

## Today's News - Tuesday, January 5, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're b-a-a-a-c-k - and so a new year begins. We wish everyone happiness, good health, prosperity - and peace. Now, to some serious catch-up and new news...

EDITOR'S NOTE #2: Apologies!!! The December 17 newsletter was sent out in error - this is the right one!!!

[Click here](#) to see Today's News. Feature stories below the news note.

### "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" - or not:

- [Kriston Capps](#): The "executive order might be more than just symbolic - all 7 members of the Commission on Fine Arts are now white men - deeply steeped in yesteryear's European art forms."
- [Jeff Speck's](#) open letter to Justin Shubow, president of National Civic Art Society: "I used to support NCAS when it was effectively a voice for diversity" - now the "goal is no longer diversity, but domination. Far from improving the prospects for traditional architecture - you have doomed it, and the NCAS, to permanent association with a would-be tyrant."
- [Betsy parses](#) Americans preferring Classical architecture: "There is nothing magical about the preference" - it conveys "a message of importance and elegance" but can be "just a default manner of puffing up a building" that "can hide shoddy construction" and "easily succumbs to mediocrity."
- [Brussat](#) "applauds modernist critic Betsy's kind words for classical architecture" (and a thumbs-up for Capps' article above): "Betsy lets his classist cat out of the bag" by acknowledging "that it makes sense for the public to prefer classical to modern architecture."
- [Meanwhile](#), the AIA "condemns" the executive order that "inappropriately elevates the design tastes of a few federal appointees over the communities in which the buildings will be placed."
- [Docomomo](#) US "is disturbed and appalled by the announcement promoting beautiful federal civic architecture - we are incredibly frustrated by this attempt to suggest to the American people what is and what is not beautiful civic architecture."

### On the preservation and housing fronts:

- [Marcus Fairs](#) reports that, "following an international outcry," plans to demolish Louis Kahn's dormitories at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad "have been withdrawn" - with links to board of governors' letter, and Architectural Review's petition that has garnered over 16,000 signatures as of this posting.
- [Davidson](#) steps inside Penn Station's new, \$1.6 billion Moynihan Train Hall that "seems like one more hallucinatory experience at the end of an implausible year" (it only took 27 years) - "there's a lot of Grand Central envy going on," but "New York finally - or once again - has a camera-ready set that proclaims the city's long-term faith in rail."
- [Gunts cheers](#) the preservation board of Brookline, Massachusetts, voting to give H. H. Richardson and John

Charles Olmsted homes "a temporary reprieve from the wrecking ball - for 18 months" - though the "votes do not prevent changes to the landscape - preservation staff has more work to do if it wants to save the houses."

- [Ravenscroft](#) reports on Italian architect Franco Stella's reconstruction a baroque German royal palace to become the Humboldt Forum on Berlin's Museum Island - with 3 reconstructed facades and one modern.
- [SPUR's Karlinsky](#) & Aecom's Bevington parse their report on international delivery systems for affordable housing, and ponder: "Why don't we treat housing as infrastructure" and "a human right? Many cities and countries have found ways - we can look to these examples to create our own solutions."
- [KFA's Lise](#) Bornstein considers ways to "rewrite the narrative to reframe density as the hero. Density does not have to be a dirty word. Fear of density is the fault of bad design. If we get density right, Los Angeles can be a role model to other postwar car cities as they navigate change."

#### That was the year that was - and what's next:

- [Michael](#) Geller takes "a look back at the past year and trends to watch for in 2021. COVID-19 will have lasting effects on the design of our housing, neighborhoods and cities. I do not expect to see an end to higher density developments. I do expect a much greater interest in 'the 15-minute city.'"
- [Wainwright](#) & O'Hagan look back at "the best photography and architecture of 2020: high camp to Dungeness."
- [Wainwright](#) and others offer their take on "2021's best art, architecture and photography: Frank Gehry unleashes a tornado."
- [Moore picks](#) his five fave projects of 2020: "Reasons to cheer include a sociable new university building, a Taiwanese shopping mall lagoon, and a house extension with mountain attached."
- [Brussat](#) offers his pick of the "best trad buildings of 2020 - is it possible that 2020's crop of traditional and classical buildings should be even smaller than last year's? It is depressing. It is embarrassing."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Lamster & Lange's 2020 Architecture and Design Awards (11th annual!): "It has been a year, people - here's what we'll remember from this year to forget: Design of the Year: The mask; Building(s) of the Year Award: streateries; Annual What Are You Thinking, LACMA? Award: To LACMA; Posthumous Lump of Clay: Philip Johnson" - and more!

#### ICYMI x 3 ANN features:

- [Peter Gisolfi](#): Consider the Place.
- [Trahan Architects](#) & Spackman Mossop Michaels' design for the renewal of Luther George Park in Springdale, Arkansas.
- [Duda & Paine](#): Predicting the Unpredictable - 2021 Workplace Trends.

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[Kriston Capps: Why Trump's 'Beautiful' Federal Building Order May Be Here to Stay: A White House executive order on civic architecture denounces modernism and promotes classical design for federal buildings. It might be more than just symbolic: ...has taken action to determine who gets to decide what federal buildings look...new commissioners...are deeply steeped in yesteryear's European art forms...all 7 members of the Commission on Fine Arts are now white men...team of neoclassicists has a warrant to pursue their agenda after Trump himself departs...For as long as it lasts, it will open up federal procurement possibilities for stylistically conservative architects who might not win bids on their own merits otherwise. -- Perry Guillot; Steven W. Spandle; R.](#)



Steven Lewis; National Organization of Minority Architects/NOMA; Brian Goldstein; Casey Jones; Carol Ross Barney; Moody Nolan; Huff + Gooden Architects - Bloomberg CityLab

Jeff Speck: Justin Shubow's Insane Push for a State Sanctioned Architectural Style: ...response to the...executive order mandating traditional architecture for federal buildings: ...a letter by urban planner and author [to] president of National Civic Art Society: I am saddened by what the organization has become under your leadership. I used to support NCAS when it was effectively a voice for diversity...you and your organization have shown that your goal is no longer diversity, but domination...You have gone from wanting a seat at the table to trying to pull out everyone else's chair...Far from improving the prospects for traditional architecture...you have doomed it, and [NCAS], to permanent association with a would-be tyrant. - Common Edge

Aaron Betsky: Back to the Classics: Americans prefer Classical architecture: ... at least according to the National Civic Art Society [poll]...There is nothing magical about the preference for Classicism...compose your plan according to its system, and you have made any structure convey a message of importance and elegance...[also] the easiest way to hide a building's faults...Like any language...[it] has been used in many ways that were indifferent to any moral, ethical, or political message...just a default manner of puffing up a building...engineered to give a quick message and can hide shoddy construction...easily succumbs to mediocrity... -- Justin Shubow - Architect Magazine

David Brussat: Betsky on classical popularity: Before I applaud modernist critic Aaron Betsky's kind words for classical architecture in the wake of the Harris Poll confirming its popularity, let me note, also with approval, the...recent article by critic Kriston Capps, entitled "Why Trump's 'Beautiful' Federal Building Order May Be Here to Stay"...Betsky's "Back to the Classics," in AIA's Architect magazine...lets his classist cat out of the bag...[he] has acknowledged that it makes sense for the public to prefer classical to modern architecture... - Architecture Here and There

AIA condemns executive order mandating design preference for federal architecture: ...to work with President-Elect Biden to reverse the executive order...EO attempts to promote "classical" and "traditional" architecture above other design styles...also incorrectly vilifies the General Service Administration's (GSA) Design Excellence Program...AIA does not, and never will, prioritize any type of architectural design over another...EO...inappropriately elevates the design tastes of a few federal appointees over the communities in which the buildings will be placed. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Docomomo US Response to President Trump's Executive Order on Promoting Beautiful Civic Architecture: ...is disturbed and appalled by the December 21, 2020 announcement of the Executive Order on Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture...we are incredibly frustrated by this attempt to suggest to the

American people what is and what is not beautiful civic architecture... we look forward to working with our colleagues at the American Institute of Architects and the incoming Biden/Harris administration to reverse the Executive Order. - Docomomo US

Marcus Fairs: Louis Kahn dormitories in Ahmedabad saved from demolition after global protests: Plans to demolish part of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad...have been withdrawn following an international outcry...board of governors acknowledged the impact of global protests against the proposed destruction of 14 of the 18 dormitory buildings. "You have sought to remind us that the dormitories...are a cultural legacy...We are therefore withdrawing the Expression of Interest [EOI] [and] re-evaluate the options"... - Dezeen

Justin Davidson: Penn Station's New Moynihan Train Hall Is Only a Start : A grand entrance to a rail system that needs much more: We've been talking about [it] for...27 years...setting foot [inside]...seems like one more hallucinatory experience at the end of an implausible year...And yet this long-delayed mash-up of spectacle and missed opportunity doesn't make the heart go clickety-clack...there's a lot of Grand Central envy going on...self-consciously tries to reconcile old-timey graciousness and contemporary cool...New York finally - or once again - has a camera-ready set that proclaims the city's long-term faith in rail. -- McKim, Mead & White; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Peter Pennoyer; Rockwell Group - Curbed / New York Magazine

Edward Gunts: H. H. Richardson and John Charles Olmsted homes get temporary reprieve from the wrecking ball: ...the preservation board of Brookline, Massachusetts, voted to postpone demolition for 18 months...commission's votes do not prevent changes to the landscape during the 18-month "demolition delay" period...preservation staff has more work to do if it wants to save the houses. - The Architect's Newspaper

Tom Ravenscroft: German royal palace reconstructed to become Humboldt Forum on Berlin's Museum Island: Italian architect Franco Stella has completed his reconstruction of the baroque Berlin Palace...40,000-square-metre museum stands on the site of the demolished East German parliament building alongside Berlin Cathedral...a largely 18th-century palace designed by Andreas Schlüter...three of the museum's facades are replicas of the original palace, while the fourth is a modern stone facade...To reconstruct the quince-coloured facades, sculptors and plaster moulders recreated 2,800 figures and approximately 22,000 different sandstone elements including windows, cornices and columns. - Dezeen

Sarah Karlinsky/SPUR & Cristian Bevington/Aecom: Why don't we treat housing as infrastructure? High-cost cities tend to deem housing a financial asset rather than a human right. A new report suggests it may be time for a different approach: In many other countries...Homelessness is not tolerated...a violation of the social contract...recent report..."From Copenhagen to Tokyo: Learning From International Delivery Systems"...it is encouraging to learn that many cities and countries...have found ways to provide...a range of housing options that are affordable and meet the needs of many...we can look to these examples to create our own solutions... - City Monitor

Lise Bornstein/KFA: Op-Ed: How density can be the hero in L.A.'s story: Building is one of the biggest tools in our arsenal to fight to provide affordable housing...efforts to build affordable housing...usually meet...NIMBYism...When did density become the villain in our story, and how do we rewrite the narrative to reframe density as the hero? Density does not have to be a dirty word...Thoughtful design can help create a net density increase without destroying the urban fabric and...can improve the urban fabric...Fear of density is the fault of bad design. Fear of density is unwarranted...If we get density right, we can be a role model to other postwar car cities as they navigate change... - The Architect's Newspaper

Michael Geller: Home thoughts for the new year: A look back at the past year and trends to watch for in 2021: Geller examines past predictions...and offers some new ones for 2021: ...regardless of when life returns to 'normal'...COVID-19 will have lasting effects on the design of our housing, neighbourhoods and cities...I predicted that in 2020, we would start to see balconies [made] more useable year-round...expect to see even more...will impact other aspects of residential design...create more parks, plazas, and public open spaces...expect an increasing number of people to move away to smaller, more affordable communities...I do not expect to see an end to higher density developments...I do expect a much greater interest in... 'the 15-minute city'... - Vancouver Sun

Oliver Wainwright & Sean O'Hagan: The best photography and architecture of 2020: high camp to Dungeness: Space Popular; "Stealing from the Saracens" by Diana Darke; 100 Day Studio, by the Architecture Foundation (now free on YouTube); Derek Jarman exhibition at the Garden Museum, London; Yvonne Farrell & Shelley McNamara/Grafton Architects - Guardian (UK)

Oliver Wainwright, Jonathan Jones, Adrian Searle & Sean O'Hagan: 2021's best art, architecture and photography: Frank Gehry unleashes a tornado: M+ Museum by Herzog & de Meuron; Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen by MVRDV; Cosmic House Museum by Charles Jencks and others; Luma Arles by Gehry; Greenwich Design District by SelgasCano, 6a, Barozzi Veiga, Architecture 00 and David Kohn; Academy Museum of Motion Pictures by Renzo Piano; Taipei Performing Arts Centre by OMA - Guardian (UK)

Rowan Moore: Architecture: Five best of 2020: Reasons to cheer include a sociable new university building, a Taiwanese shopping mall lagoon and a house extension with mountain attached: Town House, Kingston University by Grafton Architect; Z33, Hasselt, Belgium by Francesca Torzo Architetto; Tainan Spring, Taiwan by MVRDV; Mountain View, Sydenham by CAN Architects; " Zoe Zenghelis: Do you remember how perfect everything was?" at Betts Project, London - Observer (UK)

David Brussat: Best trad buildings of 2020: ...is it possible that this year's crop of traditional and classical buildings should be even smaller than last year's? It is depressing. It is embarrassing. -- Steven Spandle; Robert A.M. Stern; David A. Swartz Architects; Michael G. Imber Architects; McCrery Architects - Architecture Here and There

Mark Lamster & Alexandra Lange: It's the 2020 Architecture and Design Awards: It has been a year, people. COVID-19. Economic collapse. Political madness...Through it all, we've been keeping tabs...here's what we'll remember

from this year to forget: Design of the Year: The mask; Building(s) of the Year Award: To the streateries; Your Moment of Zen Award: To the Rothko Chapel; Annual What Are You Thinking, LACMA? Award: To LACMA; Neologism of the Year: "Coronagrifting" by McMansion Hell; Posthumous Lump of Clay: Philip Johnson; Making Lemonade Prize: To Victoria & Albert Museum /V&A's "Pandemic Objects" + Tributes to influential figures we lost. -- Howeler and Yoon; Milton Glaser; Michael Sorkin; Virginia McAlester; Jack Lenor Larsen; Henry N. Cobb - Medium

ANN feature: Peter Gisolfi: Consider the Place: The idea of place is a much freer, more far reaching, and potentially more inspiring understanding of setting than one that simply extols the virtues of contextual design. - ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: Trahan Architects and Spackman Mossop Michaels reveal their design for the renewal of Luther George Park in downtown Springdale, Arkansas: The project is made possible by a generous grant from the Walton Family Foundation's Design Excellence Program. - ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: Turan Duda, FAIA & Jeffrey Paine, FAIA: Predicting the Unpredictable - 2021 Workplace Trends: Several emerging trends will improve our ability to navigate the future with employee health and wellness in mind. - ArchNewsNow.com

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Yesterday's News

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## Today's News - Wednesday, January 6, 2021

- [A sad way](#) to start the day: Julie Lasky pays eloquent tribute to Jack Lenor Larsen, who "clothed the windows and furnishings of sleek modern towers as if they were fashion models" and "influenced major cultural figures" ("an adventurous colorist - he befriended the yellow family").
- [Madeleine](#) Luckel pays tribute to Paige Rense, who "led Architectural Digest to new heights over the course of her 35-year tenure - she imbued its pages with star wattage on all possible fronts."
- [Bill Millard](#) talks to architectural leaders who speak of the Biden-Harris administration "in tones of relief, hope, and urgency. Turning crisis into opportunity has rarely been so imperative."
- [Martin Pedersen's](#) Q&A with Raphael Sperry, president of Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility, re: AIA altering its Code of Ethics on prison design: "It's so great to see powerful new advocates expanding on that message and making it much stronger."
- [Rowan Moore](#): x 2: Why Trump is wrong in thinking only traditional buildings are beautiful + Lethal mistakes re: COVID-19 + His number's up: Philip Johnson.
- [He talks](#) to 95-year-old cellist - and Holocaust survivor - Anita Lasker-Wallfisch re: why she "believes that plans for a UK Holocaust memorial are 'counter-productive'. What matters most is education - there is a need for something more than remembrance" (she says it's also "in the wrong place").
- [Justin Davidson](#) explains why New York should use Guadalajara's biggest market "(part Port Authority Bus Terminal, part Johnson Wax Headquarters)" as a model "to create a large-scale, wide-open, democratic shopping space in the urban fabric."
- [Schuler](#) talks to Tillett, Schwendinger, and others re: the bright - and dark - side of "smart" streetlights - and the role lighting designers and landscape architects have "to keep the psychosocial effects of lighting" from slipping "down the list of considerations" so public lighting doesn't "revert to being the sole domain of state power and the police."
- [Welton](#) x 2: He profiles Black architects in North Carolina who "have created a series of sparkling buildings in the public realm, not just in their design, but in their celebration of diversity and inclusion."
- [He profiles](#) Durham architect Zena Howard. The late Phil Freelon recruited her in 2003, and passed her "the practice baton" - her "inquisitive mind and a perceptive eye" result in "design that delivers a positive impact on people's lives."
- [Rochester](#), NY's first Black architect, Thomas W. Boyde, Jr., "built a legacy fit to be studied. Now it will be. His legacy, intact but faint 40 years after his death in 1981, will be burnished" ("Still in 2020, there is only one Black licensed architect in town").
- [Roger Sands](#) talks to bevy of hospitality architects re: emerging hotel design trends in light of "the new normal" to "ensure the safety and well-being of both guests and staff."
- [Jane Margolies](#) delves into "a new tool in treating mental illness: building design. The new approach feels particularly timely, given the surge in mental health issues created by the pandemic."
- [The Architects](#) Foundation names the 2021 Richard Morris Hunt Prize recipients who will receive a travel fellowship to France to study innovations in historic preservation.

Looking forward, looking back:

- [Lizzie Crook](#) rounds up "12 of the most interesting architecture projects that are slated for completion in 2021 (some surprises to us!).
- [Giulia Ricci](#) rounds up the 10 best architecture projects of 2020.

ICYMI x 3 ANN features:

- [Peter Gisolfi](#): Consider the Place.
- [Trahan Architects](#) & Spackman Mossop Michaels' design for the renewal of Luther George Park in Springdale, Arkansas.
- [Duda & Paine](#): Predicting the Unpredictable - 2021 Workplace Trends.

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Obituary by Julie Lasky: Jack Lenor Larsen, Innovative Textile Designer, 93: He blended ancient techniques and modern technology to weave fabrics that are in the collections of MoMA and the Louvre...: He rejected offers of an academic career to open his own textile business in 1952 in New York City, where he clothed the windows and furnishings of sleek modern towers as if they were fashion models...He also influenced major cultural figures...an adventurous colorist...he befriended the yellow family...Rigorous standards, elegant comportment and an easy way among influential people...closely associated with the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts on Deer Isle, Maine...led the committee that invited Edward Larrabee Barnes to design the campus... - New York Times

Obituary by Madeleine Luckel: Paige Rense, Longtime Editor of Architectural Digest, 91: Rense led the magazine to new heights over the course of her 35-year tenure: ...she imbued its pages with star wattage on all possible fronts...did not ignore the ample talent within the interior design and architectural fields...She regularly updated the annual AD100 list - which continues to be a key benchmark of success for designers today... Lee Mindel: "The world of art, architecture, landscape, and design has lost one of its founding members..." - Architectural Digest

Bill Millard: Bettin' On Biden? The country is at an inflection point. Will the president-elect make the most of it? ...architectural leaders speak of the incoming administration in tones of relief, hope, and urgency...Turning crisis into opportunity has rarely been so imperative...Views on what the AEC industries can expect...range from granular policy recommendations to comprehensive rethinking of systems and values...the global COVID moment is "a pause button" revealing "our resiliency or lack thereof"...changes will call for imagination on the part of architects, planners, and owners. -- Heidi Creighton/Buro Happold; Jonathan Marve/Marvel Architects/Resilient Power Puerto Rico; Christiana Moss/Studio Ma; Vishaan Chakrabarti/PAU; Lance Jay Brown/Consortium for Sustainable Urbanism/AIANY Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee; Edward Mazria/Architecture 2030; Brian Swett/Trent Lethco/Arup; Carmi Bee/RKTB Architects; Tomas Rossant/Ennead; Jonathan F.P. Rose; Jonathan Kirschenfeld/Institute for Public Architecture - The Architect's Newspaper





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Martin C. Pedersen: Why the AIA Finally Decided to Alter Its Code of Ethics on Prison Design: Q&A with Raphael Sperry, who helped lead the effort: ...the culmination of almost a decade of intense lobbying by Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility and its president: "I can't think of a better example of a clear change than what AIA has just done...ADPSR called for a prison design boycott and development of alternatives to incarceration in 2003. It's so great to see powerful new advocates expanding on that message and making it much stronger." -- Design As Protest; AIA New York; Smithgroup; Designing Justice + Designing Spaces- Common Edge

Rowan Moore: Donald Trump thinks only traditional buildings are beautiful. He's wrong: Architects must do more to engage with the public...: America has beautiful and popular non-traditional structures...and it has crude and soulless classical buildings + Lethal mistakes + His number's up: Philip Johnson- Observer (UK)

Rowan Moore: Holocaust survivor Anita Lasker-Wallfisch: 'No memorial can come anywhere near what happened': The [95-year-old] cellist believes that plans for a UK Holocaust memorial are 'counter-productive'. What matters most...is education...The memorial, she says, is in the wrong place...[she] questions the £100m cost - "an unbelievable amount of stupid money spent on what, exactly?"...Her opposition is not...because she thinks that the Holocaust should be forgotten...constricted site of the gardens has led to the omission of an auditorium, classrooms and other elements...there is a need for something more than remembrance.- Observer (UK)

Justin Davidson: What New York Should Learn From Guadalajara's Biggest Market: A way to create a large-scale, wide-open, democratic shopping space in the urban fabric: Mercado Libertad (or Mercado San Juan de Dios) is a hive of the city's social life, its commercial heart...from this distance and at this moment, it also feels like a wellspring of inspiration...like entering a roofed, three-tiered metropolis...with scarcely a wasted inch...If real-estate investors are looking for a new/old, less expensive or exclusionary way to get people buying, selling, and noshing, they might forget about copying Europe and make a field trip to Guadalajara instead. -- Alejandro Zohn- Curbed New York

Timothy A. Schuler: The Dark Side of Light: Sensor bundles integrated into streetlights can measure everything from traffic flow to ambient noise...gunshot detection software...a dream from a law enforcement standpoint has raised the hackles of watchdog groups and privacy advocates...connected luminaires will have profound implications for the future of the public realm...lighting designers and landscape architects...can play a...role...If the psychosocial effects of lighting slip down...the list of considerations...Does public lighting revert to being the sole domain of state power and the police? -- Linnaea Tillett/Tillett Lighting Design Associates; Leni Schwendinger/International Nighttime Design Initiative; Arup; Planning4Places; Supernormal- Landscape Architecture Magazine / American

J. Michael Welton: These Black architects in North Carolina turn to design to make their voices heard: ...have created a series of sparkling buildings in the public realm, not just in their design, but in their celebration of diversity and inclusion. There's a common thread among many of the designers I spoke with: Phil Freelon...these Black architects and designers have encountered racial injustices in subtle and overt ways...[they] choose optimism over cynicism...and succeed because they care about people and places...they're working to make the Triangle a more functional, vibrant and beautiful place. -- The Freelon Group; Perkins & Will; Edwin Harris/Terry Canada/Billy Askey/Evoke Studio; Victor Vines/Robert Thomas/Vines Architecture; Andre Johnson Architect; Alicia Hylton-Daniel/Hylton Daniel Design + Construction; Niki McNeill Brown/Single Bubble Pop - News & Observer (North Carolina)

J. Michael Welton: Durham architect [Zena Howard] stands at the top of the Triangle's Black architecture community: The late Phil Freelon recruited her to join his Durham-based firm 2003...In 2014, the Freelon Group merged with Perkins & Will...he already had passed the practice baton on to Howard, who embraced his groundbreaking practice of "Remembrance Design"...In L.A., the result is Destination Crenshaw, a 1.3-mile stretch...11 parks, and a series of permanent art exhibits...the product of an inquisitive mind and a perceptive eye - with design that delivers a positive impact on people's lives. -- Freelon Adjaye Bond/Smith Group - News & Observer (North Carolina)

Justin Murphy: Rochester's first Black architect built a legacy fit to be studied. Now it will be: Thomas W. Boyde Jr. was an architect but also an engineer at heart, and that meant resolving problems with certainty...the designer of hundreds of houses, offices, stores and community buildings...His legacy, intact but faint 40 years after his death in 1981, will be burnished...through a \$30,000 "cultural preservation survey"...too much attention has been paid to his race and not enough to his work...Much has changed...but much has stayed the same...Still in 2020, there is only one Black licensed architect in town. -- Christopher Brand/Bero Architecture; Troy Williams/LaBella Associates; Jennifer Takatch/Architectura; Falon Uloth - Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (New York)

Roger Sands: Hospitality Architects Outline Emerging Hotel Design Trends: In order to adjust to the new normal, innovative architects are now creating designs that ensure the safety and well-being of both guests and staff. Several prominent architects recently offered their opinions concerning the new design world of the hospitality industry. -- Clay Markham/CallisonRTKL; Robyn Novak/NELSON Worldwide; JoyceLynn Lagula/Wilson Associates; Dwayne MacEwen/DMAC Architecture; David Shove-Brown/David Tracz/ //3877; Griz Dwig/GrizForm Design Architects; Shay Lam/TPG Architecture; JCJ Architecture - Forbes

Jane Margolies: A New Tool in Treating Mental Illness: Building Design: Research into the health effects of natural and man-made surroundings is spurring the development of psychiatric facilities that feel more residential: ...with welcoming entrances, smaller living units within larger buildings and a variety of gathering spaces. Nature plays a big role...The new approach... feels particularly timely, given the surge in mental health issues created by the pandemic...Demand for treatment has soared...there is no one-size-fits-all

design solution...safety measures are crucial...it is more expensive...But advocates say the upfront expenditure may result in savings down the road... -- WRNS Studio; Francis Murdock Pitts/Architecture+; Shary Adams/HGA; Richard Dallam/NBBJ; Angela Mazzi/GBBN - New York Times

Architects Foundation Names 2021 Richard Morris Hunt Prize Recipients: The winners will receive a travel fellowship to France to study innovations in historic preservation: Prize has been fostering and supporting cross-cultural professional exchange between France and the United States since 1990. U.S. design professionals study in France, and French design professionals study in the U.S. during alternating years. -- Jonathan Bell; Gregoire Holeyman/Barnstar Architects - Architect Magazine

Lizzie Crook: Twelve buildings to look forward to in 2021: From a coastal library by MAD to an adaptive reuse project by Tadao Ando, we've rounded up 12 of the most interesting architecture projects that are slated for completion... -- Adjaye Associates; SANAA; Thomas Heatherwick; Niney et Marca Architectes; Schmidt Hammer Lassen Architects & Gottlieb Paludan Architects; Fosters + Partners; Snøhetta; MVRDV; Holloway Studio; Herzog & de Meuron; Zaha Hadid Architects - Dezeen

Giulia Ricci: Best 10 architecture projects of 2020: A selection buildings and interventions...from the challenges of density to the experiments in materiality, from reclaiming space for the public realm to building as a tool for inclusion. -- Lina Ghotmeh; Steven Holl Architects; Álvaro Siza/COR Arquitectos; Sophie Delhay architecte; Studio Anna Heringer; Happel Cornelisse Verhoeven & Julian Harrap Architects; Unparelld'arquitectes; Christ & Gantenbein; Albertfaus Architecture; Studio Zhu-Pei - Domus

ANN feature: Peter Gisolfi: Consider the Place: The idea of place is a much freer, more far reaching, and potentially more inspiring understanding of setting than one that simply extols the virtues of contextual design. - ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: Trahan Architects and Spackman Mossop Michaels reveal their design for the renewal of Luther George Park in downtown Springdale, Arkansas: The project is made possible by a generous grant from the Walton Family Foundation's Design Excellence Program. - ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: Turan Duda, FAIA & Jeffrey Paine, FAIA: Predicting the Unpredictable - 2021 Workplace Trends: Several emerging trends will improve our ability to navigate the future with employee health and wellness in mind. - ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Thursday, January 7, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, January 12. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay especially safe.

- [Chaseedaw](#) Giles tackles the "aggressive reuse of overlooked structures" by a handful of architects and urban activists "that promises a cure for housing insecurity and excessive greenhouse gas emissions - worth a closer look."
- [Borland](#) parses reports and surveys re: how the multifamily industry is prepping for permanent remote work that "shot up" from 11.9% in 2019 to 35% of the total labor market in 2020 - with advice to be "vigilant about reacting too quickly to new trends - as new needs of residents are still emerging."
- [Zach Mortice](#) looks into Design Trust Chicago that seeks to "institutionalize the numerous but scattered pro-bono efforts" by "activist designers, placing community, racial equity, and social justice ahead of for-profit, developer-led agendas."
- [Louis Kahn's](#) "family speaks out as the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad remains threatened," sending this letter to the IIMA director "imploing him to preserve their father's work."
- [Mike Ives](#) delves into the "scramble to save Asia's modernist buildings that officials consider too new, too ugly, or too unimportant to protect from demolition."
- [Steven Litt](#) cheers the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame picking the team "to design the expansion of its iconic lakefront building with 'reverence and irreverence'" - PAU, along with DLR, Robert P. Madison, James Corner Field Operations, et al. "are being 'respectful to Pei, but not subservient.'"
- [Stephen](#) Zacks' take on MAD Architects' "lush" Gardenhouse complex in Beverly Hills with two living walls that "require energy-intensive mechanical watering systems," becoming "a fiction of symbolic consumption that doesn't actually benefit the environment or society" ("greenwashed symbolism").
- [William](#) Morgan's ode to the Post Office that is "helping to keep the country connected during the pandemic." Alas, P.O. architecture "used to serve as a manifestation of national pride. Following World War II, exemplary design was pretty much a thing of the past" - and unlikely to return.
- [Remembering](#) those we lost in 2020 - "advocates and academics, vanguards and visionaries, innovators and educators, and those who made their own unique marks on the built environment in ways large and small" (sigh).
- [Call for](#) Presentations: 2021 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, November 19-22, in Nashville, Tennessee, with hopes that it will be "an in-person event."
- [ICYMI x](#) 2 ANN features: Peter Gisolfi: Consider the Place.
- [Trahan Architects](#) & Spackman Mossop Michaels' design for the renewal of Luther George Park in Springdale, Arkansas.

[Weekend diversions & Page-turners:](#)

- [National Building Museum](#) presents "Documenting Crossroads: Survival and Remembrance Under the Pandemic" - the online exhibition "showcases the second part of Camilo José Vergara's ongoing documentation of urban spaces and people's behavior during the pandemic."
- [Jesse Dorris](#) brings us eye-fuls of Melbourne's NGV Triennial that "ponders the distant past and a post-pandemic future" with "86 projects by more than 100 creators across some 30 countries" at the National Gallery of Victoria (fab photos!).
- [An excerpt](#) from Harriss, Hyde & Marcaccio's "Architects After Architecture: Alternative Pathways for Practice" that "brings together 40 practitioners who are doing just that."
- [Mabel O. Wilson's](#) essay from "'Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present" that unfolds "the untold story of how slavery informed the design" of Thomas Jefferson's landmark Virginia Capitol.
- [Charles Holland](#) cheers Darlington's "Fake Heritage: Why We Rebuild Monuments" that "looks at historic reconstructions, copies and invented historical structures."

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[Chaseadaw Giles: How Recycling Existing Buildings Could Solve the Urban Housing Crisis: Does the cure for housing insecurity lie in more aggressive reuse of overlooked structures? A growing number of architects and urban activists say 'Yes': ...projects that retrofit livable housing into existing low-carbon shells...worth a closer look. We...came across a handful that promise a cure for housing insecurity and excessive greenhouse gas emissions. -- Shelley Halstead/Black Women Build-Baltimore \(BWBB\); Peter Birkholz/Page & Turnbull; Katie Swenson/MASS Design Group; Reggie Turner/Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture- Metropolis Magazine](#)

[Kelsi Maree Borland: The Multifamily Industry Preps for Permanent Remote Work: In 2019, work-from-home employees accounted for...11.9% of the total labor market. During the pandemic, that number has shot up to 35%...14% of current apartment units are being reworked to better accommodate work-from-home needs...changes will likely also include new amenities...report recommended being vigilant about reacting too quickly to new trends, since there remains market uncertainty...it advises developers...to make incremental changes to unit mixes and amenities as new needs of residents are still emerging. - GlobeSt.com](#)

[Zach Mortice: Design Trust Chicago seeks to address systems beyond structures: ...will coordinate the work of Chicago's activist designers, placing community, racial equity, and social justice ahead of for-profit, developer-led agendas...it will institutionalize the numerous but scattered pro-bono efforts happening across the city, filling a gap left by the dissolution of Archeworks, the activist design school founded by Stanley Tigerman and Eva Maddox...its first initiatives will overlap with the next Chicago Architecture Biennial. With a focus on collective and regenerative uses for disused lots... -- Katherine Darnstadt/Latent Design; Elle Ramel/Paola Aguirre/City Open Workshop- The Architect's Newspaper](#)

[Louis Kahn family speaks out as the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad remains threatened: Sue Ann Kahn, Alexandra Tyng, and Nathaniel Kahn, sent the following letter to IIMA director Errol D'Souza imploring him to preserve their father's work: "You attempt to make the case that the dormitories are a lost cause, yet you have already restored one of the dorms \(D-15\) and](#)



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have announced intentions to restore three more. This is a contradictory position." -- Somaya & Kalappa Consultants - The Architect's Newspaper

Mike Ives: 'Box' or Gem? A Scramble to Save Asia's Modernist Buildings: Groups across the region are rallying to save buildings that officials consider too new, too ugly or too unimportant to protect from demolition: Many of the structures were municipal buildings that served as downtown hubs of civic life...efforts also reflect an aversion to the generic-looking shopping malls and condominiums that have been replacing Modernist-style buildings across urban Asia... -- K.M. Tseng; Charles Lai; Leandro V. Locsin; Philip Jablon; Pen Sereypagna; Vann Molyvann; Karen Tan/Pocket Projects; Katty Law - New York Times

Steven Litt: Rock & Roll Hall of Fame picks firm to design expansion of its iconic lakefront building with 'reverence and irreverence': Should the Rock Hall show tenderness and awe for the original designer...the late, great I.M. Pei? Or should it crank up the volume and strive for something bigger and louder? Nope, neither...PAU's architects are being "respectful to Pei, but not subservient"...Robert P. Madison, Ohio's first registered Black architect...collaborated with Pei on the Rock Hall's original design. DLR Group worked on the recent "Rock Hall 2.0" projects. --Vishaan Chakrabarti/Practice for Architecture and Urbanism; James Corner Field Operations; Cooper Robertson - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Stephen Zacks: A hill with a house on the top: Designed by Beijing-based MAD Architects, the lush Gardenhouse complex in Los Angeles offers 18 units with dedicated parking and personal elevator: ...two [living walls] underline the aspirations and contradictions of expressive greenery...3-story townhomes ...step up to 4- and 5-story condos...around a garden atrium...The living walls require energy-intensive mechanical watering systems...becomes a fiction of symbolic consumption that doesn't actually benefit the environment or society...greenwashed symbolism... purely market-driven housing for wealthy buyers is probably here for the foreseeable future. As long as that's the case, they might as well have gorgeous living facades pleasing for people driving past. -- Ma Yansong; Dixon Junliang Lu - Abitare

William Morgan: In Praise of the Post Office: The Post Office is a miracle...the Pandemic has really thrown the importance of the Postal Service into high relief...America depends upon the USPS...Postal workers have been frontline heroes during the pandemic, helping to keep the country connected. The physical P.O. is the embodiment of the miracle...[it] is similar to a public library - a temple of democracy...the architecture...used to serve as manifestations of national pride...Many of the supervising architects were significant designers...Following World War II...Exemplary post office design was pretty much a thing of the past...It seems unlikely that our post offices will again be temples of the commonweal. - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

In Memoriam: Remembering those we lost in 2020: ...we lost advocates and academics, vanguards and visionaries, innovators and educators, and those who made their own unique marks on the built environment in ways large and small. -- Michael Sorki; William "Bill" Menking; Elizabeth Sverbeyeff Byron; Christo; Deborah Dietsch; Carol R. Johnson; George Kostriksky/RTKL; Marvin Malecha; Jaquelin Taylor Robertson; Sir Roger Scruton; etc. - The Architect's Newspaper

Call for entries: Call for Presentations: 2021 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture, November 19-22, Nashville, TN: While we are obviously keeping an eye on the ongoing pandemic, ASLA is still moving forward with the process of planning an in-person event; deadline: February 24 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

National Building Museum presents "Documenting Crossroads: Survival and Remembrance Under the Pandemic": Online exhibition showcases the second part of Camilo José Vergara's ongoing documentation of urban spaces and people's behavior during the pandemic: ...reveals the power of the coronavirus on minority urban neighborhoods in New York City and across the river in New Jersey, especially the ways in which it has altered public space... - National Building Museum / NBM (Washington, DC)

Jesse Dorris: Melbourne's NGV Triennial Ponders the Distant Past and a Post-Pandemic Future: Artists and designers such as Kengo Kuma, Lee Ufan, and Faye Toogood explore themes of materiality and domesticity in one of the year's few large-scale art events: National Gallery of Victoria...assembled 86 projects by more than 100 creators across some 30 countries; thru April 18 - Metropolis Magazine

Harriet Harriss, Rory Hyde & Roberta Marcaccio: "The great challenges we face do not conform to neat disciplinary silos": The coronavirus pandemic has revealed both a need and a desire for architects to adopt new ways of working, say the authors of "Architects After Architecture: Alternative Pathways for Practice": While we all set out to do good, today we can instead find ourselves asking: "are we the baddies?" Last year invited a radical reevaluation of priorities and revealed a latent desire for new ways of working...looking beyond the arbitrary limits of the profession to address these systemic crises. Our new book...brings together 40 practitioners who are doing just that. - Dezeen

Mabel O. Wilson: Notes on Thomas Jefferson's Virginia Capitol: the untold story of how slavery informed the design of this landmark building: ...needed both to symbolize and to enable the power of "the people" to govern...[He] intended the Neoclassical state capitol to serve as a model for civic architecture...Analyzing Jefferson's architecture and his writings, together with correspondence from this period, broadens our understanding of the social, economic, cultural, and political context in which the first work of American civic architecture...was conceived and realized. Essay from "Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present," edited by Irene Cheng, Charles L. Davis II, & Wilson -- Benjamin Henry Latrobe - Architect Magazine

Charles Holland: Making an appearance - architectural copies and cover versions: To speak of fakes in relation to buildings is to talk about a lack of authenticity rather than deliberate deceit...In "Fake Heritage: Why We Rebuild

Monuments," John Darlington looks at historic reconstructions, copies and invented historical structures...Palladio's books...resulted in numerous interpretations...closer to cover versions than copies...Poundbury...is not a reconstruction nor is it a straightforward copy...Conventional art history has it that architecture is...forever staking out a new future...examples detailed here offer an alternative view, one where architecture is equally obsessed with remaking its own past. -- Charles Rennie Mackintosh; Mies van der Rohe; Lilly Reich; Raymond Erith; Léon Krier; Ben Pentreath - Apollo Magazine (UK)

ANN feature: Peter Gisolfi: Consider the Place: The idea of place is a much freer, more far reaching, and potentially more inspiring understanding of setting than one that simply extols the virtues of contextual design. - ArchNewsNow.com

ANN feature: Trahan Architects and Spackman Mossop Michaels reveal their design for the renewal of Luther George Park in downtown Springdale, Arkansas: The project is made possible by a generous grant from the Walton Family Foundation's Design Excellence Program. - ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Tuesday, January 12, 2021

- [Harvard](#) GSD's Travis Dagenais pays tribute to the pioneering Black architect Donald L. Stull - "a groundbreaking architect" whose "remarkable career" included supporting and amplifying "the unique contributions of Black architects and designers."
- [Kimmelman](#) cheers Moynihan Train Hall: "It's stunning - it delivers on its promise, giving the city the uplifting gateway it deserves. When was the last time you could say something like that about a public works project?" (Though it "doesn't magically extinguish the raging dumpster fire that is Penn Station.")
- [Benjamin](#) Kabak has a totally different take: "New York spent \$1.6 billion on the Moynihan Train Hall, but all we got was a big waiting room/mall with nowhere to sit - it's the infrastructure equivalent of putting lipstick on a pig - public space but hostile architecture."
- [And now](#) on the table: a \$60 million, 1,200-foot elevated pathway that would connect the High Line to the Moynihan Train Hall (sort of) - it "raises questions about spending at a time when the state faces a major financial crisis."
- [McGlone](#) reports that the Smithsonian is scrapping its \$2 billion expansion plan and "jettisoned the eye-popping elements" of Bjarke Ingels' "controversial design," opting instead to focus on the renovation and restoration of the Castle and the Arts and Industries Building.
- [Nancy Kenney](#) reports that the Hirshhorn Museum is "under pressure to reconsider the redesign of its sculpture garden - Sugimoto defends his designs but says he is open to negotiating" (maybe - he contradicts himself).
- [On two brighter](#) notes: Paris plans to turn the Champs-Élysées into an "extraordinary garden" - and to redesign the Place de la Concorde (great renderings by the Paris-based multidisciplinary firm PCA-Stream).
- [Dorn Townsend](#) reports on Vertical Vigo, which "may be the most striking example of an under-reported trend for mass mobility that is reshaping many of Spain's urban cores with public elevators, escalators and electric walkways" (take heed, cities with steep inclines!).
- [Justin Davidson](#) takes a deep dive into Venice's floodgates - the "\$6 billion duct-tape fix" called MOSE that "may not be enough" to stave off rising sea levels. "The saga of Venice's water wall is one other coastal cities should study as they contemplate a future" climate disasters.
- [Architecture](#) 2030 founder Edward Mazria strikes a more optimistic tone when explaining why "a zero-carbon building sector by 2040 is within reach."
- [Betsky explains](#) why he thinks Biden's infrastructure plan "falls short. So far - the signs are not good - the administration-in-waiting appears to be made up of too many familiar faces who have espoused discredited or tired ideas."
- [PBDW's Matthew](#) Mueller delves into the "hidden and extremely valuable 'cost' of modular construction which no one seems to be talking about - the industry needs a construction process landing somewhere between the traditional and modular methodologies to be truly sustainable and future friendly."
- [Anna Fixsen's](#) great Q&A with Emilio Ambasz, "a godfather of green architecture," re: his foundation's \$10 million grant to MoMA for a research institute - "for someone with a larger-than-life reputation and a preference

for fedoras and grandiloquence, he remains something of an enigma."

- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Italy plans to rebuild the Colosseum's floor, "restoring the arena to its gladiator-era glory" (complete with "trapdoors, lifts, and other mechanical elements used in Roman times - but no gladiator shows.")

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Obituary by Travis Dagenais: Remembering pioneering Black architect Donald L. Stull, 83: ...a groundbreaking architect...who supported and amplified the unique contributions of Black architects and designers. In a remarkable career, he founded two firms that were owned and led by Black architects, through which he would shape cityscapes, harmonize architecture and social change...helped establish the New DesignNation conference... -- M. David Lee/Stull & Lee Inc. - Harvard Graduate School of Design/GSD News

Michael Kimmelman: Moynihan Train Hall: It's Stunning. And, a First Step: A \$1.6 billion transformation of a post office has gifted the city with a lofty, light-filled steel, glass and marble cathedral: In the midst of everything else, we needed this. New York needs this...[it] doesn't magically...extinguish the raging dumpster fire that is [Penn Station]. It leaves all sorts of Herculean challenges and tasks...unresolved. But it delivers on its promise, giving the city the uplifting gateway it deserves. When was the last time you could say something like that about a public works project? -- McKim, Mead & White; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Peter Pennoyer; Rockwell Group; FXCollaborative; PAU - New York Times

Benjamin Kabak: Some thoughts on Moynihan Train Hall and designing public spaces with nowhere to sit: New York spent \$1.6 billion...but all we got was a big waiting room/mall with nowhere to sit...\$4 billion on Santiago Calatrava's Oculus [and] \$1.4 billion on the Fulton St. Transit Center, but all we got was a big waiting room/mall with nowhere to sit...what does this say about how we've chosen to treat our public spaces and transit infrastructure? ...it's the infrastructure equivalent of putting lipstick on a pig...public space but hostile architecture...Why...do we make public places so anti-public? The answer is rooted in our inability to house the homeless... - Second Ave. Sagas (NYC)

\$60 Million High Line Expansion to Connect Park to Moynihan Train Hall: Gov. Cuomo will propose a 1,200-foot elevated pathway that will lead to the new Penn Station development: ...the park, which showed how the city could reinvent itself and reimagine decaying spaces, is to be expanded...another possible expansion of the High Line to connect it north to Pier 76 on West 38th Street, where Mr. Cuomo wants to turn a Police Department tow pound into another park...engaging with the community would be critical... -- Joshua David; Robert Hammond - New York Times

Peggy McGlone: Smithsonian abandons \$2 billion expansion plan unveiled in 2014: The controversial design is being scrapped: ...jettisoned the eye-popping elements of the design by Bjarke Ingels, opting instead for a dramatically downsized version...focuses on the renovation and restoration of the James Renwick-designed Castle and the adjacent Arts and Industries Building (AIB), another National Historic Landmark designed by Adolf Cluss and Paul Schulze...2014 design was controversial from the start. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group - Washington Post

Nancy Kenney: Hirshhorn Museum is under pressure to reconsider redesign of its sculpture garden: Critics and city planners question changes to a historic reflecting pool and addition of stacked stone walls in a Modernist environment, while Hiroshi Sugimoto defends his designs but says he is open to negotiating: National Capital Planning Commission approved...preliminary site development plans with the exception of the proposed changes to the reflecting pool and inner partition wall...TCLF sent a letter to the Smithsonian's Office of Inspector General asking it to investigate whether officials...have been guilty of an abuse of power or inappropriate behavior... -- Gordon Bunshaft; Lester Collins; Charles A. Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation; Liz Waytkus/Docomomo US-The Art Newspaper (UK)

Kim Willsher: Paris agrees to turn Champs-Élysées into 'extraordinary garden': Mayor Anne Hidalgo gives green light to £225m-scheme to transform French capital's most famous avenue: ...will not happen before the French capital hosts the 2024 Summer Olympics...plans include reducing space for vehicles by half, turning roads into pedestrian and green areas, and creating tunnels of trees to improve air quality.. [and] redesigning the famous Place de la Concorde...This is expected to be completed before the Olympic Games. -- Philippe Chiambaretta/PCA-Stream- Guardian (UK)

Dorn Townsend: Can escalators and elevators solve the last-mile problem? Vigo's perpendicular modifications are a striking example of the mass mobility trend reshaping many of Spain's urban cores: Churchgoing residents of the Travesia neighbourhood...of Vigo, Spain, used to face a weekly dilemma: travel 2km along a flat road or climb 50m up a steep set of outdoor stairs...Vertical Vigo, a programme to reconnect neighbourhoods with public elevators, escalators and electric walkways, has been eliminating barriers to commerce and community...may be the most striking example of an under-reported trend for mass mobility that is reshaping many of Spain's urban cores...model of "mobility as a service"...over a dozen Spanish cities...have installed such conveyances. -- Carlo Ratt/MIT Senseable City Lab; Thom Mayne/ Morphosis-City Monitor

Justin Davidson: 'You're Responding to Yesterday's Disasters': The \$6 Billion Floodgates of Venice May Not Be Enough: Proposed decades ago, they were not built for the coming sea rise: ...MOSE has been stuck in the "getting there" phase for a lifetime...it's still not quite complete - that's still a year away (maybe)...The saga of Venice's water wall is one other coastal cities should study as they contemplate a future of higher tides, nastier hurricanes, and more aggressive waves...For all its exquisite engineering, MOSE is...a \$6 billion duct-tape fix...the technology predated the latest science...New York....faces similar issues...connected to a far more extensive ecosystem that embraces three states... -- Salvatore Settis/"If Venice Dies"; Henk Ovink/Rebuild by Design-Curbed New York

Edward Mazria: CarbonPositive: A Zero-Carbon Building Sector by 2040 Is Within Reach: Architecture 2030 founder is confident that the building industry can phase out carbon emissions in the next two decades: ...the building sector's 2020 operating carbon emission...was 27% below 2005 levels...met the U.S. commitment to the...Paris Agreement...achieved the goal five years ahead of the 2025 target date...Emissions have been dropping significantly because new and existing buildings are designed and constructed more efficiently each

year...Unless the world collectively reduces current levels of global carbon emissions...devastating impacts of climate change will dramatically escalate...limiting average global temperatures to an increase of 1.5°C while addressing energy poverty is both feasible and profitable. - Architect Magazine

Aaron Betsky: Biden Should Build from the Ground Up: the ways the President-elect's infrastructure plan falls short: As we look forward to a post-pandemic world...what kind of political initiatives and developments can we expect that will affect the design world? So far...the signs are not good...administration-in-waiting appears to be made up of too many familiar faces who have espoused discredited or tired ideas...We do not need a Department of Housing and Urban Development; we need a Department of Re-Housing and Urban Redevelopment...The priority should be how to reuse and improve what we have...reinventing and reinvesting in America from the ground up. - Architect Magazine

Matthew Mueller/PBDW Architects: The hidden cost of modular construction: For a building to be truly sustainable, it must maintain the three corners of the triangle paradigm throughout the building's lifecycle: ...affordable, built well, and built quickly...Merely checking off the sustainable "boxes" at the front end of the building process does not necessarily promise a sustainable building lifecycle...Modular construction...limits a building's potential for adaptive reuse...sets it on the course for demolition...a hidden and extremely valuable "cost" of modular construction which no one seems to be talking about...the industry needs to adapt a hybrid construction process which lands somewhere between the traditional and modular methodologies to be truly sustainable and future friendly. - Building Design + Construction (BD+C)

Anna Fixsen: Interview with Emilio Ambasz: In 1968, at the tender age of 25, he became a design curator at the Museum of Modern Art: ...he is best regarded as a godfather of green architecture...his foundation granted MoMA a \$10 million gift to establish the Emilio Ambasz Institute for the Joint Study of the Built and the Natural Environment, a research organization dedicated to the ways buildings and cities might favor "green over the gray"...for someone with a larger-than-life reputation and a preference for fedoras and grandiloquence, he remains something of an enigma." - Architectural Record

Italy Will Rebuild the Colosseum's Floor, Restoring Arena to Its Gladiator-Era GloryL Officials plan to host concerts and theater productions on the new, retractable platform: ...will feature replicas of trapdoors, lifts and other mechanical elements used in Roman times...retractable area must be able to close quickly in order to protect the ancient tunnels from the elements..."The arena will be used for high culture, meaning concerts or theater...but no gladiator shows." - Smithsonian magazine

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## Today's News - Wednesday, January 13, 2021

- [Say-it-ain't-so](#) news: Blair Kamin is leaving the Chicago Tribune after 33 years: "It's been an extraordinary run" - leaving "big shoes to fill, but Kamin hopes a fresh voice will replace him. 'Imagine Chicago without a full-time architecture critic. Schlock developers and hack architects would welcome the lack of scrutiny.'" + Excerpts from some of his favorite stories.
- [Duo Dickinson](#) delves into how the passing of Architectural Digest's Paige Rense "marks the end of 20th-century architecture - the end of an era already passed. At the turn of the 21st century, digital technology began to steadily erode the power of print - also ended the highly controlled anointing of 'correct' designers."
- [Wainwright](#) wonders if 22 Bishopsgate, London's tallest new skyscraper, can survive the Covid era - will workers want "to jostle for 60 lifts with 12,000 others" - probably - "incoming proposals are now exceeding pre-pandemic levels - those predicting the implosion of the office might have to cancel their dreams."
- [Nate Berg](#), meanwhile, reports that New York's governor has "pledged to propose legislation that will open a 5-year window for the owners of offices and hotels to convert their buildings to residential uses - there's roughly 150 million square feet worth of them in Manhattan alone."
- [Adele Peters](#) parses how Bakersfield, California, has "ended chronic homelessness. In January, 2020, it had housed nearly everyone who had been homeless for more than a year. Then they sustained it during the pandemic."
- [Steven Semes](#): "What does the storming of the U.S. Capitol tell us about classical architecture? Those supporting the Executive Order must accept responsibility for their gross miscalculation in thinking this authoritarian administration would be a suitable vehicle to promote classical architecture - they have set back the classical cause."
- [Ravenscroft](#) parses "Why is the Modern World So Ugly?" - an anonymous essay posted by Alain de Botton's The School of Life collective that attacks the "'dispiriting, chaotic and distasteful' architecture of urban environments - architects have created an ugly world out of 'stupidity' rather than a lack of resources."
- [Brussat](#) praises his friend and fellow critic William Morgan's ode to the Post Office (sort of) - Morgan "loves old buildings but is blind to the ugliness of modern architecture and cannot see the beauty of the classical revival, that is, new old buildings."
- [Lamster](#) offers a thoughtful assessment of the late critic David Dillon's "landmark essay," written 40 years ago, re: Dallas's bad architecture - is it "still so bad? There is only one possible answer - yes and no - the city's vigorous architecture business has not translated into a vigorous creative culture."
- [Eric Baldwin](#), meanwhile, offers a round-up of Dallas landmarks - the city is "home to some of the most iconic architecture per square mile of any American city - these projects are emblematic of a larger city-wide design culture."
- [Dima Stouhi](#) brings us eye-fuls of Zaha Hadid Architects' competition-winning design for Tower C in Shenzhen, China - "a multi-dimensional vertical city of two naturally-lit towers planned to accommodate 300,000 employees" (it's wild - or maybe it's just us).
- [SOM's Long](#) Beach, California's Civic Center master plan "revitalizes 22 acres by creating a new, vibrant

mixed-use district that includes a City Hall, Main Library, Port Headquarters, and the reactivation of historic Lincoln Park."

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Blair Kamin is leaving the Chicago Tribune after 33 years: It's been an extraordinary run...taking a buyout...leaving the outlet where he had extensively covered Chicago's transformation over his tenure... awarded the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished criticism in 1999...The Tribune's next architecture critic will have big shoes to fill, but Kamin hopes a fresh voice will replace him..."Imagine Chicago without a full-time architecture critic. Schlock developers and hack architects would welcome the lack of scrutiny." -- Paul Gapp- The Architect's Newspaper

Duo Dickinson: Paige Rense, Architectural Digest, and the End of 20th Century Architecture: Her passing marks the end of an era already passed: ...the editor who transformed AD, died at the age of 91, right at the end of our plague year... [AD] made the careers of many outstanding architects and designers...Celebrity was her coin of the realm...her magazine fed a cultural fantasy...At the turn of the 21st century, digital technology began to steadily erode the power of print...also ended the highly controlled anointing of "correct" designers..."When I quit working, I lost all sense of identity in about 15 minutes," she said. Rense lost hers then. Maybe we are finding ours now. - Common Edge

Oliver Wainwright: The Wodge: can London's tallest new skyscraper survive the Covid era?

...who wants to jostle for 60 lifts with 12,000 others?: 22 Bishopsgate stands as the mother of all office towers...congealing the Square Mile's distinctive individual silhouettes into one great, grey lump...heralds a flood of new office space at a time when it could hardly look less needed...some of the biggest corporate HQs ever built in the UK are under construction...incoming proposals are now exceeding pre-pandemic levels...you can't really gossip on a group Zoom...those predicting the implosion of the office might have to cancel their dreams... -- PLP Architecture- Guardian (UK)

Nate Berg: New York Gov. Cuomo: Empty offices should become housing: "We should do it now.": ...empty office spaces could take on new lives and solve multiple problems in cities like New York...pledged to propose legislation that will open a five-year window for the owners of offices and hotels to convert their buildings to residential uses...an idea that the Real Estate Board of New York has been advocating for months...less amenity-rich...office buildings could be relatively easy to convert...there's roughly 150 million square feet worth of them in Manhattan alone...It has happened before. - Fast Company / Co.Design

Adele Peters: This California city just ended chronic homelessness: In January, 2020, Bakersfield, California, had housed nearly everyone who had been homeless for more than a year. Then they sustained it during the pandemic: The city and county are part of [Community Solutions'] Built for Zero, a program that works with communities and cities across the country to end homelessness. - Fast Company

Steven W. Semes: What Does the Storming of the Capitol Tell Us About Classical Architecture? The past associations with authoritarianism are clearly

misplaced: Those supporting the Executive Order - in particular...the National Civic Art Society - must accept responsibility for their gross miscalculation in thinking this authoritarian administration would be a suitable vehicle to promote classical architecture...they have set back the classical cause...Lovers of classical architecture...protested the EO...Both groups have made classical architecture a weapon in a partisan conflict that, in truth, has nothing to do with it. - Common Edge

Tom Ravenscroft: Most "nice architecture" was built before 1900 says Alain de Botton's The School of Life collective: ...has attacked the "dispiriting, chaotic and distasteful" architecture of urban environments in...essay "Why is the Modern World So Ugly?"... "The world forgot that 'originality' is as unwelcome in architecture as it would be in bakery or brain surgery," said the article...lists increasing urban sprawl, not using local materials and a lack of focus on mental health as contributing factors in the creation of today's ugly cities...architects have created an ugly world out of "stupidity" rather than a lack of resources. -- Living Architecture; Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission; Sam Jacob; Roger Scruton - Dezeen

David Brussat: Why are post offices lovely? I speak out in praise of my friend and fellow Rhode Island architecture critic William Morgan's "In Praise of the Post Office"...All architecture used to serve as manifestations of pride...Morgan, whose architectural attitudes are, I think, the exact opposite of my own, loves old buildings but is blind to the ugliness of modern architecture and cannot see the beauty of the classical revival, that is, new old buildings...the scourge of modernism, which he generally supports, is the root cause of this national aesthetic blindness... - Architecture Here and There

Mark Lamster: Is Dallas architecture still so bad? A critic's assessment, 40 years after David Dillon's landmark essay: There is only one possible answer...yes and no...Dillon's call for an ambitious architecture was answered with a fair number of signature buildings by signature architects...Much of the city's bad building is a product of its vigorous economy...out-of-town architects drop cookie-cutter projects in our streets...city's vigorous architecture business has not translated into a vigorous creative culture...it can be hard for a young firm to gain purchase...we're back at the same intersection we were at 40 years ago. Maybe this time we should fix it? -- Henry Cobb; Santiago Calatrava; Corgan; Gensler; HKS; Omniplan; Perkins and Will; BC Workshop - Dallas Morning News

Eric Baldwin: Civic Works: Iconic Dallas Landmarks Rethinking Design in Texas: Dallas is home to a high concentration of structures by world-renowned architects. With some of the most iconic architecture per square mile of any American city, it boasts designs by six Pritzker Prize Laureates...these projects are emblematic of a larger city-wide design culture...explore the possibilities of public space, programming and new building methods...[this] collection explores contemporary projects...and their approach to civic design. -- OMNIPLAN; Dattner Architects; Foster + Partners; REX + OMA; Buchanan Architecture; Santiago Calatrava; Thom Mayne/Morphosis Architects - ArchDaily

Dima Stouhi: ZHA/Zaha Hadid Architects Wins Competition to Build Tower C at Shenzhen Bay Super Headquarters Base: ...a multi-dimensional vertical city of two naturally-lit towers...connects with the adjacent park and plazas...towers are tied together with sweeping bridges that give panoramic views of the

city...planned to accommodate 300,000 employees...will include multiple venues to host international conferences, exhibitions, and cultural programs, as well as residential developments, a transportation department, botanical lands. -- Patrik Schumacher - ArchDaily

Long Beach Civic Center Master Plan, California: ...revitalizes 22 acres of downtown Long Beach by creating a new, vibrant mixed-use district that includes a 270,000-square-foot City Hall, 93,500-square-foot Main Library, 232,000-square-foot Port Headquarters, and the reactivation of historic Lincoln Park. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/SOM - e-architect (UK)

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## Today's News - Thursday, January 14, 2021

Editor's note: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, January 19. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe (and wear a mask!).

- [ANN feature](#): Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties.
- [John King](#) re: the ransacking of the U.S. Capitol: "The violence inflicted on America underscored Trump's contempt for a diverse modern culture - his cynical embrace of the idea that some brands of architecture are morally superior to others" (i.e. his "idiotic" executive order).
- [Carolina A. Miranda](#) re: the insurgency at the Capitol. "And we thought 2020 was nuts. Welcome to Coup Week, 2021 - government assessment teams worked through the night to catalog the destruction. 'Wednesday was a difficult day for our campus,' Architect of the Capitol J. Brett Blanton said" + link to her thoughtful take on what the Capitol symbolizes.
- [Hilburg](#) reports on the "calls for the Architect of the Capitol's removal - Blanton's Office of Security Program is responsible for securing and hardening the Capitol campus."
- [From across](#) the Big Pond: The U.K.'s former construction minister - now business secretary - "tells architects they are making 'major contribution' to recovery" while "a debate is raging among architects and those in the wider industry about safety, critical worker status and the challenge of working while homeschooling children."
- [Cajsa Carlson](#) reports on Saudi Arabia's plans for The Line, a zero-energy, 100-mile-long, car-free linear city for a million people - "with all residents living within a five-minute walk of essential facilities" (no firm designing the master plan is named - skepticism abounds).
- [Blair Kamin](#) "reflects on 28 years of reviewing Chicago's wonders and blunders" (in more than 2,500 columns!): "Whether or not you agreed was never the point - my role was to serve as a watchdog, unafraid to bark - and, if necessary, bite - when developers and architects schemed to wreak havoc on the cityscape."

### Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries: International Junior Wonders Drawing Competition: BD's drawing competition for home-schooled kids aged 5-11. "Each week we will choose a building type" (and cash prize for art supplies); deadline: every Friday (we can't wait to see the results!).
- [Call for](#) entries: Design Educates Awards 2021: best ideas and implementations of architectural, product, universal, and responsive design that can educate.
- [Call for](#) entries Submissions for Sophia Journal, 6th edition: "Visual Spaces of Change: photographic documentation of environmental transformations."

### Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- ["Famed Toronto flâneur"](#) (and urbanism authority, author, journalist) Shawn Micallef maps a leisurely stroll through the Mount Dennis neighborhood, "far from the city's core with dramatic topography and many delightful secrets to discover."
- [The Metropolitan](#) Museum of Art launches "The Met Unframed" - an "immersive AR experience that invites museum-goers to remotely explore digitally-rendered galleries."
- [Kate Wagner](#) cheers Peggy Deamer's "Architecture and Labor," which "recognizes architecture is not the creative calling one was promised as a 19-year-old. This is work, plain and simple. The prospect of unionization haunts the pages - and though it may seem like an all-too-simple solution to our current maladies, it isn't."
- [Michael](#) J. Crosbie cheers Mark Alan Hewitt's "Draw in Order to See" that "reaffirms the essential role of drawing in design - this broad, well-researched, and absorbing cognitive history of architectural design" also "addresses education as well as practice - an excellent road map of how we might get back to an architecture with a human face."

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ANN feature: Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties. - ArchNewsNow.com

John King: Trump uses architecture as a weapon. His mob just ransacks it: The violence inflicted on America...underscored [his] contempt for a diverse modern culture...his cynical embrace of the idea that some brands of architecture are morally superior to others...executive order...was a victory for a group of classical architecture buffs...who want to impose their tastes on new government buildings...It suggests that there is unified vision of beauty that all of us share, except for those snooty urban elites...What's far worse is the notion that how buildings look is more important than what happens within... - San Francisco Chronicle

Carolina A. Miranda: The U.S. Capitol's architecture at the center of an insurgency: And we thought 2020 was nuts. Welcome to Coup Week, 2021...In the wake of the incursion...government assessment teams worked through the night to catalog the destruction. "Wednesday was a difficult day for our campus," Architect of the Capitol J. Brett Blanton said... - Los Angeles Times

Jonathan Hilburg: After Capitol is breached, calls for the Architect of the Capitol's removal: ...the Capitol police and their failure to secure the seat of U.S. government has come under public scrutiny...some of that ire is falling on J. Brett Blanton...AOC's Office of Security Program...is responsible for securing and hardening the Capitol campus...unless removed, Blanton is on track to serve as Architect of the Capitol until 2030. - The Architect's Newspaper

Business secretary tells architects they are making 'major contribution' to recovery: ...former construction minister [Kwasi Kwarteng] makes case for sites to stay open - as some architects call for their closure: ...a debate is raging among architects and those in the wider industry about safety, critical worker status and the challenge of working while homeschooling children. The Architects Climate Action Network (ACAN) and architects' union the UUV-SAW have called for non-essential sites to be closed in an effort to reduce the spread of the coronavirus...RIBA president Alan Jones has called for architects and other construction workers to be given critical worker status... - BD/Building Design



Architecture Magazine Library  
Masters Gallery  
Podcast

(UK)

Cajsa Carlson: Saudi Arabia announces plans for a 100-mile, car-free linear city called The Line: ...zero-energy walkable communities for a million people...will have no cars or streets, with all residents living within a five-minute walk of essential facilities...part of Neom, Saudi Arabia's fully automated \$500 billion region...entirely powered by renewable energy. - Dezeen

Blair Kamin: Tribune architecture critic reflects on 28 years of reviewing Chicago's wonders and blunders, and why such coverage should continue: .Whether or not you agreed...was never the point. My aim was to open your eyes to, and raise your expectations for, the inescapable art of architecture, which does more than any other art to shape how we live...my role was to serve as a watchdog, unafraid to bark - and, if necessary, bite - when developers and architects schemed to wreak havoc on the cityscape...In this town, architecture was, is, and always will be newsworthy - and worthy of sharp scrutiny... - Chicago Tribune

Call for entries: International Junior Wonders Drawing Competition: Building Design/BD's drawing competition for home-schooled kids aged 5-11: Draw your favourite building and be in with a chance of winning a £100 voucher for art supplies. Each week we will choose a building type; deadline: every Friday - BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: Design Educates Awards 2021: best ideas and implementations of architectural design, product design, universal design, and responsive design that can educate; deadlines: registration: February 1; late registration: March 1 (submissions due March 2) - Laka Foundation

Call for entries Submissions for Sophia Journal, 6th edition: "Visual Spaces of Change: photographic documentation of environmental transformations"; deadline: February 26 - Sophia Journal

Famed Toronto flâneur Shawn Micallef maps a leisurely route through the Mount Dennis neighbourhood: Book an afternoon-long stroll with yourself and discover (or rediscover) a Toronto neighbourhood. Here's where to start, stop and linger: ...far from the city's core with dramatic topography and many delightful secrets to discover...Micallef - urbanism authority, author, journalist and documentarian...shares his current favourite Sunday stroll. - Toronto Star

The Metropolitan Museum of Art launches immersive AR experience, "The Met Unframed": ...invites museum-goers to remotely explore digitally-rendered galleries...While it is currently open to the public with a reservation-based timed ticketing...during the COVID-19 crisis, acknowledges that some might not yet be fully comfortable stepping inside [and] allows the museum to reach a larger and

[more diverse audience free of geographic constraints.](#) - The Architect's Newspaper

[Kate Wagner: People Power: In "Architecture and Labor," Peggy Deamer recognizes architects are workers: \[Architecture\] is not the creative calling one was promised as a 19-year-old. This is work, plain and simple...And yet architects do not see themselves as workers...slim volume is best understood as a resource...a series of thoughtful propositions to build on rather than blindly follow...disciplinary myth-busting...Perhaps the most interesting and enlightening parts...are her histories of events that have shaped architectural practice...The prospect of unionization haunts the pages...and though it may seem like an all-too-simple solution to our current maladies, it isn't.](#) -- Architecture Lobby - The Architect's Newspaper

[Michael J. Crosbie: Reaffirming the Essential Role of Drawing in Design: A new book on how architects visualize and design asserts the critical importance of working by hand: Mark Alan Hewitt's "Draw in Order to See" is a resounding affirmation that not only must architects draw, they cannot help but do so...human beings are wired this way, as Hewitt demonstrates in this broad, well-researched, and absorbing cognitive history of architectural design...The value of his book is that it addresses education as well as practice.,,book is an excellent road map of...how we might get back to an architecture with a human face.](#) - Common Edge

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## Today's News - Tuesday, January 19, 2021

### A win and a few losses in the preservation and adaptive reuse world:

- [James Russell](#): "The new Moynihan Train Hall is a light-drenched effort to recapture the glory of a lost architectural masterpiece. It doesn't fully succeed - but it's a good start."
- [Ian Volner](#): "New York's new train hall has arrived, more than 20 years behind schedule but somehow right on time. It's a place, and it's ours - and its opening, despite all the challenges of the pandemic, is fairly stunning" ("perhaps most distressingly, portions are being leased [to] Facebook").
- [David Brussat](#): On the Moynihan Train Hall: "Entering the Farley Post Office Building, designed by McKim Mead & White, is as god-like an experience as one could wish" - though it "does not in the least do away with the need for the proposal to rebuild Penn Station using the original design."
- [On the other](#) side of the Big Pond: Wainwright minces no words about plans to demolish Coventry's town center - a "radical" post-war "urban vision" - and replace it with a shopping mall topped with 1,300 apartments (none affordable). "It shows such a lack of imagination."
- [Rowan Moore](#) has a similar take re: Coventry: "No true 'city of culture' should dishonor the bold ideals of its postwar rebirth" and "its pioneering mid-century reconstruction - the proposed redevelopment is generic, could-be-anywhere stuff."
- [Paul Rudolph's](#) 1972 Burroughs Wellcome building in North Carolina's Research Triangle Park is being "pulled apart" with pieces being hauled away "by the truckload" - United Therapeutics promises a "Paul Rudolph Foyer" in whatever building replaces it (aren't we lucky).

### In other news:

- [Classical](#) architect Christine Huckins Franck explains why she opposes the "Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again" executive order, and resigned from the board of the NCAS: "It will backfire spectacularly and only reinforces the incorrect notion that classical architecture is authoritarian. I wish I could have done more to stop this unforced error from happening."
- [Duo Dickinson](#) parses "the end of the 20th century in architecture - we have been alone in our rooms in 2020. Rather than the 20th Century juggernaut of a design elite judging from the top-down, more designers, architects, and most importantly, clients, are basing their aesthetic on their values, rather than what is 'Correct.'"
- [Laura Lee](#) looks at how the "Black Lives Matter movement has forced us to take a hard and honest look" at the landscape architecture industry, and how the black landscape architect's network, BlackLAN, along with ASLA, the NALP, Landscape Institute and others "are making inclusivity and diversity a priority."
- [Jennifer](#) Hahn cheers the Design Museum's Beazley Designs of the Year 2020, led by Rael San Fratello's Teeter-Totter Wall - the pink seesaws that straddled US-Mexico border - winners and finalists on view in the Design Museum's (cool!) virtual exhibition.
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Grace Farms Foundation and Herman Miller launch limited-edition face masks to "support eradicating slavery in the built environment - with sales supporting Design for Freedom, a multifaceted

initiative formally launched by Grace Farms last October."

● [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties.

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Laura Bliss: 'Slow Streets' Disrupted City Planning. What Comes Next? In many cities, the swift rollout of car-restricted streets at the start of the pandemic faced fierce community resistance. Now planners are changing their playbook: ...initiatives have also drawn...comparisons with racist urban planning practices of earlier decades...slow streets became a flashpoint in the planning sphere's broader reckoning over systemic racism...also became a turning point in urbanist discourse...cities should invest in people who understand the communities they serve. -- Just Cities; Destiny Thomas- Bloomberg CityLab

James S. Russell: Penn Station's Revival Gets a \$1.6 Billion Down Payment: The new Moynihan Train Hall is a light-drenched effort to recapture the glory of a lost architectural masterpiece. It doesn't fully succeed - but it's a good start: It's a beautiful new space...a bracing restorative vision, at a time when rail travel needs all the help it can get...compromises are evident...a Penn Station truly equal to the legacy of its predecessor remains an extraordinarily heavy lift.-- McKim, Mead & White; Charles Luckman; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Vishaan Chakrabarti- Bloomberg CityLab

Ian Volner: The Moynihan Train Hall's Glorious Arrival: ...New York's new train hall has arrived, more than 20 years behind schedule but somehow right on time...It's not traditional or modern but both...the concourse is...the great civic stage...And it's here, unfortunately, that reality starts to set in...[it] is a stage all right, but the show is a bit of a farce...Perhaps most distressingly, portions...are being leased [to] Facebook...It's a place, and it's ours - and its opening, despite all the challenges of the pandemic, is fairly stunning... -- McKim, Mead & White; Charles Luckman; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Rockwell Group; FXCollaborative; Paul Goldberger- The New Yorker

David Brussat: On the Moynihan Train Hall: ...entering from the street beneath the colonnade of the Farley Post Office Building, designed by McKim Mead & White...is as god-like an experience as one could wish...as an aesthetic experience the train hall beats the rabbit - oops, the rat warren of Penn Station. That is a very low bar. To call the Moynihan Train Hall a step in the right direction is to damn it by faint praise, which is precisely my intention. The fact that it is now open does not in the least do away with the need for the proposal...to rebuild Penn Station using the original design... -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Richard Cameron/National Civic Art Society- Architecture Here and There

Oliver Wainwright: Coventry vs. the wrecking ball: 'We need gentle repair - not wholesale demolition': From the rubble of war, Coventry rebuilt a town centre hailed as a radical urban vision. Yet, even as it salutes this heritage as UK city of culture, planners are plotting its destruction: A gargantuan planning application has been submitted to demolish half of the town centre and replace it with a shopping mall with flats on top...condemned as a violent assault on the city's modernist heritage, just when it should be being celebrated..."It shows

such a lack of imagination"... -- Chapman Taylor; Arthur Ling (1955); Terence Gregory (1963); Jeremy Gould; Otto Saumarez Smith - Guardian (UK)

Rowan Moore: No true 'city of culture' should dishonour the bold ideals of its postwar rebirth: Plans for the centre of Coventry claim to offer a sense of place, but ignore its pioneering mid-century reconstruction: ...the pre-eminent example of reconstruction after wartime bombing. Among the most devastated cities, [it] was also one of the most determined and thoughtful in its reconstruction...proposed redevelopment...would obliterate much of this legacy...it is generic, could-be-anywhere stuff...Coventry can be renewed... All it takes is a bit of intelligent and sensitive design. -- Chapman Taylor architects - Observer (UK)

As a landmark building comes down in Research Triangle Park, its owner says it won't be forgotten: ...dismantling of The Elion-Hitchings Building [a.k.a. Burroughs Wellcome]...United Therapeutics...studied how it might reuse the building but concluded it is "unsafe, not environmentally sound, and functionally obsolete"...plans to memorialize...Rudolph in whatever new building goes on the site...there will be a Paul Rudolph Foyer inside...recycling and salvaging what it can from the building...George Smart/NC Modernist said he believes United Therapeutics tried everything it could to save it. - The Herald-Sun (Durham, North Carolina)

Christine Huckins Franck: Why This Classical Architect Opposes Trump's Executive Order: It will backfire spectacularly and only reinforces the incorrect notion that classical architecture is authoritarian: ...I resigned from the board of the National Civic Art Society (NCAS) in opposition to its strategically flawed and poorly conceived effort to reform federal architecture through the blunt force mechanism..."Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again"...while it contains noble and just aims...the style-based criteria is antithetical to both the classical tradition and architectural quality...I wish I could have done more to stop this unforced error from happening. - Common Edge

Duo Dickinson: 2020: The End of the 20th Century in Architecture: The oxymoron of design being an essential luxury found reason in the 20th Century when it was seen as the cutting edge of a cultural move to a bright, clean, Modern future. But we have been alone in our rooms in 2020...The outcome of a common "cool" found in the architectural canon of the 20th century may be less meaningful now...Rather than the 20th Century juggernaut of a design elite judging from the top-down, more designers, architects, and most importantly, clients, are basing their aesthetic on their values, rather than what is "Correct." - ArchDaily

Laura Lee: Changing the Landscape: The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has forced us to take a hard and honest look at our communities, our industry and ourselves: According to Glenn LaRue Smith of the black landscape architect's network, BlackLAN, the black population in landscape architecture in the US remains less than 1%...Lack of diversity and inclusion means lack of perspective...BlackLAN, ASLA, the NALP, Landscape Institute and others are making inclusivity and diversity a priority... -- Simone Heath/Atlanta City Studio; Torey Carter-Conneen - Pro Landscaper USA

Jennifer Hahn: Pink seesaws that straddled US-Mexico border named Beazley

Designs of the Year 2020: Teeter-Totter Wall...devised by architects Virginia San Fratello and Ronald Rael [Rael San Fratello] were named both the transport category winner as well as the overall winner...awards...organised by London's Design Museum...architecture winner was ModSkool, a modular school for squatters in India. [Design Museum virtual exhibition thru March 28] -- Colectivo LASTESIS; Dan Higgins & Alissa Eckert; Social Design Collaborative- Dezeen

Grace Farms and Herman Miller launch face masks to support eradicating slavery in the built environment: Coinciding with the launch of National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month, the Grace Farms Foundation and [HM]...launch of a limited-edition face mask with sales supporting Design for Freedom, a multifaceted initiative formally launched by Grace Farms last October... -- Shohei Yoshida/shohei yoshida + associates / sy+a ( formerly of SANAA); Peter Miller/Palette Architecture (formerly of Handel Architects)- The Architect's Newspaper

ANN feature: Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties.- ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Wednesday, January 20, 2021

- [Crosbie](#) delves into why "the response to the Capitol attack demonstrates that even civic buildings can inhabit the realm of sacred architecture. Many reactions were expressed in language typically reserved for holy places" - the "domestic terrorists" thought they "could mortally wound this temple and what it stood for. But they are wrong."
- [Karrie Jacobs](#) explores the new Moynihan Train Hall and finds "even the dullest details thrilling. It radiates daylight in a way that makes you think a micro-dose of euphoria has somehow been engineered in" - the new space feels, "not like it's always been here, but like it always should have been here."
- [Valeria Ricciulli](#) takes a look inside the new Uber Eats-funded "streeteries" for six Black-owned businesses on Harlem's historic Strivers' Row designed by local artists and architects, including WXY, JP Design, Brandt:Haferd, and Body Lawson.
- [Jake Blumgart](#) explores how Vienna "earned its place in housing history" by undertaking "one of the most ambitious public housing programs in the 1920s - credited with maintaining affordability a century later. In many ways, the socialist government's planning and architecture mirrored many of the best practices of today."
- [Welton cheers](#) Marlon Blackwell Architects' lab and barn for the progressive Lamplighter School in Dallas that "illuminate why the firm won the 2020 AIA Gold Medal."
- [Eyefuls](#) of before/after images of Marvel's reimagining of NYC's Union Square, creating 33% more (mostly car-free) public space. "Why can't we have this kind of public space everywhere?"
- [Ravenscroft](#) brings us eyefuls of Sasaki's linear park on the site of a former airport in Shanghai - the main pedestrian path is "formed from a 3.6-metre-wide section of the runway that still has its original direction markings."
- [Artist Hank](#) Willis Thomas and MASS Design Group's "poignant memorial" to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, the 22-foot-tall bronze sculpture "The Embrace" is destined for Boston Common next year.
- [Virginia Blue](#) tells us the fascinating story of Howard Lawson, Australia's "forgotten architect" who was "larger than life" and "ahead of his time - his progressive ideas for urban planning and social housing has gently slipped through the cracks of architectural history."
- [Martin Pedersen](#) great Q&A with Blair Kamin re: his run as architecture critic for the Chicago Tribune who "was not afraid to offend the less than delicate sensibilities of those in power" nor did he pander to starchitects: "My mantra was: You judge the architecture, not the architect."
- [Hip Hop](#) Architecture Camp interns from across the U.S. and their mentors presented a virtual showcase of the spaces they'd designed - the projects "served as learning experiences for their mentors, too": "At the end of the day, you don't need our profession. Our profession needs you guys."
- [One you](#) won't be able to resist: A fab showcase of the winners of and other submissions to the first of the weekly BD Junior Wonders international art competition, themed "tall buildings" + Call for entries to next, themed "fun homes" (deadline: Sunday!); per BD editor Elizabeth Hopkirk: "The future's in safe hands if these kids become architects (and artists, urban planners, clients, politicians etc!)" - be sure to read the captions!
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental

Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties.

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Michael J. Crosbie: Assault on a Sacred Place: The response to the Capitol attack demonstrates that even civic buildings can inhabit the realm of sacred architecture: As the building and grounds were secured and the terrorists removed, reactions poured forth...Many...of shock and disgust were expressed in language typically reserved for holy places...Unlike any other building in Washington, D.C., [it] is designed to be a symbol of the belief in this country that democracy is a sacred undertaking...domestic terrorists...believing that their destructive behavior could mortally wound this temple and what it stood for. But they are wrong. Desecrated and defiled places believed to be sacred can be repaired, restored... - Common Edge

Karrie Jacobs: The Inevitable Nature of the New Moynihan Train Hall: SOM's long-awaited annex to Penn Station: ...modeled on the proportions of the beloved main concourse of nearby Grand Central Terminal...I found even the dullest details thrilling...I was struck by how lovely the train hall is. It radiates daylight in a way that makes you think a micro-dose of euphoria has somehow been engineered in...The high-tech arches...(courtesy of the old Farley Post Office), make this new space feel, not like it's always been here, but like it always should have been here... -- Alexandros Washburn; David Childs/Colin Koop/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; McKim Mead & White; FX Collaborative - Architect Magazine

Valeria Ricciulli: A Look Inside the New Uber Eats-Funded Streeteries in Harlem: Local designers and artists teamed up to create custom structures for six Black-owned businesses: ...program called Renaissance Pavilion, which paired six Black-owned businesses on historic Strivers' Row...with local architects and artists to create custom streeteries... project was intended to showcase easily replicable structures built with readily available materials. -- David Vega-Barachowitz/WXY; Zevilla Jackson Preston/JP Design; Brandt Knapp/Jerome Haferd/Brandt:Haferd; Body Lawson - Curbed New York

Jake Blumgart: Red Vienna: How Austria's capital earned its place in housing history: Between the two world wars, Vienna undertook one of the most ambitious public housing programmes ever...credited with maintaining affordability a century later: ...today, 60% of residents live in co-ops, government-owned or -subsidised housing built around the nucleus of the 1920s system...many left-of-centre policymakers hope to emulate in other places...In recent years, there has been a greater emphasis...on building neighbourhoods, not just dwellings... In many ways, the socialist government's planning and architecture mirrored many of the best practices of today. - City Monitor

J. Michael Welton: In Dallas, a Lab and a Barn by Marlon Blackwell Architects: Two new projects for Lamplighter School...illuminate why the firm won the 2020 AIA Gold Medal: ...progressive, pre-K-through-fourth-grade school, founded in the late 1960s [is] about applied learning...open campus consists of 1970s shed structures designed by Texas modernist O'Neil Ford, with others by Frank Welch in the 1980s and '90s...Rooflines earn these two [new] designs distinction. - Architects + Artisans

The Union Square Plan: Get Rid of Cars, Create More Space for People: \$100-million renovation, expansion...would create 33% more public space...Most striking in the renderings is just how much can be accomplished when planners fully commit to banishing the automobile from public spaces...Union Square Partnership hasn't fully locked down its car-free plan, only sort-of alluding to it in renderings...Why can't we have this kind of public space everywhere? -- Guido Hartray/Marvel architects - Streetsblog.org

Tom Ravenscroft: Former Shanghai airport transformed into Xuhui Runway Park: Sasaki has created an expansive [1,830-metre-long] linear park on the site of the runway for the former Longhua Airport in the Xuhui riverfront area of Shanghai...main pedestrian path...formed from a 3.6-metre-wide section of the runway that still has its original direction markings...park was designed to collect runoff rainwater from the surrounding area with a large rain garden...and a collection basin built under the wetland... - Dezeen

Hank Willis Thomas's Poignant Memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King Will Be Unveiled in Boston Next Fall: A 22-foot-tall bronze memorial...in the country's oldest public park. Designed by artist...Thomas with a team of architects from the MASS Design Group, the sculpture ["The Embrace"], destined for Boston Common, depicts two disembodied pairs of arms in a tender embrace - artnet News

Virginia Blue: Howard Lawson: the 'forgotten architect' ahead of his time: The early 20th-century Victorian architect...His reputation has suffered...due to misinformation and a misunderstanding of events. He was, in fact, very progressive...with a keen interest in bettering lives...utilised recycled materials well before it was considered to be fashionable or desirable, and an early pioneer of building conversions in 1912...[he] was larger than life...with more than 200 buildings to his name...progressive ideas for urban planning and social housing...has gently slipped through the cracks of architectural history. - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Martin C. Pedersen: Blair Kamin Ends His Run as Architecture Critic of the Chicago Tribune: An exit interview with the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist: His writing...was sharp and lucid; he was not afraid to offend the less than delicate sensibilities of those in power...[he] was an activist critic, very much in the tradition of Ada Louise Huxtable and Allan Temko... "My primary role was to be an educator, to open people's eyes, and raise their expectations for architecture and urban design [and] to act as a watchdog" ...Herbert Muschamp...loved to follow the stars... "My mantra was: You judge the architecture, not the architect." - Common Edge

Hip Hop Architecture interns team up with pros to flesh out their designs: ..award-winning camp...has reached young people in new corners of the country...At a virtual showcase...interns and their mentors presented the spaces they'd designed, including a supermarket-garden hybrid, a refuge for the homeless and a museum marking the significant events of 2020...The interns' projects have served as learning experiences for their mentors, too... "at the end of the day, you don't need our profession. Our profession needs you guys." -- Michael Ford; BRIC Architecture; Chandra Robinson/LEVER; Juan Carlos Garduño/Oh Planning+Design - Capital Times (Madison, Wisconsin)

Winners announced in weekly BD Junior Wonders "tall buildings" art competition + Call for entries (international) next competition theme - "fun homes" - deadline: Sunday, January 24: "tall buildings" winner, ages 8-11 - Niamh Smith for her drawing of the Gherkin: "A joyous artwork, full of life, colour and detail. And who cares if the gherkin wobbles a bit?"; ages 5-8 winner - Izzy Unwin for her drawing of the Golden Lane Estate... "bold, clear and colourful" ... - BD/Building Design (UK)

ANN feature: Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties. - ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Thursday, January 21, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, January 26. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe (and wear a mask!).

- [HKS's Julie](#) Hiromoto, immediate past chair of AIA's Committee on the Environment, outlines how "architects can help 'Build Back Better.' The design community must take a leadership role to help address the climate crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, racial inequity, and economic recovery."
- [Justin Davidson](#) takes issue with Gov. Cuomo's \$60 million plan to extend the High Line: "I get the project's allure" ["a gubernatorial candy store"] - but "while he futzes with a needless walkway, he has pushed aside other opportunities."
- [Frank Gehry](#) "presents a sweeping overhaul" of his master plan for a 51-mile-long stretch of the L.A. River - plan is now open to the public for comment through March 14 (but - oh, those pesky hurdles like cost and land-use authority).
- [Christele](#) Harrouk talks to Lebanese architects Bernard Khoury, Paul Kaloustian, and Lina Ghotmeh, now "facing reconstruction dilemmas" following the massive explosion in Beirut last August that damaged their buildings: "Should architects rebuild them as they were - or should they leave scars and portray new realities?"
- [Allison](#) Arieff on Saudi Arabia's "new linear utopia," the 105-mile-long The Line, and the "innovation industrial complex": "What is presented as innovative has often been tried before. The impulse to view intractable urban issues as engineering problems to be solved is understandable. But cities are unpredictable - isn't it that unpredictability that makes them so intriguing to us?"
- [Wainwright](#) considers Superstudio, "the anarchist architects warned against rampant development by imagining one continuous structure stretching around Earth - did their warning actually inspire new Saudi plans for a 100-mile linear city?" (Their 1960s "Continuous Monument" photomontage is on view in Brussels.)
- [Carolina](#) A. Miranda pens two (great!) columns re: why Paul R. Williams' now-accessible archive "is a game changer - his papers will begin to flesh out the profile of an architect currently better known for his biography than for his design innovations."
- [A parsing](#) of survey findings that show, after working remotely, "some employees would rather quit" than go back to an office - "ensuring workplaces are safe should top the agenda - 'companies that do not take it seriously could risk losing their talent to those that do.'"
- [Overstreet](#) parses OMA/Reinier de Graaf's new film "The Hospital of the Future" - part of an exhibition in Madrid (and online) - the "visual manifesto questions the long-standing conventions in the field of healthcare architecture."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties.

• [Call for](#) entries: Azure Magazine's AZ Awards 2021 international design competition recognizing the world's best projects, products and ideas.

• [Call for](#) entries: ASLA 2021 Professional & Student Awards for innovative landscape architecture projects (international).

• [Call for](#) Applications: Places Journal Inaugural Critics-in-Residence in Architecture and Landscape Architecture - includes a stipend to write four major critical essays.

• [Revised](#) deadline! Call for entries Submissions for Sophia Journal, 6th edition: "Visual Spaces of Change: photographic documentation of environmental transformations."

• [Call for](#) Nominations: Margolese National Design for Living Prize: \$50,000 award recognizes a Canadian citizen who is doing outstanding work in a field related to the built environment.

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Julie Hiromoto/HKS: Architects Can Help 'Build Back Better': The design community must also take a leadership role to help address the climate crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, racial inequity, and economic recovery, writes the immediate past chair of AIA's Committee on the Environment [COTE]:  
...architects individually and collectively can effect meaningful change...I am recommitting to these [four] professional resolutions, which also align with the new administration's priorities. - Architect Magazine

Justin Davidson: Is a High Line Extension Really What We Need on the Far West Side? ...Governor Cuomo [is] refocusing his lust for infrastructure on the challenge of walking...an elevated pedestrian superhighway that would extend the High Line 3 blocks and cost \$60 million. I get the project's allure...but let's be honest: The extra length...will connect one branded megadevelopment to another...this flank of Manhattan a gubernatorial candy store...While [he] futzes with a needless walkway, he has pushed aside other opportunities...ideas...add up to the highest civic ambition: to let a city breathe and flow and move. -- Perkins and Will; Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU) - Curbed New York

Frank Gehry previews an updated vision for the L.A. River as new master plan is unveiled: Seven years after he was approached...to reimagine the 51-mile-long stretch of waterway...The completed 2020 draft [is] open to the public for comment through March 14, presents a sweeping overhaul intended to both buffer flood protection and provide open parkland for the one million residents who live within one mile of the river - without displacing lower-income Angelenos. - The Architect's Newspaper

Christele Harrouk: The Contemporary Approach to Rebuilding Cities Post-Disaster: The Case of Beirut: ...on August 4th, 2020, Beirut was shaken by one of the biggest non-nuclear blasts in history...damaged around 40,000 buildings. New contemporary structure...by local international architects are now facing reconstruction dilemmas...Should architects rebuild them as they were...or should they leave scars and portray new realities? Bernard Houry, Paul Kaloustian, and Lina Ghotmeh talked about their projects and their vision of the reconstruction... + Laurian Ghinitoiu's photo series the extent of the destruction - ArchDaily

Allison Arieff: The one-dimensional city: Saudi Arabia unveils its half-trillion-dollar plan for a new linear utopia. But is the idea anything new? The Line is a

city, 105 miles long...In 1882, the Spanish engineer Arturo Soria y Mata planned a 35 mile-long "Ciudad Lineal" around Madrid. In 1910, Edgar Chambless proposed "Roadtown" in the US...what is presented as innovative has often been tried before..."beginner's mind"...The idea that consultants can solve a problem that has existed for decades...is rampant in today's innovation industrial complex...The impulse to view intractable urban issues as engineering problems to be solved is understandable. But cities are unpredictable...isn't it that unpredictability of cities that makes them so intriguing to us? -- Neom; Ideo; Shannon Mattern - New Statesman (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: A building as big as the world: the anarchist architects who foresaw endless expansion: Superstudio collective warned against rampant development by imagining one continuous structure stretching around Earth. But did their warning actually inspire new Saudi plans for a 100-mile linear city? The Line [has] inescapable echoes of another project with a very different purpose...in a gallery in Brussels, hangs a 1960s photomontage of an eerily similar vision, part of a new exhibition "Superstudio Migrazioni"..."Continuous Monument"...dreamed up in 1969 - not as a proposal for a smart city, but as a critical warning against the relentless urbanisation of the planet...images were alarming, but also seductive, and they remain so today. Civa, Brussels, thru May 16 - Guardian (UK)

Carolina A. Miranda: Why Paul R. Williams archive is a game changer for architecture researchers: Last summer, USC and the Getty Research Institute jointly [acquired] Williams' archive...I report on how his papers will begin to flesh out the profile of an architect...currently better known for his biography than for his design innovations. I also have a look at artist Janna Ireland's "Regarding Paul R. Williams: A Photographer's View"...I expand upon my two Williams articles and ask local architecture figures what they'd like to learn from the archive. -- Ken Breisch; Milton Curry; CO Architects; Rachel J. Bascombe - Los Angeles Times

Go back to the office? Some employees would rather quit: As far as employees are concerned, it's remote work or bust. But could safer offices tempt workers back to their desks? Making employees actually want to return to their desks looks set to be a particularly sticky challenge: While the consensus largely appears to be that employees relish the flexibility that working from home provides, this is at odds with the mental health spectre that has loomed over the COVID-19 crisis...ensuring workplaces are safe should top the agenda..."companies that do not take it seriously could risk losing their talent to those that do." - TechRepublic

Kaley Overstreet: OMA/Reinier de Graaf's New Film Explores "The Hospital of the Future": ...part of the exhibition, "Twelve Cautionary Urban Tales" at Matadero Madrid Centre for Contemporary Creation. Dubbed a "visual manifesto," the 12-minute film questions the long-standing conventions in the field of healthcare architecture... thru January 31 & online - ArchDaily

Call for entries: Azure Magazine's AZ Awards 2021 international design competition recognizing the world's best projects, products and ideas; early bird submission deadline (save \$): January 31; final deadline: 25 - Azure Magazine (Canada)

Call for Entries: ASLA 2021 Professional & Student Awards (international): honor the best and most innovative landscape architecture projects from around the globe; Professional Awards registration deadline: February 22 (submissions due: March 12); Student Awards registration deadline: May 14 (submissions due: May 24)- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Call for entries: Call for Applications: Places Journal Inaugural Critics-in-Residence in Architecture and Landscape Architecture; 2 critics will be selected, one in architecture and one in landscape architecture; stipend of \$7,500 to write four major critical essays; deadline: March 12- Places Journal

Revised deadline! Call for entries Submissions for Sophia Journal, 6th edition: "Visual Spaces of Change: photographic documentation of environmental transformations"; deadline: February 28- Sophia Journal

Call for Nominations: Margolese National Design for Living Prize: \$50,000 award recognizing a Canadian citizen who is doing outstanding work in a field related to the built environment; sponsored by UBC School of Architecture + Landscape Architecture; deadline: March 26- University of British Columbia School of Architecture + Landscape Architecture (SALA)

ANN feature: Dave Hora: Nature of Order #3: Nos. 9-15 of Christopher Alexander's 15 Fundamental Properties of Wholeness: In contrast with the first eight, something feels more primal and elemental in these properties.- ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Tuesday, January 26, 2021

- [Elizabeth Blasius](#) delves into "what Chicago loses when it loses an architecture critic - Blair Kamin's exit leaves Chicago without a full-time critic. The consideration shouldn't be which singular voice will replace him - the city "needs not one, but many people to hold up a mirror to the skyline and show the city what it is."
- [Marianela D'Aprile](#) takes issue with the "mostly inscrutable jargon" of Keller Easterling's essay "On Political Temperament": "Engaging with politics doesn't always require filtering it through obtuse design theory," which, "most of the time, has little consequence on the politics and machinations of the world" (and other ouches).
- [John Seabrook](#) considers whether the pandemic has transformed the office forever: "The virtual meetings I sat in on were charged with a sense of high purpose, as designers on the front lines [like Gensler and Studio O+A] used their skills to potentially save lives."
- [Moore's](#) take on "urban clickbait," and "why 'iconic architecture' is all the rage again. Look and shape are everything - Instagram fodder - architectural bitcoin. One thing is for sure: they are not going to go away."
- [Heatherwick Studio](#) reveals images of two irregular-shaped residential towers for Vancouver "studded with angled balconies" (Moore refers to as "tulip-shaped" towers).
- [Catherine Osborne](#) parses how Toronto-based PARTISANS' "irreverent, sometimes feather-ruffling approach may be pioneering an alternative to the endless forest of vertical gray sticks - and heralding in a more interesting and distinctly Canadian style" (we want the sauna!).
- [William Morgan](#) sees a new apartment and commercial block planned for Rhode Island's charming Pawtuxet Village as "good news - the site is magnificent - it needs to be more special than a traditional house with a mansard roof - there's time to literally push the envelope."
- [Neil Flanagan](#) cheers Mecanoo's renovation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Washington DC: "Mies's clean lines did not wear neglect well - deficiencies of the design were obvious," but "three interventions tie together a delirious range of activities" over five floors.
- [Jessica Mairs](#) brings us Ranalli and Valentino's never-built pool house for the late novelist Philip Roth: It has "appeared in numerous exhibitions" - and won a 1995 AIANY Award - but "always presented anonymously until now": "Roth entrusted me to protect his privacy until, as he said, the time came when he was out of the way."
- [ASLA releases](#) comprehensive policy recommendations for the Biden-Harris Administration "designed to give landscape architects a seat at the table and support for their vital work" designing "vibrant, resilient, and just communities for all."
- [Edinburgh's](#) 1829 A-listed neoclassical landmark, the Royal High School is back on the open market after the city ended a long lease with developers - St Mary's Music School hopes to call it home, but will have to compete for the lease.
- [Brussat](#): "Edinburgh's Royal High School has a stern and foreboding look. But surely a grin can be detected. It has recently dodged the bullet of redevelopment as an arts hotel.' Can St. Mary's School of Music's wealthy backers compete?" (and no kind words for the "absurdist" Scottish Parliament).

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Elizabeth Blasius: More Than Words: What Chicago loses when it loses an architecture critic: Blair Kamin's exit leaves Chicago without a full-time architecture critic - let alone a dedicated local architecture publication - for the first time since the 1970s...traditional newsrooms and architecture in print, replaced with home offices, Zoom calls, and Twitter takedowns. This dismantling is a catastrophic one for Chicago architecture...Developers and city departments lose systems of accountability...The consideration shouldn't be which singular voice will replace Kamin as the colossus of Chicago architectural criticism...Chicago needs not one, but many people to hold up a mirror to the skyline and show the city what it is. - The Architect's Newspaper

Marianela D'Aprile: Not Everything Is "Architecture": Engaging with politics doesn't always require filtering it through obtuse design theory: "On Political Temperament," by architect and Yale professor Keller Easterling...written in the mostly inscrutable jargon of...postmodern critical architecture theory...there is a great pressure and desire now for architects to engage...with the current political moment. Unfortunately...the tools historically proffered by architecture schools are not sufficient...architecture theory most of the time has little consequence on the politics and machinations of the world. Thus [she] can get away with not making sense because, who cares? But, there are real, insidious consequences...Get politics. Be clear about what they are...learn to write. If you're a centrist, say it. But quit trying to hack capitalism. - Common Edge

John Seabrook: Has the Pandemic Transformed the Office Forever? Companies are figuring out how to balance what appears to be a lasting shift toward remote work with the value of the physical workplace: Gensler, Studio O+A, and [many others] scrambled to put together safety protocols for clients...considering a speedy return to the office...The virtual meetings I sat in on were charged with a sense of high purpose, as designers on the front lines used their skills to potentially save lives...Studio O+A assembled its own COVID tool kit for office safety...mixing in-person and remote workers presents new challenges...[it's] very hard to get right...Without the people, the office is an empty shell. -- Foster + Partners; Stefanie Shunk; Primo Orpilla; Verda Alexander; Robert Propst- The New Yorker

Rowan Moore: Urban clickbait? Why 'iconic architecture' is all the rage again: Weird and wonderful buildings are springing up...driven by cities' desire to make a mark in a world full of eye-popping imagery: Look and shape are everything...One-liners or, at best, two- or three-liners, are what clients..now want...They often have a way of being less joyous and soaring in the flesh [and] somewhat sketchy on questions such as sustainability...At worst, icons are Instagram fodder...architectural bitcoin...One thing is for sure: they are not going to go away. -- Steven Chilton; Ma Yansong/MAD Architects; Zaha Hadid Architects; Thomas Heatherwic; Foster + Partners; Gensler- Observer (UK)

Heatherwick Studio reveals visuals of skyscrapers for Vancouver: ...two irregular-shaped towers studded with angled balconies that form a bottleneck towards the base and then open up to a shared podium...plans for the residential development comprise a 30-storey tower...and a 34-storey tower...sitting over a five-storey podium...will include 401 homes, a childcare facility and enough parking space for over 500 bicycles. - Dezeen

Catherine Osborne: Rising Studio PARTISANS Reflects the Triumphs and Challenges of Building in Toronto: Despite its irreverent, sometimes feather-ruffling approach, the practice is scaling up at an impressive speed: Unbridled, profit-driven development plagues other cities...though Toronto is a poster child...PARTISANS has taken on [the city's] ennui as a kind of rallying cry for change...vocal critics of Toronto's willingness to let developers take control...latest work includes two condo-like towers...[the firm] may be pioneering an alternative to the endless forest of vertical gray sticks - and heralding in a more interesting and distinctly Canadian style. -- Alexander Josephson, Pooya Baktash, Jonathan Friedman - Metropolis Magazine

William Morgan: A New Gateway for Pawtuxet Village: The new apartment and commercial block planned...along the river...is good news...Overlooking the Post Road and the falls, the site is magnificent...an opportunity to be far more than just another building...it needs to be more special than a traditional house with a mansard roof...there's time to realize a stronger architectural design for [the] premier location, time to literally push the envelope. -- Eric Zuena/ZDS Architecture - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Neil Flanagan: Pushing Past Mies: Mecanoo's renovation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library works through the nuances of the Mies's signature style: Mies's clean lines did not wear neglect well...deficiencies of the design - from its envelope to its space planning - were obvious...three interventions tie together a delirious range of activities over 426,000 square feet and five public floors...in a few places...aesthetic compromises illustrate the incoherence of D.C.'s preservation process...The new MLK Library suits the mood in town by putting the people of D.C. at the center. -- Mies van der Rohe (1972); OTJ Architects; Francine Houben - The Architect's Newspaper

Jessica Mairs: A pool house for Philip Roth: An indoor swimming pool designed for the late American novelist's Connecticut home by Anne Valentino and George Ranalli, but never built, is revealed: The lap pool was to be an extension of Roth's writing studio, a former chicken coop...[it] never came to fruition...appeared in numerous exhibitions [and won a 1995 AIA NY Award]. But the project has always been presented anonymously until now, two years following the writer's death...Ranalli and Valentino feel the time is right..."Roth entrusted me to protect his privacy until, as he said, the time came when he was out of the way." - Domus

ASLA Releases Comprehensive Policy Recommendations for Biden-Harris Administration: "Landscape Architects Design Vibrant, Resilient, and Just Communities for All"...a comprehensive series of specific, actionable policy recommendations designed to give landscape architects a seat at the table and support for their vital work...broken down into four sections... - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Royal High School to go on the open market: City of Edinburgh Council has ended a long lease with developers...The A-listed neoclassical landmark, built in 1829 by Thomas Hamilton, has been lying largely empty since the school relocated in 1968...The severing of the contract with the developers will provide hope for The Royal High School Preservation Trust, which wants to relocate St Mary's Music School...to the site. However, that project is by no means guaranteed as the backers...will have to compete on the open market for the

[lease](#). - The Edinburgh Reporter (Scotland)

David Brussat: Don't trifle with this building: Opened in 1823 to a design by Thomas Hamilton, Edinburgh's Old Royal High School has a stern and foreboding look. But surely a grin can be detected...It has recently dodged the bullet of redevelopment as an "arts hotel"...Edinburgh's famous St. Mary's School of Music has the council's backing to occupy the Old Royal, but it will now have to compete on the open market...Can the music school's wealthy backers compete? You'd think a music school would be just the thing - but you never know these days. - Architecture Here and There

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## Today's News - Wednesday, January 27, 2021

- [Sad news](#) x 2: Nadine Post reports the passing of architect George Heery, 93, a "pioneer of bridging design-build," and "a powerhouse who co-founded Heery & Heery in 1952. He and his colleagues at Heery International honed their project management procedures, still used by other firms."
- [Marylynne](#) Pitz pays tribute to Christopher Monkhouse, 73, founding curator of Heinz Architectural Galleries at Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh: "A visionary scholar and an ebullient, tea-drinking storyteller, he enjoyed an international reputation" (with stints at the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and the Art Institute of Chicago).
- [Kim Slowey](#) delves into "how COVID-19 will change office, hotel, and mixed-use design" by talking to a number of knowledgeable architects (one suggestion: offer "coronavirus retrofit packages").
- [Mark Alan](#) Hewitt on "teaching the subtle and difficult art of adaptive reuse. The resistance to educating future architects on this important art must end - if our profession hopes to address some of the most urgent and socially critical issues facing the planet today."
- [Richard](#) Buday on Classicism being "shaken off its foundation," while Modernism crumbles beside it. "Both architectures may have been so stripped of legitimacy and authenticity that they're beyond redemption" - as politics continues "eating away at both isms."
- [Sisson looks](#) into "why tech moguls are obsessed with building utopian cities," but "they lack a certain perspective. Cities are messy, not a video game to master."
- [Baltimore's](#) Center for Architecture and Design, designed by Quinn Evans, is "a new design gem" in One Charles Center - "already an architectural landmark - our own small piece of Mies van der Rohe's massive legacy."
- [Deane Madsen](#) reports on the oldest university for the deaf and hard of hearing in the U.S., Gallaudet University's "massive new development" in Washington, DC, using DeafSpace, "a novel concept for space planning" intended to reconnect the school to the city.
- [Snøhetta](#) is heading "a dramatic" \$35 million revamp of the grounds of Austin's Blanton Museum of Art "with refreshed landscaping and architectural features including a new central outdoor space framed by a cluster of 15 petal-shaped shading structures."
- [In the U.K.](#), the Scott Brownrigg-designed Museum of Military Medicine - a "jewel box" on Cardiff Bay - is given planning approval.
- [Toronto's](#) Winter Stations 2021 announces winning designs "to inspire Torontonians to visit the beach in the winter - once lockdown restrictions are lifted" - teams hail from Austria, the U.K., Iran, and Germany.
- [Design Indaba](#) Conference and Festival will use 2021 as a year to plan for 2022 - "social distancing requirements and the physical limitations of Artscape Theatre Centre in Cape Town made the event unfeasible" this year.

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Nadine M. Post: Obituary: Architect George Heery, Pioneer of Bridging Design-Build, 93: ...a powerhouse who cofounded architect-engineer Heery & Heery in 1952...that employed 600 people, when he retired from it in 1989...In 2012, Heery and 15 public and private-sector building professionals formed the Bridging Institute of America, a nonprofit education and advocacy group to promote the use of a design-build delivery contract...He and his colleagues at Heery International honed their project management procedures, still used by other firms... -- Heery International- ENR/Engineering News Record

Marylynne Pitz: Obituary: Christopher Monkhouse, founding curator of Heinz Architectural Galleries at Carnegie Museum of Art, 73: A visionary scholar and an ebullient, tea-drinking storyteller, he enjoyed an international reputation...He was the curator of decorative arts at the Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design/RISD...He "addressed the extraordinary architectural heritage of Pittsburgh" and gave it "a larger international context": Dennis McFadden...In 1995, he left Pittsburgh to work at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts...In 2007, he became...Curator and chair of the department of European decorative arts at the Art Institute of Chicago. - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Kim Slowey: Post-pandemic: How COVID-19 will change office, hotel and mixed-use design: ...how each type of structure is likely to change due to COVID-19 mitigation strategies and what contractors need to know: Offices: An emphasis on collaboration; Hotels: The switch to self-serve; Multifamily: More space -- Brad Simmons/KAI Enterprises; Lesley Braxton/Perkins+Will; My-Nga Lam/Lucien Lagrange Studio; Mark Pratt/Leo A Daly - Construction Dive

Mark Alan Hewitt: Teaching the Subtle and Difficult Art of Adaptive Reuse: The resistance to educating future architects on this important art must end: ...historic preservation has fostered more urban revitalization and sustainable growth than any other strategy...By their second or third year, architectural students falsely believe that they can't be "creative" if they are designing additions or renovations to old buildings. Only when they leave school do they think otherwise...This has to change if our profession hopes to address some of the most urgent and socially critical issues facing the planet today. - Common Edge

Richard Buday: Classicism Has Been Shaken Off Its Foundation: Modernism is crumbling beside it. Where does that leave architecture? As architects discuss the aesthetic judgments thrust upon them by politics, the issue of style-as-metaphorical warrants scrutiny...History, unfortunately, provides numerous examples of violence centered on politicized architecture. So here we are, with Classicism and Modernism assigned sides...Both architectures may have been so stripped of legitimacy and authenticity that they're beyond redemption...politics will continue eating away at both isms, leaving the profession no better tomorrow than it is today. -- Archimage- Common Edge

Patrick Sisson: Why Tech Moguls are obsessed with building utopian cities: The smart cities imagined by today's technology leaders - Bill Gates' desert metropolis in the suburbs of Phoenix, the late Tony Hsieh's Revitalization of Downtown Las Vegas, libertarian venture capitalist Peter Thiel's (now-defunct) dream of one floating settlement in the Pacific Ocean - are perhaps best seen...as statements about their core beliefs...it only makes sense that

visionary, well-equipped tech founders...should step up to City 2.0...It's not that these tech-led cities lack vision...They lack a certain perspective. Cities are messy, but they are not a video game to master. -- Sidewalk Labs- Compsmag

New Architecture and Design Hub Opens at One Charles Center: A new design gem is offering a place for students, creatives, and others to learn and experiment: One Charles Center is already an architectural landmark - our own small piece of...Mies van der Rohe's massive legacy. But now, at its base, a new design gem is offering a place for students, creatives, and others to learn and experiment...Center for Architecture and Design...has been in the works for the past decade...now serves as an industry hub designed by Quinn Evans Architects.AIA Baltimore; Baltimore Architecture Foundation; Baltimore Heritage; the National Organization of Minority Architects Baltimore Chapter; SAY IT LOUD - Baltimore magazine

Deane Madsen: Design for Signing: With a massive new development, Gallaudet University [Washington, DC] incorporates accessible features on and off campus: ...now reconnecting with the city...through a novel concept for space planning the school calls DeafSpace...[It] is the oldest university for the deaf and hard of hearing in the U.S...its 99-acre campus was relatively closed off...development encompasses four parcels of land over six acres...aims to create buildings that will be active caretakers of its students and universally accessible for the growing community around them. -- Hansel Bauman; Hall McKnight; Morris Adjmi Architects; Olson Kundig Architects; Eric Colbert & Associates; Future Green Studio - The Architect's Newspaper

Austin's Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin shares a \$35 million campus redesign headed by Snøhetta: ...a dramatic revamp of its grounds with refreshed landscaping and architectural features including a new central outdoor space framed by a cluster of 15 petal-shaped shading structures...will also include the first major public mural installation by noted Cuban-American visual artist Carmen Herrera. - The Architect's Newspaper

Scott Brownrigg-designed Museum of Military Medicine in Cardiff given planning approval: Situated on the water's edge, approximately 90% of the ground floor will be transparent to maintain a view of the dockside...design reflects Cardiff Bay's cultural and industrial heritage [using] the concept of a ship or industrial container as the vessel to host the exhibits...while creating an inviting and accessible public building...a "jewel box"... - CLAD Global (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

Winter Stations 2021 announces winning designs [theme: "Refuge"]: ...will be exhibited in 2021 once lockdown restrictions are lifted...Founded by RAW Design, Ferris + Associates, and Curio, [competition] was conceived as a way of using design to inspire Torontonians to visit the beach in the winter. -- Aleksandra Belitskaja, Ben James and Shaun McCallum (Austria/UK); Jack Leather & Charlie Leather (UK); Shahed M. Yengiabad, Elaheh M. Yengiabad, Alemeh M. Yengiabad & Mojtaba Anoosha (Iran); Alexandra Gries & Jorel Heid (Germany)- Canadian Architect

Design Indaba Unveils Plans for 2021: ...it will use 2021 as a year to plan and execute multiple Do Tank projects...Conference and Festival will not take place in February 2021; instead, organizers will take the time to plan for 2022. Social

[distancing requirements \[and\] the physical limitations of Artscape Theatre Centre in Cape Town made the event unfeasible.](#) - ArchDaily

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## Today's News - Thursday, January 28, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, February 2. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe - and wear a mask! (And check out the full moon tonight and tomorrow night!)

- [ANN feature](#): Samuel G. White: The Architecture of Public Buildings: The aspirations of a program that encourages good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the cladding is rusticated limestone or perforated titanium.
- [Justin Davidson](#): "Even before COVID, superstar cities were shrinking: In London, Paris, Tokyo, and New York, the population is steady or falling. But that doesn't mean they're in trouble. Cities aren't doomed, much less already dead."
- ["The A&E System,"](#) a study from Columbia University's Buell Center, delves into "Who will design and manage the green infrastructure needed to combat climate change," and "what does this system reveal about the built environment's relationship to today's interconnected crises of mutual care, racial oppression, and climate? And what part do architects truly play?"
- [Brussat](#) says "Da!" to "a marvelous half-hour video of the classical work of Mikhail Filippov - Russia's artful classicist" (his sketches are beautiful, too!).
- [Lloyd Alter](#) cheers architect Richard Pedrantri teaming up with Plant Prefab to design the first 3 Passive House LivingHomes - "what I love about this program is that Plant Prefab is making it possible for other architects to be part of its collection - going for full Passive House certification."
- [Baldwin](#) brings us eyefuls of LUCE et Studio's imaginative renovation of the non-profit Mingei International Museum in San Diego's Balboa Park.
- [Studio Gang](#), landscape architects SCAPE, and Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects make up the team reimagining the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (formerly Arkansas Arts Center) in Little Rock's MacArthur Park - "the design once again reveals the original 1937 limestone façade."
- [Construction](#) is (finally) about to begin on the Armenian American in Glendale, California, designed by Alajajian Marcoosi Architects, that will rise on "a 1.7-acre green space in downtown Glendale that's being dramatically revamped by SWA Group - the museum's cube-shaped, distinctive facade is meant to evoke rock formations found in the Armenian Highlands."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: In Covid-hit New Orleans, instead of parades, homes have been turned into floats for Mardi Gras - on view now thru Ash Wednesday, February 17 (bunches of fab photos!).

### Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries: International VinFast Global Showroom Design Competition for a design that will be used to showcase VinFast smart car models in international markets; prizes total \$60,000 (the most impressive submissions will be projected in NYC's Times Square in April!).
- [Call for](#) entries: HOME: Our Place: an international design event for students to design their ideal home;

conceived by Building Beauty Faculty Member Duo Dickinson.

Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [An impressive](#) line-up of architects, designers, and filmmakers from 14 cities around the world for The World Around day-long virtual summit on Saturday, curated by Beatrice Galilee - live-streamed on Dezeen and on the Guggenheim's YouTube channel.
- [The Municipal](#) Art Society of New York is going virtual with its great walking tours, kicking off tomorrow - through Sunday.
- [16 "must-see](#) films to inspire architects and architecture lovers" - synopses & "why you should watch" included (some new to us and some of our faves).
- ["Cornelia](#) Hahn Oberlander: Genius Loci" at the West Vancouver Art Museum: "At a time when our relationship to the earth is of paramount importance, her projects reveal consistent and significant stewardship of the natural environment."
- [Kathleen](#) Langjahr: "Form outshines function at MoMA's 'Broken Nature'" offering "an array of innovative ideas that ultimately prompt more concerns for the future of design - it feels too sanitized for an exhibition about the literal apocalypse."
- [Deborah](#) Gans parses Koolhaas's "Countryside: The Future" at the Guggenheim (thru Feb. 15), and "Dorothea Lange: Words and Pictures" at MoMA (now closed): "One body of work is determined to remain detached; the other is driven by political commitment" ("our present is the future that Lange's images foretold").
- [James Tarmy](#) cheers "Radical Architecture of the Future" by Beatrice Galilee - she argues that a template for the future of architecture and design exists in buildings that have already been constructed - what the world could, and indeed should, look like."
- [Tom Davies](#) of the Oslo School of Architecture and Design offers his reading list of "12 texts intended as flags or markers for the cracks that are present in our understanding of the communities and heritage of post-war housing" (they're also "entertaining reading").



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ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: The Architecture of Public Buildings: The aspirations of a program that encourages good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the structure is clad in rusticated limestone or perforated titanium. - ArchNewsNow.com

Justin Davidson: Even Before COVID, Superstar Cities Were Shrinking: In London, Paris, Tokyo, and New York, the population is steady or falling. But that doesn't mean they're in trouble: It's tempting to draw facile conclusions...or to formulate a Unified Theory of Anti-Metropolitanism...in the absence of solid data, we rely on questionable proxies: how much garbage the sanitation department collected, how many change-of-address forms the Post Office processed...But this is like trying to count fallen leaves in a windstorm...Cities aren't doomed, much less already dead...close-up impressions exaggerate trends, making ordinary fluctuations seem epochal... - Curbed New York

The A&E System: Public Works and Private Interest in Architectural and Engineering Services, 2000–2020: Who will design and manage the green infrastructure needed to combat climate change? ...it would most likely be designed and managed by public-private partnerships led by large architecture and engineering firms...the "A&E System"...What does architecture look like



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when studied through this system? ...what does this system reveal about the built environment's relationship to today's interconnected crises of mutual care, racial oppression, and climate? And what part do architects truly play? - Columbia University Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture

David Brussat: Russia's artful classicist - Da! ...a marvelous half-hour video of the classical work of the Russian architect Mikhail Filippov. His work has been described as "Piranesian" ...in a world fatigued by our dismal built environment it all does seem dreamlike, even utopian. But it is real...It displays a multitude of sketches of major urban developments he was asked to submit...He pairs his drawings with footage of what was actually built...These are heart-rending sequences...Without a doubt, he has managed to turn his artistic talent into a series of architectural masterpieces. - Architecture Here and There

Lloyd Alter: Plant Prefab Goes Passive House: Richard Pedrantri Architect designs the first Passive House LivingHomes: Two of the three houses have a simple, classic form...what I love about this program: the fact that Steve Glenn and Plant Prefab are making it possible for other architects to be part of its collection [and] going for full Passive House certification. This requires a certain rigor in design; you can't fake it...this is the real thing: Good designs from talented architects, with high-quality construction from a sophisticated builder...- TreeHugger.com

Eric Baldwin: LUCE et Studio Reimagines Mingei International Museum in San Diego: ...a nonprofit that collects, conserves and exhibits folk art, craft, and design objects in Balboa Park...part of the House of Charm, a Mission Revival-style building. Originally designed as a temporary exhibition space for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, the building will be renovated to better serve the community and connect to the surrounding park. - ArchDaily

Studio Gang-designed Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, formerly Arkansas Arts Center, to open in 2022: ...designed with landscape architects SCAPE and Little Rock-based Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects, is under construction in Little Rock's MacArthur Park...In concert with new construction, the design once again reveals the original 1937 limestone facade of the Museum of Fine Arts, a

precursor to AMFA, as the main north entrance - Archinect

Matt Hickman: Armenian American Museum to finally break ground this summer in Glendale, California: ...on the eastern edge of Griffith Park in the Verdugo Mountains...Designed by Alajajian Marcoosi Architects, the 50,800-square-foot museum will rise in the southwestern corner of Glendale Central Park, a 1.7-acre green space in downtown Glendale that's being dramatically revamped...by SWA Group...linking the new museum to Glendale Central Library, a hulking 1973 Brutalist landmark renovated...by Gruen Associates...[museum's] cube-shaped distinctive facade is meant to evoke rock formations found in the Armenian Highlands. - The Architect's Newspaper

Covid-hit New Orleans turns homes into floats for Mardi Gras [now thru Ash Wednesday, February 17]: When the mayor of the Louisiana city announced that the raucous, crowd-filled street carnival parades would not be going ahead, residents decided to turn their houses into floats instead...A special project was set up encouraging home-owners to hire the many artists who would normally have months of work preparing for the event...more than 9,000 people had signed up - some as far afield as the UK and Australia. - BBC News

Call for entries: International VinFast Global Showroom Design Competition for the most excellent showroom design idea that will be used to showcase VinFast smart car models in international markets; prizes total \$60,000; deadline: February 25; sponsored by Vietnam Design Association - Ho Chi Minh City/VDAS (The most unique, impressive design ideas will be projected at Times Square, New York City in April) - VinFast

Call for entries: HOME: Our Place: an international design event for students to design their ideal home; conceived by Building Beauty Faculty Member Duo Dickinson, FAIA; preliminary design deadline: March 1 (final submissions: March 23) - Building Beauty

January 30, 10am-6pm (NYC time) - impressive line-up for The World Around virtual summit curated by Beatrice Galilee: 20 architects, designers and filmmakers from 14 cities around the globe will take part; marks the launch of The World Around's residency at the Guggenheim museum. - live-streamed on Dezeen and on the Guggenheim's YouTube channel. -- Francis Kéré; Alice Rawsthorn; Sumayya Vally/Counterspace; Sumayya Vally; Ensemble; etc. - Dezeen

Municipal Art Society of New York Virtual Tours: Friday, January 29: New York's Crystal Palace of 1853; Saturday, January 30: Queens Neighborhood History, Part 2 of 2 (1898 - present); Sunday, January 31: Subway Art Tour Three - Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS)

16 Must-See Films To Inspire Architects and Architecture Lovers (Synopsis & Why you should watch): Some films are included for their incredible world-building.[and] a few films that include an architect as the main character. - NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)

"Cornelia Hahn Oberlander: Genius Loci" - West Vancouver Art Museum thru March 13: Genius loci, meaning the protective spirit of a place, is embodied in the seven decade span of her work...At a time when our relationship to the earth

is of paramount importance, her projects reveal consistent and significant stewardship of the natural environment...introduces projects...devoted to playgrounds, social housing, public projects, and residential projects- West Vancouver Art Museum

Kathleen Langjahr: Form outshines function at the MoMA's "Broken Nature": ...proffers an array of individually innovative ideas that...ultimately prompt more concerns for the future of design as we now know it, rather than...a clear ideological framework through which it might lead us into a less destructive future...feels too sanitized for an exhibition about the literal apocalypse. thru Summer 2021 -- Paola Antonelli- The Architect's Newspaper

Deborah Gans: Countryside: The Future and the Past: Two recent exhibitions showcase efforts by vastly different visual thinkers to document transformations in rural life. One body of work is determined to remain detached; the other is driven by political commitment: "Countryside: The Future" is a smorgasbord...of daunting problems and maybe-solutions that leave the visitor feeling helpless and confused..."Dorothea Lange: Words and Pictures"...presented us with a very different way of seeing...Lange doesn't hesitate to identify the structural causes of the conditions she was witnessing...our present is the future that her images foretold... -- Guggenheim; Museum of Modern Art/MoMA; Rem Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture/OMA; Samir Banta/AMO; Sarah Hermanson Meister- Places Journal

James Tarmy: The Radical Architecture of Tomorrow Already Exists: "Radical Architecture of the Future" argues that a template for the future of architecture and design exists in buildings that have already been constructed: ...Beatrice Galilee makes the argument that if we look around, we can find buildings, social spaces, and urban design that provide templates for what the world could, and indeed should, look like...a sample of projects [from] her book. Even if some "aren't spectacular looking," she says, "there is something very spectacular about their thinking." -- Atelier Masomi/Studio Chahar; SelgasCano; Theaster Gates; DnA\_Design and Architecture; Daniel Fernández Pascual/Alon Schwabe; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Practice Architecture; Toshiko Mori; Rotor DC- Bloomberg News

Tom Davies/AHO/Oslo School of Architecture and Design: Post-War Housing: Community, Heritage, and Myth: This reading list is made up of twelve texts intended as flags or markers for the cracks that are present in our understanding of the communities and heritage of post-war housing...[they] both color and detail to a familiar picture...[also] entertaining reading; their capacity to provoke new thought corresponds with the often unusual angle from which they approach established topics. -- Stanford Anderson; Reyner Banham: "The New Brutalism"; Kenny Cupers; Mark Swenarton; Douglas Murphy; Paul L. Knox; Esra Akcan; David Roberts; Jane Rendell; Aiden While; Alex Coles; Alfredo González-Ruibal; Alan Powers- Places Journal

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## Today's News - Tuesday, February 2, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: It's Groundhog Day: Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow - meaning 6 more weeks of winter - oh joy (as we look out on 2 feet of snow!).

- [Hopkirk](#) reports on the U.K. government publishing a "new model design code to 'bring back beauty'" via a new Office for Place - the hope is that the code "will play a central role in banishing 'ugliness' from new developments" (transition chair - Nicholas Boys Smith of Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission fame).
- [Wainwright](#) takes a deep (deep!) dive into the "turbocharged luxury development" causing "Nine Elms disease" plaguing London - "the product of politicians in thrall to property developers" - poor doors and exclusion is "a new form of social apartheid on an industrial scale."
- [Bernstein](#) takes issue with NYC "developments that impinge on important institutions or iconic views" and "should be rejected" - he's a "cheerleader" for new projects that have "the potential to be remarkable - both functionally and aesthetically."
- [Professor](#) of architecture & author Adnan Z Morshed bemoans South Asia not preserving "its disappearing modernist history" - leaving "cities without stories" that "endow them with their humanity and color. Without these qualities, cities are condemned to the dystopia of uber-identical contemporaneity."
- [On a brighter](#) note, Huw Oliver delves into "how Paris plans to become Europe's greenest city by 2030 - transforming itself for Parisians and the planet - few cities anywhere are acting quite as boldly and proactively as the City of Light right now."
- [In honor](#) of Black History Month: Writer, researcher & urban planner Pete Saunders profiles "11 Black urbanists every planner should know - the people who have helped us understand how cities work - and how we can help make them better - they should be known and celebrated."
- [ASLA is](#) celebrating Black Design Excellence during Black History Month: "Each day, we will be highlighting a different Black landscape architect or landscape architecture project that has had an impact on communities and the profession as a whole."
- [DS+R is](#) on a roll: Hopkirk reports that Diller Scofidio + Renfro and Stefano Boeri have landed a €300m redevelopment project in Milan - the firms "triumphed over a starry shortlist" (expect "extensive vegetation").
- [Woods Bagot](#) & DS+R won the competition for Adelaide Contemporary - but plans have changed and the team unveils its design for the 124,000-square-foot Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre on the same site (+ another win in Madrid that has been reported in English - yet).
- [Deadline](#): Call for entries: Dezeen Awards 2021: 36 categories + new sustainability categories.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Samuel G. White: The Architecture of Public Buildings: ...good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the cladding is rusticated limestone or perforated titanium.

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Elizabeth Hopkirk: Government publishes new model design code to 'bring back beauty': Office for Place to be established within housing ministry: ...code...will play a central role in banishing "ugliness" from new developments...devised by David Rudlin of Urbed, the Wolfson Prize-winning urbanist...provides a checklist of design principles to consider...such as street character, building type and façade...environmental impact and wellbeing factors...transition board chaired by Nicholas Boys Smith who co-led the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission [with Roger Scruton]. - BD/Building Design (UK)

Oliver Wainwright: Penthouses and poor doors: how Europe's 'biggest regeneration project' fell flat: Few places have seen such turbocharged luxury development as Nine Elms on the London riverside. So why are prices tumbling, investors melting away and promises turning to dust? With around 5,000 homes completed...The results so far are not encouraging...the product of politicians in thrall to property developers...exclusion has been designed into the buildings, streets and public spaces...a new form of social apartheid on an industrial scale. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour; KPF; Zaha Hadid Architects; SOM; Norman Foster/Foster + Partners Frank Gehry; Powell & Moya - Guardian (UK)

Fred A. Bernstein: Op-ed: New York City developments that impinge on important institutions or iconic views should be rejected: Two developers...hope to build a pair of 39-story towers at 960 Franklin Avenue, in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood...the site is just 200 feet east of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The towers, dramatically taller than anything else in the area, will leave parts of the Garden in shadow nearly every morning of the year...many of its plants will suffer...there are plenty of other places to build, this is a terrific time to build...projects that don't impinge on crucial institutions or iconic views...- The Architect's Newspaper

Adnan Z Morshed: Op-Ed: Cities Without Stories: South Asia needs to preserve its disappearing modernist history: ...this campaign of "renewal" looks at the past either with an ambivalence that is tantamount to negligence or with a hostility...historical value of modernist architecture is lost on the public, which alone seems capable of defending it...What accounts for this disconnect? ...we might wonder why the public remains unmoved by the impending demolition of these very public buildings...Stories endow cities with their humanity and color. Without these qualities, cities are condemned to the dystopia of uber-identical contemporaneity. -- Raj Rewal; Louis Kahn; Constantinos Apostolos Doxiadis; Daniel C. Dunham/Robert G. Boughey - The Architect's Newspaper

Huw Oliver: How Paris plans to become Europe's greenest city by 2030: From sweeping car bans to vast urban forests, the French capital is transforming itself for Parisians and the planet: Mayor Anne Hidalgo has placed green policies at the forefront [since] 2014. And unlike some other leaders around the world, she is also acting on them...These moves haven't been without controversy...But the city continues undeterred...lockdowns of the past year have given many cities pause for thought...mayors have capitalised on the lack of traffic to push through drastic measures...few cities anywhere...are acting quite as boldly and proactively as the City of Light right now. - Time Out Paris

Pete Saunders: 11 Black Urbanists Every Planner Should Know: From the first Black planner to a celebrated photographer, we recognize the people who have



helped us understand how cities work - and how we can help make them better: ...historical figures and contemporary pioneers...Some...may not fall within the conventional realm of urbanism...but they should be known and celebrated... -- W.E.B. DuBois; Horace Cayton Jr. & St. Clair Drake; Gordon Parks; John Hope Franklin; Samuel J. Cullers; Dorothy Mae Richardson; Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts; William Julius Wilson; Geoffrey Canada; Mary Pattillo - American Planning Association (APA)

Celebrating Black Design Excellence During Black History Month: Each day in February, we will be highlighting a different Black landscape architect or landscape architecture project that has had an impact on diverse communities and the profession as a whole...a social media campaign... - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Elizabeth Hopkirk: Diller Scofidio & Renfro beats big British names to land €300m Italian job: ...triumphed over a starry shortlist to land...redevelopment project in the centre of Milan...Pirelli 39 project...26-storey post-war [office] tower...significantly altered to bring it up to modern environmental standards. A residential tower and a bridge building, both featuring extensive vegetation, will be added to the site....DS+R beat 70 teams from 15 countries...other finalists were David Chipperfield Architects, Heatherwick Studio, 3XN, Vittorio Grassi/Woods Bagot, and Wilmotte & Associates. -- Stefano Boeri Architetti - BD/Building Design (UK)

Woods Bagot, Diller Scofidio + Renfro unveil designs for Adelaide's Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre: The design for the [124,000-square-foot] centre originates from Aboriginal concepts of earth, sky and land elements...ground plane will also include [87,000 square feet] of public realm with a native landscape...facade draws inspiration from temporary shelters created by Aboriginal peoples...[firms] originally collaborated on a competition-winning proposal for Adelaide Contemporary, a gallery proposal for the same site... - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

Call for entries: Dezeen Awards 2021: 36 categories; new sustainability categories; Studios of the Year; Emerging studios of the Year; etc.; early entry deadline (save money!): March 31; standard entry: June 2; late entry: June 9 - Dezeen

ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: The Architecture of Public Buildings: The aspirations of a program that encourages good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the structure is clad in rusticated limestone or perforated titanium. - ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Wednesday, February 3, 2021

- [Daalder](#). Johnson & Kling parse a new survey by The Harris Poll and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs that "presents an image not of cities teetering on the edge, but of urban strength in crisis. Rather than decamping for the suburbs city residents remain committed to cities."
- [An impressive](#) "consortium of architects, activists, and thought leaders" (including Mazria & Hartke) explains that if we really want to fix the environment, "we must decarbonize our buildings; our future depends on it - policies can help us respond to the twin crises of climate and health."
- [Saffron](#) finds NYC's new Moynihan Train Hall "dazzling but flawed - a simulacrum, a romanticized stage-set version of what we think a train station should look like - a template for what is possible" for Philly's 30th Street Station - "and what to avoid."
- [Amazon's](#) HQ2 redevelopment in Arlington, Virginia, includes The Helix, an office tower that "can be climbed from the outside like a mountain hike" with "trees and green space spiraling along the exterior" (and resembles "a soft-serve ice cream cone" or "less flattering - a poop emoji").
- [A \\$15 million](#) fundraising campaign is underway to finance a major modernization of a trio of I.M. Pei's 1960s Brutalist-style dorms at Sarasota's New College of Florida (international outcry worked in saving Louis Kahn's dorms at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad).
- [A competition](#) open to licensed and aspiring Black architects results in four winners selected to design facades for new retail pavilions in "Keswick Platform" in Charlotte, North Carolina, to be "leased to local small businesses and food and beverage concepts."
- [Anne Bordeleau](#), O'Donovan Director of the School of Architecture at the University of Waterloo, addresses "systemic racism in Canada's architecture schools. What needs to be done to implement meaningful changes in our education, discipline and profession?" (applies not only to Canada).
- [NOMA partners](#) with Black Spectacles "to help increase equity in the architecture field - with NCARB-approved test prep software subscriptions for all six divisions of the ARE 5.0 exam."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Simon Henriques' "artist's statement" as the designer of a restaurant's outdoor dining space: "I imagined my ideal restaurant. Then, I built a smaller, more ramshackle version - and put it in the street. That was pretty much it. Unless you consider writing this statement - the elaborate act of justifying why all of this is okay takes about as much energy as the rest of it" (some of the best archi-babble we've seen in ages!).
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Samuel G. White: The Architecture of Public Buildings: ...good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the cladding is rusticated limestone or perforated titanium.

### Winners all:

- [Eyefuls](#) of the winning team of Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Gustafson Bowman + Porter, and b720 Fermín Vázquez Arquitectos and the 4 finalists in the competition to "create a biodiverse urban ecosystem" with 15 "Urban Rooms" in Madrid's Azca Financial District.
- [The Architectural](#) Review and The Architect's Journal announce the 2021 Jane Drew and Ada Louise Huxtable

Prizes awarded to Kate Macintosh and Lesley Lokko:, recipients of the W Awards (formerly the Women in Architecture Awards).

• [Paul Keskeys](#) brings us eye-fuls of the two winners and 10 "striking runners-up" in Architizer's One Rendering Challenge 2021 selected from "a stunning shortlist of 100 architectural renderings" (stunning, indeed!).

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Ivo Daalder, Will Johnson & Samuel Kling: Why We Don't Believe the Big City Obituary: America's cities offer the greatest hope for the country's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, the people who live there agree: Much of the analysis has been fatalistic - gloomy predictions grounded in hunches...A new survey by The Harris Poll and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs offers evidence for a different narrative...It presents an image not of cities teetering on the edge, but of urban strength in crisis. Rather than decamping for the suburbs...city residents remain committed to cities....If our cities recover, as we believe they will, it will be a credit to the commitment, sacrifice and imagination of their citizens...Even today, cities remain the place to be. - Bloomberg CityLab

Want to actually fix the environment? Change how buildings are built: We must decarbonize our buildings; our future depends on it, writes a consortium of architects, activists, and thought leaders: Now is the time for us to collectively transform buildings from major emissions generators to central solutions to the climate crisis while also improving public health, creating jobs, and strengthening community resilience...policies can help us respond to the twin crises of climate and health. -- Ralph DiNola/New Buildings Institute; Jason Hartke/International WELL Building Institute; Sly James/Joni Wickham/Wickham James Strategies & Solutions; Ed Mazria/Architecture 2030; Lotte Schlegel/Institute for Market Transformation - Fast Company

Inga Saffron: New York's new Moynihan Train Hall is dazzling but flawed. Philly should do better: Philadelphia already has a great 20th-century train station. What it needs is a transit champion to...turn it into a great 21st-century train station: A rippled glass canopy spans the main hall, opening up views of the sky...So this is what train travel is supposed to be! As gorgeous as the architectural results at Moynihan are, this is not the station that New York - and the rest of America - deserves...[It] is a simulacrum, a romanticized stage-set version of what we think a train station should look like...lacks many of the basic functional amenities...Moynihan [is] a template for what is possible - and what to avoid...The improvements at 30th Street require the same kind of passionate advocates that New York had... -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Peter Pennoyer; McKim, Mead & White - Philadelphia Inquirer

Headquarters Helix: Amazon Reveals Eye-Catching Office Tower: ...next phase of its [HQ2] redevelopment in Arlington, Virginia: ...featuring a signature 350-foot (107-meter) helix-shaped office tower that can be climbed from the outside like a mountain hike...the centerpiece of the proposal that also features multiple 22-story office buildings...across the Potomac River from the nation's capital...trees and green space spiraling along the exterior...in addition to a helix also resembles a Christmas tree or a soft-serve ice cream cone. Less flattering comments on social media likened it to a poop emoji. (AP) -- NBBJ - U.S. News & World Report

Sarasota's New College of Florida kicks off \$15 million fundraising campaign to

revive I.M. Pei-designed dorms: ...Pei For the Future, a major effort to breathe new life into a trio of aging 1960s-era residence halls...will finance a major, modernization-focused revamp..."The humanist legacy of his work is timeless. It's now up to us to pass it on." - The Architect's Newspaper

Meet the 4 winners of Camp North End's design competition: Licensed and aspiring Black architects selected to design facades for new retail pavilions: "Keswick Platform"...35,000-square-foot space...will contain up to seven pavilions leased to local small businesses and food and beverage concepts. -- Marcus Thomas/KEi Architects; Melanie Reddrick/Little Diversified Architectural Consulting; Aleah Pullen/Apogee Consulting Group; Hasheem Halim/Saturn Atelier - QCity Metro (Charlotte, North Carolina)

Anne Bordeleau: From the Ground Up: Addressing Systemic Racism in Canada's Architecture Schools:...What needs to be done to implement meaningful changes in our education, discipline and profession? As instructors, many of us are so infatuated by the professional discipline we sustain that we do not really want to hear students asking for something different...loudly and clearly calling for certain changes...a desire to refocus architectural education on sustainable and equitable built environments...Change will always come too slowly, and there will always be more to do. - Canadian Architect magazine

Black Spectacles Partners with NOMA to Help Increase Equity in the Architecture Field: ...online education program providing architects with resources on their path to becoming licensed and advancing their careers [signed] a contract with the National Organization of Minority Architects offering deeply discounted licensing study resources to its paid members...will provide NCARB-approved test prep software subscriptions for all six divisions of the ARE 5.0 exam. - Black Spectacles

Simon Henriques: I Am the Designer of This Restaurant's Outdoor Seating Space, and This Is My Artist's Statement: I imagined my ideal restaurant. Then, I built a smaller, more ramshackle version of that, and put it in the street. That was pretty much it. Unless you consider writing this statement part of my artistic process, which would be fair since the elaborate act of justifying why all of this is okay takes about as much energy as the rest of it. - McSweeney's

Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Gustafson Bowman + Porter, b720 Fermín Vázquez Arquitectos to Transform Azca Financial District in Madrid: RENAZCA...to achieve the urban, economic, and social revitalization of the area...will create a biodiverse urban ecosystem..."Central Green"...to accommodate...outdoor events [for] 200- to 10,000 people...incorporates 15 "Urban Rooms"...such as a fresh produce market, children's playground, open-air library, sculpture garden, cafes and bars, a productive garden, an outdoor co-working space, and perhaps a FabLab. -- Martha Thorne/IE School of Architecture and Design; OMA; MVRDV; West 8; Heatherwick Studio - ArchDaily

2021 Jane Drew and Ada Louise Huxtable Prizes awarded to Kate Macintosh and Lesley Lokko: The Architectural Review and The Architect's Journal announced the recipients of...the W Awards (previously the Women in Architecture Awards)...Macintosh still an active voice in the push for affordable and dignified housing...architect and educator Lokko is perhaps best known...as a globe-spanning academic who has held teaching and leadership roles at

architecture schools across the U.K. and U.S...In observance of International Women's Day on March 8, the W Awards will kick off a week of virtual programming...winners of the Moira Gemmill Prize for Emerging Architecture and the MJ Long Prize for Excellence in Practice, will also be announced... - The Architect's Newspaper

Paul Keskeys: One Rendering Challenge 2021: Competition Winners Announced! The winning architectural renderings range from evocative, everyday spaces to dramatic, otherworldly environments: ...a stunning shortlist of 100 architectural renderings...[jury] selected 2 top winners - one non-student and one student entry - along with 10 striking runners-up. The 2 Top Winners each receive a grand prize of \$2,500... -- Francisco Tirado/Cobe Architects; Jeremias Dabbah/University of Buenos Aires - Architizer

ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: The Architecture of Public Buildings: The aspirations of a program that encourages good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the structure is clad in rusticated limestone or perforated titanium. - ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Thursday, February 4, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days - we'll be back Tuesday, February 9. In the meantime: Stay well. Stay safe - and wear a mask!

- [A great](#) opportunity! Call for applications: J.M. Kaplan Fund's J.M.K. Innovation Prize to support innovators spearheading transformative early-stage projects in the fields of social justice, the environment, and heritage conservation; 10 Prizes, each totaling \$175,000.
- [Bozikovic](#) cheers a "sustainable village of 9,000" in Vancouver being developed by the Squamish Nation and designed by Revery Architecture (formerly Bing Thom Architects) - its "compact, green, and dense" (12 buildings on 10% of the 4.7-hectare [11.6-acre] site, and very few cars). "All this makes a powerful and utopian vision."
- [Kriston](#) Capps' take on Amazon's conch shell-shaped tower, by NBBJ, on its HQ2 campus in Virginia: "Renderings of the tree-encrusted glass skyscraper seem to glow with the techno-futurist optimism that held sway in The Before Time. America's faith in its urban centers is being tested. Whatever else it is, the Helix is a testament to that conviction."
- [Hickman](#) x 2: He reports on SOM's "colossal" 2.2 million-square-foot, 83-story mixed-use tower to replace Trump's Grand Central Hyatt: "Hulking size aside - 175 Park Avenue attempts to play nicely with - and reflect - its stately historic neighbors, including Grand Central Terminal and the Chrysler Building" (Beyer Blinder Belle and James Corner Field Operations are on the team, too).
- [He reports](#) that The Cultural Landscape Foundation has launched a campaign to halt "inappropriate" development at the 425-acre "famously sylvan" Weyerhaeuser campus in Washington State (SOM & Petrer Walker, 1972) - the current owner "plans to build over 1.5 million square feet of warehouse space across 132 largely forested acres."
- [NYC-based](#) Stephanie Lin, the principal of Brooklyn's Present Forms and a co-founder of the design collective Office III, is named dean of the School of Architecture - formerly the School of Architecture at Taliesin.
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Samuel G. White: The Architecture of Public Buildings: ...good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the cladding is rusticated limestone or perforated titanium.

### Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [The Architecture](#). Culture and Spirituality Forum is hosting a free film screening of architect/director Nili Portugali's "And the alley she whitewashed in light blue" - followed by a live Zoom Q&A moderated by Michael J. Crosbie.
- [Elisia Seeber](#) gets the skinny from curator Hilary Letwin re: "Cornelia Hahn Oberlander: Genius Loci" at the West Vancouver Art Museum: "The remarkable 99-year-old is still consulting on projects - and helped choose what to include" in the retrospective.
- [Gabriel](#) Díaz Montemayor cheers Maria Bellalta's "Social Urbanism: Reframing Spatial Design - Discourses from Latin America" - "a welcome addition to the growing number of publications on the social justice-oriented

form of urbanism, architecture, and public space - it is not a how-to book," but "proposes social urbanism must transition from model to global movement."

• [Linda Poon](#) applauds Arthur Drooker's "City Hall" that "dives into 15 of the most architecturally unique city halls in America - including those whose design deviates from the Greek- and Roman-inspired style of neoclassical architecture [and] the evolution of civic architecture in America."

• [Welton talks](#) to photographer Tim Street-Porter re: his latest book, "Los Angeles Today: City of Dreams: Architecture and Design" - Street-Porter calls L.A. a "kind of a cowboy town, with all these quirky wonders - I had a great subject."

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Call for entries: J.M. Kaplan Fund's J.M.K. Innovation Prize: to support and elevate innovators who are spearheading transformative early-stage projects in the fields of social justice, the environment, and heritage conservation; 10 Prizes, each totaling \$175,000; deadline: April 30 (informational webinar: March 30)- J.M. Kaplan Fund

Alex Bozikovic: Senakw: In Vancouver the Squamish Nation shapes a sustainable village of 9,000: It will be the largest and most prominent example yet of Indigenous city-building in North America, and its urban design breaks dramatically with convention...compact, green and dense...4-million-square-foot complex will occupy a three-pointed, 4.7-hectare fragment of traditional Squamish land...now consists of 12 buildings ranging from 17 to 59 storeys...will include low-emissions construction and energy-efficient architecture, very few private cars...buildings will cover only 10% of the site...All this makes a powerful and utopian vision... -- Venelin Kokalov/Revery Architecture (formerly Bing Thom Architects) - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Kriston Capps: Does Amazon's 'Helix' Reflect the Shape of the Post-Pandemic Office? The e-commerce company's HQ2 campus in Arlington, Virginia, is both a statement about the future of cities and a throwback to pre-Covid techno-optimism: ...350-foot-tall [370,000-square-foot] tower shaped like a conch shell...stands on an 11-acre development...National Landing...Renderings of the tree-encrusted glass skyscraper...seem to glow with the techno-futurist optimism that held sway...in The Before Time...aims to deliver an urban sublime experience...PenPlace...will include some 2.8 million square feet of office space...America's faith in its urban centers is being tested. Whatever else it is, the Helix is a testament to that conviction... -- NBBJ; Kate Orff/SCAPE - Bloomberg CityLab

Matt Hickman: SOM reveals 83-story tower to replace Trump's Grand Central Hyatt in Midtown Manhattan: ...colossal tower...2.2 million square feet of mixed-use space including a new 500-room Hyatt property, the 83-story skyscraper located adjacent to - and above - Grand Central Terminal will reach 1,646 feet...Beyer Blinder Belle and James Corner Field Operations joining SOM on the design... a trio of elevated terraces will bring 24,000 square feet of multifaceted public space...Hulking size aside...175 Park Avenue...attempts to play nicely with - and reflect - its stately historic neighbors including Grand Central and the Chrysler Building. -- Skidmore Owings & Merrill - The Architect's Newspaper

Matt Hickman: The Cultural Landscape Foundation launches campaign to halt

"inappropriate" development at historic Weyerhaeuser campus: When 121-year-old timberland and forest products company...decamped from its longtime corporate home...for more modest digs...in downtown Seattle in 2016, the preservation alarm bells went off almost immediately - and haven't stopped, only growing louder with time....[TCLF] aims to halt...development at a famously sylvan site...425 acres...campus has been likened as a sort of super-sized, arboriculture-focused Disneyland...plans to build over 1.5 million square feet of warehouse space across 132 largely forested acres...letters [have] come from...prominent landscape architects and architects...design leaders, historians, and scholars... -- Peter Walker/Sasaki, Walker and Associates (SWA; Edward Charles Bassett/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) - The Architect's Newspaper

Stephanie Lin named dean of the School of Architecture: A year after the School of Architecture (formerly the School of Architecture at Taliesin) announced it would be closing, then wouldn't, and then ultimately departed Taliesin for Cosanti in Arizona in June of 2020, a permanent dean has been selected...Lin will replace Chris Lasch...Lin is currently the principal of Brooklyn's Present Forms and a co-founder of the design collective Office III...most recently taught at the Cooper Union... -- Aaron Betsky - The Architect's Newspaper

ACSF Event Invitation (free): Film Screening and Live Zoom Q&A with architect/director Nili Portugali re: "And the alley she whitewashed in light blue"; February 13, 2:00-3:00pm (NYC time - "Zoom doors" will open at 1:45pm); moderated by Michael J. Crosbie - Architecture, Culture and Spirituality Forum (ACSF)

Elisia Seeber: West Vancouver Art Museum opens exhibition on eminent landscape architect: ...curator Hilary Letwin has long been fascinated and inspired by the work of Cornelia Hahn Oberlander. Now, she gets to share that passion with the wider community through..."Cornelia Hahn Oberlander: Genius Loci." The remarkable 99-year-old lives in Vancouver and is still consulting on projects...While this isn't the first exhibition to feature Oberlander's work, it is the most retrospective - and she also helped choose what to include.thru March 13 - - Arthur Erickson - Canadian Architect magazine

Gabriel Díaz Montemayor: Social Urbanism: From the Medellín Model to a New Global Movement: "Social Urbanism: Reframing Spatial Design - Discourses from Latin America" by Maria Bellalta, dean of the School of Landscape Architecture at the Boston Architectural College, is a welcome addition to the growing number of publications on the social justice-oriented form of urbanism, architecture, and public space...point to the value of complex solutions that include multiple stakeholders and interests. But the results are not without shortcomings...This is not a how-to book...proposes social urbanism must transition from model to global movement. -- Jaime Lerner; Gloria Aponte; Juan Camilo Jaramillo; Jorge Perez Jaramillo;d Alejandro Echeverri Restrepo - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Linda Poon: The City Halls That Defy Stereotypes About Mundane Local Government: "City Hall" by Arthur Drooker explores how civic buildings deviated from neoclassic architecture, and what they say about their cities at the time of construction: ...dives into 15 of the most architecturally unique city halls in America - including those whose design deviates from the Greek- and Roman-inspired style of neoclassical architecture [and] the evolution of civic architecture in America. -- Thomas Mellins - Bloomberg CityLab



J. Michael Welton:"Los Angeles Today: City of Dreams: Architecture and Design": Photos by Tim Street-Porter: A native of Great Britain...Frank Gehry helped [him] get a green card, so he could stick around in the place the photographer calls "kind of a cowboy town, with all these quirky wonders...I had always been a natural documenter and architectural photographer and here I had a great subject"...new book is 256 pages of the city's spectacular architecture... - Architects + Artisans

ANN feature: Samuel G. White, FAIA: The Architecture of Public Buildings: The aspirations of a program that encourages good design should not be expressed in terms of style. The key difference between good and bad architecture is quality, not whether the structure is clad in rusticated limestone or perforated titanium. - ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Tuesday, February 9, 2021

- [Betsky offers](#) lessons from January 6 at the U.S. Capitol: "What was supposed to be the embodiment of our civic culture was not so much attacked by Trump's mob - as it was ignored. Classicism finds itself in a state of trivial misuse. Civic architecture should be an open and continually contested arena of daily life - we might find the source of a new kind of civic space."
- [Camille](#) Squires parses a new report and toolkit from SPUR and Gehl re: how to design more equitable parks to make them "feel safe and accommodating for housed and unhoused residents alike."
- [In Australia](#), Mathew Abbott & Steven Chang mince no words about why "the Victorian 'Green New Deal' is really an exercise in greenwashing - the plan is market-driven and won't come close to achieving the kind of large-scale public transformation that we need to avert disaster."
- [On a brighter](#) green note, Kenyan materials engineer Nzambi Matee has designed her own machines that recycle plastic waste into bricks stronger than concrete.
- [Nate Berg](#) delves into Weyerhaeuser, "the world's most beautiful corporate campus" about 25 miles south of Seattle, probably hosting "1.5 million square feet of warehouses, serviced by upwards of 800 trucks a day" - despite "opposition from some of the biggest names in landscape architecture" (the first "has received environmental and land use approvals").
- [Brussat](#) makes a plea to save Chapelle Saint-Joseph (1880-1886) in Lille, France, from demolition - "to be smothered by an architectural elephantiasis - a mammoth and culturally insensitive university complex."
- [Jaliya Fonseka](#) makes an eloquent case to make "injustices inherent in architectural education and practice visible" by listening to the "voices of the unheard. If we - as architects, educators, and students - are not invested in fostering an education that puts diversity, equity and inclusion at its core, how can we possibly design spaces that do the same?"
- [Amrita Raja's](#) great Q&A with (a very frank) Lesley Lokko re: "race, academia, and starting an architecture school in Accra, Ghana": "After the last year, everybody is paying lip service to diversity and inclusion. When it comes down to changing curricula and changing canon, it's amazing how quickly people fall off the wagon."
- [Bozikovic](#) talks to Gehry re: "the biggest and the tallest buildings of his career" - taking shape on Toronto's King Street West. Is he happy with the results? Mostly - it looks as though he will pull it off."
- [Eva Hagberg](#) parses Hudson Yards in impassioned, personal terms: It "was revealing me to myself - my realization that architecture can be a mirror, that you can see emotion in it, can weave a personal narrative out of built structure. It's too intense. It's almost nothing. It's too much. It's barely visible. It's unmanageable. It's everything I've ever wanted."
- [Only 7 days](#) left to put in your bid(s) in Modernism Week's online auction that "features rare architectural experiences and items not typically available to the public" - to benefit the non-profit (very cool stuff!).



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of our civic culture was not so much attacked by Trump's mob...as it was ignored...mainly they treated it as their lounge and toilet. They did not seem to care much for the symbolism that many current exponents of the style thought held such power...Classicism finds itself in a state of trivial misuse...exacerbated by the Trump administration...the National Civic Arts Society, and by the pandemic...Civic architecture should be...an open and continually contested arena of daily life. We need to find ways to design towards that goal...we might find the source of a new kind of civic space. - Architect Magazine

Camille Squires: For more equitable parks, design them to be inclusive of homelessness: Cities can make parks feel safe and accommodating for housed and unhoused residents alike. A new toolkit shows what that looks like: This effort is at the centre of a new report from Spur, a California Bay Area public policy non-profit, and Gehl...lays out a road map...determining how inviting or unwelcoming a park can be towards all types of users...several city parks departments...introduce design changes...with...handwashing stations, public restrooms and bulk trash cans...Urban Alchemy...hiring formerly unhoused or incarcerated people...as place stewards...Philadelphia's Sharing Spaces...improved access to food, showers and other homelessness services...Spur and Gehl have organised their findings into a "coexistence toolkit" ... - City Monitor

Mathew Abbott & Steven Chang: The Victorian "Green New Deal" Is Really an Exercise in Greenwashing: At the end of 2020, Victoria's parliament passed a motion calling for a [GND]. But the plan...is market-driven and won't come close to achieving the kind of large-scale public transformation that we need to avert disaster...Rather than build public utilities, the government will hold reverse auctions in which private firms underbid each other for publicly funded contracts...a form of greenwashing designed to use public money to socialize private risk for initial investments...the only solution is rational, democratic planning - but this will cut into corporate profit...We are not all on the same side, and we never were. - Jacobin magazine

Kenyan recycles plastic waste into bricks stronger than concrete: Nzambi Matee, the founder of Nairobi-based Gjenge Makers, which transforms plastic waste into durable building materials...sold at varying prices, depending on thickness and colour...common grey bricks cost...\$7.70 per square metre...Matee, a materials engineer who designed her own machines...plans to add another, bigger, production line that could triple capacity... - Reuters

Nate Berg: The world's most beautiful corporate campus is about to be turned into warehouses: The Weyerhaeuser campus paved the way for environmentally conscious corporate buildings. Now it's under threat: ...could be joined by 1.5 million square feet of warehouses, serviced by upwards of 800 trucks a day... [has] spurred a campaign of opposition from some of the biggest names in landscape architecture, including the original designer...Completed in 1972, the 425-acre campus...was the first large scale ecologically driven campus design...project may be going forward nonetheless. The first warehouse has received environmental and land use approvals...-- Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); Peter Walker/Sasaki, Walker and Associates/SWA; Edward Charles Bassett/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)- Fast Company

David Brussat: Save Chapelle Saint-Joseph in Lille, France! The chapel has been abandoned by the city government. The French ministry of culture has refused to classify it as a monument worthy of preservation. Its demolition and replacement by a mammoth and culturally insensitive university complex is set to begin in earnest late in February. The preservation organization Urgences Patrimoine [seeks]...to delay the demolition...built in 1880-1886 near the already protected Palais Rameau...to be smothered by an architectural elephantiasis... -- Auguste Marcou; Saison Menu Architectes - Architecture Here and There

Jaliya Fonseka: Voices of the Unheard: Making injustices inherent in architectural education and practice visible: ...changes are starting to happen...all important steps...but in the frenzy of activity, there is a question that continues to stay with me: how can a profession which has for so long failed to address these issues so quickly shift its perspective to embody and enact meaningful change? If we - as architects, educators and students - are not invested in fostering an education that puts diversity, equity and inclusion at its core, how can we possibly design spaces that do the same? ...we...are also activists...The complexity of this undertaking is enormous, but every act of working together to build equity, diversity and inclusion is also an act of building trust, and in turn, building community... - Canadian Architect magazine

Amrita Raja: Founding the Future: Lesley Lokko talks about race, academia, and starting an architecture school in Ghana: She has been busy since stepping down from her position as dean of the Spitzer School of Architecture at CCNY: Q&A with visiting professor at the University of Virginia and the Cooper Union re: the African Futures Institute...in Accra, Ghana, and what she's learned about race and identity during her decades-long career in architectural academia": "After the last year, everybody is paying lip service to diversity and inclusion. When it comes down to changing curricula and changing canon, it's amazing how quickly people fall off the wagon." - The Architect's Newspaper

Alex Bozikovic: Frank Gehry project taking shape on Toronto's King Street West: ...two towers...the biggest and the tallest buildings of his career...Is he happy with the results? Mostly...will be about two million square feet...it looks as though he will pull it off...the architectural expression has changed...form and textures have been simplified and refined...The bases have also been shifted to widen the sidewalks. The result is a more generous public realm, and that is the most important element of any urban building...If built to this current design, [they] will be subtle...will emphasize the play of light over textured surfaces. They speak in rich harmonies... -- David Nam/Meaghan Lloyd/Gehry Partners-Globe and Mail (Canada)

Eva Hagberg: Love and Death in Hudson Yards: ...the hope in the site's architectural heartbreak: ...Hudson Yards...was revealing me to myself...my realization that architecture can be a mirror, that you can see emotion in it, can weave a personal narrative out of built structure...The first time...I'd seen heartbreak in the hope. This time, I saw hope in the heartbreak...The first time...what I perceived was longing, but all I could see was failure. The next time...10 months into the pandemic...all I could see was the same longing...but this time there was a hopefulness to it...a microcosm of life, and maybe that's why I couldn't stand it before and now I can. It's too intense. It's almost nothing. It's too much. It's barely visible. It's unmanageable. It's everything I've ever wanted. - Architect Magazine

Modernism Week's online auction (closes February 15!) features rare architectural experiences and items not typically available to the public, including a sunset, catered cocktail event for 6 at at Frey II; an overnight stay at the Frank Lloyd Wright Ablin House in Bakersfield, CA; 2 nights at the Lautner Hotel in Desert Hot Springs; 8 signed, certified Julius Shulman photographs; and more! (Modernism Week is a 501(C)3 organization) - Modernism Week (Palm Springs, California)

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## Today's News - Wednesday, February 10, 2021

- [Jake Blumgart](#) parses "Covid and the Curb," a new report from Transportation for America that "highlights lessons from myriad municipalities, large and small, that tried opening up curb and road areas" - and "includes an array of policy recommendations" to ensure "equity of access."
- [Lucy Wang](#) brings us Lehrer Architects' "new, brightly colored tiny home village" of 40 prefabs - the first of its kind for L.A. that tackles the city's homelessness crisis.
- [Feargus O'Sullivan](#) cheers Turin, Italy, turning "a dead streetcar line straddling a bridge on the River Po" into a linear park that "was supposed to be temporary" - but "may become permanent - it shows how to make a city greener and more open even with just a light touch and minimal funding."
- [New York](#) State taps SHoP Architects as lead designer of the Brockport Loop Pedestrian Bridge over the Erie Canal west of Rochester with hopes that it spurs tourism and outdoor recreation to boost local economies.
- [Perkins&Will](#) and AIA collaborate on "Creating a Culture of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Your Architectural Practice" - a new white paper offering "seven actionable steps towards a more diverse workplace" (with link to white paper).
- [Kelly Beamon](#) reports on the NOMA student chapter at Syracuse University's School of Architecture drafting "a glossary of loaded architectural language" to alert practices to be aware of words that "perpetuates racism."
- [The Fay](#) Jones School of Architecture and Design's Freedom by Design chapter has created "Design Toward Justice" - an activity book for students ages 11 to 14 that "explains how and why designers are important, celebrates underrepresented designers of significance through history, and covers the role of social justice in design" (a companion curriculum for teachers included).
- [USGBC issues](#) its "Top 10 States for LEED in 2020," a year that "revealed the importance of healthy, green buildings in supporting people and communities" - along with a ranking of states with the most LEED professionals.
- [The Art](#) Institute of Chicago has named architectural historian and curator Irene Sunwoo as Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design - she will be leaving her position as curator and director of exhibitions at Columbia University's GSAPP (she served as associate curator of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015).
- [Sebastian](#) Treese receives the \$200,000 2021 Richard H. Driehaus Prize for his efforts in "reinterpreting the lessons of the past to produce a new traditional architecture and urbanism" in Germany. The \$50,000 Henry Hope Reed Award presented posthumously to John Reps, "a renowned historian of urban planning whose work has deeply influenced generations of architects and urbanists."
- [Tadao Ando](#) has penned a number of editorial/essays as Domus guest editor 2021 - he is "the first Pritzker Prize-winner to guide the contents of the magazine founded by Gio Ponti."



of experimentation...A new report from Transportation for America...highlights lessons from myriad municipalities, large and small, that tried opening up curb and road areas and playing with what is...public space usually dominated by cars. "Covid and the Curb"...doesn't gloss over the fact that these changes can also attract blowback...report includes an array of policy recommendations...Ensuring equity of access is a policy highlighted... - City Monitor

Lucy Wang: L.A. Is Taking On Homelessness With a New, Brightly Colored Tiny Home Village: Comprised of 40 prefabs, shared outdoor spaces, and in-house social services, the newly open community is the first of its kind for Los Angeles: Chandler Boulevard Bridge Home Village, a pilot interim housing project...designed by Lehrer Architects...with a total of 75 beds...Each unit cost \$7,500 including labor and materials, and each was put together in less than an hour...built of durable, easy-to-clean composite materials...well insulated...rated for 110 mile-per-hour winds...fully equipped with utilities and amenities...completed in just 13 weeks. -- Pallet Shelter - Dwell

Fergus O'Sullivan: Turin Turned an Abandoned Tramway into a Linear Park: "Precollinear Park" was supposed to be a temporary reuse of a dead streetcar line...straddling a bridge on the River Po...to give pandemic-beleaguered residents a bit of extra space...may become permanent...an example of how abandoned rail infrastructure can be cleverly brought back to life, and how an emergency pandemic adaptation can ultimately become a much-valued community fixture...exists...due to previous planning mishaps...it may not look like the radical transformation. But it still shows how to make a city greener and more open even with just a light touch and minimal funding. - Bloomberg CityLab

Governor Cuomo selects SHoP Architects to design new pedestrian bridge over Erie Canal: ...lead designer of the Brockport Loop Pedestrian Bridge...west of Rochester...constitutes one part of...\$300 million investment in the so-called Reimagine the Canals Initiative...state officials hope that its revitalization as a hub for tourism and outdoor recreation can boost local economies across the state. - The Architect's Newspaper

Kara Mavros: Perkins&Will and AIA Collaborate on Toolkit for Firms to Employ Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (J.E.D.I.) Programs: A new white paper offers seven actionable steps towards a more diverse workplace: "Creating a Culture of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Your Architectural Practice"... -- American Institute of Architects; Bill Schmalz; Gabrielle Bullock [link to white paper]- Architectural Record

Kelly Beamon: Students Want You to Watch Your Words, Even After Black History Month Ends: Noticing ways the practice perpetuates racism, University of Syracuse students drafted a glossary of loaded architectural language: Definitions and insights...were revealed in episodes of a Black History Month gameshow titled "Black Jeopardy"... students share the outtakes from the eye-opening glossary of racist architectural language here. -- National Organization of Minority Architecture Students (NOMAS)- Metropolis Magazine

Fay Jones School's Freedom by Design Chapter Creates Social Justice Activity Book for Youth: John Folan...founded a Freedom by Design chapter with students at Carnegie Mellon University...Fay Jones School's AIAS chapter

approached him in fall 2019 about starting a Freedom by Design chapter...created 68-page "Design Toward Justice" workbook...explores design education and diversity in fun and engaging ways. Targeted at middle school students ages 11 to 14...explains how and why designers are important, celebrates underrepresented designers of significance through history, and covers the role of social justice in design...has companion curriculum for teachers. - University of Arkansas News

USGBC Top 10 States for LEED in 2020: Healthcare, Schools, Offices Account for More Than 60% of Green Building Certifications: 2020 revealed the importance of healthy, green buildings in supporting people and communities: Massachusetts leading the country with the most certified square feet per capita...USGBC also released a ranking of states with the most LEED professionals with California taking the top spot...rankings represent 1,171 certified LEED buildings and spaces, and more than 100,000 green building workers. - U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

Art Institute of Chicago Names Irene Sunwoo Chair and Curator of Architecture and Design: Currently the curator and director of exhibitions at Columbia University's GSAPP...She has consistently demonstrated a rigorous commitment to how architecture and design intersects with urban legacies as well as equity and environmental concerns...Already invested in Chicago's architectural history as well as its contemporary practices, Sunwoo served as Associate Curator of the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial "The State of the Art of Architecture" (2015)... - Architect Magazine

Sebastian Treese named 2021 Richard H. Driehaus Prize laureate: ...leader in the process of current architectural renewal in Germany...will be awarded the \$200,000 prize...The jury citation states that ...Sebastian Treese Architekten "is reinterpreting the lessons of the past to produce a new traditional architecture and urbanism"...\$50,000 Henry Hope Reed Award...presented posthumously to John Repp, a renowned historian of urban planning whose work has deeply influenced generations of architects and urbanists. - Notre Dame News (University of Notre Dame, Indiana)

Tadao Ando is Domus guest editor 2021: As part of the 10x10x10 project, David Chipperfield passes the baton to the Japanese architect. Ando is the first Pritzker Prize to guide the contents of the magazine founded by Gio Ponti: "Conquering light"; "Jewellery boxes in the metropolis"; etc. - Domus

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## Today's News - Thursday, February 11, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We have a Tuesday morning commitment - though a forecast for 5-8 inches of snow may change that plan, and we'll be back Tuesday, February 16. Another forecast says "snow possible" - in which case we'll be back Wednesday, February 17.

- [Stephen](#) Zacks delves into the AIA statement against designing jails and prisons, the project to close Rikers, and the process of reforming the justice system in NYC: Critics of the U.S. prison system "discourage architects from participating" - long-time practitioners contend that "nonparticipation would be more harmful if architects were not engaging with the system."
- [Urban designer](#) Mark Favermann considers Paul Rudolph's now-demolished Burroughs Wellcome HQ and an 1899 Boston church that met the same fate - what merits saving: "It is progressive politics vs. moral authority vs. money-making vs. nostalgia."
- [On brighter](#) notes: Mavros reports that Finland is proposing 13 Alvar Aalto buildings be added to UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List, asserting that each "meets the criteria for Outstanding Universal Values, a prerequisite for inclusion in the World Heritage List."
- [Brussat](#) cheers Berlin-based Sebastian Treese winning the Driehaus Prize: He "is part of an admirable European trend toward traditional architecture that may be outstripping the strides being made on this side of the Atlantic."
- [Hilburg](#) brings us eyefuls of Kéré Architecture's "swooping new parliament hall for the Republic of Benin - modeled on the distinctive shape (and traditional function) of the native Palaver tree."
- [Adjaye's](#) Thabo Mbeki Presidential Library in Johannesburg, that "resembles traditional African granaries" being built using local mud, stone, and wood, and will include solar panels, a geothermal heating system, and rammed earth walls (great animation).
- [Scott Lewis](#) parses proposed "drastic and controversial" changes to ICC's Model Energy Code Development: "Homebuilders, energy interests and manufacturers maintained that the update would raise house prices. Most building officials, architects and energy-efficiency advocates say those short-term costs pale compared to longer-range energy savings and environmental benefits."
- [The creative](#) directors of Australia's now cancelled 2020 National Architecture Conference: "We believe that architectural wit and intelligence, agility and diligence, cheekiness, and humor, restraint and flamboyance, ethics and goodwill can all be deployed to maximize advantage - in social, environmental and economic terms" + Q&A with Alan Ricks/MASS Design Group - 1st in a series.
- [One we couldn't](#) resist (a video): "While the world has been distracted - change has been happening anyway. Empower women and change the world" (the best 2 minutes we've spent in a long time!).

### Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [Now available](#) online: Beatrice Galilee's The World Around Summit 2021: "20 ground-breaking architecture and design projects presented by award-winning international architects, designers, filmmakers, researchers, and

artists from 14 cities and cultural institutions."

• [Louis Kahn](#) at 120: An Online Event (free): Richard Saul Wurman in conversation with Kahn's three children Sue Ann Kahn, Alexandra Tyng, and Nathaniel Kahn, presented by UPenn's Weitzman School of Design and Designers & Books.

• [Steven Litt](#) gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Galen Pardee's "The Great Lakes Architectural Expedition" in Cleveland that "makes the Great Lakes an imaginary client - captivating and imaginative - asserts that architects ought to think not just about serving a specific client today, but also future generations, and the entire planet. Amen to that."

• [Just a reminder](#): The non-profit Modernism Week's online auction ends Monday!

• [Justin Davidson](#) cheers Annalee Newitz's "Four Lost Cities: A Secret History of the Urban Age" - a "nuanced overflight of history, alighting on four metropolitan centers that took centuries to rise and endured for centuries more before following unpredictable paths to disarray" - relating them to NYC that "has been suffering a more protracted death than the soprano in a Verdi opera."

• [William Morgan](#) cheers Françoise Astorg Bollack's "Material Transfers: Metaphor, Craft, and Place in Contemporary" that "is replete with serendipity, ingenuity, and the stretching of material limits" - and "many visual rewards."

• [Peluso cheers](#) "1,182" by architect/photographers Alessandro Cimmino and Emanuele Piccardo that offers "an unprecedented (photographic) account" of the fall and rise of Genoa's Morandi Bridge: "It teaches us to look more carefully."

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Stephen Zacks: Beyond a Broken System: The closure of Rikers Island created an opportunity to rethink New York City's prisons. But critics of the U.S. carceral system discourage architects from participating in a justice system defined by disparity: ...long-time practitioners...took issue with the idea of nonparticipation...it would be more harmful if architects were not engaging with the system, using the power of design to change environments...current plans to replace Rikers reflect aspirational ideas that seemed like starry-eyed idealism only a few years ago...Implementing these plans will require the ideas and expertise of talented architects committed to ending the legacy of abuse that Rikers came to embody. ...design-build model...has eliminated the public review process...It's not too late to...ask whether public review should not be mandated for a project of such monumental social importance. -- Brian Lee/Colloqate; Frank Greene/STV/Greene Justice Architecture; RicciGreene Architects; MASS Design Group Restorative Justice Lab; Van Alen Institute; NADAAA; Daniel Gallagher/DGG Architect; Perkins Eastman; Beverly Prior/AECOM; HOK; Morris Adjmi; DLR Group. - Oculus magazine / AIANY

Mark Favermann: Preservation, Two Cases of To Be or Not to Be: Recently, two architectural developments were demolished...[their fate] raises what has become an increasingly heated conversation, often devolving into angry debate, about which structures should be saved and which removed...it is progressive politics versus moral authority versus money-making versus nostalgia...One was an 1899 Boston church and parish house...The other [Burroughs Wellcome]...an early '70s Brutalist building in Raleigh, North Carolina...property owners insisted that restoration...was too costly. Demolition...followed by new construction made the most sense financially. -- Thomas W. Silloway; Paul Rudolph - Arts Fuse

Kara Mavros: February 3, 2021 would have been the Finnish architect's 123rd birthday: Finland Proposes Alvar Aalto Sites for UNESCO World Heritage



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Tentative List: ...to include 13 buildings...Finnish Heritage Agency believes that each structure...meets the criteria for Outstanding Universal Values (OUV), a prerequisite for inclusion in the World Heritage List. - Architectural Record

David Brussat: Driehaus Prize for Treese of Mainz: Sebastian Treese, of Germany, is part of an admirable European trend toward traditional architecture that may be outstripping the strides being made on this side of the Atlantic....[his work] fits superbly into its settings...I suppose that in today's world, saying that an architect is just doing what architects did for centuries would be coming too darn close to asserting that they lack creativity. That is not true of Treese... -- University of Notre Dame School of Architecture - Architecture Here and There

Jonathan Hilburg: Kéré Architecture reveals a swooping new parliament hall for the Republic of Benin: National Assembly of Benin, a new center of parliament for the West African country modeled on the distinctive shape (and traditional function) of the native Palaver tree...in the capital city of Porto-Novo, the nearly 378,000-square-foot facility will blossom from a central column of arches and support an upper level "crown"...floating upper stories will passively shade the public plaza below...[project] will also feature a sprawling public park that mingles with below-ground administrative government buildings. - The Architect's Newspaper

The design of this new library is paving the way to lower carbon architecture: The Thabo Mbeki Presidential Library in Johannesburg, South Africa, is being built using mud from the local area, parts of the woodwork will be from native wood species, and flooring throughout the building will be made from local stone...Electricity will come from solar panels...a geothermal heating system...will work in tandem with the thermal mass of the rammed earth walls to regulate the building's temperature...structure resembles traditional African granaries. -- David Adjaye - Euronews

Scott Lewis: Controversy Over Proposed Changes to ICC's Model Energy Code Development: The International Code Council is proposing a drastic and controversial change that would streamline the development process...basing it instead on the system used by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)...Homebuilders, energy interests and manufacturers maintained that the energy efficiency measures in the update would raise house prices. Most building officials, architects and energy-efficiency advocates say those short-term costs pale compared to longer-range energy savings and environmental benefits. - ENR/Engineering News Record

Emma Williamson, Kieran Wong, Maryam Gusheh & Justine Clark: Architecture's untapped opportunities to maximize advantage: The creative directors of the now cancelled 2020 National Architecture Conference say their theme "Leverage" remains pertinent and, in light of the global pandemic, there is a greater need for profession to use its skills to address contemporary challenges: We believe that architectural wit and intelligence, agility and diligence, cheekiness and humour, restraint and flamboyance, ethics and goodwill can all be deployed to maximize advantage - in social, environmental and economic terms...finding ways to create progressive change well beyond the convention of our discipline. + Q&A with Alan Ricks/MASS Design Group - ArchitectureAU (Australia)

While the world has been distracted...change has been happening anyway. Empower women and change the world. [video]- BSTV1

The World Around Summit 2021 showcased 20 ground-breaking architecture and design projects from the past year: ...marking the launch of a year-long residency at the Guggenheim Museum...live-streamed discussions from award-winning international architects, designers, filmmakers, researchers, and artists from 14 cities and cultural institutions...site-specific presentations are available to watch...The World Around's ongoing mission to challenge and expand the expectations of architecture's now, near, and next... -- Beatrice Galilee; Alice Rawsthorn; Ryue Nishizawa; Francis Kéré; David Adjaye, SO - IL; Deborah Berke; etc. - The World Around

Louis Kahn at 120: An Online Event: February 18: Richard Saul Wurman in conversation with Sue Ann Kahn, Alexandra Tyng, and Nathaniel Kahn, Kahn's three children; free with registration; presented by the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania and Designers & Books - Weitzman School of Design/University of Pennsylvania / Designers & Books

Steven Litt: An exhibit of visionary architectural projects created by designer Galen Pardee, on view at Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, makes the Great Lakes an imaginary client: "The Great Lakes Architectural Expedition"...a captivating and imaginative, if not fully realized...What the show lacks in polish and follow-through...it makes up for in its willingness to strive for a broad perspective on a region that holds 20% of the world's fresh surface water. That's a good thing...asserts that architects ought to think not just about serving a specific client today, but also future generations, and the entire planet. Amen to that, of course. Think globally, design locally. thru February 26 - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Modernism Week's online auction (closes February 15!) features rare architectural experiences and items not typically available to the public, including a sunset, catered cocktail event for 6 at at Frey II; an overnight stay at the Frank Lloyd Wright Ablin House in Bakersfield, CA; 2 nights at the Lautner Hotel in Desert Hot Springs; 8 signed, certified Julius Shulman photographs; and more! (Modernism Week is a 501(C)3 organization) - Modernism Week (Palm Springs, California)

Justin Davidson: If Your City Were Really Dying, You Probably Wouldn't Know: Visiting Annalee Newitz's "Four Lost Cities: A Secret History of the Urban Age": ...convulsive destruction is rare, and even more rarely definitive. Cities tend to scabble back from disaster and attain even greater glory...Newitz offers a...more nuanced overflight of history, alighting on four metropolitan centers that took centuries to rise and endured for centuries more before following unpredictable paths to disarray...[Each] had its own reason to die, usually at such a glacial pace that no one resident or even a whole generation would have registered the decay. The constant is that they expired when their leaders grew tired of keeping them going or the cost of upkeep wasn't worth the return. - Curbed New York

William Morgan: Book looks at metaphor, imitation, craft and continuity in architecture: "Material Transfers: Metaphor, Craft, and Place in Contemporary" by Françoise Astorg Bollack is an attempt to redefine the meaning of contextual

design. Rather than engaging in a century-old battle between modern and traditional - the angst of replica versus invention, she suggests we discard an "outdated moral opprobrium...{Book} is replete with serendipity, ingenuity, and the stretching of material limits...Modernism's chief tenet of originality is stood on its head here, although many of the solutions respect tradition...anyone who is interested in contemporary architecture and how it can be integrated into historical settings, and invigorated with new, mostly non-polemical ideas will reap many visual rewards. - New England Diary (Rhode Island)

Salvatore Peluso: Inside the red zone: the Morandi Bridge seen from below: 1,182 is the length in metres of the viaduct over the Polcevera, Genoa, and also the title of the new book by Alessandro Cimmino and Emanuele Piccardo, who use photography as a tool for measurement and observation: Despite the overexposure of this work in the media...three years later it is possible to find an unprecedented (photographic) account...Cimmino and Piccardo are photographers and architects...they show us the life at the base of the pylons, its relationship with the built environment and the artefacts preserved...It teaches us to look more carefully, that often a thousand photos shared in haste are not worth a thoughtful snapshot. -- Riccardo Morandi; Renzo Piano- Domus

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## Today's News - Wednesday, February 17, 2021

- [Sam Lubell](#) & State of Place's Mariela Alfonzo delve into "how to 'Build Back Better,' but better. An infrastructure plan won't be enough to fix the inequities built into our neighborhoods, homes, and public spaces - we need to employ a holistic process, replacing our outdated, piecemeal approach to spatial justice via three pillars: cooperation, technology, and community."
- [Nate Berg](#) cheers developers in Tampa, Florida, creating a 56-acre "community that mimics walkable neighborhoods" like Barcelona's Las Ramblas" - the "project is an anomaly in Tampa, with its emphasis on pedestrian-oriented urbanism and high-quality design" (an impressive design team) .
- [Welton cheers](#) Camp North End in one of Charlotte, North Carolina's lowest-income communities where 4 young Black architects "soon will see their designs come to life" - the 73-acre development "is nothing if not ambitious."
- [Wainwright](#) hopes Stockton-on-Tees' bold "proposition for the post-retail age" - to bulldoze a basically dying shopping center and replace it with a riverside park - will inspire other "embattled council leaders across the country."
- [Narayan](#) & Dineen delve into how the "Bay Area's malls-to-housing dreams" are being waylaid by the pandemic- "the plan to resuscitate dying shopping malls is itself on life support."
- [Carey L.](#) Biron reports on how 3D-printed homes offer "hope" for both affordable and post-disaster housing. "The technology can build cheap, climate-resilient structures in a fraction of the time of traditional construction - with some projects producing a home in 24 hours of printing time for just a few thousand dollars."
- [William](#) Morgan doesn't take issue with the design of a 9-story apartment building in - it's just the "wrong building in the wrong place" - overpowering "everything around it. When will Providence stop rewarding developers who are eradicating our history and townscape?"
- [Samuel](#) & Terrefe bemoan Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, treating its "valued, urban heritage is an afterthought - conserving it appears to be at best an afterthought, and at worst an inconvenience."
- [Jane Margolies](#) reports on the continuing fight to save the Weyerhaeuser corporate campus - now "caught up in controversy over plans to build massive warehouses" - it "would turn a historic, iconic property into an industrial zone" (Peter Walker calls the campus "an endangered species").
- [Edward Gunts](#) reports on a campaign "to protect a cherished Raymond Hood lobby in Manhattan's McGraw-Hill building." Grunewald: "The intact 1931 lobby is an astonishing polychromatic Emerald City extravaganza" (sign the petition!).
- [Zach Mortice](#) explains why "architecture critics have a duty to interrogate inequality in the built environment - criticism finds its highest calling when it's interrogating how the built environment codifies and perpetuates bone-crushing inequities."
- [Marcus Fairs](#) talks to USModernist's George Smart re: why he considers Bjarke Ingels "this century's Frank Lloyd Wright" - the Danish architect's Via 57 West in Manhattan is the only 21st-century project on the list he put together for Dezeen of his 10 favorite modernist buildings in North America.

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Mariela Alfonzo/State of Place & Sam Lubell: How to Build Back Better, but Better: An infrastructure plan won't be enough to fix the inequities built into our neighborhoods, homes, and public spaces: ...remedying these injustices...could be a major driver of our economic rebound...the spatial equity recovery...that could create jobs, seed economic opportunities, drive productivity, and dramatically cut costs related to health, crime, and more...now is the perfect moment to take this step...it will require ramping up spending - especially in underserved places...we need to employ a holistic process, replacing our outdated, piecemeal approach to spatial justice via three pillars: cooperation, technology, and community. - Slate

Nate Berg: Why one city in car-obsessed Florida is prioritizing pedestrians: Developers in Tampa have designed a community that mimics walkable neighborhoods such as Barcelona's Las Ramblas: More than 5 million square feet of development is underway across 56 acres...The centerpiece is the 45-foot-wide section on Water Street based on the Dutch...woonerf...allows cars but prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists...more than half of the project's road space is dedicated to pedestrians...project is an anomaly in Tampa, with its emphasis on pedestrian-oriented urbanism and high-quality design. -- Gensler; CookFox; Morris Adjmi; Elkus Manfredi; Reed Hilderbrand; Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates (KPF) - Fast Company

J. Michael Welton: In Charlotte, a Competition for Black Architects: On a site where Black factory workers once manned a Ford assembly line...four young African American architecture students soon will see their designs come to life...be part of a 73-acre development with an industrial past and a promising future, in one of Charlotte's lowest-income communities...Camp North End, is nothing if not ambitious. -- S9 Architecture; BB+M Architecture; Alliance Architecture; Redline Architects; D3 Studio; Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; Marcus Thomas/KEi Architects; Melanie Reddrick/Little Diversified Architectural Consulting; Aleah Pullen/Apogee Consulting Group; Hasheem Halim/Saturn Atelier - Architects + Artisans

Oliver Wainwright: Bulldoze the high street and build a giant park: What do you do when Marks & Spencer, Debenhams and New Look are all gone? Knock down the shopping centre [Castlegate] and replace it with a riverside oasis. Could the 'visionary' plan of Stockton-on-Tees spark a revolution? ...while some towns scramble to convert empty department stores into flats, or fill vacant shops with community pop-ups and urban farms, Stockton Council has come up with an altogether bolder proposition for the post-retail age...demolish half the high street and replace it with a riverside park... three times the size of Trafalgar Square...embattled council leaders across the country...would do well to look at Stockton, quietly leading the way. -- John Poulson; Ryder Architecture - Guardian (UK)

Shwanika Narayan & J.K. Dineen: Bay Area's malls-to-housing dreams held up by pandemic: ...the plan to resuscitate...dying shopping malls is itself on life support, the victim of plummeting apartment rents and uncertainty around everything from entertainment to office work to brick-and-mortar shopping...While some are still moving forward, others are halting or rethinking projects...Other uses for malls have come up...Built to be close to population

centers and highways, mall sites are in theory well-situated to become e-commerce hubs...But rezoning entire malls for warehousing and distribution will be difficult... - San Francisco Chronicle

Carey L. Biron: 3D-printed homes build hope for U.S. affordable housing: The technology can build cheap, climate-resilient structures in a fraction of the time of traditional construction: Large-scale 3D printing is gaining steam around the world...with some projects producing a home in 24 hours of printing time for just a few thousand dollars...ICON built its first homes in an anti-homelessness "village" in Austin, Texas...Community First! Village, is currently expanding to offer homes to about 500 individuals...has also attracted interest from the U.S. military...3D-printed structures hold significant prospects for post-disaster missions - Thomson Reuters Foundation News

William Morgan: Providence's New Apartments: Wrong Building, Wrong Place: The student apartment block proposed for...the Jewelry District...is an inappropriate and over-scaled turkey...100-foot-tall glass and steel box is not of itself a bad design...but it is hardly anything exceptional... the block...is home to a number of historical buildings...It doesn't take an urban designer or an astute city watcher to realize that a [9-story] tower with 95 apartments will overpower everything around it, physically, visually, and psychologically...When will Providence stop rewarding developers who are eradicating our history and townscape? -- Gerner Kronick + Valcarcel Architects - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Seble Samuel & Biruk Terrefe: Can Addis Ababa stop its architectural gems being hidden under high-rises? While Ethiopia's ancient sites are valued, urban heritage is an afterthought in a city forced to expand ever upwards: Demolition and reconstruction are now the most common sights along [its] unrecognisably altered skeleton skyline...conserving urban heritage appears to be at best an afterthought, and at worst an inconvenience...The bulldozing has sparked outcry from some of the city's most prominent architects and planners...a fresh look at city development is desperately needed, one that designs and builds not on top of, but among layers of the past. -- Fasil Giorgis; Medhanie Teklemariam - Guardian (UK)

Jane Margolies: A Fight to Save a Corporate Campus Intertwined With Nature: The Weyerhaeuser site near Seattle, praised for its balance of building and landscape, is at the center of a battle between conservationists and a developer: ...caught up in controversy over plans to build massive warehouses...new owner says are necessary to pay for restoration of the headquarters building and maintenance of the grounds...[warehouses] "would turn a historic, iconic property into an industrial zone"...because the campus is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, preservation officials are participating in the review to help find ways to avoid or minimize "adverse effects." -- Edward Charles Bassett; Peter Walker; The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) - New York Times

Edward Gunts: Lobby-ists: Preservationists launch effort to protect a cherished Raymond Hood lobby in Manhattan's McGraw-Hill building: ...Art Deco Society of New York launched a petition drive... to urge the preservation commission to add the lobby to its list of interior landmarks...Theodore Grunewald: "The intact 1931 lobby...is an astonishing polychromatic Emerald City



extravaganza"...Acknowledging that they don't have authority to weigh in on the lobby, the commission nevertheless urged the team to be sensitive with it. -- MdeAS Architects; Higgins Quasebarth & Partners- The Architect's Newspaper

Zach Mortice: What We Talk About When We Talk About Architecture: Op-ed: Architecture critics have a duty to interrogate inequality in the built environment: ...criticism finds its highest calling when it's interrogating...how the built environment codifies and perpetuates...bone-crushing inequities...placing greater emphasis to building sectors starved of capital...critics need to pay special attention to designers who actively push on the individuals and institutions that commission architecture. Architects don't have a great track record as policy thinkers, but targeted criticism can give them a few clues in the right direction. -- Blair Kamin; Michael Sorkin; Architecture Lobby; Anjulie Rao; Kate Wagner; Elizabeth A. Blasius; Mariana D'Aprile- The Architect's Newspaper

Marcus Fairs: Bjarke Ingels is "this century's Frank Lloyd Wright" says USModernist director: ...ranks alongside 20th-century greats such as [FLW], Eero Saarinen and John Lautner, according to George Smart...[He] ranked the Danish architect's Via 57 West project in Manhattan as one of his 10 favourite modernist buildings in North America...All the other buildings on the list, which Smart put together for Dezeen, were built in the last century. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group- Dezeen

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## Today's News - Thursday, February 18, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Happy 19th ANNiversary! ArchNewsNow.com launched this day - in 2002! We are taking a brief break - the newsletter will return Thursday, February 25.

- [ANN feature](#): Tom Marshall, AIA, LEED AP: Resurrection: Architecture Rebuilds Community Connections in Memphis: The site of a dying mall is reinvented with new public buildings and activities designed to create a critical mass of vibrancy and social cohesion.
- [Cathleen](#) McGuigan's eloquent tribute to Leslie Robertson: "Revered and beloved by the architects with whom he collaborated" - perhaps best known for engineering the WTC's Twin Towers - "9/11 left him grief-stricken" - he was "unfailingly charming, in a self-effacing way - a force field of ingenuity, invention, and inspiration. He was a national treasure" (we couldn't agree more).
- [Betsky on](#) "the merits of the 'look-ma-no-hands' approach to design - twisting forms do produce exciting shapes and spaces - we seem to have gotten stuck in a 'box versus blob debate" (though he's "actually eager to see some of them realized").
- [Michael](#) Huston is nowhere near as optimistic in his take-down of "artificial complexity - buildings that contort, pop up and down, are split in the middle have very little - and, often, nothing - to do with the function, economy, or beauty."
- [Mark Alan](#) Hewitt takes on "three astounding, world-shattering shifts" that have "beset our old and esteemed profession and wreaked havoc on architects. It is now our duty to recognize our predicament and address the challenges in order to create a humane, sustainable, and healthy environment."

### Moving on to brighter news notes:

- [Feargus](#) O'Sullivan reports on Mad Arkitekter's new timber tower in Berlin that "comes with lofty ambitions - to be an emphatically community-focused, affordable development - a charismatic architectural showpiece in an up-and-coming neighborhood without exclusion or displacement."
- [Linda Poon](#) reports on organizations "finding a second life" for plywood from boarded-up stores as tiny houses, public art, voter registration booths, BVN's street furniture for outdoor dining, and more. "This riot wood was once put up in fear and anxiety, and now it's being reused to build a hopeful future."
- [Jason Pugh](#), NOMA's new president, explains why he "remains optimistic during these challenging times - a few shimmering rays of daylight have pierced through the clouds, signaling that change is near" - including "the increased dialogue on discriminatory practices. NOMA is facing challenges, but good ones."
- [Q&A](#) with Eera Babiwale of HMC Architects re: "her introduction to Architecture and Sustainability, her process for approaching each project, and her advice for women entering the field": "This industry needs you. It needs your capacity to craft a plan that addresses multiple concerns. It needs your ability to uplift and empower others."
- [Pamela Puchalski](#) is named Executive Director of Open House New York to lead the organization in "catalyzing new models for inclusion and equity" and "bring community, philanthropic, and business leaders

together to tackle head-on a myriad of challenges confronting the city."

• [A great](#) presentation of the Architectural League Emerging Voices 2021 Award winners and their "distinct design voices that have the potential to influence the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design."

• [Looming](#) deadline reminder: Call for entries: 2021 ASLA Professional Awards honoring the best in landscape architecture from around the globe; registration deadline: this Monday, February 22!

Page-turners:

• [Jeffrey](#) A. Kroessler cheers Roberta Brandes Gratz's "It's a Helluva Town: Joan K. Davidson, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, and the Fight for a Better New York" that "reveals how actual people generated the ideas that returned the city to prominence. However powerful the impersonal forces of history destroying New York may have been, they had a formidable opponent" in the Kaplan Fund.

• [Designers](#) & Books has launched its Kickstarter campaign for "The Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn" - an "exact copy of the architect's long-unavailable 60-year-old book accompanied by a new, illustrated Reader's Guide" (great pix and excerpts!).

• [Lizzie Crook](#) talks to Sam Lubell re: "Life Meets Art" that "offers a glimpse inside homes of leading creatives from across six different centuries and more than 30 countries + Her pick of 10 designer homes from the book.

• [Welton talks](#) to Samuel G. White re: "Stanford White in Detail" that "zeroes in on the finer points" of his great-grandfather's work - the ornament and interiors that he dispatched with unmatched elegance" - a "sumptuous - and to some degree astonishing" book.

• [ANN Reprise](#): Excerpt: "Stanford White in Detail" by Samuel G. White: A rich presentation of the sensual and scenographic effects created by the legendary architect. For White, every surface was an opportunity.



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[ANN feature: Tom Marshall, AIA, LEED AP: Resurrection: Architecture Rebuilds Community Connections in Memphis: The site of a dying mall is reinvented with an assembly of public buildings and activities designed to create a critical mass of vibrancy and social cohesion.](#) - ArchNewsNow.com

[Cathleen McGuigan: Obituary: Leslie Robertson, 92: ...structural engineer known for his innovative work on skyscrapers around the globe...Revered and beloved by the architects with whom he collaborated, he may remain best known for engineering the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center...the horrific attack on 9/11...left him grief-stricken. Many experts noted that because of how long each tower stood before falling, thousands of people were able to escape...Active in Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility \[ADPSR\], he was a pacifist...Friends and colleagues found him unfailingly charming, in a self-effacing way...a force field of ingenuity, invention, and inspiration. He was a national treasure. -- Minoru Yamasaki; I.M. Pei; William Pedersen/KPF; SawTeen See/See Robertson Engineers/LERA; Guy Nordenson](#) - Architectural Record

[Aaron Betsky: Is Architecture Having Another Expressive Moment? the merits of the "look-ma-no-hands" approach to design: Rowan Moore...calling the structures "urban click bait," "one-liner architecture"...What is wrong with these buildings? Their twisting forms do produce exciting shapes and spaces...we seem to have gotten stuck in a "box versus blob" debate...Will some...be the beloved monuments of tomorrow, or...warnings about the power of designing](#)



anything imaginable, at any scale, anywhere in the world? They will continue to use up natural resources...They will also bring some excitement and pizzazz to their sites...I am actually eager to see some of them realized. -- Charles Dilworth; Heatherwick Studio; Zaha Hadid; David Chipperfield; Paul Rudolph; Luigi Snozzi - Architect Magazine

Michael Huston: Architecture and the Environmental Impact of Artificial Complexity: Needless intricacies in building designs waste natural resources: ...architects and designers add excessive and inessential complexity to their buildings and landscapes when none is warranted...Buildings that contort, pop up and down, are split in the middle...have very little - and, often, nothing - to do with the function, economy, or beauty of the building...a creative and ego-driven self-expression...Cheap fossil fuel, notions about the role of the architect as artist and hero...and an appeal to our innate desire for novelty, all amplified the preponderance of artificial complexity. -- Civic Plan Studio; Leon Krier; Nikos Salingaros; Christopher Alexander; John Silber - Common Edge

Mark Alan Hewitt: Three Giant Leaps for Mankind, Three Grave Threats to Architecture: What looked like progress now appears as something else starkly different: Global over Local. Cyberspace over Personal Space. Wealth over Culture. The three astounding, world-shattering shifts that have made much of what I care about cease to matter...not only for me but for almost every architect I know. The smartest people I worked with...were barely aware of how destructive these forces were, only now recognizing that a crisis has beset our old and esteemed profession...three huge shifts...have wreaked havoc on architects and their fellow stewards of the public realm. We have been the losers in this equation...It is now our duty to recognize our predicament and address the challenges...in order to create a humane, sustainable, and healthy environment...Admitting our powerlessness will be the first step. - Common Edge

Feargus O'Sullivan: Berlin's New Timber Tower Comes With Lofty Ambitions: A skyscraper that would be Europe's tallest wooden building promises a "social

and ecological paradigm shift” in a gentrifying neighborhood - and a test for the city’s affordable housing model: Called WoHo and designed by Norway’s Mad Arkitekter...eco-friendly engineering is attracting attention...other qualities that may be even more interesting...tower, and the connected lower-rise buildings that will surround it, aspire to be an emphatically community-focused, affordable development...could serve as a template for how to build a charismatic architectural showpiece in an up-and-coming neighborhood without exclusion or displacement. -- cross-laminated timber/CLT - Bloomberg CityLab

Linda Poon: The Creative Repurposing of Plywood From Boarded-up Stores: ...finding a second life in projects from tiny houses to public art: In Los Angeles, the California Wildlife Center is collecting boards to build enclosures for its animals. In New York City and San Francisco, the architecture firm BVN is repurposing boards into street furniture for outdoor dining. Chicago turned plywood into voter registration booths covered in art...“This riot wood was once put up in fear and anxiety, and now it’s being repurposed and reused to build a hopeful future.” - Bloomberg CityLab

Jason Pugh: New Hopes for the New Year: Why the 2021-2022 president of the National Organization of Minority Architects remains optimistic during these challenging times: I am reflecting on the challenges we have faced. I am shifting my focus to what makes me hopeful and what message I can share...It is hard to be hopeful while others are in pain [and] no immediate relief is in sight. Nonetheless, a few shimmering rays of daylight have pierced through the clouds, signaling that change is near...The growing unity among all genders and races across the Black Lives Matter demonstrations has left me hopeful...The increased dialogue on discriminatory practices...also makes me hopeful...NOMA is facing challenges, but good ones. -- Gensler - Architect Magazine

Women Who Inspire: Meet Eera Baktiwale/HMC Architects: ...has co-lead sustainable efforts firm-wide...for over 30 projects. Q&A re: her introduction to Architecture and Sustainability, her process for approaching each project...and her advice for women entering the field: What has been the most challenging part of your career so far? "Chiseling away at the misconception that sustainability has to cost more." What is one piece of advice you have for women entering the field? "This industry needs you. It needs your skill, wisdom, empathy, open mindedness, hindsight and foresight. It needs your capacity to...craft a plan that addresses multiple concerns. It needs your ability to uplift and empower others." - ArchNative

Pamela Puchalski Appointed Executive Director of Open House New York: Organization providing unparalleled public access to New York’s built environment commits to catalyzing new models for inclusion and equity: She brings 20 years of leadership experience working to promote resilient, inclusive, and equitable urban environments in the U.S. and internationally...Under her direction, OHNY will bring community, philanthropic, and business leaders together to tackle head-on a myriad of challenges confronting the city. -- Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities; The American Assembly at Columbia University; Brookings Institution; LSE Cities; AIANY Center for Architecture - Open House New York (OHNY)

Architectural League Emerging Voices 2021 Award: ...spotlights North American individuals and firms with distinct design voices that have the potential to

influence the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design. -- Pascale Sablan/Adjaye Associates/NOMA/SAY IT LOUD; Cûre & Penabad; Lori A. Brown/ArchiteXX; Ryan Bollom/DK Osseo-Asare/Low Design Office; Kounkuey Design Initiative; Craig Borum/Jen Maignet/PLY+; Studio Zewde; Taller Capital - Architectural League of New York

Deadline reminder: Call for entries: 2021 ASLA Professional Awards honoring the best in landscape architecture from around the globe; registration deadline: Monday, February 22 (submissions due March 12) - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Jeffrey A. Kroessler: Roberta Brandes Gratz's "It's a Helluva Town: Joan K. Davidson, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, and the Fight for a Better New York": Historians have wrestled mightily with...New York City's decline in the latter 20th century, and identified any number of explanations...Each...essentially leans upon great impersonal forces. This volume reveals how actual people generated the ideas that returned the city to prominence, and those who funded the often small-scale and fine-grained efforts. No one was more involved than Davidson, who epitomizes... "activist philanthropy"... However powerful the impersonal forces of history destroying New York may have been, they had a formidable opponent in the Kaplan Foundation. - The Gotham Center

Designers & Books' "The Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn": A Facsimile: Kickstarter campaign launched yesterday for an exact copy of the architect's long-unavailable 60-year-old book accompanied by a new, illustrated Reader's Guide: ...was the brainchild and passion project of...Richard Saul Wurman [who] asked to select all the drawings and texts for the book...Kahn agreed...New writings from Wurman; Kahn's three children - Nathaniel Kahn, Sue Ann Kahn, and Alexandra Tyng; Jonathan Salk...Paul Goldberger, among others. Tributes from winners of the Louis I. Kahn Award: Adjaye, Ando, Chipperfield, Eisenman, Flato, Foster; Gang, Gehry, Grimshaw, Holl, Libeskind, Mayne, Safdie, Scott Brown, Stern, Tsien & Williams, Viñoly - Designers & Books

Lizzie Crook: "Life Meets Art" by Sam Lubell offers glimpse inside homes of leading creatives: The homes of both notable and lesser-known architects, designers, musicians, poets and artists from across six different centuries and more than thirty countries are also shown - many for the first time...Read on for Dezeen's pick of 10 designer homes in the book. -- Norman Foster; Faye Toogood; Jim Olson/Olson Kundig; Finn Juhl; Charles Moore; Eileen Gray; Karim Rashid; Richard Neutra - Dezeen

J. Michael Welton: From Monacelli Press, "Stanford White in Detail": After publishing three books on masterworks by his great-grandfather, Samuel G. White is zeroing in on the finer points of his work...focuses on ornament and interiors that the partner in McKim, Mead & White dispatched with unmatched elegance...206-page book is composed mostly of full-page color plates and a minimum of prose to introduce its seven sections. Lavish photography by Jonathan Wallen...Sumptuous - and to some degree astonishing,,, - Architects + Artisans

Reprise: Excerpt: "Stanford White in Detail" by Samuel G. White; photographs by Jonathan Wallen: A rich presentation of the sensual and scenographic effects created by the legendary architect. For White, every surface was an opportunity. -

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## Today's News - Friday, February 26, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to technical difficulties beyond our control, we were unable to post the newsletter yesterday (stuff happens). If the technology gods stay on our side, we'll be back Tuesday, March 2, and Thursday, March 4 (no newsletter next Wednesday).

- [NPR's Elizabeth](#) Blair reports that President Biden has revoked Trump's "controversial classical architecture order - it was clearly an out-with-the-new, in-with-the-old approach to architecture." Commission of Fine Arts Chair Justin Shubow: "We intend to work with the Biden administration - historically our advice is always heeded."
- [Jason Sayer](#) explains why "the axing of Diller Scofidio + Renfro's London Centre for Music should be music to our ears - no effort was made to retain the [1976] Museum of London by any of the competition submissions - what message does that send to future architects currently being taught that the climate crisis rests in their hands?"
- [In advance](#) of the Classic Planning Institute's online Traditional Architecture Gathering, Feb. 26-28, Stockholm-based founder of New Traditional Architecture Michael Diamant weighs in on how trad is faring in Europe: "A handful of very excellent projects, a much larger number of general or mediocre ones." France is "the best at traditional urbanism by far."
- [Mark Alan](#) Hewitt considers why "so many skyscrapers resemble teetering stacks of skewed boxes. Were the architects playing beer pong while building the models?" (Hood & Pelli must be "turning in their graves").
- [Audrey Wachs](#) parses Amazon's spiraling "corporate Eden" in Arlington, Virginia: "In both form and rhetoric, it taps into eco-fantasy architecture" - we can "appreciate the Helix's potential for advancing the forest-building concept, but its green intentions only distract us from Amazon's full ecological impact" (it's not good).
- [Duo Dickinson](#): "Every young architect or student today is trapped in a shell-shocked building industry that no one can safely predict - let alone teach - how buildings will be made in a decade - it will be addressed by a new generation who cannot rely on the past to control their future."
- [Wainwright](#) uses Tim Gill's "Urban Playground: How Child Friendly Planning and Design Can Save Cities" to explore "ambitious child-friendly planning visions - enabling children to play freely outdoors is the sign of a healthy, liveable place."
- [Meanwhile](#), Emma Haslett looks into "why swings are disappearing from U.K. playgrounds - potentially furthering inequities in access to outdoor recreation - repeated lockdowns have exacerbated a situation in which kids' play areas were becoming an afterthought" (Tim Gill weighs in here, too).
- [Laura Raskin](#), on a brighter note, brings us Weiss/Manfredi and Reed Hilderbrand's plans for 17 acres of the 1,077-acre Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania that includes a 32,000-square-foot glass house and the reconstruction and preservation of Roberto Burle Marx's tropical Cascade Garden.
- [Edinburgh](#) unveils its £32m car-free plans for its historic George Street, transforming "one of the capital's most iconic streets" and a World Heritage Site into a "European boulevard" designed by Tetra Tech Architects with LDA Landscape Design (great pix & fly-through video).



- [Hannah Feniak](#) profiles "10 Black architects making history today. From established award-winners to up-and-coming talents, they are both innovative designers and powerful advocates for a more equitable AEC industry."
- [Steven Heller's](#) Q&A with Martin C. Pedersen, co-founder & editor of Common Edge, re: his website and "the power and future of architecture in the U.S.": "Despite the 21st-century baggage they lug around like an anvil, architecture and design are still capable of positive social change" - though "they have limitations - we have to be critical and skeptical of their claims as well."
- [Buckminster](#) Fuller's personal library of 3,000+ volumes is heading to Southern Illinois University, giving researchers the chance to study the former the SIU professor more closely - the "library is unique because it stayed intact and includes Fuller's notations and drawings within margins and spaces."
- [ICYMI: ANN](#) feature: Tom Marshall, AIA, LEED AP: Resurrection: Architecture Rebuilds Community Connections in Memphis: The site of a dying mall is reinvented with new public buildings and activities designed to create a critical mass of vibrancy and social cohesion.

#### Deadlines:

- [Call for](#) entries (no fee!): International £250,000 Wolfson Economics Prize 2021: planning and design ideas that will "radically improve patient experiences, clinical outcomes, staff wellbeing, and integration with wider health and social care."
- [Call for](#) entries (international): HER PLACE Design Challenge: "innovative design proposal for a development center for girls from Nepalese municipalities to come for help, support, refuge, and education about their rights," sponsored by Building Trust International.

#### Weekend diversions:

- [Jess Myers](#) cheers the "expansive vision" of MoMA's "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America": "Wouldn't it be interesting if, above even preserving and collecting, the highest mandate of cultural institutions were producing new knowledge?" The show "positions Blackness as an analytical lens through which to deconstruct - and possibly reconstruct - the built environment."
- [Sertan Sanderson](#) considers MoMA's "Reconstructions": "The idea of architecture being 'racist' might sound strange at first - after all, how can an edifice encourage division and hate? Even in the 21st century, one needn't look far to discover further instances of systemic injustice built into America's urban landscape by design."
- [Soft-Firm's](#) "Love Letters," winner of the 13th annual Times Square Design Competition, "comes alive with notes of care - from above, it resembles the shape of two intertwined hearts" - passersby can "affix colored 'wish' ribbons with their own short messages - those who can't make it in person can submit short messages via an online form."



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[Elizabeth Blair: President Biden Revokes Trump's Controversial Classical Architecture Order "Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture": ...it was clearly an out-with-the-new, in-with-the-old approach to architecture...One entity that might be affected is the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts...Trump appointed one of modern architecture's biggest critics to chair the CFA: Justin Shubow, president of the National Civic Art Society...the driving force behind Trump's executive order..."We intend to work with the Biden administration...historically our advice is always heeded." - NPR / National Public Radio](#)

[Jason Sayer: Op-ed: The axing of DS+R's London Centre for Music should be music to our ears: Diller Scofidio + Renfro's pyramidal project...costliest expense wouldn't have been a financial one...\[it\] meant that the existing \[1976\] Museum](#)



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of London would have to be taken down...part of the Barbican... far from being...so terrible that it deserves to be demolished...The fact that no effort was made to retain it by any of the competition submissions speaks volumes of both the architecture and art industries' antipathy for the environment, regardless of how many declarations they sign. This isn't to say that [museum's] building is perfect...What a waste it would be to destroy so much embedded energy and carbon, and what message does that send to future architects currently being taught that the climate crisis rests in their hands? -- Philip Powell & Hidalgo Moya; WilkinsonEyre; Stanton Williams- The Architect's Newspaper

David Brussat: Michael Diamant on trad in Europe: ...a connoisseur of architecture living in Stockholm and founder of the website New Traditional Architecture: A handful of very excellent projects, a much larger number of general or mediocre ones: Russia: The most creative architects...are forced by developers to be over-dimensioned, ruining streetscapes and aesthetics despite talent, creative decoration and ornamentation. UK: Excellent projects in both scale and quality, but quite boring and zero push forward. France: The best at traditional urbanism by far. Sweden: The paradox: few new projects but the best national discourse...lack of knowledge and expertise is a huge problem. -- Classic Planning Institute- Architecture Here and There

Mark Alan Hewitt: The Scourge of the Boxy Skyscraper: Why are we seeing so many...that resemble teetering stacks of skewed boxes? Were the architects playing beer pong...while building the models? Did Rem Koolhaas try to patent a "Pruitt-Igoe in mid-explosion" concept...Zaha Hadid Architects tends to add a few curvy surfaces...to hide the boxy banalities...But why would someone like Frank Gehry...succumb to these fickle winds of fashion [in Toronto]? Alas, the trend in development is still to hire a starchitect whenever the going gets tough with city officials or art mavens...Hubris still attracts capital, and developers have some of the biggest egos on earth...It will probably take a few leaky apartments and the resulting lawsuits to steer developers away from an idea that was bad from the start... -- Cesar Pelli; Raymond Hood; Adrian Smith; Rafael Viñoly- Common Edge

Audrey Wachs: At Amazon, Pretending to Be Green Takes a Lot of Energy: Turns out, growing trees on a tower isn't all that sustainable: Amazon teased the Helix...its upcoming Arlington, Virginia, headquarters...a 350-foot-tall, conical tower...the extent to which it provides a net ecological benefit is up for debate. In both form and rhetoric, [it] taps into eco-fantasy architecture...But the dream of carbon-canceling headquarters often obscures the actual ecological footprint...it's incumbent on future eco-fantasy designers to figure out how to mitigate the additional materials required to support a green landscape...While SCAPE and NBBJ hash out the design details, we should contextualize any sustainability claims...appreciate the Helix's potential for advancing the forest-

building concept, but its green intentions only distract us from Amazon's full ecological impact. -- Emilio Ambasz; MVRDV; Stefano Boeri; Jean Nouvel; Thomas Heatherwick; Kate Orff - Curbed New York

Duo Dickinson: The Next Generation of Architects Will Remake How We Make Things: Out of disruption and necessity will come change: Every young architect or student today is being formed in the riptides of economic, technological, and medical turmoil...new questions are making the old answers irrelevant...Into this cauldron of uncertainty, [they] find themselves trapped in a shell-shocked building industry that is evolving so quickly that no one can safely predict - let alone teach - how buildings will be made in a decade...The architectural canon...once dominant, has now been largely bypassed by the realities of professional survival...It's a daunting prospect, and it will be addressed by a new generation who cannot rely on the past to control their future. - Common Edge

Oliver Wainwright: Set children free: are playgrounds a form of incarceration? Play has been the invisible casualty of the pandemic...a look forward to a post-Covid world of parklets, play streets and repurposed parking spaces: ...after a year...[No. 10] finally clarified that children can use playgrounds - strictly for exercise only...Tim Gill, author of "Urban Playground: How Child Friendly Planning and Design Can Save Cities"...cites the Hackney play street... the first flowering of the borough's ambitious child-friendly planning vision...enabling children to play freely outdoors is the sign of a healthy, liveable place - with kids acting as a kind of "indicator species" for the wellbeing of cities. -- Liza Fior/Muf; Heat Island architects - Guardian (UK)

Emma Haslett: Why swings are disappearing from UK playgrounds: Local authorities have been dismantling the most popular piece of playground equipment, potentially furthering inequities in access to outdoor recreation: ...repeated lockdowns have exacerbated a situation in which kids' play areas were becoming an afterthought...cities already struggle with providing equal access to green spaces...Taking away swings...cuts down on the number of people lingering, and potentially socialising...What the mystery of the UK's disappearing swings actually symbolises, says Tim Gill, is the fact that the country's local authorities haven't historically taken children's play seriously...A renewed focus on the needs of children...may change that. - City Monitor

Laura Raskin: Weiss/Manfredi and Reed Hilderbrand Release New Plans for Longwood Gardens [Kennett Square, Pennsylvania]: The design includes a 32,000-square-foot glass house and the reconstruction and preservation of Roberto Burle Marx's Cascade Garden: ...transforming 17 acres of its botanical gardens, woodlands, and meadows...glass conservatory appears to float on top of pools and plantings...also designing a new 3,800-square-foot glass house for Brazilian landscape architect Marx's 1992 tropical garden...team's plan follows a historic and additive lineage in landscape design. -- Pierre S. du Pont; West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture - Architectural Record

Watch: Edinburgh Council's £32m car-free plans for George Street: ...plans to transform one of the capital's most iconic streets into a car-free "European boulevard"...World Heritage Site has become a car park..."We've got this phenomenal street of immense beauty that has been obscured"...concept design...by Tetra Tech Architects with LDA Landscape Design...will include landscaped areas with seating in place of current car parking spaces and space

for play. - The Herald (Scotland)

Hannah Feniak: 10 Black Architects Making History Today: From established award-winners to up-and-coming talents, these architects are both innovative designers and powerful advocates for a more equitable AEC industry. -- Curtis Moody/Moody Nolan; Jason Pugh/Gensler/National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA); Pascale Sablan/S9 Architecture; Kimberly Dowdell/HOK; Michael Marshal/Michael Marshall Design; Sean Canty/Studio SC; Mark I. Gardner/Jaklitsch / Gardner Architects; Tiffany D. Brown/400 Forward/SmithGroup; Steven Lewis/RAW International/ZGF Architects; Sekou Cooke - Architizer

Steven Heller: Architecture on the Common Edge: Editor Martin C. Pedersen riffs on his website...and the power and future of architecture in the U.S.: The articles are informative, timely and inspiring...I asked him how he does it: Do you believe that architecture on the whole is a force for a better society? "Here's where I shock myself with a somewhat optimistic answer: Despite the 21st-century baggage they lug around like an anvil, architecture and design are still capable of positive social change...They have limitations...we have to be critical and skeptical of their claims as well." -- Steven Bingler - Print / The Daily Heller

Morris Library receives Buckminster Fuller's books for research, study: Researchers wanting to know about former SIU professor R. Buckminster Fuller will soon have an opportunity...his personal library of more than 3,000 volumes; part of a recent donation of artifacts and furniture to the R. Buckminster Fuller Dome Not-For-Profit...with the goal of reinstalling the furnishings and library as it was in the 1960s to the dome home in Carbondale [Illinois]...personal library is unique because it stayed intact and includes Fuller's notations and drawings within margins and spaces... - Southern Illinois University (Carbondale, Illinois)

Call for entries (international): £250,000 Wolfson Economics Prize 2021: planning and design ideas that will "radically improve patient experiences, clinical outcomes, staff wellbeing, and integration with wider health and social care; no fee (jury includes Dame Laura Lee, CEO, Maggie's Centres & Robert A.M. Stern,); deadline: June 18 - Wolfson Economics Prize / Policy Exchange

Call for entries (international): HER PLACE Design Challenge: innovative design proposal for a development centre for girls from Nepalese municipalities to provide a safe environment for vulnerable young women to come for help, support, refuge and education about their rights; registration deadline: April 1 (submissions due April 10) - Building Trust International (UK)

Jess Myers: Expansive Vision: "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America" finds transformative potential in the collective: Wouldn't it be interesting if, above even preserving and collecting, the highest mandate of cultural institutions were producing new knowledge? What if these institutions put the objects in their possession to work? "Reconstructions" at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, will offer tools rather than solutions...By dropping the design-as-solution framing, Sean Anderson and Mabel O. Wilson were able to position Blackness as an analytical lens through which to deconstruct - and possibly reconstruct - the built environment. thru May 31 -- Darby English; Emanuel Admassu; Adrienne Brown; Germane Barnes; Amanda Williams; Jennifer Newsom; D.G. Kelley - The Architect's Newspaper

Sertan Sanderson: MoMA examines role of architecture in systemic racism: America's history with racism is reflected in brick and mortar: "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America"...The idea of architecture being "racist" might sound strange at first - after all, how can an edifice encourage division and hate? ...humans have repeatedly used design, construction and city planning to - literally - cement their prejudices, expelling the oppressed to the fringes of society...Even in the 21st century, one needn't look far to discover further instances of systemic injustice built into America's urban landscape by design. -- Sekou Cooke; Mario Gooden; Emanuel Admassu; Germane Barnes - Deutsche Welle / DW (Germany)

Soft-Firm's "Love Letters" comes alive in Times Square with notes of care: ...winner of Times Square Arts' 13th annual Times Square Design Competition [formerly Times Square Valentine Heart Design competition]...on view through March 10...curvaceous form...from above, resembles the shape of two intertwined hearts...one part (socially distanced) communal public hang-out space, and one part for passersby to affix colored "wish" ribbons with their own short messages of hope, goodwill, gratitude, protest, and romantic sentiment...those who can't make it to Times Square in person but wish to participate can submit short messages via an online form. - The Architect's Newspaper

ANN feature: Tom Marshall, AIA, LEED AP: Resurrection: Architecture Rebuilds Community Connections in Memphis: The site of a dying mall is reinvented with an assembly of public buildings and activities designed to create a critical mass of vibrancy and social cohesion. - ArchNewsNow.com

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## Today's News - Tuesday, March 2, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: A reminder that tomorrow will be a no-newsletter day. If all goes well, we'll be back Thursday, March 4 (or possibly Tuesday, March 9).

- [Justin R.](#) Wolf takes a deep dive into "what -isms tell us about architecture's preoccupation with 'human' design" - and "why this newfound focus on making the human experience better feels dismissive and cynical."
- [Mimi Zeiger](#) explains why "it's time to abolish the architecture critic - largely white, male" - they "are a reflection of the structural inequalities of the built environment - we need "an outpouring of criticism by as large and diverse a group of writers as we can muster" (comments are interesting).
- [Justin Davidson](#) turns to the "feisty New York firm" Architecture Research Office - who worked "for the eminently reasonable fee of zero dollars" - "to see how cubicles and conference rooms might be magicked into kitchens and bedrooms" in a 1952 office tower on Manhattan's E. 38th St. - "a combination of zoning changes and tax incentives" could "coax owners into turning their carbon-spewing old clunkers into green affordable housing. I dare you to show me the downside."
- [Edward Gunts](#) reports on Eamon Roche defending "his father's legacy ahead of proposed changes" to The Met's Rockefeller Wing by Beyer Blinder Belle - the "issue came down to weighing consideration for aesthetics and the original architect's design intent against a desire to improve the technical performance."
- [Pedersen's](#) great Q&A with Harriet Pattison re: her book "Our Days Are Like Full Years: A Memoir with Letters from Louis Kahn," the 92-year-old landscape architect's "contributions to some seminal Kahn projects" (like Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island), and "the enduring legacy of the great architect."
- [Rebecca](#) Greenwald talks to the pro's about "how polished branding is shaping a new generation of public parks" - like Miami's The Underline and others - "it is critical for building community support and investor buy-in."
- [In honor](#) of Women's History Month, ASLA is launching the 2021 #Woman2Woman campaign that "will highlight the stories, challenges, and advice of women in the field of landscape architecture at all stages of their careers."
- [Cajsa Carlson](#) reports that the London School of Architecture has announced the architectural historian Neal Shasore "is set to take over from the school's founder Will Hunter as head of school and CEO."

### Deadline + Winners all:

- [Reminder](#) - deadline looms - website is now LIVE! Call for entries: HOME: Our Place competition: an international design event for students to design their ideal home; conceived by Building Beauty Faculty Member Duo Dickinson.
- [The nonprofit](#) collective MASS Design Group wins the 2021 AIA Collaborative Achievement Award "for its contributions to the architecture profession and its influence on health care-sensitive design" that has "has proven invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic."
- [The International](#) Garden Festival announces the five winning designs from Canada, U.S., France, and

Sweden that will create an open-air museum of gardens at Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, Quebec, this summer.

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Justin R. Wolf: What -isms Tell Us About Architecture's Preoccupation with "Human" Design: Does the now ubiquitous phase still have meaning? Study of the causal relationship between architecture and human behavior is fairly well worn territory, having yielded all manner of theories, both optimistic and skeptical...architectural determinism theory purports that the built environment is the sole determinant of human behavior...All that's left, it would seem, is to remind the general public that their human interests are at the heart of everything...it's near impossible to find a time and place when the human experience wasn't a central tenet of architecture. All the more reason why this newfound focus on making that experience better feels dismissive and cynical.-

Common Edge

Mimi Zeiger: It's time to abolish the architecture critic: Newspapers' largely white, male architecture critics are a reflection of the structural inequalities of the built environment...not equipped to deal with our current time of crisis: We are led to believe through myth and snark that criticism is a rarefied act...I want to envision what [it] might look like without a heavy capstone of "the critic"...the term is restrictive. Urgencies of our time demand an outpouring of criticism by as large and diverse a group of writers as we can muster...the same structural conditions that produce inequity in the field and the greater built environment also limit who is legitimised as a critic. -- Blair Kamin; Christopher Hawthorne; Nicolai Ouroussoff; Zach Mortice; Ada Louise Huxtable; Esther McCoy; Inga Saffron; Alexandra Lange - Dezeen

Justin Davidson: Would You Want to Live in a Mid-Century Office Tower on East 38th Street? We asked an architectural firm to game out a (theoretical) conversion: ...a vast stash of 50- to 70-year-old modernist office buildings in Manhattan...begging for new purpose...To see how cubicles and conference rooms might be magicked into kitchens and bedrooms, I turned to a small but feisty New York firm, Architecture Research Office...They concluded (and convinced me) that...a combination of zoning changes and tax incentives...can coax owners into turn their carbon-spewing old clunkers into green affordable housing...ARO's creation looks like a fun place to live...It's rare for so many different desire lines to lead in the same direction...In a miraculous alignment, what's good for the building is also good for the block, the neighborhood, the city, and the planet. I dare you to show me the downside. -- Sylvan Bien; Stephen Cassell; Kim Yao; Adam Yarinsky; David McCarty/Alloy - Curbed New York

Edward Gunts: Eamon Roche defends his father's legacy ahead of proposed changes at The Met: New York's Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) put the brakes on a \$70 million renovation project [Rockefeller Wing] at the Metropolitan Museum of Art after [he] expressed concerns about the proposal to change part of the museum his firm had designed four decades before...{He} started his testimony by thanking Beyer Blinder Belle for making a "great presentation"...But thought its proposal was "underwhelming," "less appealing" than his firm's design...issue came down to...weighing consideration for aesthetics and the original architect's design intent against a desire to improve the technical performance. -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates;

Martin C. Pedersen: Harriet Pattison on the Creative Process of Louis Kahn and Making History: Q&A with the author of "Our Days Are Like Full Years: A Memoir with Letters from Louis Kahn": Nathaniel Kahn's..."My Architect," was at its beating heart a son's search for his father...Pattison, Nathaniel Kahn's mother, released a gorgeous new book...The 92-year-old has had a long and distinguished career as a landscape architect...To celebrate the 120th anniversary of Kahn's birth...[we] talk about the book, her contributions to some seminal Kahn projects, and the enduring legacy of the great architect. - Common Edge

Rebecca Greenwald: How Polished Branding is Shaping a New Generation of Public Parks: Borrowing from the design language of startups, public spaces are positioning themselves as both destination and consumable experience: For public projects in the concept and development stage, polished branding is critical for building community support and investor buy-in...Many...draw on the legacy of The High Line...flexible identity systems and design toolkits have been designed to perform as "a swiss army knife"... -- Hamish Smyth/Order Design; Carbon Office; James Corner Field Operations; Paula Scher/Pentagram; Laura Stein/Bruce Mau Design; John Caserta/Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)- AIGA Eye on Design

For Women's History Month, ASLA Seeks to Connect Women in Landscape Architecture: American Society of Landscape Architects is launching the 2021 #Woman2Woman campaign...will highlight the stories, challenges, and advice of women in the field at all stages of their careers...Be sure to watch ASLA's posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Pinterest to follow the entire campaign. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Cajsa Carlson: London School of Architecture names Neal Shasore head of school: ...architectural historian...is set to take over from the school's founder Will Hunter as head of school and chief executive officer (CEO)...LSA was founded in 2015 as London's first independent school of architecture to open since the Architectural Association [AA] was established in 1847...Students at the school work part-time for an architecture studio in their first year, making the two-year course "cost-neutral"... - Dezeen

Reminder (deadline looms!): Call for entries: HOME: Our Place competition is now live: an international design event for students to design their ideal home; conceived by Building Beauty Faculty Member Duo Dickinson; deadline: March 8 - Building Beauty

MASS Design Group Wins 2021 AIA Collaborative Achievement Award: The Boston- and Kigali, Rwanda-based firm has been recognized for its contributions to the architecture profession and its influence on health care-sensitive design: Co-founded in 2008 by Michael Murphy and Alan Ricks, MASS [Model of Architecture Serving Society] has grown into a 120-person collective...nonprofit has also donated upwards of \$8 million in design services [and "unlocked more than \$80 million in...investment through savvy philanthropic outreach"]...its health care-sensitive design...has proven invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic...As of 2021, the firm has 30 projects, either completed or under construction, around the world. - Architect Magazine





The International Garden Festival unveils the 2021 designs: ...gardens chosen for the 22nd edition of the Festival. Five new projects from Canada, the United States, France and Sweden...themed “Magic Lies Outside”, the five projects...will be integrated around the existing gardens to create an open-air museum...at Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, Quebec, from June 26 to October 3. -- Balmori Associates; Emil Bäckström, architect; Emmanuelle Loslie & Camille Zaroubi; legaga [Gabriel Lemelin, Francis Gagnard, Sandrine Gaulin, interns in architecture]; David Bonnard/Laura Giuliani, landscaper/Amélie Viale-Canadian Interiors

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## Today's News - Thursday, March 4, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow, Monday & Tuesday will be a no-newsletter days. We'll be back Wednesday, March 10.

- [Design and](#) disability scholar Elizabeth Guffey wanders Roosevelt Island, "named for a disabled president. I am very sorry to report that even a self-consciously forward-looking project [Cornell Tech] can still be insidiously inaccessible. Is this the best we can expect from 'the future'?" Never mind that Four Freedoms Park, "the memorial to a disabled president, was not ADA compliant" when it opened.
- [William](#) Morgan reports that it's gown-vs.-town - again - when it comes to Brown University's plans to build "a massive block" of dorms - partly in a historic district in Providence: "Deborah Berke Partners is a firm with a good track record of academic work. Sadly, Brown has a record of hiring good architects and underutilizing their talents."
- [Zach Mortice](#) reports on the ongoing battle to save a 1939 National Register-eligible African American housing project in Buffalo, New York: Housing Agency: The battle is being waged by "the largely white preservation community" - why devote "resources to maintaining a giant monument of segregation when we could be making beautiful new housing?" For Preservation Buffalo Niagara, that's a false choice."
- [Frank Edgerton](#) Martin takes a deep dive into the fascinating history and \$158-million restoration of SOM's Air Force Academy Chapel in Colorado: The "Cadet Chapel's bold expression of lightness and form soon became a global symbol of America's vision and technological promise - the planning and design team became a virtual who's who of 20th-century American culture."
- [Eyefuls](#) of Populous's \$500 million sports or entertainment venue on Toronto's waterfront for OverActive Media (it certainly lives up to client's name - put on your sunglasses!).
- [USGBC expands](#) LEED Earth to include homes, communities and cities, "designed to bring LEED to countries where green building is still emerging."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Eyefuls of the "world's first space hotel to begin construction in low Earth orbit in 2025 - complete with restaurants, cinemas and rooms for up to 400 guests" (we'll take a room with a balcony, please).

### Deadline reminder (deadline looms!):

- [Call for](#) Applications: Places Journal Inaugural Critics-in-Residence in Architecture and Landscape Architecture - includes a stipend to write four major critical essays.

### Weekend diversions:

- [Matt Shaw](#) takes a thoughtful dive into MoMA's "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America.": "The damaging impact architecture has often had on communities of color is explored along with ideas of how to move forward. The histories of the laws and ideologies that administered racial oppression through urban space are mostly left out of architectural discussions" - but not here.

● [Jared Green](#) brings us eye-fuls of "Illuminate," a new free public art exhibition that brings "world-class light and interactive art" to a two-mile stretch of Coral Gables, Florida (looks fab!).

● [Welton parses](#) "Gustav Stickley: American Craftsman" - a 68-minute-long documentary that opens virtually tomorrow: "He'd bet the farm, because he'd found something that resonated with a large middle class. World War 1 came along. 'He was hot - and then not.' Though he died forgotten in 1942, his name is now a near-household word."

● [Akiva Blander's](#) Q&A with Mariana Mogilevich re: her book "The Invention of Public Space: Designing for Inclusion in Lindsay's New York," in which the architectural historian discusses how Mayor John Lindsay's "attention to public spaces and diverse communities has left an unmissable mark on the city's public realm."

● [Welton talks](#) to Kundig re: "Tom Kundig: Working Title" and his "artistic eye": "Art is the filter through which he assembles what's around him into a coherent whole - this is a 10-inch-by-12-inch case history of what that process yields."

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[Elizabeth Guffey: Active Exclusion: Too often the concept "active transportation" produces environments that are not fully accessible. The history of Roosevelt Island, named for a disabled president who used a wheelchair, offers lessons at once troubling and hopeful: ...what is usually missing amidst the growing enthusiasm for non-motorized mobility is any awareness of the ways in which...active transportation itself, can reinforce longstanding forms of exclusion...Cornell Tech...has been widely praised...As a physically impaired person...I am very sorry to report that even a self-consciously forward-looking project...can still be insidiously inaccessible. Is this the best we can expect from "the future"? I was reminded, again and again, of one of the fundamental experiences of disability - the feeling that the world has been designed for somebody else...Soon after Four Freedoms Park opened, activists raised concerns that the memorial to a disabled president was not ADA compliant. - Places Journal](#)

[William Morgan: Brown University Versus the Neighbors, Again: ...the perennial tension between the university and its College Hill neighbors...its evolution from a liberal arts college into a major research institution has exacerbated town-gown fault lines...a small portion of the dorm site...lies in an historic district...Complaints centered mostly on the...inappropriateness of such a massive block...in an older streetscape...Deborah Berke Partners is a firm with a good track record of academic work; they do handsome, tasteful, sometimes elegant, if unexciting work...Sadly, Brown has a record of hiring good architects and underutilizing their talents... - GoLocalProv.com \(Providence, Rhode Island\)](#)

[Zach Mortice: Whose History? Buffalo, New York, says its first National Register-eligible African American housing project can't be saved. Preservationists beg to differ: Built in 1939, Willert Park Courts...was among the first public housing projects in the country...shortcomings have created barriers to preservation...But plans to raze the site...in favor of new housing...are meeting pushback...preservationists and...the local Black community point to the site's architectural merits, \[which\] tie back to the area's cultural heritage...Buffalo Municipal Housing Agency is not impressed...portraying it as a monument to ethnic perseverance is "a romanticized view...by the largely white preservation community...Are we really \[going\] to devote... resources...into maintaining a giant monument of segregation when we could be making beautiful new housing?" For Preservation Buffalo Niagara, that's a false choice. -- Frederick C.](#)

Frank Edgerton Martin: Up In The Air: The restoration of the Air Force Academy Chapel is the U.S.'s most complex modernist preservation project ever: ...the [Academy] near Colorado Springs marked a watershed moment in American architecture...the most expensive federal project in American history...Cadet Chapel's bold expression of lightness and form soon became a global symbol of America's vision and technological promise...The \$158-million, 4-year project remedies several original design and construction shortcomings...SOM invested years in concept development and a staggering \$100,000 (\$1,000,000 in today's dollars) on a roll-out exhibition that became a multi-media artwork itself...planning and design team became a virtual who's who of 20th-century American culture. -- Walter Netsch Jr./Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); AECOM; Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates; Hartman-Cox Architects; LEO A DALY; Eero Saarinen - The Architect's Newspaper

OverActive Media and Populous reveal details for new performance venue in Toronto: ...a \$500 million...sports or entertainment venue...plan is a strategic extension of the master plan for the region previously established by city officials...the building composition delivers a prominent architectural presence along the Toronto waterfront - Canadian Architect

USGBC Expands LEED Earth to Homes, Communities and Cities: ...has enabled the expansion of green building to nearly 200 countries around the world...aims to accelerate USGBC's healthy economy strategy: ...designed to bring LEED to countries where green building is still emerging... - U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

World's first space hotel to begin construction in low Earth orbit in 2025 complete with restaurants, cinemas and rooms for up to 400 guests: Voyager Station will rotate to generate artificial gravity that will be set at a similar level to the gravity found on the surface of the Moon...No details of cost to build...or the cost of spending a night in the hotel have been revealed, although OAC [Orbital Assembly Corporation] say build costs are getting cheaper thanks to reusable launch vehicles like the SpaceX Falcon 9 and the future Starship. - Daily Mail (UK)

Call for entries: Call for Applications: Places Journal Inaugural Critics-in-Residence in Architecture and Landscape Architecture; 2 critics will be selected, one in architecture and one in landscape architecture; stipend of \$7,500 to write four major critical essays; deadline: March 12 - Places Journal

Matt Shaw: How can architecture help rather than harm blackness? In "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America," the damaging impact architecture has often had on communities of colour is explored along with ideas of how to move forward: The histories of the laws and ideologies that administered racial oppression through urban space...are mostly left out of architectural discussions...In response to this troubling condition...at the Museum of Modern Art...[Sean Anderson and Mabel O. Wilson set out to ask why black stories and identity are rarely considered when we imagine what society should look like [and] to repair, restore and rebuild these histories by understanding and looking for new possibilities for black space. - Guardian (UK)

Jared Green: Light Art for Dark Times: In the era of the coronavirus, public

spaces enable us to socialize and connect, across the masks..."Illuminate," a new free public art exhibition, has brought world-class light and interactive art to Coral Gables southwest of downtown Miami, Florida...features a two-mile-long downtown strip that now hosts eight new interior and exterior art installations. Wednesday through Sunday, sunset - thru March 13 -- Fung Collaboratives - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

J. Michael Welton: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of Gustav Stickley: "Gustav Stickley: American Craftsman"...celebrates the life and work of one of America's first self-made men of the early 20th century. {Film} opens virtually on March 5...68-minute-long documentary [by Herb Stratford] about the man who reinterpreted Englishman William Morris's work for American audiences...created a lifestyle that rebelled against all things Victorian and ornamental...He'd bet the farm, because he'd found something that resonated with a large middle class. World War 1 came along..."He was hot - and then not"...By the end of the 1970s, the American Arts and Crafts Movement was back - with a vengeance...Though he died forgotten in 1942, his name is now a near-household word. - Architects + Artisans

Akiva Blander: Q&A: Mariana Mogilevich on New York City's Path to a More Democratic and Diverse Civic Realm: Upon the release of her book "The Invention of Public Space: Designing for Inclusion in Lindsay's New York," the architectural historian discusses a little-known but pivotal chapter of urban history: John Lindsay is not the most revered or famous mayor of New York City...But his attention to public spaces and diverse communities has left an unmissable mark on the city's built forms and the ways its residents use, experience, and reshape the public realm...Mogilevich, who is the editor in chief of the Architectural League's "Urban Omnibus," shows how Lindsay's mayorship came at a transitional moment in global design practice and theory...and how its legacy continues to be readapted and reassessed today..."We have to continue to think about what type of public is being included..." - Metropolis Magazine

J. Michael Welton: In "Tom Kundig: Working Title" - Kundig's Artistic Eye: ...split 50/50 between small and large projects. For good reason...."everything comes from the residential footing," he says. "We look at residential work as the soul of our architecture." [Book] covers 29 projects around the world...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 Glen Murcutt...he looks at each project with the eye of an artist...Art is the filter through which he assembles what's around him into a coherent whole...[book] is a 10-inch-by-12-inch case history of what that process yields. - Architects + Artisans

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## Today's News - Wednesday, March 10, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow, Monday & Tuesday will be a no-newsletter days. We'll be back Wednesday, March 10.

