [Brussat x 2](#): He responds to historic Newport, Rhode Island's recent "moratorium on development in order to suck its elegant thumb about its development guidelines" - it should demand "what the people want, not what the befuddled design elite wants" (w/link to Alex Ulam's in-depth report in Bloomberg CityLab).
- [He gives](#) (mostly) thumbs-up to one new and three renovated buildings on Providence, RI's Westminster Street that "mostly improve the city's historical character" - but the upper story of a project up the street "is a clunky chunk of brooding darkness - unremitting schlock" (ouch!).
- [Mortice](#) updates the controversy re: Sugimoto's plans for the Hirshhorn Museum Sculpture Garden that tinkers a bit too much with Bunshaft's "single and total work of art," says TCLF's Birnbaum - "absolute fidelity to the relationship between the building and landscape is warranted."
- [Hickman](#) brings us the alarming news that a wrecking ball is headed for Paul Rudolph's Burroughs Wellcome HQ in Durham, North Carolina - "what was originally suspected/hoped to be an asbestos abatement-related undertaking" prior to restoration work "has turned out to be site prep for a full demolition."
- [In brighter](#) news, after years of controversy, Frank Lloyd Wright's David and Gladys Wright House in Phoenix has a bright future as new buyers, including Taliesin West apprentices and School of Architecture at Taliesin board members, "plan to restore and preserve the spiral house" (lots of pix!).
- [Cuozzo](#): tells us the tale "behind the rise of KPF's 77-story One Vanderbilt - the mighty new skyscraper" next to NYC's grand Grand Central Station - "the design is humanely crafted from an eye-catching steel spire to the new subway and terminal entrances and public plaza at the base."

● [Lizzie Crook](#) reports on Foster + Partners' Cairo hospital that "embodies latest research" on biophilic design and "will prioritize connecting patients with nature to boost their wellbeing" (with views of a lake and the Egyptian pyramids, to boot!).

● [Lendlease](#) is tapped to design, build Google's new 40-acre, mixed-use development in Mountain View, California, that includes 1.3 million square feet of office space, up to 1,850 residential units (20% affordable housing), lots of retail and event space - and 12 acres of open space.

Winners all:

● [Sitz profiles](#) Arch Record's five 2020 Women in Architecture Award winners who are "leaders, innovators, activists, and educators" - our heartiest congrats to Eizenberg, Betts, Dowdell, Gray, and Ponce de Leon!

● [Gaze upon](#) the winners of the inaugural Docomomo US I Spy Modernism Architectural Photography Competition and "their personal takes on capturing modernism."

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[Umberto Bacchi](#): Governments urged to invest more in green cities to beat coronavirus slump: Investments in climate-friendly infrastructure like rooftop gardens, cycle lanes and renewable energy across world's cities could support millions of jobs, researchers say: Spending about \$2 trillion a year on green city infrastructure around the world...could support 87 million jobs by 2030...Such investments would pay for themselves many times over...lowering the costs of climate change [and] improving health and quality of life...a few have already enacted green stimulus measures... -- Coalition for Urban Transitions; C40-Thomson Reuters Foundation News

[Cathleen McGuigan](#): Frank Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial Opens in Washington, D.C.: After a decade of contention and adaptation, the memorial has finally opened as both a dramatic tribute to the war hero who became President, and as a jewel of public space: Monuments breed contention...then came the Memorial, devoted to the undisputed hero of World War II, with a design by America's most renowned architect. What could possibly go wrong? Quite a lot, it turns out...the design - and Gehry himself - came under fierce attack...But detractors mistook [him] for an inflexible divo, and they underestimated his stamina...the backstage drama isn't evident in the finished memorial, a calm and gracious public space... -- Justin Shubow.; L'Observatoire International - Architectural Record

[John King](#): If Harry Potter and Fred Flintstone designed a building together, it might look like this: ...the crazed excess of the newest building on Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue is guaranteed to stop you in your tracks...a McMansion. On acid...Hidden beneath all this...is a fairly conventional 7-story structure called the Enclave that holds 55 student apartments...3 blocks from UC Berkeley...a Moorish-Tudor fever dream...It has nutty gravitas - an affirmation of eccentricity despite a tangled backstory...The weird thing is, it works...off-kilter fun...what I like...is that it's so engaging. A seven-story double-take. -- Kirk Peterson/Kirk E. Peterson & Associates Architects; Jarvis Architects; LCA Architects - San Francisco Chronicle

[John King](#): A beauty contest with a twist: San Francisco wants trash cans that are durable and chic: ...three design contenders to become the city's next official public trash can, replacing the dark green and vaguely historic ones that have



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been deployed since 1993...But in a city where no decision about infrastructure is too small to stir controversy, the designs...will face months of scrutiny before a selection is made...all contemporary in appearance, with...a distant resemblance to stylish air filters... - San Francisco Chronicle

Blair Kamin: Chicago Architecture Biennial keeps the city at the forefront of design. But will it be held in 2021? ...[it] brings Chicago to the world and the world to Chicago. It also offers a hint of what's to come in design and culture...While [it] has often baffled nonarchitects with jargon-laced wall text...the event, at its best, cements Chicago's identity as a global architectural capital...Yet with a year to go...no curator has been named and no decision has been made about the event's format...a quandary caused by the coronavirus pandemic...One option...is to postpone the exhibition until 2022...Another option...proceeding with a combination of virtual and in-person events. - Chicago Tribune

Michael Kimmelman: Carnegie Hall and the Jewels of Midtown: Our critic chats about the beloved stretch from the music hall to Lincoln Center around Central Park with Tod Williams and Billie Tsien: Along with century-old architectural landmarks, a crop of supertall, anorexic apartment towers for the ultrarich have lately redrawn the city skyline...Tsien: "I went to Lincoln Center when I first moved to New York because the Mostly Mozart concerts had air-conditioning." -- Pomerance & Breines; James Stewart Polshek; William Tuthill; SHoP Architects; William W. Bosworth; Edward Durell Stone; Henry Hardenbergh; James E. Ware; Harde & Short; Charles W. Buckham; Wechsler & Schimenti; Carrère and Hastings; Dwight James Baum; Ric Scofidio/Elizabeth Diller/Diller Scofidio + Renfro - New York Times

David Brussat: More pause please, Newport: ...[city] recently placed a moratorium on development in order to suck its elegant thumb about its development guidelines...In a misguided effort to be all things to all people - and hence satisfy no one - [it] seems willing to sacrifice its quality of life and its economic future to a supposed compromise between its historical character and the tainted character of modern development...Newport should take the bold step of mandating that all new development embrace architecture that reinforces the city's historical character...by demanding that developers build what the people want, not what the befuddled design elite wants. - Architecture Here and There

David Brussat: New and old on Westminster: Several years in the making, renovations on downtown Providence's Westminster Street ...are almost done...one new building and three renovated buildings mostly improve the city's historical character...they are traditional rather than modernist in style. Traditional architecture always tends to feed historical character; modernist architecture always tends to starve it...four buildings...a feast for the eye and balm for the future of Providence. -- Union Studio; Site Specific - Architecture Here and There

Zach Mortice: Tinkering with a "Total Work": At the Hirshhorn Museum, a preservation row tests the bounds of unity between building and landscape: ...Sculpture Garden is a cloistered 1.5-acre art landscape...a definitive change of pace from the broad civic expanse of the National Mall...new plan by Hiroshi Sugimoto is drawing the attention of landscape advocates...Gordon Bunshaft famously conceived the Hirshhorn as piece of functional sculpture itself, and because the landscape and the building are a "single and total work of art," says Charles Birnbaum [TCLF], absolute fidelity to the relationship between the building and landscape is warranted. -- Lester Collins (1981); The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) - Landscape Architecture Magazine

Matt Hickman: Paul Rudolph's Burroughs Wellcome headquarters building in Durham, North Carolina threatened with demolition: ...what was originally suspected/hoped to be an asbestos abatement-related undertaking...has turned out to be site prep for a full demolition...by the end of the year...no evidence of restoration work or United Therapeutics' larger intention to save/reuse the building has publicly come to light...Sadly,[it] s is not the only Rudolph-designed building that is currently endangered... -- Docomomo US; Kelvin Dickinson/Paul Rudolph Heritage Foundation - The Architect's Newspaper

Frank Lloyd Wright David and Gladys Wright House in Phoenix sells for \$7.25M; new owners plan to save home: ...buyers plan to restore and preserve the spiral house...built in 1950...This should be a relief for preservationists...group including architect Bing Hu and businessman Jim Benson purchased the house...plans include adding a copper roof...part of FLW's original plans. Both...are on the board the School of Architecture at Taliesin...concrete block house...sits on 5.9 acres...new ownership group also includes Wenchin Shi who, with Hu, was an architectural apprentice at...Taliesin West. - Arizona Republic

Steve Cuzzo: Behind the rise of the 77-story One Vanderbilt: Creation of the mighty new skyscraper...started with the almost incidental purchase of an obscure old office building 19 years ago. The project negotiated a treacherous development labyrinth...Justin Davidson...described it as "...that rarity, a civic-minded Goliath"...\$3.3 billion...1.7 million-square-foot tower designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF)...The design is humanely crafted from an eye-catching steel spire to the new subway and terminal entrances and public plaza at the base...an observatory on the 57th to 59th floors...will have its own grand unveiling some time in 2021. - New York Post

Lizzie Crook: Foster + Partners' Cairo hospital embodies "latest research on biophilia": Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre Cairo will prioritise connecting patients with nature to boost their wellbeing...300-bed hospital will...nestle within a "lush, verdant landscape" that offers views of a lake and the Egyptian pyramids...will provide free treatment for underprivileged people living in Egypt. It is being built adjacent to Zewail City of Science and Technology university to create an "integrated health and medical research zone"... - Dezeen

Lendlease to design, build Google's new 40-acre, mixed-use development: ...in Mountain View, California...includes 1.3 million square feet of office space, up to 1,850 housing units, 30,000 square feet of retail, 20,000 square feet of event space and 12 acres of open space...In 2019, Lendlease landed a \$15 billion contract with Google...to develop and build 5 million square feet of residential,

retail, hospitality and other projects in the San Francisco Bay Area...Both projects are aimed at increasing housing options for middle-class workers in a state that's known for its exorbitant cost of living...20% of them set aside for affordable housing. - Construction Dive

Miriam Sitz: 2020 Women in Architecture Awards Recognize Five Leaders: Leaders, innovators, activists, educators...represent the best of the profession. -- Design Leader: Julie Eizenberg/Koning Eizenberg Architecture; New Generation Leader: Stella Betts/LEVENBETTS; Activist: Kimberly Dowdell/HOK/National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA); Innovator: Lisa Gray/Gray Organschi Architecture; Educator: Monica Ponce de Leon/MPdL Studio/Princeton University School of Architecture - Architectural Record

Announcing the winners of the inaugural Docomomo US I Spy Modernism Architectural Photography Competition: Out of the many images submitted, the jury selected 12 winning photographs, taken by students, amateur photographers, and professionals, which displayed their personal takes on capturing modernism. -- Joy Mullapally; Tiecheng Chen; Julio Alberto Cedano; Serhii Chrucky; Geoff Goddard; James Haefner, Robert Meckfessel; Steven Lawrey; Adam Reynolds; Carmen Soubriet - Docomomo US

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Today's News - Thursday, September 17, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, September 22. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe.

- [ANN feature](#): Turan Duda & Jeffrey Paine: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: A Well State of Mind: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments.
- [Edward Gunts](#) brings us very sad news - we've lost Deborah Dietsch, longtime editor of Architecture Magazine (when yours truly was with sister publication Interiors mag - sigh): "Her support helped bolster the careers of numerous rising architects and drive the national conversation about design - and nurtured talented writers" - like Kroloff, Cramer, and Barreneche.
- [Baldwin's](#) Q&A with Wandile Mthiyane of the Durban, South Africa-based social enterprise firm Ubuntu Design Group re: "his early inspirations, how the Apartheid has shaped his design approach, and how he is building community today": "Architecture is never neutral; it either heals or hurts - it's imperative for firms to actively start giving opportunities to employees that don't look like them - let people of color take lead."
- [Edie Cohen's](#) 10 questions for Maya Bird-Murphy, who "now devotes most of her time to Chicago Mobile Makers - a phenomenal advocacy and youth-focused traveling design lab" to "train and support future public-interest architects, designers, and makers," and "advocate for social, economic, gender, and racial diversity."
- [Chouinard](#) talks to Kia Weatherspoon of Determined by Design, founded to bring "beautiful design to marginalized communities. The low-income housing system is broken," and she "wants to fix it. Government-subsidized residences are created to be functional and durable, but almost never beautiful."
- [Bika Sibila](#) Rebek offers a set of strategies for a hybrid model of teaching both in-class and virtually that "could help reinvent architectural education - including that bedrock of architectural education: the studio" ("known to be a relentless slog").
- [Kamin's](#) preview of "12 picks not to miss" in Chicago this fall: "A vital season awaits" with "a luminous array of exhibitions, books and buildings," culminating in "the construction boom that took shape after the Great Recession."
- [Gibson reports](#) that Abraham Thomas, former director of London's Sir John Soane's Museum, has been named architecture and design curator for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; he's also had curatorial roles at the Smithsonian and the V&A, and initiated programs at MIT, LSE, AA, etc.
- [Tomorrow](#) is PARK(ing) Day 2020! "The perfect time to reimagine streets in the COVID-19 era - celebrate with ASLA with 3 ways to participate."
- [Monday is](#) the start of World Green Building Week, the "World Green Building Council's annual campaign that empowers us all to deliver greener buildings."

[Weekend diversions \(real & virtual\) + Page-turners:](#)

- [Mortice](#) cheers "Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People" - a "compelling exhibition" of the Indian master and Pritzker Prize laureate at Chicago's (Tadao Ando-designed) Wrightwood 659, that "plays up his fusion of Indian vernacular traditions and Modernism," and "communicates an essential humility that comes with letting go of architectural control."
- "[Shofuso](#) and Modernism: Mid-Century Collaboration Between Japan and Philadelphia" at the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia "highlights Modernism's debt to Japanese architecture" and "explores the artistic interconnections between Antonin and Noémi Raymond, George Nakashima, and Junzo Yoshimura."
- [Eyefuls](#) of "Lattice Detour," Héctor Zamora's "beautiful rooftop wall - the highlight of The Met's grand reopening - his execution of an enormous curving wall feels resoundingly appropriate for our times."
- [Berlin's](#) DAZ presents "The land issue" that presents land use "in terms of climate, economy, and the common good" with "very concrete possible solutions" - a project of the University of Kassel Department of Urban Development.
- [Laercio](#) Redondo's "The simplest thing is the most difficult to do" at the Mies Pavilion in Barcelona "explores the history of the Pavilion and its multiple narratives, and creates a dialogue with the space" - a sound installation in the garden "completes the intervention, offering a multi-layered account on the work of the architect and his collaborator Lilly Reich."
- [The Design](#) Museum Everywhere launches "We Design: People. Practice. Progress." virtual exhibition that aims to be a "resource for designers of all backgrounds to make the design field more equitable, just, and inclusive," featuring 15 different profiles of designers in 7 different categories - viewers can explore the design fields that most interest them."
- [The Urban](#) Art Mapping Research Project, created by the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, presents the Urban Art Mapping George Floyd & Anti-Racist Street Art database, a virtual museum that preserves Black Lives Matter protest art from around the world.
- [NPR's Jonaki](#) Mehta talks to Janna Ireland about her new book, "Regarding Paul R. Williams: A Photographer's View" that "honors the legacy of L.A.'s barrier-breaking Black architect": She "first learned about his work when architect Barbara Bestor asked her to photograph a handful of his projects - she discovered parallels with her own experiences as a Black artist" (lots of pix!).
- [Ellie Stathaki](#) cheers Open House London's "The Alternative Guide to the London Boroughs," a "fascinating book brilliantly edited by Owen Hatherley that explores" 33 neighborhoods "like you've never seen them before - meaty and refreshing" (just in time for Open House kick-off this Saturday).
- [Q&A](#) with architectural and urban historian Lukasz Stanek re: his new book "Architecture in Global Socialism" in which he recounts the "history of the cooperation between architects, planners, and construction companies from Eastern Europe and the Global South" (fab photos!).



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ANN feature: Turan Duda, FAIA & Jeffrey Paine, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: A Well State of Mind: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments. - ArchNewsNow.com

Obituary by Edward Gunts: Writer and longtime Architecture Magazine editor Deborah Dietsch, 68: ...she wrote about architecture, art, and design for more than 30 years, in books, magazines, and newspaper articles. She also served on Baltimore's design review panel ...and on architect selection panels for government agencies...Her support helped bolster the careers of numerous rising architects...also helped drive the national conversation about design...and nurtured talented writers such as Reed Kroloff, Ned Cramer, and Raul Barreneche. - The Architect's Newspaper



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Eric Baldwin: "I Grew Up Where Architecture Was Designed to Oppress": Wandile Mthiyane on Social Impact and Learning from South Africa: Today, he has become recognized for creating social impact, including his work to transform his hometown of Durban...CEO and Co-Founder of social enterprise firm Ubuntu Design Group...Q&A re: his early inspirations, how the Apartheid has shaped his design approach, and how he is building community today. "The first step to addressing systemic racism in architecture is designers realizing the gravity of their god-like power of shaping people's experiences. Architecture is never neutral; it either heals or hurts...it's imperative for firms to actively start giving opportunities to employees that don't look like them...let people of color take lead..." - ArchDaily

Edie Cohen: 10 Questions With .. Maya Bird-Murphy: ...a career in architecture and design was a foregone conclusion. She grew up in Oak Park...surrounded by Frank Lloyd Wright buildings...You might say they were infused in her DNA...she now devotes most of her time to this phenomenal advocacy and youth-focused traveling design lab [Chicago Mobile Makers]...Engage and empower youth through making and skill-building; train and support future public-interest architects, designers, and makers; advocate for social, economic, gender, and racial diversity. - Interior Design magazine

Haley Chouinard: The low-income housing system is broken. Designer Kia Weatherspoon wants to fix it: Government-subsidized residences are created to be functional and durable, but almost never beautiful...Determined by Design was founded [to bring] beautiful design to marginalized communities..."If your team isn't diverse enough for you to take an empathetic view on this [type of work], that's a problem"...she is passionate about bringing long-overdue change to HUD policies...the first step is for the wider A&D community to acknowledge the fundamental problem in how we approach affordable housing. - Business of Home

Bika Sibila Rebek: How hybrid teaching could help reinvent architectural education: When university classes moved online...I felt apprehensive about teaching remotely: ...it turns out that teaching architecture online is not only possible but even offers some advantages...I don't wish to reify the dichotomy between remote and in-person learning...Rather, I am arguing for a hybrid of both models...where I teach, Columbia GSAPP and the Yale School of Architecture, have adopted a hybrid approach...including that bedrock of architectural education: the studio...known to be a relentless slog...to posit an alternative, open-door studio...I have tried to illustrate and expand on a hybrid model through the following set of strategies. -- Some Place Studio- The Architect's Newspaper

Blair Kamin: Architecture in Chicago for fall 2020: A vital season awaits, despite the pandemic. Our 12 picks not to miss: ...promises a luminous array of exhibitions, books and buildings. It will culminate the construction boom that took shape after the Great Recession. -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang; Goettsch Partners; Koo architects; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; "Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People"/ Wrightwood 659 gallery; Open House Chicago Oct. 16-25; Mies van der Rohe; "Side by Side: Farnsworth House + The Philip Johnson Glass House"; "Edith Farnsworth's Country House"; "Ambiguous Standards Institute: An Institute Within an Institute"; "The Loop: The 'L' Tracks That Shaped and Saved Chicago" by Patrick T. Reardon; "Modern in the Middle: Chicago Houses 1929-1975" by Susan Benjamin & Michelangelo Sabatino; etc.- Chicago Tribune

Eleanor Gibson: Abraham Thomas named architecture and design curator for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York: ...former director of [London's] Sir John Soane's Museum...in the newly created role, Daniel Brodsky Curator of Modern Architecture, Design, and Decorative Arts...an expansion of the position...first created in 2014 and held by British curator Beatrice Galilee....position follows a number of architecture and design curatorial roles he has held...in the US and UK - including the Smithsonian Institution and the V&A. - Dezeen

PARK(ing) Day 2020 is the Perfect Time to Reimagine Streets in the COVID-19 Era: Celebrate with ASLA, Friday, September 18: This year's PARK(ing) Day challenge is to explore the design of imaginative curbside spaces for restaurants, businesses, recreation, and other public uses that adhere to safe, socially distant principles...There are three ways to participate: - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

World Green Building Week September 21-25: World Green Building Council's annual campaign that empowers us all to deliver greener buildings. This year, we're asking you to #ActOnClimate. For Communities. For the Planet. Net Zero Buildings for Economies - World Green Building Council (WorldGBC)

Zach Mortice: Compelling Exhibition of Indian Master Doshi Opens in Chicago: "Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People"...at Chicago's Wrightwood 659, plays up his fusion of Indian vernacular traditions and Modernism: ...the exhibition's photos, sketches, and wood models express India's cultural specificity and challenge Western architectural ideals. In exploring how the public realm and private spaces are inextricably intertwined in Indian cities, [it] attempts to communicate something visceral and direct about daily life in that country, and it is largely successful...curated by Khushnu Panthaki Hoof, [his] granddaughter and longtime collaborator...his paintings...provide brilliant counterpoints to the concrete and brick that predominate in his work...[show] communicates an essential humility that comes with letting go of architectural control... thru December 12 - Architectural Record

Jesse Dorris: A New Exhibition Highlights Modernism's Debt to Japanese Architecture: "Shofuso and Modernism: Mid-Century Collaboration Between Japan and Philadelphia" explores the artistic interconnections between Antonin and Noémi Raymond, George Nakashima, and Junzo Yoshimura. Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, thru November 29 - Metropolis Magazine

Photos: Héctor Zamora's Beautiful Rooftop Wall Is The Highlight Of The Met's Grand Reopening: There are three new exhibitions coinciding with the reopening - "Making the Met: 1870-2020 offers a generous "illustrated" history of the museum..."Jacob Lawrence: An American Struggle," featuring all 30 panels the artist completed in his ambitious portrait of the country's often-violent coming of age; and the new roof garden commission, Zamora's "Lattice Detour" [thru December 7]...his execution of an enormous curving wall feels resoundingly appropriate for our times. - Gothamist (NYC)

"The land issue. Climate, economy, common good" - an exhibition on land policy: ...a project of the University of Kassel (Department of Urban Development)...It presents aspects of the land issue in terms of climate, economy and the common good. References are made and very concrete possible solutions are shown. - DAZ / Deutsches Architektur Zentrum (Berlin)

"The simplest thing is the most difficult to do" by Laercio Redondo at the Mies Pavilion as part of the Barcelona Gallery Weekend: ...explores the History of the Pavilion and its multiple narratives, creates a dialogue with the space, raising questions of memory and erasure in time, especially in relation to its construction and subsequent reconstruction...A sound piece installed in the garden completes the intervention, offering a multi-layered account on the work of the architect and his collaborator Lilly Reich. thru October 12- Mies van der Rohe Foundation / Fundació Mies van der Rohe

Design Museum Everywhere Launches "We Design: People. Practice. Progress." Virtual Exhibition: With the lack of racial and gender diversity in the design field first and foremost, [it] demands change in the industry and encourages the next generation of designers to make an impact through design...Four years in the making...with the desire to...work as a starting point and resource for designers of all backgrounds to make the design field more equitable, just, and inclusive...online experience features 15 different profiles of designers [in] 7 different categories, so that viewers can explore the design sub-fields that most interest them. - Hi-tech Vhic

University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota Urban Art Mapping Research Project]

A Virtual Museum Preserves Black Lives Matter Protest Art: The University of St. Thomas has created the Urban Art Mapping George Floyd & Anti-Racist Street Art database, which has received over 1,000 submissions: ...database is a publicly accessible digital catalog of street art around the world made in response to the...Black Lives Matter protests...Much of the database is crowdsourced. The images...aren't at risk of disappearing or being stored in a museum basement..."People can try to paint over and wash it off, but we hope that because of our database, it can't be washed over completely." -- Todd Lawrence; Paul Lorah; Heather Shirey - Hyperallergic

Jonaki Mehta: "Regarding Paul R. Williams: A Photographer's View" Honors Legacy Of LA's Barrier-Breaking Black Architect: Photographer Janna Ireland...focuses primarily on Black life in America...she turns her lens outward, to showcase the legacy of...Williams, and introduce his work to a larger audience...280 photographs...that celebrate [his] career...His work helped shape the landscape of Los Angeles and brought good design within reach of all, regardless of race...[She] first learned about Williams' work...when LA architect

[Barbara Bestor asked her to photograph a handful of Williams' projects....she discovered parallels with her own experiences as a Black artist.](#) - NPR / National Public Radio

[Ellie Stathaki: Explore London like never before with Open House's 'alternative' guide: ...Open House London publishes "The Alternative Guide to the London Boroughs," a fascinating book brilliantly edited by Owen Hatherley that explores the grand metropolis' different neighbourhoods like you've never seen them before: ... a meaty and refreshing stand-in for those who cannot attend in-person visits and an added bonus to those who can...offers a rich, layered and original look into London's 33 boroughs...each...by a different writer...authors' voices are distinct, engaging and direct.](#) -- Phineas Harper - Wallpaper*

[How Eastern Bloc Architects Shaped Cities Across the Third World: Q&A with Lukasz Stanek: In the era of decolonization, even nonsocialist states in Africa and Asia drew heavily on architects and planners from Eastern Bloc countries. Experts from the "Second World" adapted their work to local cultures and expectations - and often brought "Third World" lessons back with them: This is the story architectural and urban historian Stanek tells in his new book "Architecture in Global Socialism." He recounts this history from the perspective of the cooperation between architects, planners, and construction companies from Eastern Europe and the Global South.](#) - Jacobin magazine

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Tuesday, September 22, 2020

- [Kate Wagner's](#) letter to a young architect: The structures of contemporary architectural practice insulate it from criticism both within and from critics like myself - there is always an opportunity for subversion and activism. I'm here to tell you, future architect, that you never, ever have to accept things the way they are. In fact, it is your duty to change them.
- [Emily Vaughn](#) talks to 5 experts (not all architects) re: "redesigning the office for the next 100-year flu (yes, it's coming). What all these changes have in common is that they'll happen only if the public continues to prioritize indoor health after the acute crisis of the pandemic has passed."
- [Carolina A. Miranda](#) considers the "unusual design" of Second Home's Hollywood co-working space to be a preview of the post-pandemic future of offices: 60 SelgasCano-designed studios "look like a hallucinogenic cluster of toadstools" set "in a lush garden that was once a vast parking lot" - it also saved a 1963 Paul R. Williams building that had been "marketed as a tear-down" (great read!).
- [Carolyn Fortuna](#) considers proposals by Duany, Plater-Zyberk & KPF's Kassem that indicate the world is "approaching green architecture all wrong - architectural resilience has mostly centered on bouncing back and/or developing emergency responses. The mission for today's architects is to re-engineer a more historic architectural durability and environmental sensitivity alongside an unpredictable and increasingly unforgiving climate."
- [Kimmelman](#) cheers WXY and West 8's proposal for a climate center on Governors Island: "This kind of development is just what New York needs now" - for the moment it's "an aspirational plan" and "rosy advertisements for hypothetical construction - the island is, in fact, an ideal Petri dish and laboratory for climate adaptation" - and is being seriously considered.
- [Chicago](#) approves a John Ronan-designed, 88,000-square-foot Brighton Park HQ and 17 acres of play space: "Some commissioners lauded a 'transformational' investment in the South Side neighborhood while others cautioned about the risk of gentrification."
- [The Durst](#) Organization is tapped for \$2.2B Penn's Landing riverfront redevelopment in Philadelphia (with 6 Pelli Clarke Pelli-designed high-rises) - bringing "an end the bid by Philadelphia 76ers owners to build a new arena that would have involved considerable public subsidies."
- [Nate Berg](#) parses recent research that looked into why "most pedestrian malls failed" - out of 125 in the U.S., only 43 are still in existence - "the survivors have lessons to teach" about how to revitalize urban downtowns.
- [Snøhetta](#) beats Studio Gang & Henning Larsen in the competition to design the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota: "Craig Dykers said the design is heavily inspired by the terrain of the Badlands and aims to respect the ecological environment of the site" (the final design may be "slightly different" after conversations with stakeholders).
- [WIP Collaborative's](#) "Restorative Ground" wins the Care for Hudson Square competition that invited NYC-based M/WBE firms (Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises) "to reactivate the public realm with a site-specific installation."
- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on Heatherwick Studio's 20-story Singapore residential tower - with balconies galore that "have expressive, shell-like forms that act as giant planters - overflowing with plants."

- [India Block](#) reports on Koichi Takada Architects' 30-story, plant-covered Urban Forest housing high rise in Brisbane that will include 392 homes and a "stepped façade with 1,000 trees and 20,000 plants - over 250 species native to Queensland."
- [Diana Budds](#) offers a "cautionary tale" from Chengdu, China, where the plant-filled balconies of an 8-tower housing development have caused an infestation of mosquitoes that is so bad, "fewer than a dozen families have moved in." Daryl Beyers: "They didn't think about the maintenance."
- [A do-over](#) (wrong link in last Thursday's newsletter): Gibson reports that Abraham Thomas, former director of London's Sir John Soane's Museum, has been named architecture and design curator for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC; he's also had curatorial roles at the Smithsonian and the V&A, and initiated programs at MIT, LSE, AA, etc.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Turan Duda & Jeffrey Paine: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments.

Winners all:

- [Docomomo](#) US Modernism in America Advocacy Award goes to Willert Park Courts - "the first housing complex for African Americans in Buffalo, NY. The site is a testament to both government-sanctioned racism and segregation as well as an early triumph in the long fight against these policies" (tho' the housing authority "continues to neglect the property and block the National Register nomination").
- [2020 AIA/HUD](#) Secretary's Awards go to Landon Bone Baker Architects and SMR Architects for projects in Chicago and Seattle.
- [SOM, Patkau](#) Architects, John Ronan Architects, and Perkins + Will take home the 2020 AIA/ALA Library Building Award for libraries in Long Beach, California, Edmonton, Canada, and Chicago.
- [Domino Park](#) by James Corner Field Operations, SHoP Architects (with Vishaan Chakrabarti), etc. & Trojan Park by Lamar Johnson Collaborative (formerly Forum Studio), etc. win 2020 ULI Urban Open Space Awards.



