• Kirkham and Rudolf take an in-depth (post-Sandy) look at New Jersey's "conspicuously lenient" land-use laws "likely to perpetuate cycles of reckless development followed by storm-inflicted devastation": "This battle between nostalgia and enlightened coastal management" (a must-read).

• NJIT and Tulane architecture students to help reconstruct Seaside Heights, NJ (let's hope they read the previous report first!).

• Maly offers a fascinating tour of NYC's "landscapes of dredge...the greatest unrecognized landscape architecture project in the world."

• Florida follows up on his report about the uselessness of economic development incentives with additional evidence.

• A new AIA report connects design and public health.

• Gould's Q&A with Ily re: AIA's "Decade of Design" initiative: "While many of us believe that the connections between health and design are there, what we need is proof."

• Hart's Part 2 of his "New Humanism" series focuses on experience and how our built environments "shape everyone's moods, thoughts, emotions and the ways we move and act."

• Hume on why it's going to be painful for Toronto to finally pay the piper for the Gardiner Expressway: "prepare to hear from every architect and artist" with grand schemes - "their ideas, as crazy as they always seemed, make more sense than ever."

• Woodman isn't totally wowed by the Louvre-Lens; "Intuitive, it is not," but "gnibbles aside, it does feel like a building that works."

• Eyefuls of the final towering proposals for Shell Centre on London's South Bank.

• NEX wins contest for a new café on London's King's Road (it was our fave).

• Regardless How They're Counted, Incentives Do Nothing for Economic Development: A follow-up on our analysis of The New York Times series on state and local incentives to business...provides additional evidence of the inefficacy — what I dubbed the "uselessness" of...economic development incentives. By Richard Florida - The Atlantic Cities

• City Built on Dredge: Tim Maly takes us on a tour of New York City's landscapes of dredge, and explores how the city's past, present and future are shaped by technologies and processes of what he calls "the greatest unrecognized landscape architecture project in the world." [images] - Urban Omnibus

• Architects who helped rebuild New Orleans teaming up with NJIT to reconstruct Seaside Heights: "...students from NJIT will work alongside Tulane architecture students...in any way they're needed — from helping to clean up to designing new buildings. -- Darius Sollohub/Thomas Dalleksio/New Jersey Institute of Technology; Kenneth Schwartz/Tulane School of Architecture - New Jersey Star-Ledger

• Architects and the public health imperative: AIA makes 10 year commitment to funding research...putting human and environmental health and wellness at the center of the architecture mission...I asked Robert Ily to talk about the impetus for the "Decade of Design" program..."While many of us believe that the connections between health and design are there, what we need is proof." By Kira Gould - Metropolis Magazine

• A New Humanism: Part 2: Experience: What is it like to be there? ...the environments we've built shape everyone's moods, thoughts, emotions and the ways we move and act...I have drawn on six current sets of ideas about how the mind and body work... By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; drawings by Abrecht Pichtler - Metropolis Magazine

• Crumbling Gardiner Expressway forces Toronto to face reality: Repairs...will be costly and painful...prepare to hear from every architect and artist who ever went to sleep dreaming about turning [it] into a hanging garden, a linear park, the world's longest High Line, a bicycle super-path.... These days, their ideas, as crazy as they always seemed, make more sense than ever. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

• New AIA Report Connects Design and Public Health: "Local Leaders: Healthier Communities Through Design" demonstrates the power of architecture to improve public health and provides a roadmap for cities looking to help their citizens stay healthy. [link to report] - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

• louvre-lens by SANAA: ...the suspicion remains that what we are looking at is a tremendous set piece...spatial dividends unlocked by Sanaa's refusal to establish a conventional circulation system have not come without cost...Intuitive, it is not...gnibbles aside, [it] does feel like a building that works — which is not always something that one has been able to say about Sanaa's projects. By Ellis Woodman -- Christian de Portzamparc; Michel Desvigne; Moshbach Paysagistes; Imre Culbert [images] - BD/Building Design (UK)

• Final proposals for Shell Centre unveiled: Six architects release visualisations of eight new towers for London's South Bank, have designed elements of the 5.25-acre mixed-use scheme... -- Squire & Partners; KPF; Stanton Williams; Patel Taylor; GRD Architecture; Townshend Landscape Architects [images] - Building (UK)

• NEX wins Cadogan café contest: Up-and-coming practice NEX Architecture has won the high-profile contest to design a £2 million café in Duke of York Square on London's King's Road...saw off Architecture O0/; Carmody Groarke, Duggan Morris, TaylorSnell and Pernilla Ohrstedt... [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

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• Cox Richardson laments "tragic" Sydney harbourside demolition: The architects behind Sydney’s award-winning convention centre (1988) have spoken out..."a great tragedy for architecture"...Philip Cox terming it an "act of vandalism"...he remained positive about the plans for the new buildings, describing the appointed architects...Hassell, OMA and Populous — as "top notch." [images] - Architecture & Design (Australia)
Behold, the (Highly Desirable) Frankenstein of Green Building: A design firm stitched together 7 distinct buildings of different eras and styles, creating a mixed-use complex in the heart of Pittsburgh...the complexities behind Market Square Place and what it took to make this adaptive reuse succeed. By Julia Rocchi/National Trust -- John Martine/Strada [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Oscar Niemeyer: One of the last living links to the founding generation of Modernist architects, he indelibly shaped Brazil’s architectural identity, immortalized in...Brasília...reinvigorated Modernism by taking the chill off its rigid, dogmatic Bauhaus approach, imbuing its rationality with sensuality, optimism, and a joie de vivre... By Raul Barreneche -- Le Corbusier; Lucio Costa- Architectural Record

Thomas H. Beeby named the recipient of the 2013 Richard H. Driehaus Prize: A designer whose versatility and critical spirit helped reshape American architecture...As one of the "Chicago Seven" architects who challenged modernist orthodoxy in the 1970s and 1980s, he helped bring traditional architecture and urban design back into the public consciousness. -- HBRA Architects - University of Notre Dame School of Architecture (Indiana)

Driehaus Prize honors epitome of classicism: ....Thomas Beeby, whose work expresses the quality of genuine inventiveness at which classicism beats modernism hands down all the time....Michael Graves's Driehaus baffled most classicists and had modernists sniggering into their sleeves...Beeby's Driehaus will gratify those with a deeper understanding of both classical and modernist creativity. By David Brussat -- HBRA [images]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Society of Women Engineers to Receive the National Building Museum's Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction Technology Award-- National Building Museum

IDA Best Interiors of Latin America Award Winners: ...first annual competition. One Best of Competition, 7 Best of Category projects, and 13 Honorable Mentions from more than 100 projects from Mexico and Central and South America. -- Islay Weinfield; Arquitectura e Interiores; Studio MK27; Ardititi + RDT Arquitectos; Gonzalo Mardones Arquitecto; SPACE; etc. [slide show essays]- Contract magazine

Introducing Big Future Group and its First Project, a School for Himalayan Children: ...a new organization facilitating culturally conscious and sustainable architecture and infrastructure in the developing world. -- Sharon Davis/Sharon Davis Design; Julie Farris/XS Space), Arun Rimal/Office of Structural Design; Eric Rothestein/Design Dynamics - Big Future Group

-- Herzog & de Meuron: Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York -- Douglas Moyer Architect; Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architects
-- Diamond Schmitt Architects: Ryerson Image Centre, Toronto, Canada
-- Riding the Los Angeles Metro: Architects and artists have collaborated on turning the new LA Metro Stations into exciting, colorful spaces that reflect a community of culturally diverse people. By Kirsten Kiser -- The Tanzmann Associates; Siegel Diamond Architecture; Dworsky Associates; Mardones Associates; Escudero-Fribourg Architects; Diedrich Architects & Associates; Ellerbe Becket; Anil Verma Associates; Arquitectonica; etc.