- [A sad way](#) to start the news day: We lose Hugh Newell Jacobsen, 91: His "deceptively simple designs honored the values of traditional styles while cleverly infusing modernist sensibilities" ("Designing is like giving birth to a barbed wire fence,' he often quipped").
- [Jacob DiCrescenzo](#), a 15-year-old architect-to-be, "wants the profession he joins to be dedicated to emotional experience - an architecture not only of structures and materials."
- [Betsky looks](#) at design competitions and "why image isn't everything - should something truer to architecture, intrinsic to its methods, materials, and purpose, determine who wins a commission or a competition prize?"
- [John King](#) reflects on how San Francisco's Ferry Building "has served as a marker to gauge daily life from one decade to the next" and, now, our cultural response to COVID - "there's a surreal aspect to efforts to thwart the virus but not make too much of a fuss" (#ILoveYouSoFerryMuch).
- [An update](#) on LUCE et Studio's \$55M transformation of Balboa Park's Mingei Museum that "represents a marriage of art, architecture and public access manifested in both subtle and arresting additions" (yes - it really does say "a beautifully architected space").
- [Rebecca](#) J. Ritzel updates the status of Elyn Zimmerman's (once threatened) "Marabar" on the National Geographic campus: The society will "work with Zimmerman and her supporters to find a new home as well as foot the bill for the safe removal and reinstallation" - a new location "has yet to be determined."
- [Crosbie's](#) great Q&A with Moshe Safdie re: "projects that never came to fruition, how his early years with Louis Kahn and Buckminster Fuller continue to influence his work, and the lessons of unbuilt architecture" (excerpt from "With Intention to Build: The Unrealized Concepts, Ideas, and Dreams of Moshe Safdie").
- [Meghan Drueding](#) looks at the careers of Helen Liu Fong, Annie Graham Rockfellow, and Norma Merrick Sklarek, three women "who helped light the way for women in architecture" (Fong was a key part of Google architecture that "whooshed through Southern California like a T-Bird rounding a corner").
- [Call for](#) entries: Request for Proposals to Develop 1.2-Acre Lot Across from Javits Convention Center on Manhattan's Far West Side.

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[Obituary: Hugh Newell Jacobsen, award-winning modernist architect, 91: ...\[his\] deceptively simple designs for homes and prominent public buildings honored the values of traditional styles while cleverly infusing modernist sensibilities...“Designing is like giving birth to a barbed wire fence,” he often quipped...selected to participate in Life magazine’s Dream House series...mail-order home plans sold for about \\$600...More than 900,000 Jacobsen plans sold...His designs were almost the opposite of his blunt, exuberant personality,](#)



seeking the essence of the regional vernacular in a modest, respectful form...subtle suggestions rather than boisterous commands. - Washington Post

Jacob DiCrescenzo: The Case for a Feeling Architecture: This 15-year-old architect-to-be wants the profession he joins to be dedicated to emotional experience: I've wanted to be an architect for as long as I can remember...I love the way in which the constraints of my environment would force me to find new ways in which to manifest my ideas...to give people a new experience of what it feels like to move through the world...Architecture is too much about the expression of thought and not enough about the experience of emotion...conceptually novel buildings can accurately reflect a philosophical or intellectual movement while simultaneously neglecting the lived experience of their inhabitants...the field I hope to join someday is...an architecture not only of structures and materials, but also of deeply felt experience. - Common Edge

Aaron Betsky: How to Win a Design Competition: why image isn't everything: What makes a winning design? Is it the ability to produce that killer image? That seems to be the driving force in the presentation of the kind of "click-bait buildings"...Or should something truer to architecture, intrinsic to its methods, materials, and purpose, determine who wins a commission or a competition prize? The prevailing belief...is that...all the judges or clients care about is image and hype...the answer is more complex than that...but thank heavens there is some reason for architects to design something more than the kind of dumb, functionable boxes that would otherwise be the cheap and easy solution to a commission. - Architect Magazine

John King: How S.F.'s Ferry Building reflects our pandemic landscape: Since the day it opened in 1898, [it] has been a symbol of San Francisco...the building itself has served as a marker to gauge...daily life from one decade to the next...there's a surreal aspect to efforts to thwart the virus but not make too much of a fuss...The icon's history shows that the Before Times were never as placid as they seemed...What has not changed at the Ferry Building, ultimately, is its underlying allure... -- Arthur Page Brown - San Francisco Chronicle

The \$55M transformation of Balboa Park's Mingei Museum is nearing completion: ...represents a marriage of art, architecture and public access manifested in both subtle and arresting additions: It comes at a crucial moment for the 43-year-old museum and the park at large...Located in the House of Charm since its reconstruction in 1996, the Museum pays homage to human creativity...design details that either demand attention or cleverly blend into the 1915 Spanish Colonial-style building, as masterminded by Jennifer Luce/LUCE et Studio. - San Diego Union-Tribune

Rebecca J. Ritzel: In New Plan, National Geographic Will Move an Acclaimed Sculpture: "Marabar," a granite artwork by Elyn Zimmerman, had been endangered by the organization's plan to expand its Washington campus: ...representatives from the society assured...they would work with Zimmerman and her supporters to find a new home...as well as foot the bill for the safe removal and reinstallation...[It] has been the centerpiece of the National

Geographic campus for 35 years...altered only once...for a pair of mallards who began raising ducklings in the pool...final location...has yet to be determined...With help from The Cultural Landscape Foundation [TCLF], she is now seeking a university, sculpture garden or other cultural institution that would like to house [it]... -- Charles Birnbaum - New York Times

Michael J. Crosbie: Moshe Safdie: "The Unbuilt Work is the Place You Grow the Most": A conversation with the architect about the value of work that never makes it beyond the drawing board: ...[his] the unbuilt work of this AIA Gold Medalist influences and lives on in his firm's future projects. Q&A excerpted from "With Intention to Build: The Unrealized Concepts, Ideas, and Dreams of Moshe Safdie" re: projects that never came to fruition, how his early years with Louis Kahn and Buckminster Fuller continue to influence his work, and the lessons of unbuilt architecture. - Common Edge

Meghan Drueding: Three Designers Who Helped Light the Way for Women in Architecture: A look at the careers of Helen Liu Fong, Annie Graham Rockfellow, and Norma Merrick Sklarek: ...a small sampling of "Where Women Made History"...During the 1950s and '60s, Googie architecture whooshed through Southern California like a T-Bird rounding a corner - and Fong was a key part of it...anyone with a clear set of eyes can see the change from before and after Rockfellow arrived at Henry O. Jastad's firm in 1916. It is very clear that she was the designer"...Sklarek left a trail of excellence wherever she went... -- Armét Davis Newlove; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Gruen Associates; Welton Becket & Associates; Siegel Sklarek Diamond; The Jerde Partnership-Preservation Magazine/National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)

Request for Proposals to Develop Javits "Site K" on Manhattan's Far West Side: ...1.2-Acre Lot Across from Javits Convention Center...RFP for the commercial or mixed-use development of 418 11th Avenue, one of the last remaining vacant parcels on the West Side of Midtown Manhattan; deadline: May 6, - New York State Office of the Governor

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## Today's News - Wednesday, March 17, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Happy St. Patrick's Day! And a heads-up that the next newsletter will post Tuesday, March 23...

- [It's a Pritzker](#) kind of day! Pogrebin cheers Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal garnering the 2021 Pritzker Prize: They "believe that every structure can be repurposed, reinvented, reinvigorated - the pair prefers 'to work with very simple elements - air, sun - that we don't have to pay for.'"
- [Wainwright](#) re: the Pritzker, "a prize once reserved for flamboyant sculptors of icons - Lacaton and Vassal prefer stretching shoestring budgets and using simple, off-the-peg materials with elegant economy."
- [Kimmelman](#) has a Zoom gathering with 4 of the 10 members of the Black Reconstruction Collective, formed out of MoMA's "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America," that aims to "reclaim the larger civic promise of architecture" with "longer-term, more radical goals."
- [Brandes](#) Gratz explores how a post-Covid New York "in the hands of the same people responsible for homogenizing a once-vibrant urbanistic city" holds "important implications" for the "rebirth" of smaller cities in the region.
- [Alexandra](#) Lange explains why "going to school in a dead mall" is "not such a bad idea: They're building types with a lot in common," i.e. it's "a good use of a building whose era has come to an end - those buildings should be reused."
- [Laura Laker](#) looks at how Europe is "doubling down on cycling in post-Covid recovery plans - betting on the bicycle to lead the recovery - a chance to 'build back better.' Now many cities are busy accelerating existing plans to do just that."
- [Betsky says](#) there's "a beauty in keeping things simple and mining the economy of means and shape for the subtle emphases on details" that "can make a building come alive. The problem is that it does not always work that way. First - you have to be good at it,"
- [Buday has](#) an interesting take on "the long history of political power and architecture - the idea of buildings as propaganda."
- [Michael](#) Snyder delves into how, after a devastating earthquake, the town of Jojutla, Mexico, became "home to an array of inventively reimagined public spaces," and "has become a paradigm for rural revitalization" (mixed results included).
- [Perkins](#) Eastman and Pfeiffer Partners Architects merge to become Pfeiffer - a Perkins Eastman studio.

### Winners all:

- [The six](#) winners of the 68th Annual Progressive Architecture Awards "exemplify how architecture in service of the greater good is worth celebrating."
- ["Social](#) housing ace" Alice Brownfield of Peter Barber Architects wins the 2021 MJ Long Prize for Excellence in Practice, part of the AJ/AR's W Awards 2021 (formerly Women in Architecture awards).

● [Winners](#) of the 2021 U.S. Wood Design Awards "are an appropriately eclectic bunch showcasing wood design at its most daring."

● [Alexander](#) Walter profiles the 11 interdisciplinary student teams from around the world shortlisted for the 2021 Wege Prize Student Design Competition award.

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Robin Pogrebin: Affordable Housing Earns French Couple the Pritzker Prize: After more than 30 years of designing affordable new spaces out of existing structures, Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal have won architecture's highest honor: [They] have never demolished a building in order to construct a new one...believe that every structure can be repurposed, reinvented, reinvigorated..."Never demolish, never cut a tree, never take out a row of flowers. Take care of the memory of things that were already there, and listen to the people that are living there"...the pair prefers "to work with very simple elements - air, sun - that we don't have to pay for." -- Lacaton & Vassal; Frédéric Druot; Christophe Hutin - New York Times

Oliver Wainwright: 'Sometimes the answer is to do nothing': unflashy French duo take architecture's top prize: The Pritzker prize, once reserved for flamboyant creators of icons, has gone to Lacaton & Vassal, whose rallying cry is: 'Never demolish, never remove - always add, transform and reuse': In an age of demolishing public housing and replacing it with shiny new carbon-hungry developments...[they] have worked tirelessly to expand and upgrade existing buildings with surgical precision, transforming the lives of thousands of people in the process...They prefer spreadsheets to slick computer-generated images, stretching shoestring budgets and using simple, off-the-peg materials with elegant economy, to "make more and better with less." -- Jean-Philippe Vassal; Anne Lacaton; Frédéric Druot - Guardian (UK)

Michael Kimmelman: How Can Blackness Construct America? A new collective of Black architects and artists, formed out of a show now at MoMA, aims to "reclaim the larger civic promise of architecture": The collective's members are the 10 architects, artists and designers in "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America"...includes some mind-bending, beautiful work...But the collective emerged to serve longer-term, more radical goals...Four of the members gathered on Zoom...to talk about the collective's impetus and goals..."The word inclusion makes my skin crawl, because in a context like this it implies tolerance: tolerating Black people." -- Sean Anderson; Mabel O. Wilson; Amanda Williams, Emanuel Admassu, J. Yolande Daniels and V. Mitch McEwen; Sekou Cooke, Germane Barnes, Felecia Davis, Mario Gooden, Walter Hood, Olalekan Jeyifous - New York Times

Roberta Brandes Gratz: Post-Covid New York and the Rebirth of the Regional City: There are important implications for downtowns across the country. ...people are wondering if New York City can recover. It will - but, sadly, in the hands of the same people...responsible for homogenizing a once-vibrant urbanistic city...a positive development: the enhanced rebirth of smaller cities in the region...where the authentic urban personality is not being dumbed down or erased...a real sense of place, community, and culture, all at an affordable price...NYC just can't learn the lessons of its own self-imposed diminishment. - Common Edge

Alexandra Lange: Going to School in a Dead Mall? Not Such a Bad Idea: They're building types with a lot in common: a) a thousand kids going back to school during a pandemic in one of the few spaces in the city big enough to accommodate them at safe distances...And (b) a good use of a building whose era has come to an end...The genre may be nearly dead, yet the building remains. And for economic, ecological, and social reasons, those buildings should be reused. -- June Williamson; Ellen Dunham-Jones; "Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia"; Barnes Gromatsky Kosarek Architects; Eliot Noyes; Hardy Holtzman Pfeiffer - Curbed New York

Laura Laker: Europe doubles down on cycling in post-Covid recovery plans: Success of schemes during pandemic has led many cities to plan vastly expanded bike networks: ...betting on the bicycle to lead the recovery...not just the usual suspects in Denmark and the Netherlands taking action, but places with inadequate infrastructure...a chance to "build back better", as politicians are fond of saying. Now many cities are busy accelerating existing plans to do just that. - Guardian (UK)

Aaron Betsky: Breaking the Box: when a simple and pure design isn't enough: There is a beauty in keeping things simple and mining the economy of means and shape for the subtle emphases on details, light, or material that can make a building come alive...The problem is that it does not always work that way. First...you have to be good at it...Second, trying to cram different uses into a uniform shape is not always easy...we should celebrate complexity where it is warranted and praise simplicity where appropriate, but never assume that there is a single solution to the design of a building. There are no rules that fit all situations, only good or bad architects who are either using the right tactics or giving up on the necessity of doing the right thing. -- Mecanoo; Frank Gehry - Architect Magazine

Richard Buday: Architecture [not equal to] Truth: On the Idea of Buildings as Propaganda: The long history of political power and architecture: ...Biden overturned...Trump's Executive Order "Promoting Beautiful Federal Civic Architecture"...a headlong attack on Modernism waged by the National Civic Art Society (NCAS)...an illusion of false enemies...repeal stopped the assault before it could do immediate environmental damage, but that's not to say no harm was done...decree compelled many architects to take sides...driving a wedge between colleagues and sowing public confusion...This is the nature of propaganda...Successful architecture marries ideas to ideals...Architecture is an unavoidable canvas upon which to paint honest pictures. In caring hands, positive propaganda could debunk myths... - Common Edge

Michael Snyder: The Architects Who, After a Devastating Earthquake, Rebuilt a Town: Jojutla, Mexico, now home to an array of inventively reimagined public spaces, has become a paradigm for rural revitalization: Three years after the 2017 catastrophe...city showed signs of new life...While the government focused reconstruction efforts on housing, Fundación Hogares planned to spend \$10 million on public infrastructure that might otherwise have gone ignored...Governments, meanwhile, have continued to retreat from these kinds of public endeavors, allowing architects and their benefactors to pick up the slack - with tragically mixed results... -- DAFd;f; Dellekamp/Schleich studio; Camilo Restrepo/Agenda; Tatiana Bilbao; Alejandro Aravena/Elemental; Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu/Amateur Architecture Studio; Oscar Hagerman; Carlos González

Lobo; Balkrishna Doshi; Shigeru Ban; Frank Gehry; David Adjaye; Brad Pitt/Make It Right Foundation; Carlos Zedillo; MMX; Alberto Kalach - New York Times Style Magazine

Perkins Eastman and Pfeiffer Partners Architects Merge: The 37-member staff of Pfeiffer [successor of the firm Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates] will become Pfeiffer - a Perkins Eastman studio. - Architect Magazine

The Winners of the 68th Annual Progressive Architecture Awards: This year's jurors selected six projects that exemplify how architecture in service of the greater good is worth celebrating: ...drawn to entries that embrace what recent times have made clear are central to a thriving society: community engagement, environmental stewardship, and equitable access to services. --- LS3P Associates; Ja Architecture Studio; Evoke Studio Architecture; La Dallman; OJT (Office of Jonathan Tate); Gensler - Architect Magazine

Social housing ace wins 2021 MJ Long Prize: Peter Barber Architects associate director Alice Brownfield has been announced the winner of the MJ Long Prize for Excellence in Practice, part of the AJ/AR's W Awards 2021 [formerly Women in Architecture awards]: "We believe that architecture has the potential for social action." - The Architects' Journal (UK) / The Architectural Review (UK)

WoodWorks announces the winners of the 2021 U.S. Wood Design Awards: ..19 .winning projects of this year's U.S. Wood Design Awards, presented by WoodWorks - Wood Products Council, are an appropriately eclectic bunch showcasing wood design at its most daring. -- Engberg Anderson Architects; MGA | Michael Green Architecture; BCV Architecture + Interiors; Skylab Architecture; DIGSAU; Taylor Lombardo Architects/Preservation Architecture; Miller Hull Partnership/Lord Aeck Sargent, a Kattera Company; Centerbrook Architects and Planners; nARCHITECTS; Berners Schober; etc. - The Architect's Newspaper

Alexander Walter: 2021 Wege Prize Student Design Competition: shortlisted student design entries offer sustainable solution...11 interdisciplinary student teams from around the world have been selected to advance to the final phase...organized annually by Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University...invites young designers, engineers, and scientists to tackle some of the world's most pressing "wicked" problems and offers a platform for promoting successful solutions...8 teams with participants from African countries... - Archinect

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## Today's News - Wednesday, March 24, 2021

- [Architecture](#) 2030's Edward Mazria explains why he "is optimistic" that the U.S. "is now poised" to once again lead the way in showing "what is practically possible to target a significant reduction in carbon emissions and embolden all governments to do the same."
- [ASLA is](#) teaming up with EarthDay.org for The Great Global Cleanup 2021 during World Landscape Architecture Month in April - "building on its record as the world's largest coordinated volunteer event to remove millions more pieces of trash from our green spaces, urban communities, and waterways."
- [Wainwright](#) cheers the "architects rescuing China's villages from oblivion" (and state-led "preservation" efforts) with "an impressive constellation of new facilities - oozing a seductive rustic chic that helps to attract a growing crowd of cultured urbanites" - and allowing "communities to build a future on their own terms."
- [Michael](#) Caton ponders whether "firms can do good in society and do well in business - many emerging professionals find themselves struggling to reconcile the unbridled optimism, idealism sparked in their education with the realities of the architecture profession." Danish Kurani's projects prove it can be done.
- [Ravenscroft](#) brings us Krakow-based architecture firm NArchitekTURA's unassuming - but powerful Great Synagogue Memorial Park in Oswiecim, the Polish city where the Auschwitz concentration camp was located.
- [A 3D-printed](#) housing community is being built in the California desert near Palm Springs - 15 eco-friendly 1,450-square-foot, single-story homes will come complete with swimming pools and options like fire pits, cabanas, and outdoor showers (not an affordable housing community).
- [Marianela](#) D'Aprile minces no words when it comes to Amazon's HQ2 in Arlington, Virginia: It's "butt-ugly - because it's not for us. Despite its attempts to tie into nature - it is decidedly antihuman."
- [Hickman](#) reports that, at a recent public meeting, Hirshhorn officials "largely circumvented a question" (translation: did not deny) re: whether Hirsoshi Sugimoto has "thrown down the gauntlet" and threatened "to walk" from the Sculpture Garden revitalization project.
- [UNC Charlotte](#) School of Architecture names architect, researcher, educator, and curator Sekou Cooke as the new Master of Urban Design director.
- [AIA Chicago](#) names Jen Masengarb as executive director: No stranger to the Windy City, prior to her most recent tenure at the Danish Architecture Center in Copenhagen, she "held leadership roles at the Chicago Architecture Center, formerly the Chicago Architecture Foundation, for 18 years."
- [Audrey Wachs](#) reports that the late architect Lina Bo Bardi will be honored with Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement in memoriam at this year's Venice Architecture Biennale - a "long overdue recognition," sayeth Biennale curator Hashim Sarkis.



Paris Agreement...will take place this November. At the 2021 U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26)...To date, only the EU, UK, and Denmark have committed to significant 2030 emissions reductions from 1990 levels...Much, much more is needed...U.S. is now poised to lead in this endeavor...All eyes will be on its updated NDC pledge...Why? U.S. carbon emissions today are already down 23% from 2005 levels. The building sector...continues to reduce its emissions...we can show what is practically possible and embolden all governments to do the same. - Architect Magazine

ASLA Teams Up With EarthDay.org for The Great Global Cleanup 2021 During World Landscape Architecture Month: Now in its third year, the Great Global Cleanup is building on its record as the world's largest coordinated volunteer event...the collective goal...is to remove millions more pieces of trash from our green spaces, urban communities, and waterways. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Oliver Wainwright: China's rural revolution: the architects rescuing its villages from oblivion: ...rustic China is in a death spiral. Now architects are helping to reverse the exodus - with inspirational tofu factories, rice wine distilleries and lotus tea plants: "We think of it as a kind of architectural acupuncture," says Xu Tiantian of DnA, the architecture practice behind...an impressive constellation of new facilities...brought together in "The Songyang Story"...reads like the work of several practices over several decades...oozing a seductive rustic chic that helps to attract a growing crowd of cultured urbanites...Unesco-listed towns and villages became Disneyfied cadavers of their former selves [by state-led "preservation"]...The Songyang approach...acts as a catalyst for communities to build a future on their own terms. - Guardian (UK)

Michael Caton: Architects, Let's Reaffirm Your Mission Today: Caton wonders if firms can do good in society and do well in business - and finds the example of Danish Kurani: Exuberant optimism resides at the core of architecture as a vocation...nurtured from the outset of architectural education. ...many emerging professionals find themselves struggling to reconcile the unbridled optimism, idealism...sparked in their education with the realities of the architecture profession...But must it be so? ...recommends asking, "How can I find the people who align with what I believe?" ...the world needs mission-aligned individuals coming together to cast light on a new path forward. - Architect Magazine

Tom Ravenscroft: Narchitektura creates memorial park on site of Oswiecim's Great Synagogue: Landscape architecture studio...used 40 grey sandstone slabs to create a memorial park [in] the Polish city where the Auschwitz concentration camp was located...The Great Synagogue Memorial Park...[firm] renovated the city's one remaining synagogue, which now also contains the Auschwitz Jewish Center, and designed a series of informational exhibition stands for the city's public spaces...A replica of a chandelier found during archaeological works at the site was hung above a reflecting pool. -- Bartosz Haduch - Dezeen

The first 3D-printed housing community in the U.S. is being built in the California desert: ...15 eco-friendly 3D-printed homes on a 5-acre parcel of land in Rancho Mirage...near Palm Springs. The 1,450 square foot, single-story homes...will

come with a deck and a swimming pool [with] options like the Tesla Powerwall, fire pits, cabanas and outdoor showers...starting price of \$595,000. Buyers will be able to add a smaller, two-bedroom, one-bath secondary residence on the property for another \$255,000. -- EYRC Architects- CNN

Marianela D'Aprile: The New Amazon Headquarters Is Butt-Ugly. That's Because It's Not for Us: Despite all the mistakes and brutalities of the Soviet experiment, at least their architecture was designed to serve the people instead: Most architecture that garners significant press is pretty banal. And it makes me sad that people feel they have to ask what they're supposed to like...if a new building isn't speaking to people...then who is that building for? ...bird's-eye view...as opposed to from where a person might walk up to it - reveals a disregard for how an actual human being might experience it...Despite its attempts to tie into nature...[it] is decidedly antihuman. -- NBBJ; Vladimir Tatlin; Alex Bykov Ievgeniia Gubkina; "Soviet Modernism, Brutalism, Post-modernism: Buildings and Structures in Ukraine" - Jacobin magazine

Matt Hickman: Did Hiroshi Sugimoto threaten to quit the sculpture garden overhaul at the Hirshhorn Museum? ...stems from interview.."If you cannot accept this key part of the redesign - I do everything 100% and I would have to withdraw from the redesign." The "key part"...is the dry-stack stone walls that represent perhaps the most significant proposed alteration to the early-1970s modernist landscape...-- The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF); YUN Architecture; Gordon Bunshaft/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM)t Gordon Collins- The Architect's Newspaper

UNC Charlotte School of Architecture names new Master of Urban Design director: Architect, researcher, educator and curator Sekou Cooke...brings thoughtful processes and rigorous experimentation to a vast array of project types, from public, nonprofit and residential works...to mixed-use projects and tenant improvements...to speculative developments...His current research centers on the emergent field of hip-hop architecture...His work is featured in the landmark exhibition, "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America" at MoMA. - Inside UNC Charlotte / University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Jen Masengarb named executive director of AIA Chicago: Following a three-plus-year sojourn in Copenhagen...at the Danish Architecture Center...familiar face and active voice within Chicago's architectural community, will return to the Windy City...during a period of transformative change for the association as it develops a new strategic plan...succeeds Zurich Esposito...abruptly dismissed...in August 2020...held leadership roles at the Chicago Architecture Center, formerly the Chicago Architecture Foundation, for 18 years...Non-Chicagoans might know [her] as reoccurring host of the Discovery Science Channel's "Impossible Engineering series"... - The Architect's Newspaper

Audrey Wachs: Late architect Lina Bo Bardi honored with Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement: ...Italian-born Brazilian architect, writer, illustrator, scenographer, and industrial designer...will receive the [Award] in memoriam at this year's Venice Architecture Biennale...Hashim Sarkis, the dean of MIT School of Architecture and Planning...and this year's Biennale curator, called [it] a "long overdue recognition" for the architect, who died in 1992... - The Architect's Newspaper

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## Today's News - Thursday, March 25, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We'll be back Tuesday, March 30.

- [Brussat](#) pays tribute to "classicism's philanthropist: Richard H. Driehaus - beloved among architects and historic preservationists for his stewardship of old buildings" who founded the \$200,000 Driehaus Prize for "a single architect for a lifetime of work in the classical and traditional languages of architecture" (with link to NYT's Sam Roberts obit).
- [Steven Bingler](#) lays out the 6 key principles that serve as a "blueprint for authentic public engagement" for a "collaborative and empathic approach to placemaking" (a.k.a. "community co-design).
- [Cailin Crowe](#) reports on "new roadblocks" cities may face in their "quest to decarbonize buildings" as the International Code Council "removed the rights of local governments to vote on future energy efficiency building regulations" - giving the construction and gas industries more control over energy codes" (oh joy).
- [Jean Nouvel](#) beats 17 star-studded teams in the competition to design the Shenzhen Opera House.
- [Welton talks](#) to Daan Roosegaarde re: his "Urban Sun," recently unveiled in Rotterdam - "backed by scientific research, the one-meter sphere, glowing yellow-gold proves a new, specific light can safely clean up to 99.9% of the coronavirus."
- [Jack Crager](#) cheers Frick's historic collection in its "new digs" - Breuer's Whitney: "It's a bold, unprecedented experiment in art curation - the masterworks have new room to breathe."
- [Shannon Mattern](#) delves into how "many pandemic maps depict the macro-scale forces that produced the 'Great Pause.' What's harder to show are all the under-appreciated actors that are enabling our protected isolation, the pulsing activity powering the pause."
- [One we couldn't](#) resist: Stuart Fowkes marks the 1,600th anniversary of Venice today with "Venezia 1600 - the sounds of La Serenissima" that "celebrates the incredible soundscapes of the most unique-sounding city on Earth" created by artists from around the world.

### Weekend diversions + Page-turners:

- [Wainwright](#) gives thumbs-up to "Aalto," a new feature-length documentary that reveals "the less sympathetic sides" of the Finnish architect as "a domineering philanderer deeply indebted to his talented wives" (fave building description: "a sylvan parliament for Ewoks").
- [James S. Russell](#) eloquently parses MoMA's "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America" that confronts "architecture's complicity with racism - it is not the polite parade standard fare of exhibits on architecture."
- [Hugo Lindgren](#) remembers Michael Sorkin on the anniversary of his passing, and revisits his book "Exquisite Corpse": Michael taught me how to look at New York" being "plain brutal on the architecture profession's cravenness" - but cheering on "obstinate geniuses that he offers as the soul of the profession" like Ranalli, Rudolph, Hadid, et.al.

● [Kevin Baker](#) cheers Thomas Dyja's "New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation" - "a tour de force, a work of astonishing breadth and depth - quite a high-wire act he pulls off - his reasoning is a joy, an outstanding work."

● [Pedersen's](#) great Q&A with Roberta Brades Gratz re: "It's a Helluva Town: Joan K. Davidson, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, and the Fight for a Better New York": "When everyone in every city and town is figuring out how to rebuild after Covid, the lessons of New York's rebirth in the 1970s is a useful playbook."

● [Cajsa Carlson](#) gives thumbs-up to Denise Scott Brown's life being turned into a manga comic created by the non-profit Vilcek Foundation - it stars "the Zambia-born South African architect as part of the foundation's mission to raise awareness of immigrants' contribution to the US."

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David Brussat: Time takes classicism's philanthropist: Richard H. Driehaus, 78, R.I.P.: ...beloved among architects and historic preservationists for his stewardship of old buildings, especially the relatively unsung treasures of his native Chicago...founded the Driehaus Prize, which yearly since 2003 awards a single architect for a lifetime of work in the classical and traditional languages of architecture...We had a very brief conversation [in 2013]. He was clearly a gentle and civilized person, even if he was (or maybe because he was) a financier...[He] must certainly rank up near the apex of the hierarchy of those who strive to bring enlightenment, in the form of beauty, to our human race.- Architecture Here and There

Steven Bingler: The Principles of Community CoDesign: A blueprint for authentic public engagement: ...one significant example of community codesign emerged during the Great Depression through the WPA's Federal Art Project...how could we reconstitute something like this collaborative and empathic approach to placemaking to address the growing complexities of climate change, public health, endemic poverty, social inequities and other challenges of the 21st century? What are some of the underlying principles that can help it succeed? ...a holistic exercise, the 6 key principles are all interconnected and dependent on one another: -- Concordia- Common Edge

Cailin Crowe: Cities face new roadblock in quest to decarbonize buildings: International Code Council (ICC)...this month removed the rights of local governments to vote on future energy efficiency building regulations...new system gives the construction and gas industries more control over energy codes by replacing localities' voting power with a new "standards process"...75% of comments were opposed to the elimination...with the majority of those submitted by local government representatives. - Smart Cities Dive

RSHP misses out to Jean Nouvel in Shenzhen Opera House contest: Ateliers Jean Nouvel has won an international contest...beating competition from 17 teams...announcement comes just two months after Zaha Hadid Architects won an international competition to create a new skyscraper in Shenzhen. -- Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Kengo Kuma and Associates; Santiago Calatrava, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Herzog & de Meuron, Snøhetta, Steven Holl Architects, Renzo Piano Building Workshop; China Architecture Design & Research Group; MVRDV; REX Architecture; UNStudio; etc. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

J. Michael Welton: In Rotterdam, Studio Roosegaarde's 'Urban Sun': ...inspired

by the light of the sun and backed by scientific research that proves a new, specific light can safely clean up to 99.9% of the coronavirus, Roosegaarde demonstrated the power of its "Urban Sun"...the new far-UVC light with a wavelength of 222 nanometers can actually sanitize viruses safely...shone a large circle of this far-UVC light into a public space, cleansing it of the coronavirus...one-meter sphere, glowing yellow-gold, that can run on solar power...sanitized about 100 square meters of space. "It's not harmful for people or animals"...launch took place alongside...the Erasmus Bridge. The project also is now debuting as a movie première at Studio Roosegaarde.net, with the potential for future exhibits. - Architects + Artisans

Jack Cramer: The Frick's New Digs: A Historic Collection Meets Breuer's Whitney: It's a bold, unprecedented experiment in art curation: The Breuer building - with its spacious rooms, choppy angles and gray walls - is a venue where art exists on its own merits. In this unlikely, minimalist setting, the Frick's masterworks have new room to breathe...Frick Madison is almost devoid of barriers and partitions...If the relocated Frick was a permanent move, historians would weep and preservationists would howl. But it's not. And the curators have taken it as a chance to try unprecedented things. - Common Edge

Shannon Mattern: How to Map Nothing: Many pandemic maps depict the macro-scale forces that produced the "Great Pause." What's harder to show are all the under-appreciated actors that are enabling our protected isolation, the pulsing activity powering the pause: ...maps and other forms of indexical spatial data are registering the ambiguities, contradictions, and inequalities inherent in this geography of suspension - an ostensible pause that instead merely extends, and in many ways exacerbates, the injustices of our society and the inadequacies of our ways of conceptualizing and modeling city life...It's all too easy to overlook the rush of activity that enables privileged retreat; the Othered precarity that ensures our security...for nothings of both the domestic and cosmic variety, we have to acknowledge all the countless somethings that make that nothing imaginable. - Places Journal

Stuart Fowkes: Venezia 1600 - the sounds of La Serenissima: "Just as it looks like no other city, it sounds like no other city." As Venice marks its 1,600th anniversary on 25 March 2021...our project celebrates the incredible soundscapes of the most unique-sounding city on Earth. Explore the real and reimagined sounds of Venice by artists from all over the world... - Cities and Memory

Oliver Wainwright: 'I have picked people up on the street': the secret life of architect Alvar Aalto: He built wild, magical buildings and furniture that is still thrilling today. But "Aalto" suggests the celebrated Finn was also a domineering philanderer deeply indebted to his talented wives: ...new feature-length documentary...featuring home cine films spliced with dreamy drone footage of his buildings, but not without revealing his less sympathetic sides...female director Virpi Suutari does a good job of emphasising the vital contribution of Aalto's wives - Aino [and] Elissa - Guardian (UK)

James S. Russell: Confronting Architecture's Complicity with Racism: In "Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America" at the Museum of Modern Art, African-American designers and artists envision an architecture of Blackness that grapples with the field's troubled history: ...[it] is not the

polite...standard fare of exhibits on architecture...“Architecture” and “Blackness” have historically rarely found themselves in the same sentence...participants took up the curators’ invitation to “re-imagine the built environment, to take the past and ask, what if?” -- Mario Gooden; Mabel Wilson; Sean Anderson; Amanda Williams; J. Yolande Daniels; Emanuel Admassu; Sekou Cooke; Germane Barnes; Olalekan Jeyifous; V. Mitch McEwen; Walter Hood - Bloomberg CityLab

Hugo Lindgren: Michael Sorkin Taught Me How to Look at New York: Remembering the critic and architect - who died a year ago this week - and revisiting his book "Exquisite Corpse": What an emotional experience that book was; it left me feeling both elated and panicked...Reading it through again now...I see just how deftly Sorkin used architecture to illuminate New York's identity crisis in the 1980s...[book] is plain brutal on the architecture profession's cravenness. -- Philip Johnson; George Ranalli; Paul Rudolph; Zaha Hadid; Lebbeus Woods; Alan Buchsbaum - Curbed / New York Magazine

Kevin Baker: How New York City Pulled Itself Out of the Lower Depths: Thomas Dyja's "New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation" describes the city's revival in recent years, and the problems it will face in the future: You will have a hard time getting through [book] mostly because there is an idea on every page, if not in every paragraph - and usually attached to a perfect line from the host of sources he has collected for this history of NYC over its last four rollicking decades...a tour de force, a work of astonishing breadth and depth...quite a high-wire act [he] pulls off...his reasoning is a joy...outstanding work... - New York Times

Martin C. Pedersen: Joan Davidson and the Fight for New York: A talk with Roberta Brades Gratz, author of "It's a Helluva Town: Joan K. Davidson, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, and the Fight for a Better New York": "...when everyone in every city and town is figuring out how to rebuild after Covid, the lessons of New York's rebirth in the 1970s is a useful playbook"...“activist philanthropy...critical to helping grow the historic preservation movement...willing to support important lawsuits against egregious developers...stood strong on the side of civil rights and liberties, early support of gay rights..remind us all what really works, instead of what the so-called experts tell us will work.” - Common Edge

Cajsa Carlson: Denise Scott Brown's life turned into manga comic: The non-profit Vilcek Foundation has created a manga comic starring Zambia-born South African architect as part of its mission to raise awareness of immigrants' contribution to the US...first in a series of manga comics that will be made about the lives of the non-profit organisation's Vilcek Prize winners...artist and illustrator Hiroki Otsuka, who had created short biographies before but said it is always a challenge. "Real life is not a comic book!" ...shows some of Scott Brown's most famous work, created together with her husband Robert Venturi as Venturi, Scott Brown & Associates. - Dezeen

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## Today's News - Wednesday, March 31, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the newsletter has been posting a bit erratically of late. We hope to post tomorrow, but if not, we'll be back Tuesday, April 6.

