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Hirshhorn Museum’s “Song 1” by Doug Aitken is all about projection:...an exercise in “liquid architecture”. ...As an urban intervention, it is brilliant, animating one of the city’s monumentally grim dead zones...you wonder if there’s a dystopian urban future hinted at in this project — a perfect melding of messaging, ideology and architecture. By Philip Kennicott -- Gordon Bunshaft [images, video] - Washington Post

Gary Hustwit's "Urbanized":...confronts us with a vision of cities that represent unsolved problems and fantastic mistakes. ...The ambitious film...hails how hard urban design can be...sign that urbanism has become less about tricked-out architecture and more about close-to-the-ground, community-driven innovations. By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Amanda Burden; Candy Chang; Rem Koolhaas; Norman Foster - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"Drylands Design" at the Architecture + Design Museum > Los Angeles (A+D Museum): work by architects, landscape architects, engineers, and urban designers responding to the challenges of water scarcity in the face of climate change...winning visions were chosen from...submissions to the William Turnbull International Drylands Design Competition [images, links] - Designer

"The Homestead Project - a Residence Reimagined": 10 architectural firms...charged with creating a home for a growing family...loosely modeled on the Farnsworths of 1849... -- Eric Allyn/Houses & Cottages; Anmahian Winton Associates; Christopher Campbell Architecture; Henry N. Cobb/Pai Cobb Freed; Bruce Norelius Studio; Susan T. Rodriguez/Ennead Architects; Julio Salcedo/Scalar Architecture; Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects; Theodore + Theodore Architects; Albert, Righer & Tittmann Architects [images] - Farnsworth Art Museum (Rockland, Maine)

"Ralph Walker: Architect of the Century": the first ever exhibit to explore the life and work of Walker (1889-1973)...he shaped New York's skyline in the 1920s...and captivated people with his work in the 1930s with the Chicago and New York World's Fairs. The show is housed in one of his classic telephone buildings completed in 1929, recently renamed Walker Tower on West 18th Street, NYC. - Ralph Walker Exhibit

Schooled in goth: Medieval architecture exhibit focuses on Princeton itself: "Princeton and the Gothic Revival: 1870-1930"...a more interesting subject than any mere historical study because of the recent completion of Whitman College, the sprawling dorm designed by Demetri Porphyrios...Why contemporary students would want to live in a Hogwort's dream such as the Whitman is really what this show is about. - The Star-Ledger (New Jersey)

"Bird on Fire: Lessons from the World's Least Sustainable City" by Andrew Ross: Desert cities are notorious water-guzzlers, but could Phoenix break free from its brown reputation? - OnEarth Magazine

New Book Explores Architect's Influence: "Piecing Together Los Angeles: An Esther McCoy Reader" edited by Susan Morgan...anthology is the first collection of writings by the groundbreaking architectural historian who articulated the concepts and vibrant character of West Coast modernism as it was being created. [link to excerpts] - KHTS (Santa Clarita, California)

"Alexander Girard" by Todd Oldham and Kiera Coffee: ...reveals the obsessive design mind of this significant figure of mid-20th century American design...not tempered with austere observations or cynicism. - Australian Design Review

Biomimicry In Action: This Man Built His Own Bird Wings, Successfully Flies: Dutch engineer Jarno Smeets created his wings with 37 ounces of fabric...says his design is inspired by the albatross. [video] - Fast Company

Carrilho da Graça arquitectos: School of Music, Polytechnic Institute/Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal