• Duncan ponders why so many British women are leaving architecture, and what needs to be done to buck the trend (in South America, "female architects outnumber men" - who knew?!?!).

• Russell minces no words about the "strikingly venal and cruel" possibility of the Detroit Institute of Arts' treasures being auctioned off: the city's "assets need to be understood in terms of what they can do to revive the city, not on what cash they will produce at auction" - he does cheer the "committed young people - artists, designers, historic preservationists, restaurateurs - that have created the new vitality you can see in Detroit."

• The fourth annual "State of Australian Cities 2013" report examines "the productivity, sustainability and livability of Australian cities"; a second report "sets out the simple steps that governments and employers can take to increase the proportion of people walking and riding for short trips."

• There's a "walking boom in London because of incentives that ailing high streets and town centers need to win back walkers" could learn from.

• It hasn't been all gum drops and roses for San Francisco's parklets program, but it's learning from a few failures, and "more parklets are in the works" ("not all are happy to see them appear").

• Byrnes brings us an eyeful of an "absurd Parisian ghost town in the middle of China" - the developer "thought it could cash in on China's love for all things French. It hasn't worked out that way."

• Three projects by Holl, HWKN, and Seidell "show a confident return to building in the New York region."

• The 20-year saga of the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx "could be a national model to achieve the greatest degree of community influence on significant projects using public property" (we love happy endings).

• NY's Trinity Church taps Pelli Clarke Pelli to design a 32-story tower, a decision that came after a decade of planning: the "selection of an architect before it lined up a development partner is unusual."

• Hales hails LTL Architects' new dorm and student center for Gallaudet University for the deaf and hard-of-hearing: it "exudes raw energy" that "doesn't come from how the structure looks, but how the building functions for the people inside."

• An eyeful of Ban's just-about-completed Cardboard Cathedral in Christchurch "said to be earthquake-proof. And it's not too hard on the eyes, either.

• Moore marvels at some of the "most innovative (and people-friendly)" pop-up designs "popping up in London and beyond."

• Q&A with "pioneering" architect Sheila Sriprakash re: "the need for socially responsible architecture and the frustrating haphazardness of urban design" in India: "The basic problem is that we don't have buildings for the public."

• Richter remembers the Danish master, Larsen, "often referred to as a Magician of Light."

• FLW's Graycliff "has been a well-kept secret on the shores of Lake Erie for years. Maybe not for much longer" (we've seen it - it's divine!).

• Moghrabi reports on the latest twist in the Nasher/Museum Tower debate in Dallas: pro-tower comments were faked by a consultant to the tower's outside law firm (like, that never happens).

• Our couldn't resist: LEGO's $150 Architectural Studio kit "ups the ante for an unforgiving crowd of architects" (though not all are convinced).
Of matters spatial: Pioneering architect Sheila Sriprakash speaks to K. Pradeep about the need for socially responsible architecture and the frustrating haphazardness of urban design..."The basic problem is that we don't have buildings for the public." -- Shilpa Architects - The Hindu (India)

Obit: Henning Larsen, 1925-2013: Dagmar Richter remembers the Danish master: ...often referred to as a Magician of Light...He never succumbed to the branding effect of a personal style, but instead searched for the fundamental quality of each individual project. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Graycliff: Secret Frank Lloyd Wright house on the Lake: ...designed for Isabelle and Darwin Martin, has been a well-kept secret on the shores of Lake Erie for years. Maybe not for much longer. -- Ellen Biddle Shipman [images]- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Fake Comments Muddy a Debate in Dallas: ...the latest twist in the fight between the Nasher Sculpture Center and its neighbor, the Museum Tower...proved to be the work of a former television anchor...long a fixture in the city and now a public relations executive who had been hired by the tower's outside law firm. By Robin Pogrebin- New York Times

Lego ups the ante for an unforgiving crowd of architects: ...an Architectural Studio kit that permits the practice of techniques such as creating surfaces, modules and repetition and symmetry...the first in the range to focus on creativity and architectural principles, rather than a specific architectural icon...- BRW (Australia)

Nuts + Bolts #5: Why Mid-Sized Design Firms Should Hire a Director of Operations: Hiring a DOO has the potential to significantly increase revenues while creating an environment where designers design, not manage! By Michael Bernard, AIA, and Mary Breuer - ArchNewsNow