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[Kate Wagner: letter to a young architect: Dear Future Architect, Unless you take the rare step of going straight for sole proprietorship or starting your own firm, you end up at a large firm...alongside dozens if not hundreds of individuals with the exact same background as you...you are in a unique political position in society where you can make a difference...collectively...The structures of contemporary architectural practice insulate it from criticism both within...and from critics like myself...there is always an opportunity for subversion and activism...I'm here to tell you, future architect, that you never, ever have to accept things the way they are. In fact, it is your duty to change them. - Architectural Review \(UK\)](#)

[Emily Vaughn: Redesigning The Office For The Next 100-Year Flu \(Yes, It's Coming\): Architects are already looking beyond COVID-19 to imagine the office of 2025 and beyond - an office that will keep us safe on the job, whatever pandemic virus strikes next: 5 experts re: workplace design to hear what they think small offices as well as high-rises will look like in 5 years...What all these changes have in common is that they'll happen only if the public continues to prioritize indoor health after the acute crisis of the pandemic has passed. -- Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg/Institute for Health in the Built Environment; Eve Edelstein/Clinicians for Design; Reena Agarwal/Center for Active Design; Asheshh Saheba/Steinberg Hart; Cristina Banks/Interdisciplinary Center for](#)



Architecture Magazine Library
Masters Gallery
Podcast

Healthy Workplaces, - NPR / National Public Radio

Carolina A. Miranda: What will offices look like in the post-pandemic future? This Hollywood space offers a preview: COVID-19 has been especially devastating for coworking spaces...Second Home's unusual design has allowed [it] to continue functioning...when other nonessential office buildings remain shuttered...inhabits a converted community center...majority of the work spaces are housed in individual studios (there are 60) in a lush garden that was once a vast parking lot...studios look like a hallucinogenic cluster of toadstools...the handiwork of a singular combination of architects...Paul R. Williams (1963)...expansion and renovation...by SelgasCano...architecture has helped the complex maintain a roster of 100 clients...proves that architectural solutions to problems such as the pandemic don't always need to be high tech. - Los Angeles Times

Carolyn Fortuna: Is The World Approaching Green Architecture All Wrong? ...instead of focusing on mitigating and reducing emissions, Andrés Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk propose a shift to a new type of green architecture where adaptation and resilience readies communities for the changes wrought by the climate crisis. Rethinking of green architecture in this way acknowledges the importance of adaptive architecture...architectural resilience has mostly centered on bouncing back, preserving the status quo, and/or developing emergency responses...The mission for today's architects is to re-engineer a more historic architectural durability and environmental sensitivity alongside an unpredictable and increasingly unforgiving climate. -- Hana Kassem/Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (kPF) - CleanTechnica

Michael Kimmelman: A Climate Center on Governors Island? Could Be a Game Changer: This kind of development is just what New York needs now: So it was, in a sense, good news that the Trust for Governors Island released a proposal...an aspirational plan, more than anything...I've seen renderings by WXY...rosy advertisements for hypothetical construction...could entail as much as four or five million square feet of new development...the island is, in fact, an ideal petri dish and laboratory for climate adaptation...To judge from West 8's master plan and WXY's renderings, the good news is that existing parkland can

be integrated with mostly low-rise development to preserve open spaces, repurpose historic buildings...Planning the future of New York is what we need now. It involves many steps. This is a small but useful one. We need more. - New York Times

Chicago Park District's Plan For New Brighton Park Headquarters Approved: Some commissioners lauded a "transformational" investment in the South Side neighborhood while others cautioned about the risk of gentrification: ...proposal aims to build an 88,000-square-foot office space, a field house, playground, spray pool and three artificial turf fields on 17 acres...a green roof... -- John Ronan Architects; Maurice Cox - Block Club Chicago

Matt Hickman: Durst Organization tapped for \$2.2B riverfront redevelopment scheme in Philadelphia: Beating out four other bids, [its] Penn's Landing...plan includes 3.5-million square feet of mixed-income housing, office space, and more...plan centers around a 12-acre park that will cap a section of Interstate 95...six Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects-designed high-rises...will be home to over 1,800 residential units, 225 hotel rooms...along with amenities...Marina Basin site, will be designed by BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group...brings to an end the bid by...Philadelphia 76ers to build a new arena...that would have involved considerable public subsidies. -- Hargreaves Jones - The Architect's Newspaper

Nate Berg: The secret to revitalizing urban downtowns: Most pedestrian malls failed, but the survivors have lessons to teach: The majority...struggled to lure shoppers and eventually were reopened to vehicular traffic...Recent research published in the Journal of Urbanism looked at 125 pedestrian malls in the U.S...only 43 are still in existence...the most significant factors determining the longevity...were high population density, low median age of residents, and a shorter mall length...researchers looked into five outlier malls that have lasted even without factors like lots of sunny days or a younger population. [They] should have failed but didn't. - Fast Company / Co.Design

Norwegian architecture firm Snøhetta picked to design Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota: Craig Dykers said the design is heavily inspired by the terrain of the North Dakota Badlands and aims to respect the ecological environment of the site...two unattached pebbles make up the interior of the library, while a leaf lies over the structure as a roof and "protector"...Dykers noted there have to be more conversations with stakeholders and locals...final library building may look slightly different than the renderings...but that it should "feel very similar to the project I imagine." -- Studio Gang; Henning Larsen - Duluth News Tribune (Forum News Service, Minnesota)

WIP Collaborative ["Restorative Ground"] is the winner of Care for Hudson Square, a recovery initiative: ...to reactivate the public realm with a site-specific installation....design competition invited small and M/WBE [Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises] firms based in New York City...WIP Collaborative, Taller KEN, and Dash Marshall with Public Policy Lab proposed vibrant and community-centered designs to reimagine a placemaking installation on one of three sites...[jury] judged proposals based on physical presence, evolving public health guidance, and inclusive design. - Urban Design Forum

Tom Ravenscroft: Heatherwick Studio's Singapore skyscraper has balconies overflowing with plants: ...20-storey apartment building...contains 20 apartments

that each occupy an entire floor...focal point is an expansive central living space that opens onto a large, greenery-filled balcony. Two smaller balconies also extend from either side of the main living room, while the two master bedrooms also open onto balconies...have expressive, shell-like forms that act as giant planters for the tower's greenery. - Dezeen

India Block: Koichi Takada Architects unveils plant-covered Urban Forest housing high rise for Brisbane: 30-storey apartment building covered in 1,000 trees: ...will include 392 homes, a two-level rooftop garden and a public park at ground level...plans to cover the stepped facade with 1,000 trees and 20,000 plants...over 250 species native to Queensland....attempting to make...the "world's greenest residential building"...main structure...will be made of so-called green concrete...sourced locally... - Dezeen

Diana Budds: Skyscrapers Dripping in Gardens Look Great - Until the Mosquitoes Swarm: Bloodsuckers overrun a tower in China. Does this mean the whole idea is bad? We asked an expert: ...this cautionary tale from Chengdu...may temper our excitement...Qiyi City Forest Garden - an 8-tower housing development...Each of the 826 units (which have all sold) has its own plant-filled balcony...But here's the catch: mosquitoes, and lots of them...fewer than a dozen families have moved in...Daryl Beyers: "They didn't think about the maintenance"...Stefano Boeri's Bosco Verticale in Milan has been a success story...worked closely with architectural botanist Laura Gatti...Beyers suspects that didn't happen in Chengdu. - Curbed

Eleanor Gibson: Abraham Thomas named architecture and design curator for The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York: ...former director of [London's] Sir John Soane's Museum...in the newly created role, Daniel Brodsky Curator of Modern Architecture, Design, and Decorative Arts...an expansion of the position...first created in 2014 and held by British curator Beatrice Galilee....position follows a number of architecture and design curatorial roles he has held...in the US and UK - including the Smithsonian Institution and the V&A. - Dezeen

Buffalo's Willert Park Courts to receive Docomomo US Modernism in America Advocacy Award: ...the first housing complex for African Americans in Buffalo and an early example of International Style design...prize honors Preservation Buffalo Niagara (PBN) and the Michigan Street Preservation Corporation (MSPC)...have dedicated countless hours and resources to the preservation battle for this culturally, socially and architecturally significant resource...The site is a testament to both government-sanctioned racism and segregation as well as an early triumph in the long fight against these policies...BMHA continues to neglect the property and block the National Register nomination... -- Frederick C. Backus (1939) - Docomomo US

AIA/HUD Secretary's Awards celebrate affordable, accessible, and well-designed housing: ...proves that good design is not exclusive. The Office of the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development teams with AIA's Housing Knowledge Community to celebrate two projects that demonstrate these traits. -- Landon Bone Baker Architects; SMR Architects - American Institute of Architects (AIA) / U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

Four Projects Receive 2020 AIA/ALA Library Building Award: Award recipients

must demonstrate design achievement, including a sense of place, purpose, ecology, environmental sustainability, and of history. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Patkau Architects; John Ronan Architects; Perkins + Will - American Institute of Architects (AIA) / American Library Association (ALA)

Parks in Brooklyn, New York, and Wellston, Missouri, Win 2020 ULI Urban Open Space Awards: ...award recognizes outstanding examples of vibrant public open spaces that have been instrumental in promoting healthy, sustainable, and equitable outcomes in communities. -- Domino Park by James Corner Field Operations, SHoP Architects (with Vishaan Chakrabarti), etc. & Trojan Park by amar Johnson Collaborative (formerly Forum Studio), etc. - Urban Land Magazine (Urban Land Institute/ULI)

ANN feature: Turan Duda, FAIA & Jeffrey Paine, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: A Well State of Mind: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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Today's News - Wednesday, September 23, 2020

- [With the](#) passing of Kamu Iyer, 87, "Mumbai loses one of its last modernist architects" - part of the generation that "sought a design language to express the hopes of a young nation, and saw their practice as part of India's larger social fabric."
- [Budds ponders](#) how to "create an RBG memorial that isn't terrible - it could go awry and produce something boring, or obvious or, worse yet, meaningless" - Paul Goldberger, Mabel O. Wilson, Jerry Saltz, Marion Weiss, and others weigh in.
- [The Global](#) Designing Cities Initiative has released "Designing Streets for Kids," a guide to redesigning urban streets and public spaces to make them "beautiful, fun - and safe" - a supplement of the "Global Street Design Guide" (with links to both).
- [McGuigan](#) reports that LACMA is "now punching back" at "withering criticism" with "new renderings and a fact sheet. Michael Govan maintains the construction 'is on time and on budget'" (doubtful the critics will be satisfied).
- [The European](#) Commission announces a "'new European Bauhaus' - part of the €750 billion NextGenerationEU coronavirus recovery plan to kickstart a cultural and sustainable movement" among architects, designers, artists, engineers, and students.
- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on SOM's "modular School/House pop-up classrooms in response to coronavirus - for schools in need of additional classroom space" that "can be installed alongside existing schools, in parking lots, or even on available roof space."
- [London-based](#) architect Gordon Shrigley considers how an 1862 listed building in Shoreditch "could offer insight" to "help architects creatively tackle homeworking space" for small homes. "Perhaps planning guidelines now need to be amended."
- [Keith Schneider](#) delves into how more developers are turning to wood: "With environmental benefits and lower labor costs, mass timber has grown into a market that could rival steel and concrete" - environmentalists are o.k. with CLT, but "one of the biggest critics has been the \$43 billion ready-mix concrete industry" (no surprise there).
- [Bozikovic](#) cheers Formline Architecture, LGA Architectural Partners, and Public Work's planned Indigenous House at the University of Toronto Scarborough "modeled loosely after a wigwam" that "shows an architecture that goes deep. It promises to be beautiful - with a three-dimensional complexity to its form."
- [Artist-activist](#) Chat Travieso examines the overlooked history of race barriers or segregation walls in the U.S.: "The paradoxical effect of such structures is to highlight and to trivialize the historical oppressions they represent, and the injustices they continue to enact" - they "remain, to this day, oppressively normalized."
- [Glentzer](#) reports on the new Houston Botanic Garden on a former municipal golf course, designed by West 8, Overland Partners, and Clark Condon Associates, that offers "a new kind of outdoor experience - it is a museum of plants with evolving, curated collections" along with "Curiosity Cabinets" and a children's garden that invites "dirty nature play" - wash area provided (lots of pix!).
- [Emma Batha](#) reports on the recently released Smart City Index that puts Singapore, Helsinki, and Zurich at the top of the list - "cities around the world are racing to embrace technology, but researchers said the real test was whether citizens felt the benefits," and "many countries are developing smart secondary cities beyond their

capitals."