- [Sarah Holder](#) reports on a new - free! - tool that "can help companies measure workplace carbon emissions, and figure out if going remote is easier on the planet - transitioning to a fully remote or hybrid workspace could reduce overall carbon emissions - but at the expense of increasing their employees' own footprints."
- [Kriston](#) Capps parses California's "backyard apartment boom" with new laws easing restrictions on accessory dwelling units, including L.A.'s program to fast-track approvals, and with templates designed by "prominent and promising architecture firms" - ADUs may not solve the housing shortage, but they could "encourage low-cost, low-outrage affordable housing."
- [Jacob Sweet](#) profiles urban designer Stephen Gray and how he's pioneering equitable urban design - "he wants to establish a signature process - one that incorporates community leaders and residents into discussions long before they're typically allowed - letting community leaders participate in allocating funds is worth the effort."
- [William](#) Morgan bemoans that a "new hotel in Providence's ironically named "Innovation & Design District" is a real dud. Good design costs no more than mediocre design, but the true cost of bad design is cumulatively corrosive" ("aggressive blandness" included).
- [Michael](#) Henry Adams offers a very different - and thoughtful - take on calls for MoMA "to cancel Philip Johnson - many who knew him do not. A fellow gay Ohioan, I hold his youthful outrages forgivable - at least I'm invested in hoping his youthful outrages are forgivable, that his recompense and reconciliation, and mine, are a possibility."
- [Meanwhile](#), the newly formed International Imagination of Anti-National Anti-Imperialist Feelings (IIAAF) coalition is planning a strike against MoMA - it is "against the 'liberal governance' of task forces - arguing that offers to talk or hold forums only stall direct action and lend legitimacy to the museum's regime" + Leon Black, MoMA's chairman, steps down.
- [Duo Dickinson](#) & Martin C. Pedersen in a "dueling dialogue" re: "Architecture and the Age of Creative Disruption": MCP: If architects continue to fix their economic worth on design hours or drawings, they will quickly become obsolete." DD: "All this job-killing change is happening so fast that it leaves talented people with the tools of a design education and no traditional career path."
- [Alexandra](#) Lange cheers an Atlanta architect who bought - and plans to restore - the House of Seven Levels, Paul Rudolph's "favorite and the last house of nearly 60 he would build in Florida. The road ahead is full of potential pitfalls."
- [Martin C.](#) Pedersen's great(!) Q&A "with multi-hyphenate architect, designer, artist, and author" (and TED creator) Richard Saul Wurman: "There's a Louis Kahn Cult, and I'm a Member!" - a "lively" chat re: his time with Kahn as a student and employee, the making of the 1962 "The Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn," and plans to reissue "this historically important tome."
- [Two good-news](#) notes from the National Building Museum! It's going to reopen April 9, Fridays through

Sundays! NMB has named Aileen Fuchs as its new President and Executive Director; she'll be leaving her role as President and CEO of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, on Staten Island.

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Sarah Holder: The Environmental Implications of the Return to the Office: Telecommuting can save energy and reduce emissions - unless it doesn't. A new tool can help companies measure workplace carbon emissions, and figure out if going remote is easier on the planet: A calculator developed by Watershed Technology shows how transitioning to a fully remote or hybrid workspace could reduce a company's overall carbon emissions - but at the expense of increasing their employees' own footprints...Telecommuting can be a green choice, but it requires buy-in and climate consciousness from both the employer and the worker..."every company is making decisions about what the new steady state is...should be using this calculator and having carbon be one of the considerations." - Bloomberg CityLab

Kriston Capps: How California Set Off a Backyard Apartment Boom: With a state law easing restrictions on accessory dwelling units, granny flats are proliferating in L.A. and other cities - and pre-fab options may make these tiny houses even more common: ...numbers for new permits for ADUs are rising...in part to efforts by local governments to help them go up quickly. In some cases, very quickly...Los Angeles...launched a new ADU Standard Plan Program...to fast-track approvals for more than a dozen designs...tapped prominent and promising architecture firms to supply the templates...Christopher Hawthorne: "to turn it into an approval that is over-the counter"...Can a backyard revolution serve as a backdoor solution to state's housing shortage? Not exactly...primary goal...is to encourage low-cost, low-outrage affordable housing. -- Christopher Hawthorne; SO-IL, wHY, LA Más, Sekou Cooke Studio and Design, Bitches; Koto; David Baker; Eve Reynolds/Arcolution - Bloomberg CityLab

Jacob Sweet: Shaping Cities: Stephen Gray pioneers equitable urban design: An urban designer at Sasaki Associates...his firm was chosen in 2013 to help prepare Uptown Cincinnati for the new interchange...He was there to ensure that the "Innovation Corridor"...made sense for all stakeholders...he had an opportunity to test his thesis in real life...at his own firm, Grayscale Collaborative, he wants to establish a signature process - one that incorporates community leaders and residents into discussions long before they're typically allowed...when budgets are being decided..."Once a project is funded...you've already made it exclusive"...letting community leaders participate in allocating funds is worth the effort, and doesn't mean relinquishing power. - Harvard Magazine

William Morgan: Are We Designing Better Looking Parking Garages Than Hotels: The new hotel in Providence's ironically named "Innovation & Design District" is a real dud...the soon-to-be-completed Aloft Hotel...is a major architectural disappointment...little more than any other airport hotel in any other city, but here, plunked down in an urban core...aggressive blandness...suggests that the city is once again settling for less than it deserves....Good design costs no more than mediocre design, but the true cost of bad design is cumulatively corrosive. -- Elkus Manfredi Architects - GoLocalProv.com (Providence, Rhode Island)

Michael Henry Adams: MoMA wants to cancel Philip Johnson - many who knew

him do not: A gallery bearing his name also seeks to obliterate it. A fellow gay Ohioan, I hold his youthful outrages forgivable: ...had he really repented? His Jewish friends and Black employees thought so. So do I. A fellow gay Ohioan, at least I'm invested in hoping [his] youthful outrages are forgivable, that his recompense and reconciliation, and mine, are a possibility. None of us only amounts to our worst mistake. Today, we all need what [he] died imagining he'd found: the opportunity to evolve - a chance to become better people. - Guardian (UK)

Leon Black steps down as MoMA chairman as artists and activists plan to strike: ...newly formed International Imagination of Anti-National Anti-Imperialist Feelings (IIAAF) coalition announced that it would be striking for 10 weeks...will call stakeholders to imagine a post-MoMA future where the museum's resources could be redistributed...comes out against the "liberal governance" of task forces...arguing that offers to talk or hold forums only stall direct action and lend legitimacy to the museum's regime...Strike MoMA manifesto is not open to signatories. - The Architect's Newspaper

Duo Dickinson & Martin C. Pedersen: Architecture and the Age of Creative Disruption: How does the profession navigate an era dominated by the internet and AI? The pandemic ushered in a season of jarring change...it seemed a good idea to turn the dueling perspectives into a dialogue: MCP: If architects continue to fix their economic worth on design hours or drawings, they will quickly become obsolete...But if they figure out what value they bring - as shapers of space, as problem solvers, as builders of beauty and consensus...they can actually thrive in this new reality...we're going to need all of the tools at our disposal, including AI, to help stave off ecological catastrophe. If robots can save the world, please, let them have at it! DD: All this job-killing change is happening so fast that it leaves talented people with the tools of a design education and no traditional career path. - Common Edge

Alexandra Lange: How to Save (and Live in) a Masterpiece of Modern Design: Restoring - and living in - a 60-year-old beach house designed by...Paul Rudolph: The House of Seven Levels was a shining example of "the new freedom" of his work...there was very little need for doors, or walls, or even furniture...Sheila Lee Davies, an Atlanta architect and the new owner...couldn't let it go...Milam house was his favorite [and] the last house of nearly 60 he would build in Florida...The road ahead...is full of potential pitfalls. -- Craig Bassam/Scott Fellows/BassamFellows - Town & Country

Martin C. Pedersen: Richard Saul Wurman: "There's a Louis Kahn Cult, and I'm a Member!": A lively talk with multi-hyphenate architect, designer, artist, and author: ...has written, designed, and published more than 100 books...very first was "The Notebooks and Drawings of Louis I. Kahn," a 1962 release...Designers & Books launched a Kickstarter campaign to help finance the reissue of this historically important tome. Q&A about his time with Kahn, the making of the original book, and the plans for the reissue: "...he was the first person I ever heard talk to people and tell the complete truth...That was a different way of being." - Common Edge

National Building Museum Announces April 9 Reopening: Three New Exhibitions, a Welcoming Visitor Center, and the Museum Shop Available to All, Fridays Through Sundays: ...will reopen after a 16-month closure...has



announced the appointment of Aileen Fuchs as its new President and Executive Director. Currently the President and CEO of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden, on Staten Island, New York...Exhibitions: "Justice is Beauty: The Work of MASS Design Group"; " Gun Violence Memorial Project" (free); "Alan Karchmer: The Architects' Photographer " - National Building Museum / NBM (Washington, DC)

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## Today's News - Wednesday, April 7, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some circumstances are still beyond our control. We hope to post tomorrow, but if not, we'll be back Tuesday, April 13 (or possibly Wednesday, April 14). One of these days, we'll be fully back on track!

- [Elizabeth](#) Pandolfi parses a Knight Foundation study, led by Gehl, that looked at different public spaces to assess their impact during COVID and found "if a public space has a strong community-led component, people use it more, trust it more, and they feel more like it is theirs" - presenting "huge" post-pandemic opportunities.
- [Saffron](#) parses two "notorious projects" in Philly that "help us understand the difference between density that enhances a neighborhood and projects that big-foot their surroundings - one is going about creating density the right way, and the other is doing it all wrong."
- [Odile Hénault](#) offers kudos to Saia Barbarese Topouzanov Architectes for, once again, using "smart urbanism" and a colorful palette in its makeover of a 1970s housing development in Montreal: "The festive mood is indicative of a radical change of attitude towards social housing - it is nothing to be ashamed of."
- [Wainwright](#) takes a deep dive into "the dirty secret of so-called 'fossil-fuel free' buildings. The 'embodied carbon' in the building of glass and steel blocks makes them anything but green" - no matter how many "hanging plants smother" the façades.
- [Elsa Lam](#) parses the perils faced by architects who also take on the as developer role - "caution is needed. Is it worthwhile?" She speaks to some who "have taken the leap, and haven't looked back."
- [Glyn Robbins](#) offers his gloom-and-doom take on "how the pandemic is creating new urban wastelands - turning city centers into ghost towns, full of shiny new buildings that no one needs"; the solution: "new development must be controlled by local communities, not absentee profit-seekers."
- [Emily Pugh](#) parses why the (sort of) rebuilt Humboldt Forum on Berlin's Museum Island "fails to inspire - the building is not an easily likable object" ("the sense of muddled purpose" is not all architect Franco Stella fault).
- [Hickman](#) brings us the convoluted tale of how the demolition Paul Rudolph's 1955 Bigg's House in Delray Beach, Florida, took city officials and two Rudolph foundations by surprise: "Everything was copasetic" - until it wasn't.
- [Cheers to](#) Brigitte Shim and Howard Sutcliffe for taking home the 2021 RAIC Gold Medal: "Their work expresses a deep concern for the cultural and spiritual significance of architecture, landscape, and design" (we couldn't agree more!).
- [Book proposals](#) wanted!!! Harvard GSD announces Harvard Design Press, a book-publishing imprint "in pursuit of new, original ideas on the research and practice of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and urban design" + Link to proposal submission guidelines.
- [In honor](#) of April Fool's Day (one of the few years we've missed it!): See the "secret proposal for 'Even Higher Line' on top of New York's High Line" - it would allow developers to double the height of adjacent buildings "in exchange for backing the proposal."

A weekend diversion + Page-turners (in case we miss posting tomorrow):

- [Welton cheers](#) the National Building Museum reopening on Friday (yay!), and talks to Alan Karchmer re: the exhibition of his photos (many of "monumental heroic buildings worldwide") that "reflect his modus operandi. If it sounds like he approaches his subject matter as an architect, that's because he's trained as one - but he never practiced."
- [Maya Orzechowska](#) cheers "Pre-Fab Living" by Avi Friedman that offers "a timely overview of current pre-fabrication as an evolving and experimental set of processes with ample space for imagination, growth and cross-pollination" (but can also lead to "repetition, monotony, and quality reductions").
- [Karrie Jacobs'](#) great Q&A with Donald Friedman re: his "The Structure of Skyscrapers in America 1871-1900: Their History and Preservation" that "offers new insight into the earliest super-talls. It's weird that the history of skyscrapers is a lost history": "The Chicago Loop and Lower Manhattan have been heavily rebuilt. So most of those buildings are gone - people don't know about what buildings they don't know about."
- [Ravenscroft](#) cheers "Sub-Saharan Africa Architectural Guide," an "ambitious" seven-tome collection "covering the history and significant buildings of 49 countries" by nearly 350 authors + [Link to Highlights!](#)

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[Elizabeth Pandolfi: Community-Responsive Public Spaces Were More Resilient During COVID, Knight Foundation Report Finds: "Adaptive Public Spaces: Places for People in the Pandemic and Beyond"](#) looked at 7 different public spaces...to assess their impact in...design and programming; community/resident focus; its impact on the broader community, town, or city; and its long-term financial and operational sustainability...Gehl...found...if a public space has a strong community-led component, people use it more, they trust it more, and they feel more like it is theirs...there is tremendous demand for these kinds of public spaces...coming post-pandemic moment [is] a huge opportunity. - Next City (formerly Next American City)

[Inga Saffron: Housing advocates see denser buildings as an answer to affordability. But not all density is good density: Two notorious projects help us understand the difference between density that enhances a neighborhood and projects that big-foot their surroundings: ...I have now come to think of \[them\] as the poop building and the Scrooge building...They promise to add the kind of housing diversity that every American city needs. Yet one is going about creating density the right way, and the other is doing it all wrong...it's worth examining these two midrise projects if we hope to win the hearts and minds of density...skeptics...we need the right density in the right place. -- JKRP Architects; KCA Design Associates - Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[Odile Hénault: Goodbye tristesse! Habitations Saint-Michel Nord, Montreal, Quebec: Winner of an 2021 OAQ award, the renewal of this 1970s housing development brings a colourful palette and smart urbanism to Montreal's social housing: The festive mood...is indicative of a radical change of attitude towards social housing...\[it\] is nothing to be ashamed of...demonstrates how in-depth rehabilitation can be - ecologically and economically - a more sustainable alternative to outright demolition...Kudos go to Saia Barbarese Topouzanov Architectes who...often for modest fees, have gradually changed the image of social housing... -- Bobrow Fieldma \(1979\); Vlan Paysages - Canadian Architect magazine](#)

[Oliver Wainwright: The dirty secret of so-called 'fossil-fuel free' buildings: The](#)



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'embodied carbon' in the building of glass and steel blocks makes them anything but green: Much is made of the proposed energy efficiency of buildings once they are occupied...very little attention has been paid to the carbon emitted in getting them built, and eventually dismantled...this "embodied carbon" accounts for up to 3/4 of a building's total emissions over its lifespan...embodied carbon of building services equipment...has largely been ignored...In the absence of national policy...hard-nosed financial incentives are encouraging developers to act...has already resulted in a preference for refurbishment over demolition. -- Make Architects; Joe Giddings/Architects Climate Action Network (Acan); Simon Sturgis/Targeting Zero- Guardian (UK)

Elsa Lam: Developing Interests: Architects who work as developers - owning, financing, designing and sometimes even acting as the builder for projects - take calculated risks to deliver rewarding projects for their communities and themselves: Architects who enter the development arena are often aiming to make modest, but important improvements to a neighbourhood or city that they know well...caution is needed to navigate potential conflicts of interest...Is it worthwhile...? We spoke to a half dozen architects who've taken the leap, and haven't looked back. -- Jonathan Segal; Shora Parvaresh/Noble Architecture; Gene Dub/Dub Architects; Tom Knezic/Solares Architecture; Bill Curran/Thier + Curran Architects; Jack Kobayashi/Kobayashi + Zedda; Aurèle Cardinal/Stéphanie Cardinal/Ludovic Cardinal/Humà Design + Architecture- Canadian Architect magazine

Glyn Robbins: How the Pandemic Is Creating New Urban Wastelands: For decades, ordinary residents have been pushed out of cities...to make room for offices and luxury apartments. But the pandemic [is] turning city centers into ghost towns, full of shiny new buildings that no one needs...escape to suburbs...could blow a massive hole in the business plans of big urban redevelopment projects...failures of the developer-led city should galvanize a debate about how cities after COVID-19 can be different - and more suited to their residents' needs...new development must be controlled by local communities, not absentee profit-seekers. - Jacobin magazine

Emily Pugh: The Humboldt Forum in Berlin is finally open, but it fails to inspire: The ambivalence of its reception can be blamed, at least in part, on the fact that few people have been able to visit...However, when you look at images...it becomes clear that the tepid response...cannot be blamed on COVID-19 alone. Put simply, the building is not an easily likable object...The stark juxtaposition of zombie baroque with new contemporary designs raises the question, is [it] a historical reconstruction or a modern reinterpretation...[it] is both and neither...it is hard to fault Franco Stella alone for the sense of muddled purpose... -- David Chipperfield; Friedrich August Stüler- The Architect's Newspaper

Matt Hickman: Demolition of Paul Rudolph's Delray Beach home takes city officials by surprise: So how did the restoration of the Biggs House result in only the structure's frame being left intact when such a drastic move was never allegedly presented to the Foundation - or to the city - as part of the plan?

Now...home is gone. But its current owners might argue otherwise...a real estate developer and designer...have long stressed their serious commitment to restoring [it]...traveled to New York...to discuss the project in detail. Everything was copasetic...Paul Rudolph Foundation: "...we consider the home to be demolished...historic designation should be revoked." - The Architect's Newspaper

Brigitte Shim and A. Howard Sutcliffe announced as the recipients of the 2021 RAIC Gold Medal: Their work expresses a deep concern for the cultural and spiritual significance of architecture, landscape, and design...projects have been recognized with 15 Governor General's Medals for Architecture and an American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Honor Award, along with many other professional accolades...established Toronto-based Shim-Sutcliffe Architects, in 1994. - RAIC / Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

Harvard GSD announces Harvard Design Press: ...a book-publishing imprint based at Harvard GSD and distributed in collaboration with Harvard University Press...In pursuit of new, original ideas on the research and practice of architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and urban design, the Press seeks book proposals from researchers, practitioners, theorists, historians, and critics; Link to details. - Harvard Graduate School of Design/GSD News

Secret proposal for "Even Higher Line" on top of New York's High Line revealed: The plans, which were leaked to Dezeen, involve turning the former elevated railway into a multi-storey attraction, increasing visitor capacity while allowing for social distancing. The development would also allow real-estate owners to double the height of buildings adjacent to the High Line in exchange for backing the proposal. - Dezeen

J. Michael Welton: In D.C., an Exhibition of Alan Karchmer's Photos: National Building Museum reopens on April 9...about 30 of his large, defining color works...along with 80 smaller, supporting images...reflects his modus operandi...If it sounds like he approaches his subject matter as an architect, that's because he's trained as one...but he never practiced...Much of the work...is monumental...heroic buildings worldwide...[He] has bequeathed his entire professional archives to the Museum's permanent collection. - Architects + Artisans

Maya Orzechowska: "Pre-Fab Living" by Avi Friedman: ...a timely overview of current pre-fabrication technologies through a collection of projects that explores current design trends and construction approaches...from around the globe...presenting pre-fabrication as an evolving and experimental set of processes with ample space for imagination, growth and cross-pollination...opening up the possibility of producing quality outcomes at a range of price points...In reality, the optimization of production processes to achieve low-cost housing can result in repetition, monotony, and quality reductions. -- Assistant; Bere Architects; Tommy Carlsson Arkitektur; Gluck+; Yuko Shibata Office; Stefan Eberstadt; Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners; Moodbuilders; Davis Studio - Canadian Architect magazine

Tom Ravenscroft: Guide to sub-Saharan architecture aims to "spread the word about Africa's architectural wealth": ...ambitious "Sub-Saharan Africa Architectural Guide" covers the history and significant buildings of 49 countries...a seven-part collaboration...Edited by Philipp Meuser and Adil Dalbai,

with contributions from nearly 350 authors...editors collaborated with a network of local experts to ensure that the guide covered the most important and interesting architecture in each country... - Dezeen

Karrie Jacobs: Q&A with Donald Friedman about his latest book, which offers new insight into the earliest supertalls: I remember being fascinated by his intimacy with the guts of historic buildings and the impression he gave that his work as a preservation engineer was an unending series of epiphanies..."The Structure of Skyscrapers in America 1871-1900: Their History and Preservation"...an extensive journey through 19th-century building technology, much of it obscure and forgotten...It's weird that the history of skyscrapers is, to some extent, a lost history..."the two areas where early skyscrapers were concentrated, the Chicago Loop and Lower Manhattan, have been heavily rebuilt. So most of those buildings are gone...people don't know about what buildings they don't know about." - Architect Magazine

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## Today's News - Wednesday, April 14, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We hope to back Tuesday, April 20; if not, then Wednesday and/or Thursday...

- [Timothy A. Schuler](#) introduces us to architecture and design students' "concepts for more permeable urban futures in the wake of the pressures of the pandemic and a crisis of social cohesion. They may not use the word, but the future they imagine is nothing less than revolutionary" + [Link to Future 100: more groundbreaking student work.](#)
- [Betsky gives](#) (mostly) thumbs-up to "how Los Angeles is confronting its housing crisis: a new city program that offers pre-approved designs for accessory dwelling units (ADUs)" - whatever his issues are, it "is an improvement on the status quo."
- [D'Angelo](#) parses two micro-home developments in Texas that aim to combat homelessness with communities for 560 residents - they may have "many of the hallmarks of your average suburban development, but there's nothing conventional" about them.
- [John King](#) is pleased that "stocky modular buildings popping up" in San Francisco's East Bay "look surprisingly good" (though one is "a cautionary tale). "What's promising is that pre-fab, which "could spawn a landscape of overbearing boxes at multistory scale - hasn't been the case so far - newcomers aren't great architecture. But they're good urbanism, and that counts too."
- [On an even](#) grander scale in San Fran, the \$2.5B Mission Rock mixed-use development, with the help of firms like Henning Larsen, MVRDV, Studio Gang, and WORKac, "shows that factory-built structures can meet lofty design standards. Using prefab on such high-profile projects should help debunk the misperception that prefab elements are always utilitarian."
- [Brussat](#) offers a translation of an op-ed in Le Figaro by Mary Campbell Gallagher, "a leader in the crusade to save Paris from skyscrapers": "Lovers of Paris the World Over Are Alarmed as it Descends into Ugliness."
- [Bridget Cogley](#) reports that Safdie Architects is returning to Bentonville, Arkansas, with the design for the expansion of his 2011 Crystal Bridges Museum that "will increase in size both inside and out."
- [William Morgan](#) parses Brown University's new Wellness Center and Residence Hall: William Rawn Associates probably gave "its best effort - given the demands of the program and sustainability issues. Yet, we expect such a prominent architectural statement to be more visually aspirational than something that could pass for a suburban office block" (and who knew Stonewood is "the scrapple of wall cladding"?).
- [Ravenscroft](#), meanwhile, gives thumbs-up to 4a Architekten's revamp of Stuttgart's oldest mineral baths, "originally established in 1856 but largely built in the 1950s. 'It was up to us to find the right balance between preservation, renovation and addition,' sayeth 4a's Matthias Burkart.
- [Aric Chen](#) is named general and artistic director of the Het Nieuwe Instituut, a cultural center focusing on architecture, design, and digital culture in Rotterdam (he'll be heading back to our side of the planet - yay!).
- [AIA releases](#) two new guides to help K-12 school students and school counselors and educators explore careers in the architecture profession.

- [Call for](#) entries: the Society of Architectural Historians puts out its Call for Papers for its 2022 Annual International Conference opening next April.

Weekend diversions:

- [The U.S.](#) Department of Energy hosts a "Virtual Village" for the 2020 Solar Decathlon showcasing nine zero-energy homes designed and constructed as permanent structures by collegiate teams from around the world (looks like "local builds" will continue through the 2023 competition and beyond).
- In ["Border](#) Wall-Landscape-Architecture-Human Crisis," a virtual exhibition at the University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning, Laurie Smith pairs her "evocative" black and white photographs with digital projections of architectural renderings by Rael San Fratello's Ronald Rael's that showcase alternative notions to the border wall.
- [Saffron](#) cheers Michael J. Lewis's "Philadelphia Builds": He "is a natural-born storyteller who treats buildings as characters in the ongoing drama of Philadelphia - from the establishment of the street grid in 1682 to Robert A.M. Stern's Museum of the American Revolution in 2017," and "how the choices we made early on as a city still inform our behavior today."
- [Despina](#) Stratigakos "considered 'bro' culture to be mainly a postwar phenomenon" - until she "turned up a disturbing precedent - three obscure travelogues by architects who worked for Albert Speer - when we recognize bro culture thriving in a context that reeks of evil, the sense of familiarity lands with a sickening thud" (let's have no more "just 'bros being bros'" culture!).

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Timothy A. Schuler: Future100: Design Students Rethink the Commons: In the wake of the pressures of the pandemic and a crisis of social cohesion, architecture and design students draw up concepts for more permeable urban futures...the work presented here interrogates and subverts the notion of the "threshold," the permeable barrier that separates indoors from outside, public from private, and that has taken on new meaning...They may not use the word, but the future they imagine is nothing less than revolutionary. + Link to Future 100: more groundbreaking student work. - Metropolis Magazine

Aaron Betsky: How Los Angeles is Confronting its Housing Crisis: a new city program that offers pre-approved designs for accessory dwelling units [ADUs]: ...program will at least create the possibility of densifying the city in a reasonable and somewhat affordable manner, with designs that do a decent job providing light- and air-filled spaces...proposals...are as eclectic as the city's vernacular...the issue with most...They are almost all studio apartments...renderings show few beds and no other signs of family life...if builders...find ways to strip the designs down so that few original qualities remain, what will have been gained? ...there is no doubt that the building department's program is an improvement on the status quo. -- Christopher Hawthorne; Joe Day/Deegan-Day Design; Welcome Projects; Taalman Architecture; Jennifer Bonner/MALL; WHY Architects; Fung + Blatt; Design, Bitches; SO - IL - Architect Magazine

Madeleine D'Angelo: Small Houses, Big Impact: Two microhome developments in Texas combat homelessness with community: Community First! Village has many of the hallmarks of your average suburban development...But there's nothing conventional about the community, which provides affordable housing for over 200 former chronically homeless individuals...[it] was so successful...building another, 24-acre community next to the first...two





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developments will offer a total of 545 units [for] 560 residents...architects in the second phase...made a concerted effort to respond to the input of residents. -- Sarah Satterlee/Community First!; Alan Graham/Mobile Loaves & Fishes; Cody Gatlin; Chioco Design; Jobe Corral Architects; McKinney York; Michael Hsu Office of Architecture; Thoughtbarn; Sixthriver Architects; Hatch+Ulland Owen Architects - Architect Magazine

John King: Stocky modular buildings are popping up in East Bay. They look surprisingly good: ...a stylish demonstration of the design potential of a much-ballyhooed building method. It's also a cautionary tale...the Logan...with 204 apartments that were assembled on-site from 572 prefabricated modules...The cautionary aspect? ...by time [it] opened late in 2020, the development firm had closed its factory and put all future projects on hold...Sometimes the savings meet expectations; often, they don't. What's promising is that one danger of the approach - that it could spawn a landscape of overbearing boxes at multistory scale - hasn't been the case so far...newcomers aren't great architecture. But they're good urbanism, and that counts too. -- RAD Urban; Lowney Architecture; David Baker; Habitat Horticulture - San Francisco Chronicle

\$2.5B Mission Rock in San Francisco gets style, efficiency from prefab construction: The high-profile project, designed with the help of several well-known architecture firms, shows that factory-built structures can meet lofty design standards: ...28-acre mixed-use development...worked with design firms like Henning Larsen, MVRDV, Studio Gang and WORKac to come up with a prefabrication solution that would also achieve the aesthetic of the project...will offer up to 2.8 million square feet and include: 1,200 residential units, 40% of which will be affordable...Resiliency against a 66-inch sea level rise...8 acres of new parks and open space...Using prefab on such high-profile projects...should help debunk the misperception that prefab elements are always utilitarian. - Construction Dive

David Brussat: Mary Campbell Gallagher: Saving Paris: ...a leader in the crusade to save Paris from skyscrapers, had an oped in Le Figaro...“Lovers of Paris the World Over Are Alarmed as it Descends into Ugliness”...a new collection of 49 essays, "Paris Without Skyscrapers" (Paris sans gratte-ciel) will be published by the International Coalition for the Preservation of Paris toward the end of May...“As Olivier de Monicault, head of SOS Paris, has said, the beauty of Paris is not a 'renewable resource.' But City Hall is on the verge of destroying the beauty...for the sake of global financial interests...If the world allows Paris to descend into ugliness, how can we defend beauty anywhere?” - Architecture Here and There

Bridget Cogley: Safdie Architects Unveils Expansion for Crystal Bridges Museum: The Bentonville, Arkansas art museum, first built by the firm in 2011, will increase in size both inside and out: ...situated in the middle of a 120-acre forested site that is also home to Frank Lloyd Wright's Bachman-Wilson House and James Turrell's Skyspace...Around 100,000 square feet will be added to the current 200,000-square-foot facilities, as well as more courtyards, promenades and gardens. -- Moshe Safdie - Architectural Record

William Morgan: “What Can Brown Do for You?” University's New Mega Project: As the once liberal arts college transforms itself into an ambitious research university, its seemingly unbridled growth has a major impact on College Hill.

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evocative display of black and white photographs...paired with digital projections of Ronald Rael's architectural renderings that showcase alternative notions to the border wall. thru April 30 -- Rael San Fratello - University of Colorado, Denver

Inga Saffron: An architecture critic unravels Philadelphia's untold history through its buildings: A critic for the Wall Street Journal, Michael J. Lewis is a natural-born storyteller who treats buildings as characters in the ongoing drama of Philadelphia: ..."Philadelphia Builds"...His narrative spans from the establishment of the street grid in 1682 to Robert A.M. Stern's Museum of the American Revolution in 2017...our buildings become characters...telling us as much about ourselves as their creators...Lewis is interested in showing how the choices we made early on as a city still inform our behavior today...Don't let his politics put you off. - Philadelphia Inquirer

Despina Stratigakos: Nazi Architecture Bros: The Young Men in Albert Speer's Office: I had considered bro culture to be mainly a postwar phenomenon...Then a research trip turned up a disturbing precedent. Confronting this example is worthwhile because it brings home in a more visceral way the dangers of such behaviors...when we recognize bro culture thriving in a context that reeks of evil, the sense of familiarity lands with a sickening thud...in a private collection in Germany are three obscure books by architects who worked for Albert Speer during the Third Reich...saw themselves as audacious builders of a new world...The cavalier tone...is telling...Removed from its context, the brash entitlement that emerges from these travelogues may strike some readers as relatively harmless - just "bros being bros"...The image of amiable, partying bros...obfuscates abusive behaviors...This example from history can help us understand why all companies today must take seriously the toxicity and impact of bro culture. Discard the flip-flops and add a Nazi uniform, and suddenly nobody is laughing. - Architect Magazine

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## Today's News - Thursday, April 15, 2021

EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We hope to back Tuesday, April 20; if not, then Wednesday and/or Thursday...

- [Timothy A. Schuler](#) introduces us to architecture and design students' "concepts for more permeable urban futures in the wake of the pressures of the pandemic and a crisis of social cohesion. They may not use the word, but the future they imagine is nothing less than revolutionary" + [Link to Future 100: more groundbreaking student work.](#)
- [Betsky gives](#) (mostly) thumbs-up to "how Los Angeles is confronting its housing crisis: a new city program that offers pre-approved designs for accessory dwelling units (ADUs)" - whatever his issues are, it "is an improvement on the status quo."
- [D'Angelo](#) parses two micro-home developments in Texas that aim to combat homelessness with communities for 560 residents - they may have "many of the hallmarks of your average suburban development, but there's nothing conventional" about them.
- [John King](#) is pleased that "stocky modular buildings popping up" in San Francisco's East Bay "look surprisingly good" (though one is "a cautionary tale"). "What's promising is that pre-fab," which "could spawn a landscape of overbearing boxes at multistory scale - hasn't been the case so far - newcomers aren't great architecture. But they're good urbanism, and that counts too."
- [On an even](#) grander scale in San Fran, the \$2.5B Mission Rock mixed-use development, with the help of firms like Henning Larsen, MVRDV, Studio Gang, and WORKac, "shows that factory-built structures can meet lofty design standards. Using prefab on such high-profile projects should help debunk the misperception that prefab elements are always utilitarian."
- [Brussat](#) offers a translation of an op-ed in Le Figaro by Mary Campbell Gallagher, "a leader in the crusade to save Paris from skyscrapers": "Lovers of Paris the World Over Are Alarmed as it Descends into Ugliness."
- [Bridget Cogley](#) reports that Safdie Architects is returning to Bentonville, Arkansas, with the design for the expansion of his 2011 Crystal Bridges Museum that "will increase in size both inside and out."
- [William Morgan](#) parses Brown University's new Wellness Center and Residence Hall: William Rawn Associates probably gave "its best effort - given the demands of the program and sustainability issues. Yet, we expect such a prominent architectural statement to be more visually aspirational than something that could pass for a suburban office block" (and who knew Stonewood is "the scrapple of wall cladding"?).
- [Ravenscroft](#), meanwhile, gives thumbs-up to 4a Architekten's revamp of Stuttgart's oldest mineral baths, "originally established in 1856 but largely built in the 1950s. It was up to us to find the right balance between preservation, renovation and addition," sayeth 4a's Matthias Burkart.
- [Aric Chen](#) is named general and artistic director of the Het Nieuwe Instituut, a cultural center focusing on architecture, design, and digital culture in Rotterdam (he'll be heading back to our side of the planet - yay!).
- [AIA releases](#) two new guides to help K-12 school students and school counselors and educators explore careers in the architecture profession.

- [Call for](#) entries: the Society of Architectural Historians puts out its Call for Papers for its 2022 Annual International Conference opening next April.

Weekend diversions:

- [The U.S.](#) Department of Energy hosts a "Virtual Village" for the 2020 Solar Decathlon showcasing nine zero-energy homes designed and constructed as permanent structures by collegiate teams from around the world (looks like "local builds" will continue through the 2023 competition and beyond).
- In "[Border](#) Wall-Landscape-Architecture-Human Crisis," a virtual exhibition at the University of Colorado, Denver, College of Architecture and Planning, Laurie Smith pairs her "evocative" black and white photographs with digital projections of architectural renderings by Rael San Fratello's Ronald Rael that showcase alternative notions to the border wall.
- [Saffron](#) cheers Michael J. Lewis's "Philadelphia Builds": He "is a natural-born storyteller who treats buildings as characters in the ongoing drama of Philadelphia - from the establishment of the street grid in 1682 to Robert A.M. Stern's Museum of the American Revolution in 2017," and "how the choices we made early on as a city still inform our behavior today."
- [Despina](#) Stratigakos "considered 'bro' culture to be mainly a postwar phenomenon" - until she "turned up a disturbing precedent - three obscure travelogues by architects who worked for Albert Speer - when we recognize bro culture thriving in a context that reeks of evil, the sense of familiarity lands with a sickening thud" (let's have no more "just 'bros being bros'" culture!).

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Timothy A. Schuler: Future100: Design Students Rethink the Commons: In the wake of the pressures of the pandemic and a crisis of social cohesion, architecture and design students draw up concepts for more permeable urban futures...the work presented here interrogates and subverts the notion of the "threshold," the permeable barrier that separates indoors from outside, public from private, and that has taken on new meaning...They may not use the word, but the future they imagine is nothing less than revolutionary. + Link to Future 100: more groundbreaking student work. - Metropolis Magazine

Aaron Betsky: How Los Angeles is Confronting its Housing Crisis: a new city program that offers pre-approved designs for accessory dwelling units [ADUs]: ...program will at least create the possibility of densifying the city in a reasonable and somewhat affordable manner, with designs that do a decent job providing light- and air-filled spaces...proposals...are as eclectic as the city's vernacular...the issue with most...They are almost all studio apartments...renderings show few beds and no other signs of family life...if builders...find ways to strip the designs down so that few original qualities remain, what will have been gained? ...there is no doubt that the building department's program is an improvement on the status quo. -- Christopher Hawthorne; Joe Day/Deegan-Day Design; Welcome Projects; Taalman Architecture; Jennifer Bonner/MALL; WHY Architects; Fung + Blatt; Design, Bitches; SO - IL - Architect Magazine

Madeleine D'Angelo: Small Houses, Big Impact: Two microhome developments in Texas combat homelessness with community: Community First! Village has many of the hallmarks of your average suburban development...But there's nothing conventional about the community, which provides affordable housing for over 200 former chronically homeless individuals...[it] was so successful...building another, 24-acre community next to the first...two



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developments will offer a total of 545 units [for] 560 residents...architects in the second phase...made a concerted effort to respond to the input of residents. -- Sarah Satterlee/Community First!; Alan Graham/Mobile Loaves & Fishes; Cody Gatlin; Chioco Design; Jobe Corral Architects; McKinney York; Michael Hsu Office of Architecture; Thoughtbarn; Sixthriver Architects; Hatch+Ulland Owen Architects - Architect Magazine

John King: Stocky modular buildings are popping up in East Bay. They look surprisingly good: ...a stylish demonstration of the design potential of a much-ballyhooed building method. It's also a cautionary tale...the Logan...with 204 apartments that were assembled on-site from 572 prefabricated modules...The cautionary aspect? ...by time [it] opened late in 2020, the development firm had closed its factory and put all future projects on hold...Sometimes the savings meet expectations; often, they don't. What's promising is that one danger of the approach - that it could spawn a landscape of overbearing boxes at multistory scale - hasn't been the case so far...newcomers aren't great architecture. But they're good urbanism, and that counts too. -- RAD Urban; Lowney Architecture; David Baker; Habitat Horticulture - San Francisco Chronicle

\$2.5B Mission Rock in San Francisco gets style, efficiency from prefab construction: The high-profile project, designed with the help of several well-known architecture firms, shows that factory-built structures can meet lofty design standards: ...28-acre mixed-use development...worked with design firms like Henning Larsen, MVRDV, Studio Gang and WORKac to come up with a prefabrication solution that would also achieve the aesthetic of the project...will offer up to 2.8 million square feet and include: 1,200 residential units, 40% of which will be affordable...Resiliency against a 66-inch sea level rise...8 acres of new parks and open space...Using prefab on such high-profile projects...should help debunk the misperception that prefab elements are always utilitarian. - Construction Dive

David Brussat: Mary Campbell Gallagher: Saving Paris: ...a leader in the crusade to save Paris from skyscrapers, had an oped in Le Figaro...“Lovers of Paris the World Over Are Alarmed as it Descends into Ugliness”...a new collection of 49 essays, "Paris Without Skyscrapers" (Paris sans gratte-ciel) will be published by the International Coalition for the Preservation of Paris toward the end of May...“As Olivier de Monicault, head of SOS Paris, has said, the beauty of Paris is not a 'renewable resource.' But City Hall is on the verge of destroying the beauty...for the sake of global financial interests...If the world allows Paris to descend into ugliness, how can we defend beauty anywhere?” - Architecture Here and There

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Today's News - Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Due to an accident, we are unable to produce the newsletter at this time. We expect to resume publication in about for weeks.

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