• [The Mies](#) van der Rohe Foundation and Creative Europe announce the 12 finalist vying for the 2020 Young Talent Architecture Award, and the 9 finalists competing to win the Asian Edition of YTAA 2020.

• [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Turan Duda & Jeffrey Paine: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments.

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Obituary: In Kamu Iyer's passing, Mumbai loses one of its last modernist architects: The generation...that came of age around Independence sought a design language to express the hopes of a young nation, and saw their practice as part of the larger social fabric...Iyer, 87, was perhaps the last of that generation...among the first to highlight the value of the city's 20th-century buildings...co-founded Architects Combine, which continues today new generation. An associate of Charles Correa... - Times of India

Diana Budds: How Do We Create an RBG Memorial That Isn't Terrible? As Governor Cuomo calls for a Ruth Bader Ginsburg statue in Brooklyn, we asked people with arts-commission experience where the pitfalls lie: Creating public monuments - good ones, anyway - is hard...could go awry and produce something boring, or obvious or, worse yet, meaningless. And RBG deserves something that goes right...getting everyone on the same page about the dull details of procedure turns out to matter..."award scholarships in her name. That would become closer to her ideas than a statue." -- Paul Farber/Monument Lab; Cecilia Alemani/High Line; Paul Goldberger; Mabel O. Wilson; Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel; Jerry Saltz/New York Magazine; Marion Weiss/Weiss Manfredi - Curbed

How To Make Streets Kid-Friendly: "Designing Streets for Kids," released by the Global Designing Cities Initiative, a program of the National Association of City Transportation Officials, offers planning strategies and practical solutions to redesign urban streets and public spaces by focusing on the needs of kids and their caregivers, with the goal of making streets beautiful, fun - and safe...urban design challenges impact all children, but are especially stark for children in low-income and historically under served communities...guide is a supplement of the "Global Street Design Guide." -- Skye Duncan - Forbes

Cathleen McGuigan: LACMA Defends Its New Building by Peter Zumthor: The long-planned building for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art...has been an ongoing target of withering criticism. The museum is now punching back, with new renderings and a fact sheet: ...critics have been scratching their heads in noting that the new museum is smaller than first advertised, and have expressed concern that it cannot adequately display [the] permanent collections...fact sheet, stating the future museum will contain 110,000 square feet of galleries (an earlier EIR noted 170,000 square feet)...Michael Govan maintains the construction "is on time and on budget"...there will be [new] outdoor public space of 3.5 acres, including sculpture gardens. -- William Pereira; Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer - Architectural Record

Cajsa Carlson: European Commission president announces "new European Bauhaus" to help Europe move to a circular economy: ...part of the European

Union's €750 billion NextGenerationEU coronavirus recovery plan...to kickstart a cultural and sustainable movement in the European Union...."a co-creation space where architects, artists, students, engineers, designers work together...Ursula Von der Layen highlighted construction as an area that needs to be made more sustainable...set a goal of reducing greenhouse emissions by 55% by 2030. - Dezeen

Tom Ravenscroft: SOM unveils modular School/House pop-up classrooms in response to coronavirus: ...intended to provide a more healthy alternative to current options available for schools in need of additional classroom space...designed to be healthy indoor learning spaces for 25 students positioned 1.8 metres (six feet) away from each other, or up to 50 students in a regular configuration...interior would be clad in easily sanitised finishes...can be installed alongside existing schools, in parking lots or even on available roof space...designed for schools...in cities and rural areas - Dezeen

Gordon Shrigley: Could historical design help architects creatively tackle homeworking space? ...how a 19th century listed building could offer insight: ...we need to think of new ways of living under the cloud of Covid-19...Many of us...live in very small homes...How is it possible then to make space for homeworking...A good historic example is the Grade II terrace of artisan houses and workshops [in] Shoreditch, designed in 1862 by...Philip Webb...Worship Street was designed to allow people to live and work in one place...provides a significant example of how homes could be designed to accommodate generous working areas...Perhaps planning guidelines now need to be amended...- Hackney Gazette (UK)

Keith Schneider: As Concerns Over Climate Change Rise, More Developers Turn to Wood: With environmental benefits and lower labor costs, mass timber has grown into a market that could rival steel and concrete in the construction industry: "We are making huge headway in the U.S. now," said Michael Green, a leading mass timber architect for Katerra...[a] company devoted to designing, manufacturing and constructing ecologically sensitive buildings...Walmart has turned to mass timber as it replaces its headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., with a 350-acre corporate campus...12 cross-laminated timber [CLT] buildings encompassing 2.4 million square feet...One of the biggest critics has been the \$43 billion ready-mix concrete industry ..Environmentalists are comfortable with mass timber. - New York Times

Alex Bozikovic: A new Indigenous House at the University of Toronto Scarborough shows an architecture that goes deep: Modelled loosely after a wigwam...the centre will be a long, loosely triangular building with round social spaces at either end, cradled by earth ramps seeded with medicinal plants. It promises to be beautiful. with...a three-dimensional complexity to its form. -- Alfred Waugh/Formline Architecture; LGA Architectural Partners; Public Work-Globe and Mail (Canada)

Chat Travieso: A Nation of Walls: The Overlooked History of Race Barriers in the United States: ...in their bluntness and ordinariness, such race barriers or segregation walls tend to hide in plain sight...walls and fences like these have been erected for decades...and sanctioned by the courts...The paradoxical effect of such structures is to highlight and to trivialize the historical oppressions they represent, and the injustices they continue to enact...I have been mapping and

researching race barriers across the U.S...municipalities...continue, into the present century, to block streets along Black-white neighborhood borders - and in so doing to further harden racial divisions...remain, to this day, oppressively normalized. - Places Journal

Molly Glentzer: New Houston Botanic Garden ready to bloom: ...introducing a new kind of outdoor experience that embraces both civilization and wilderness. Unlike an arboretum or nature center,[it] is a museum of plants with evolving, curated collections...About 2.5 miles of walking trails wind through it...132-acre green space has been transformed during the past two years from its previous life as the Glenbrook municipal golf course...first Texas project for...West 8...master plan...calls for many more projects, including an event and education center, a conservatory with a restaurant... -- Overland Partners; Clark Condon Associates - Houston Chronicle

Emma Batha: Singapore, Helsinki and Zurich top index of world's smartest cities: The new ranking comes amid growing debate over the future of urban design for a post-COVID-19 era: From smart traffic cameras and car sharing apps to pollution monitoring and free wifi for all, cities around the world are racing to embrace technology, but researchers said the real test was whether citizens felt the benefits...Others in the top 10 included Auckland, Oslo, Copenhagen, Geneva, Taipei City, Amsterdam, New York, while Abuja, Nairobi and Lagos ranked bottom...many countries are developing smart secondary cities beyond their capitals. -- Institute for Management Development (IMD)- Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Finalists Released for 2020 Young Talent Architecture Award: The Fundació Mies van der Rohe and Creative Europe have announced the 12 finalist projects...and the 9 finalist projects competing to win the Asian Edition of YTAA 2020. Winners will be announced on October 5 at the beginning of the online Young Talent Architecture Award Day. - ArchDaily

ANN feature: Turan Duda, FAIA & Jeffrey Paine, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: A Well State of Mind: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Thursday, September 24, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, September 29. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe.

- [ANN feature](#): Daniela Gusman puts out a call for architects and suppliers to sign up for "rise in the city 2020": Grow your business and help hundreds of vulnerable youth start theirs in the southern African nation Lesotho via a virtual networking and mentoring initiative.
- [Lamster](#) takes a deep/fascinating/disturbing dive into Joppa: "For generations, Dallas has abused, terrorized and neglected a community built by emancipated slaves. Its story is the history of race in Dallas - and America. It's a story that's at once profoundly disturbing and sadly typical."
- [Anderton](#) talks to the team responsible for Treehouse, a co-living project in Hollywood that "might be just what the doctor ordered at a time of extreme isolation" (and our warmest congrats to Anderton - recipient of the LA Design Festival 2020 ICON Award!).
- [Glentzer](#) waxes poetic about Houston's renovated Rothko Chapel, "an elegant but simple" Welcome House, and "purposeful landscaping" by ARO, George Sexton, and Nelson Byrd Woltz: "Houstonians have never needed the calming influence of the Rothko more than they do now, given the upheavals that have roiled the world this year" (re-opening today!).
- [Nancy Kenney](#) parses Adjaye's design for the Princeton University Art Museum; "Stone, bronze, glass, pathways. Pavilions linked by transparent 'lenses' will dispense with hierarchies" (and unlike LACMA, "curators weighed in significantly").
- [Kimmelman](#) and Harvard's Kayden stroll from Times Square to Grand Central on "a legal-minded itinerary" that "covered a semester's worth of land-use law, which seemed enough for one walk" (another great MK walkabout and, again, great pix by Zack DeZon).
- [Nancy Levinson's](#) great Q&A with architect and educator Peggy Deamer re: her life as an activist, co-founding The Architecture Lobby, and the rise of labor consciousness in the design disciplines.
- [Create Streets](#) founder Nicholas Boys Smith to lead the U.K. government's new "architecture task force to 'embed beauty' in the planning system" that "will make beauty a requirement of winning planning - RIBA slams government 'inconsistencies.'"
- [Singapore-based](#) DP Architects' CEO Angelene Chan on design and urban planning in a post-COVID-19 world. "Post-pandemic, resilient cities and environmental health must go hand-in-hand" - providing "a better quality of life will become even more urgent."
- [The National](#) Trust for Historic Preservation names America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2020 - "including 7 sites with significant connections to women's history" (SOM) & Natalie de Blois included).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Turan Duda & Jeffrey Paine: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments.

Weekend diversions:

- [Alia Akkam](#) offers a fab(!) round-up of "15 essential design events to catch this fall - virtually or at a safe social distance - explore the impact of architecture and design during a time when new ways of thinking have never been more critical."
- [Singapore](#) Archifest 2020 "Architecture Saving OUR World" kicks off tomorrow: The Singapore Institute of Architects "will be rolling out programs - from pop-up experiences that reimagine the way we live, to virtual exhibitions, forums, film screenings, workshops and an immersive virtual Pavilion that pushes the frontier of sustainable design."
- [NYC's Archtober](#) 2020 celebrates 10 years (bravo!) - with 60+ partners, 100s of events, tours, and exhibitions - "many hosted digitally, allowing visitors from across the globe to participate."
- [Kamin cheers](#) "Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People" at Chicago's Ando-designed Wrightwood 659 gallery - the "engaging, intelligent" show "celebrates his humanistic designs" that seek "to uplift human experience, not turn out spectacular objects that strut across the urban stage. Which is not to say that his buildings are not beautiful" (his colorful paintings "add delightful grace notes").
- [Ohio State](#) University's Knowlton School of Architecture Banvard Gallery presents "The Great Lakes Architectural Expedition," the work of Galen Pardee's "fake architecture and research office" that "explores designing for a non-human - the Great Lakes Compact."
- ["State of Extremes"](#) at the Design Museum Holon in Israel, curated by Aric Chen and Maya Dvash, "describes a world that has changed, and with it, design and the practice of design - exploring a world of social, political and environmental extremes."
- [One we couldn't resist:](#) On view at London Craft Week: "Inspired by love of her home town," Laura Lees, who has embroidered everything from trompe l'oeil paneling for a London restaurant, and swear words on to table linen, has embroidered postcards with Edinburgh 's Modernist buildings.



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[ANN feature: Daniela Gusman: RISE IN THE CITY 2020 Launches: Building Africa's Future Through Enterprise: Grow your business and help hundreds of vulnerable youth start theirs, with "rise in the city," a virtual networking and mentoring initiative.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

[Mark Lamster: Reckoning with Joppa: For generations, Dallas has abused, terrorized and neglected a community built by emancipated slaves. Its story is the history of race in Dallas - and America: ...small and secluded, a neighborhood of barely 300 homes...a good part of what makes it special is its relative isolation...That isolation is also its curse...serves as a disturbing case study in the systemic racism faced by Black communities nationwide...one of the most polluted neighborhoods in Dallas. That is not an accident...subjected to urban planning decisions that have devalued the lives of its residents...How does an impoverished community lose its only real walkable link to the outside world? It's a story that's at once profoundly disturbing and sadly typical.](#) - Dallas Morning News

[DnA/Frances Anderton: In an age of loneliness, Treehouse offers community that's carefully curated and designed: Americans are experiencing an epidemic of loneliness. A coliving project in Hollywood was designed to remedy it. Then came a pandemic: ...co-living might be just what the doctor ordered at a time of extreme isolation...designed to enable intentional and informal encounters...pandemic testing the project's very concept...neighbors were helping neighbors...while social distancing measures kept the illness itself at](#)



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bay...more Treehouses are being built...adaptations are being made... -- Adriana Cargill; Sean Knibb; Jeff Soler/Soler Architecture - KCRW (Los Angeles)

Molly Glentzer: A first look at Houston's renovated Rothko Chapel: A Welcome House, purposeful landscaping and a louvered skylight shine fresh light on the chapel: Houstonians collectively have never needed the calming influence of the Rothko more than they do now, given the upheavals...that have roiled the world this year....[It] has always been a place to clear your head...feels simpler and more refined, and more purposeful landscaping around it enhances the meditative sensibility.....Suzanne Deal Booth Welcome House...an elegant but simple glass and steel structure that sits like a little jewel box on the land...All commercial activity...has moved there...visitors' counter has been removed from the entry vestibule, which had become a cluttered bottleneck. Now the quietude begins outside. -- George Sexton Associates; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects - Houston Chronicle

Nancy Kenney: Stone, bronze, glass, pathways: Princeton University Art Museum unveils David Adjaye's design: Pavilions linked by transparent "lenses" will dispense with hierarchies and display renowned collection on a single level: More intimate spaces described as bronze and glass "lenses" will be interspersed...offering vantage points...six ground-floor entrances will welcome visitors from all directions...Curators weighed in significantly...building will incorporate...university's department of art and archaeology and a grand hall, numerous classroom spaces, seminar rooms, creativity labs and a rooftop café. -- Adjaye Associates - The Art Newspaper

Michael Kimmelman: Times Square, Grand Central and the Laws That Build the City: A virtual tour looks at the legal battles and innovations behind 42nd Street...with the Harvard professor Jerold S. Kayden: He mapped a legal-minded itinerary along 42nd Street from Times Square to the East River...we covered a semester's worth of land-use law by the time we reached Grand Central, which seemed enough for one walk, so we won't get to any...East Side

favorites in this conversation. "...for a subset of idiosyncratic people known as land-use lawyers and preservationists, Grand Central is equally revered as the subject of one of the most important constitutional law decisions ever issued by the Supreme Court." -- Renzo Piano; William Hollingsworth (Holly) Whyte; Ulrich Franzen; Marcel Breuer; Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) - New York Times

Architectural Workers: Peggy Deamer In Conversation With Nancy Levinson: Q&A with architect and educator Deamer re: her life as an activist, about cofounding The Architecture Lobby, and about the rise of labor consciousness in the design disciplines: "I began to wonder about how to raise awareness of the value of architectural labor - and more, how to enlarge the capacity of architecture to function as a force for positive social change...Schools should pursue research that's more closely connected to the problems that are overwhelming our news feeds - research that's both spatial and social...Now, COVID-19...is inspiring a new wave of activist energy" - Places Journal

Nicholas Boys Smith to lead new government task force to "embed beauty" in the planning system: Create Streets founder ...to lead a national design body that has been tasked with "driving up design standards" for planning applications...architecture task force, which will work with local communities to develop legally binding design codes...will make beauty a requirement of winning planning...previously co-chaired the controversial Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission with the late Roger Scruton...also appointed architectural historian Charles O'Brien to the post of listing heritage adviser...RIBA slams government "inconsistencies" ... - Dezeen

Singapore firm DP Architects on design and urban planning in a post-pandemic world: CEO Angelene Chan recalls the challenges DPA faced, including stop-work orders in construction sites and travel bans due to COVID-19. Post-pandemic, resilient cities and environmental health must go hand-in-hand..."At present, we are fortunate that our projects are ongoing, albeit at a slower pace...Creating smaller, inclusive urban clusters will provide a sense of continuity during times of crisis like a pandemic"...Singapore's plans to be an even greener city...as a means to provide a better quality of life, will become even more urgent. - Business Insider

Discover America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2020: ...list includes a diverse mix of historic places nationwide that highlight many of the cultures, stories, and experiences - including 7 sites with significant connections to women's history...threats ranging from neglect to natural disasters to inappropriate developmen...learn what you can do to support these irreplaceable sites...Cincinnati...first hotel by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) & Natalie de Blois... - National Trust for Historic Preservation/NTHP

Alia Akkam: 15 Essential Design Events to Catch This Fall: Available to view virtually or at a safe social distance, these fairs, exhibitions, talks, and tours should be on your calendar...explore the impact of architecture and design during a time when new ways of thinking have never been more critical. -- LA Design Festival (September 24-27); Detroit Month of Design; The Design Museum's "Connected"; Exhibit Columbus; Museum of Arts and Design (NYC): "Brian Clarke: The Art of Light"; SCI-Arc & Harvard GSD lectures; London Craft Week; Copenhagen Architecture Festival; Archtober (NYC); Architectural League of New York First Friday Distance Edition; Architecture & Design Film

Festival (ADFF) - Dwell

Singapore Archifest 2020: "Architecture Saving OUR World" - September 25 - October 31: Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) will be rolling out varied programmes - from pop-up experiences that reimagine the way we live, to virtual exhibitions, forums, film screenings, workshops and an immersive virtual Pavilion that pushes the frontier of sustainable design...hallmark SIA Conference will also feature 13 eminent design and architecture maestros from Singapore and across the world- Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) / Singapore Architectural Festival

Archtober: Celebrating 10 years. New York City Architecture and Design. 2020. 60+ partners. 100s of events, tours, and exhibitions: in response to the COVID-19 crisis, many of our partner programs will be hosted digitally, allowing visitors from across the globe to participate... - Center for Architecture / AIANY (NYC)

Blair Kamin: A renowned Indian architect gets a Chicago showcase as Wrightwood 659 gallery: "Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People" celebrates [his] humanistic designs...his nation's first winner of...the Pritzker Architecture Prize...for an approach to design that seeks to uplift human experience, not turn out spectacular objects that strut across the urban stage. Which is not to say that his buildings are not beautiful...engaging, intelligent and richly immersive [show]...Throughout, Doshi's versions of traditional Indian miniature paintings...add delightful grace notes. thru December 12 -- Tadao Ando- Chicago Tribune

Jonathan Hilburg: A speculative architecture show at OSU imagines design literally for the environment: ...a fake architecture and research office actually run by Galen Pardee (who curated and designed the show), whose work and archives are now on display at...Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture. In "The Great Lakes Architectural Expedition," the work of the fictional firm explores designing for a non-human client; in this case, the Great Lakes Compact...three of the fantasy architectural collective's "projects" on display. thru October 16- The Architect's Newspaper

"State of Extremes": In 2010, the inaugural exhibition at the Design Museum Holon in Israel, designed by the architect Ron Arad was "The State of Things" ...showcased design as a landscape of objects. Ten years down the track, "State of Extremes" instead describes a world that has changed, and with it, design and the practice of design...curated by Aric Chen and Maya Dvash...show takes visitors through 70 artworks, exploring a world of social, political and environmental extremes. thru October 31 - Floornature

Alice Fisher: Modernist Edinburgh embroidered on postcards: Laura Lees has embroidered many things. Dart boards on to jackets...trompe l'oeil panelling for a London restaurant, and even swear words on to table linen. But these postcards, which will be on show at London Craft Week (Sept. 30 - Oct. 10), were inspired by love of her home town...."I'm drawn to its modernist buildings..." -- Robert Matthew Johnson- Observer (UK)

ANN feature: Turan Duda, FAIA & Jeffrey Paine, FAIA: INSIGHT: Design's Impact on Mental Health on Campus: A Well State of Mind: Designing for mental health requires architects to prioritize the student experience by providing

| [privacy, community, and comfort in their built environments.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Tuesday, September 29, 2020

- [Betsky explains](#) "why post-pandemic architecture should resist sameness in its pursuit of safety," calling for a new International Style - the latest version is "standardized, logical, efficient, and soulless. It is up to architects to take up their role in this movement for a different kind of global architecture of liberation, justice, and sustainability."
- [Mortice](#) delves into the depressing details of how, "for students in low-income communities, the coronavirus crisis is layered on an existing public health crisis: deteriorated school buildings that are unhealthy places to learn. For those who design new schools or maintain them, the pandemic is ruthlessly exposing the scale of this often-unseen public health dilemma."
- [C.J. Hughes](#) looks into how "some developers are making minor tweaks in the face of the Covid era" - one NYC condo is "offering buyers a \$10,000 credit that can be spent to create one of the most coveted of amenities in this stay-at-home period: a dedicated home office" - designed by Andres Escobar for free.
- [Moore minces](#) no words about what he thinks of "the catastrophe of converting office blocks to homes" - and how the government's "experiment in deregulation" (in England only) is being "applied, with devastating effects."
- [Nate Berg](#) parses SHoP's newly launched venture (independent) Assembly that has brought together architects, car designers, aerospace engineers, and manufacturing partners to make it "easier and faster to build high-rise apartments" by turning around the design process "so that how a project will be built determines how it gets designed."
- [Fazzare](#) profiles architect-advocate Pascale Sablan, who is "actively changing history with a simple mission: women and designers of color must claim and be credited for their contributions," and founded Beyond the Built Environment "to do just that" (with bigger plans in the works).
- [Frances](#) Richard's Q&A with University of Johannesburg Graduate School of Architecture's Huda Tayob re: the Race, Space, and Architecture open-access curriculum intended to "draw attention to the economies of higher education, in which so many lack access."
- [Mavros's](#) Q&A with designer-activist (and Loeb Fellow) De Nichols re: the Design as Protest initiative "created to hold the profession accountable," and Dark Matter University, created "to reframe the learning process and experience."
- [Wainwright](#) x 2: Though Plymouth's new £46m Box gallery looks "like a storage shed blown in by a gale," and "may not be a thing of beauty - it is surprisingly successful - the content and ambition mostly outweigh the niggles of the building itself."
- [He cheers](#) a new "fun-filled" primary school in Hackney topped by a tower of luxury flats - planters on the roof let kids "grow their own food and get mucky with mud - a welcome reminder that cities are for children, too" - Henley Halebrown did a good "job of making the forced marriage seem like a natural pairing - a finely composed thing of rare quality" (too bad teachers can't afford the flats).
- [Tim McKeough](#) offers a delightful take on pavilions that "inhabit the space between art and architecture. Especially in a pandemic, these structures give architects room" to experiment, and "can offer glimpses of architecture's potential, even before all the kinks are worked out."

- [Frey and Kocher's 1931 Aluminaire House](#) has found a permanent home - the Palm Springs Art Museum, where the "historically significant aluminum and metal prototype residence" will be reassembled in 2021.
- [The inaugural Places Summer Writing + Editorial Workshop](#) has resulted in essays by 26 students on the theme "Architecture, Urbanism, Pandemics" (check 'em out!).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Daniela Gusman puts out a call for architects and suppliers to sign up for "rise in the city 2020": Grow your business and help hundreds of vulnerable youth start theirs in the southern African nation Lesotho via a virtual networking and mentoring initiative.

Deadlines:

- [Architect Magazine](#) has extended the deadline for its 2020 Studio Prize for innovative studio courses during the 2019-2020 school year to October 14!
- [Request for Proposals/RFP: Next2Lead](#) to advance leadership pathways for Ethnically Diverse Women will provide leadership and experiential education, mentoring for 16 AIA members with minimum of five years of experience.

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[Aaron Betsky: The Case for a New International Style: why post-pandemic architecture should resist sameness in its pursuit of safety: ...we are seeing yet the latest version of the International Style...I do not mean the glass and steel boxes by Mies van der Rohe or...Skidmore, Owings & Merrill \[SOM\]...our environments will look even more Modernist: standardized, logical, efficient, and soulless...the need for safety will trump all design variation...It is up to architects, who know this new International Style, its rules and regulations, as well as its logic, to take up their role in this movement for a different kind of global architecture of liberation, justice, and sustainability.](#) - Architect Magazine

[Zach Mortice: How America's Schools Got So Sick: For students in low-income communities, the coronavirus crisis is layered on an existing public health crisis: deteriorated school buildings that are unhealthy places to learn: Asbestos, lead paint, unsafe drinking water...are fixtures of public school districts nationwide...For those who design new schools and maintain existing ones, the pandemic is ruthlessly exposing the scale of this often-unseen public health dilemma...The true value of healthy, well-designed schools becomes most clear when they're put in communities that lack abundant resources.](#) -- Erika Eitland/Brooke Trivas/Barbara Crum/Perkins and Will; SHW Group (now Stantec); VMDO- Bloomberg CityLab

[C.J. Hughes: How the Pandemic Has Changed Apartment Building Amenities: Copper door handles, sectional sofas instead of giant couches, and hospital-grade ventilation systems find their way into new buildings: ...some developers are making minor tweaks in the face of the Covid era...adding cabana-lined roof decks, repurposing lounges as outdoor schools...Rental complexes seem to be rationing amenities differently...Charlie West, a 123-unit condo...offering buyers a \\$10,000 credit that can be spent to create one of the most coveted of amenities in this stay-at-home period: a dedicated home office...Andres Escobar's \[Lemay + Escobar Architecture\] services are free...](#) - New York Times

[Rowan Moore: 'It's like an open prison': the catastrophe of converting office blocks to homes: A policy designed to open up the planning system has left thousands in tiny flats, far from schools and shops. And with more deregulation](#)



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coming, things will get worse: Shield House is just one example of...a government experiment in deregulation...This is the famous definition of insanity - doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results - applied, with devastating effects...a machine for driving up housing numbers...permitted development...tends to create lousy homes that inflict costs on their neighbourhoods and contribute little, that damage business, burden local authorities and wreck people's lives. - Observer (UK)

Nate Berg: Why one architecture firm is looking at planes to construct buildings of the future: Newly launched Assembly will decentralize building manufacturing, making it easier and faster to build high-rise apartments: The way buildings are designed is backward, and a team of architects, car designers, and aerospace engineers wants to turn it around...so that how [a project] will be built determines how it gets designed...Sharples brothers...have been experimenting with prefabricated architecture for more than 20 years...SHoP Architects and Assembly will operate as two separate entities...[with] network of manufacturing partners, they'll be able to apply their...approach to mid- and high-rise buildings around the world. -- Chris Sharples; Bill Sharples; MaryAnne Gilmartin - Fast Company / Co.Design

Elizabeth Fazzare: Architect-Advocate Pascale Sablan Is Revising The History Of The Built Environment: ...dedicated to elevating her fellow diverse peers...building a database of their global contributions...actively changing history with a simple mission: women and designers of color must claim and be credited for their contributions..."Step one is teaching our culture, our gender, you need to document yourself"...founded Beyond the Built Environment... to do just that...digital record of "Say It Loud"...has bigger plans to activate the data. -- S9 Architecture; National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) - Forbes

Frances Richard: Race, Space, and Architecture: Q&A with Huda Tayob re: the inseparability of place-making and racialization...and transdisciplinarity in architecture and design education: "We encourage students to consider a variety of constructed and entangled methods, fields, and archives, and to engage with both the materiality of architecture and the ways in which the discipline is defined. What counts as 'architecture' and where do we find it? ...what is important in the...curriculum is...to question the underpinnings of the discipline in the first place...Making this curriculum open-access draws attention to the economies of higher education, in which so many lack access." - Places Journal

Kara Mavros: Q&A with Designer-Activist De Nichols: The St. Louis-based artist, educator, and 2020 Harvard GSD Loeb Fellow has been using her "visual voice" to condemn racial injustices for over a decade...founder and principal of...Civic Creatives, and one of roughly 120 BIPOC (Black, indigenous, people of color) organizers of the Design as Protest initiative..."DAP was created to hold the profession accountable...created Dark Matter University...to reframe the learning process and experience, and to look at the ways in which BIPOC design educators and antiracist folk - including white educators...might create a learning

space to fill gaps in their own understanding." - Architectural Record

Oliver Wainwright: 'Like a storage shed blown in by a gale' - Plymouth's new £46m Box gallery: This plain silver structure could win the port another ugly building award. But its citizens are unlikely to mind - since it showcases treasures from ancient vessels to a woolly mammoth: ...a fitting name for a big clumsy box that has been plonked on top of the city's Edwardian museum...It may not be a thing of beauty, but this big, practical structure provides a welcome addition to the city...complex is surprisingly successful; it has created a place where the content and ambition mostly outweigh the niggles of the building itself. -- Atkins; Event Exhibition & Design - Guardian (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: Sir, can I go and play in the mud kitchen? The fun-filled school with luxury flats attached: Pupils at this new primary will be able to bounce on the playground and grow food on the roof. Shame their teachers won't be able to afford the high-end homes that funded it: ...the roof of Hackney New Primary School is given over to planters for each class to grow their own food and get mucky with mud. It is a welcome reminder...that cities are for children, too...a tower of 68 luxury flats had to be built to pay for the school...Henley Halebrown have done an admirable job of making the forced marriage seem like a natural pairing...a finely composed thing of rare quality...the school has the feeling of a little cloister... - Guardian (UK)

Tim McKeough: Pavilions Inhabit the Space Between Art and Architecture: Especially in a pandemic, these structures give architects room to play with materials and form: ...a long tradition of small-scale structures that grow out of experiments...Initiatives like the Serpentine Pavilion in London...[Toronto's] Winter Stations competition....pavilions can offer glimpses of architecture's potential, even before all the kinks are worked out...may not always seem as practical as traditional buildings, they routinely serve many important functions... -- Valerie Schweitzer; Philip Johnson; Roland Rom Colthoff; Leslie Lok/Sasa Zivkovic/Hannah; Lucas De Man/Company New Heroes; Marc Fornes/Theverymany - New York Times

Aluminaire House Finds Permanent Home in Palm Springs: Foundation picks the Palm Springs Art Museum over the future College of the Desert campus where the structure will be reassembled in 2021: ...historically significant aluminum and metal prototype residence, designed by Albert Frey and A. Lawrence Kocher in 1931...considered a masterpiece of modernist design...New York architects Michael Schwarting and Frances Campani worked diligently for more than 25 years to save, protect and document...Frey generously bequeathed his archive...along with his Frey House II residence, which sits on the hillside above the museum. -- Wallace K. Harrison - Palm Springs Life

Places Summer Writing + Editorial Workshop: a new project we launched this year for selected students nominated by faculty at our partner schools - over the course of four week-long sessions, 26 students worked with Places' editors to develop their own essays on the theme of Architecture, Urbanism, Pandemics. - Places Journal

Call for entries: 2020 ARCHITECT Studio Prize Final Deadline Extension! Did you teach an innovative studio course during the 2019-2020 school year? Entries are now open through October 14! - Architect Magazine

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP: Next2Lead to advance leadership pathways for Ethnically Diverse Women: will provide leadership and experiential education, mentoring and experiences for 16 AIA members [with] minimum of five years of experience; deadline: October 15- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

ANN feature: Daniela Gusman: RISE IN THE CITY 2020 Launches: Building Africa's Future Through Enterprise: Grow your business and help hundreds of vulnerable youth start theirs, with "rise in the city," a virtual networking and mentoring initiative.- ArchNewsNow.com

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Today's News - Wednesday, September 30, 2020

- [Good news/disappointing](#) news from across the Big Pond: Adjaye wins 2021 RIBA Royal Gold Medal!
- [This year's](#) Stirling Prize cancelled because of Covid-19 - "RIBA says judges not able to get out and judge 226 shortlisted schemes in person."
- [Deane Madsen](#) cheers Mecanoo's "reconfigurations and recalibrations" of Mies's 1972 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library that "once again has a dignity befitting the Washington, DC library system's centerpiece building - more Miesian than it was."
- [Ravenscroft](#) offers eye-fuls VenhoevenCS and Ateliers 2/3/4's (oh-so-green) timber aquatic center for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics, "the only permanent venue built for the games" that will reopen as a public facility when the games end.
- [Sam Lubell](#) makes a plea to NYC re: the planned "deep cut" to the "already deeply under-funded" Parks Department at a time when we need them most - parks "are not frivolous places that look pretty. They are vital resources."
- [Landscape](#) architect Dr. Joshua Zeunert from UNSW Sydney says "the time is ripe for bringing food production back into urban life" with things like "aesthetic foodscapes - edible landscape designs in public spaces - landscape architects and urban designers have a big role to play. 'We actually have some great agricultural land in Australian cities.'"
- [Harrouk](#) highlights "11 Steps to Achieve Quality Public Spaces at a Neighborhood Level: UN-Habitat's Guideline" offering "innovative approaches in the urban design field" with "a series of activities and tools - creating a logical transition from needs to design."
- [The 50-acre](#) Boston Common, the oldest public park in the U.S. and part of the city's "green necklace" by Frederick Law Olmsted, "is getting a facelift" by Weston & Sampson.
- [Kate Wagner](#): Perhaps Paul Rudolph is "the unluckiest architect in the history of American modernism" who "lived long enough to see the wrecking ball" tear "through his portfolio. The latest victim in this saga of devastation" is his Burroughs Wellcome HQ in North Carolina.
- [Add to that](#): "Robin Boyd's first home heritage status challenged," arguing that he "had in fact designed an earlier house" (there will be a hearing early next year).
- [On a brighter](#) note: "9 of the best Frank Lloyd Wright sites to visit in the U.S." - all but one were designated a UNESCO World Heritage property in 2019.
- [Guimang](#) profiles architectural designer Melissa Daniel, host of the "Architecture Is Political" podcast (one "you shouldn't miss") - "one woman is sparking opportunities for Black and Brown voices and opinions to be heard" + links to other notable podcasts focusing on BIPOC women.
- [Eye-fuls](#) of the Australian Institute of Architects' 2020 National Architecture Awards shortlist - "the jury was struck by the creativity, passion and accomplishment of established and emerging architects alike."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: "What American Landmarks Looked like Under Construction."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Daniela Gusman puts out a call for architects and suppliers to sign up for "rise in the city"

2020": Grow your business and help hundreds of vulnerable youth start theirs in the southern African nation Lesotho via a virtual networking and mentoring initiative.

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David Adjaye wins 2021 RIBA Royal Gold Medal: British-Ghanaian architect has been awarded...one of architecture's highest accolades...approved by the Queen, the [Medal] recognises those who have dedicated their lives to the "advancement of architecture"...knighted in 2017 for his services to architecture... - Dezeen

Stirling Prize off as covid forces cancellation of this year's event: RIBA says judges not able to get out and judge 226 shortlisted schemes in person: Prize is the latest ceremony to fall victim to the covid-19 pandemic... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Deane Madsen: Mecanoo Respectfully Revises Mies van der Rohe's MLK Library: Rethinking the original Modernist design brings an aging D.C. icon into the present with an eye toward the future: ...the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library once again has a dignity befitting the Washington, D.C. library system's centerpiece building. The thoughtful reconfigurations and recalibrations...how to Modernist principles...while gently layering in a softer, more humanistic touch... [1972 library] gradually became a...shell of its former self, losing its status as the system's crown jewel..."made it more Miesian than it was." -- OTJ Architects; Martinez + Johnson Architecture; Francine Houben - Architectural Record

Tom Ravenscroft: Dutch studio VenhoevenCS and French practice Ateliers 2/3/4/ reveal timber aquatic centre for Paris 2024 Summer Olympics: ... the only permanent venue built for the [Games]...will host...opening and closing ceremonies...the only major facility built for the [Games]...Paris is aiming to be the most sustainable games in history...timber roof will be topped with solar panels to make the "largest urban photovoltaic farm in France"...pool will be reopened as a public facility... - Dezeen

Sam Lubell: Op-ed: NYC, don't give up on parks when we need them most: ...the city's parks have provided a vital, and relatively safe, respite from our stressful, often isolating lives in quarantine...So it's troubling that New York is cutting its Department of Parks & Recreation budget by more than \$84 million, or 14%...this deep a cut to an already deeply underfunded agency will hurt New Yorkers at a time when we all - especially those of fewer means - need it most...intangible jolts come with the decline of our parks...the city needs to more aggressively explore alternative ways to keep its parks intact...[Parks] are not frivolous places that look pretty. They are vital resources... - The Architect's Newspaper

Food for thought: edible public spaces: The time is ripe for bringing food production back into urban life through our use of public space: Dr. Joshua Zeunert from UNSW Built Environment says many people have an 'urban disconnect' from our food system...The landscape architect says that we need to reconnect with our food...One possible solution is 'aesthetic foodscapes' - edible landscape designs...in streets and other public areas...landscape architects and urban designers have a big role to play..."we actually have some great agricultural land in Australian cities." - UNSW Sydney Newsroom (University of New

South Wales, Australia)

Christele Harrouk: 11 Steps to Achieve Quality Public Spaces at a Neighborhood Level: UN-Habitat's Guideline: ...innovative approaches in the urban design field, centered on the active participation of the community...a series of activities and tools that help understand the quality of the selected area and plan future design and planning solutions on the site through participatory approaches...creating a logical transition from needs to design.- ArchDaily

A dog park, a redesigned Frog Pond pavilion, and other proposals inside the Boston Common master plan: America's oldest public park is getting a facelift...improvements to the existing amenities of the 50-acre park. -- Cheri Ruane/Weston & Sampson - Boston Globe

Kate Wagner: This Brutal World: Public opinion has softened its views on Brutalism. That isn't enough to stay the wrecking ball: With the exception of Minoru Yamasaki...Paul Rudolph is perhaps the unluckiest architect in the history of American modernism...[he] lived long enough to see the tide turn against modern architecture...The wrecking ball soon tore through his portfolio...The latest victim in this saga of devastation is his Burroughs Wellcome Co. Headquarters...in Durham, North Carolina...preservation community is facing a hard truth: Their battle is...against an economic system that reduces architecture to an asset that sits upon an even more valuable asset - land. -- Ralph Twitchell - The Architect's Newspaper

Robin Boyd's first home heritage status challenged: ...one of the earliest known modernist houses constructed in Victoria (1946–47)...a hearing to be held in early 2021 to decide its fate...[house] added to the Victorian Heritage Register in 1991. An application to have it struck off the register was submitted to the Heritage Council of Victoria in 2019...argue that...Boyd had in fact designed an earlier house, built in September 1943... - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

9 Best Frank Lloyd Wright Sites To Visit In The U.S.: Over a seven-decade career, he designed hundreds of properties, including some of the most iconic buildings in the world...With the exception of Wright's first home and studio in Oak Park, Illinois, everything on this list was designated a UNESCO World Heritage property in July of 2019. - TravelAwaits

Katherine Guimapang: Melissa Daniel, host of Architecture Is Political podcast, creates a new voice for architectural discourse: As Black and minority voices continue to impact the industry's progress towards equity and inclusivity, one woman is sparking opportunities for Black and Brown voices and opinions to be heard...a podcast series you shouldn't miss. Her guest list ranges from architects to designers, writers, and even filmmakers - Archinect

Creativity and passion on display in the 2020 National Architecture Awards shortlist: The Australian Institute of Architects has revealed the shortlist...76 [projects] in 14 categories...winners will be announced in a live broadcast from 7 pm on Thursday 5 November. For the first time in the awards' 40-year history, the event will be accessible to anyone, anywhere in the world. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

What American Landmarks Looked like Under Construction: While some

monuments and landmarks offer a conflicted or divisive look back at the American past, others speak to fundamental American values like community, perseverance, innovation, and a common call to create a more perfect union... - Newsweek

ANN feature: Daniela Gusman: RISE IN THE CITY 2020 Launches: Building Africa's Future Through Enterprise: Grow your business and help hundreds of vulnerable youth start theirs, with "rise in the city," a virtual networking and mentoring initiative. - ArchNewsNow.com

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