EDITOR'S NOTE: We mark today as the one-year anniversary of the passing of Ada Louise Huxtable, and sorely miss her...

Call for entries: New Venue for the Dubai Global Energy Forum; open to students and young graduates.

He bemoans "a depressingly familiar refrain" as another O'Neil Ford home in North Dallas faces demolition.

Lamster x 2: he gives (mostly) thumbs-up to the University of Texas at Dallas's arts and technology building: it's "ingenious if erratic, mechanical and humane, all mixed up but with a big-hearted intelligence that compensates for its flaws. Call it the cat-in-a-pillowcase school of architecture."

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Bose visits Rem's De Rotterdam and finds it both "impressive" and "perplexing...a larger-than-life exaggeration of the corporate podium-tower, anxious and engorged, casting a fractured reflection on the water and baring its guts" (great pix!).

Architectural historian Vanstiphout says the De Rotterdam illustrates how the city has lost its architectural mojo: it "seems just to refer to those things that make Rotterdam the same as everywhere...There is something exhilarating, something beautiful, but also something tragic about this building.

Wainwright looks to the new year with high - and low - hopes for "singing bins, talking pavements, more High Line knock-offs - and a city shaped solely by commercial interests" and McAslan setting up a storefront shop on riot-ravaged Tottenham High Road.

Booth explains why McAslan is turning his attention from Haiti to Tottenham "to train young people and revitalize the area in the wake of the riots."

Golembiewski tackles "architectural determinism" and whether architecture really can "shape behavior in a predictable and positive way."

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For urban design, Menino era scores highs and lows: The best thing he did for architecture, the change he deserves to be remembered for, isn't a building or group of buildings. It's the transformation, still in progress, of Boston from a patchwork of semi-isolated neighborhoods into a single whole city. By Robert Campbell -- William Rawn; ADD Inc.; Renzo Piano; Elkus Manfredi; Handel Architects; Leers Weinzapfel; Narrow Gate Architects; Mecanoo; Sasaki Associates; CBT Architects; etc.

Architecture in 2014: singing bins, talking pavements and skygardens: From crime-fighting lampposts to...a rise in social housing (finally)...rise of Business Improvement Districts...paving the way for a city shaped solely by commercial interests...many more High Line knock-offs...drop-in architecture and planning shops... By Oliver Wainwright -- Zaha Hadid; John McAslan [images, links]; Guardian (UK)

John McAslan turns his attention from Haiti to Tottenham "Everybody deserves an equal chance," says Scottish designer, who...building first architect's...train young people and revitalise the area in the wake of the riots... By Robert Booth- Guardian (UK)

Building a better world: can architecture shape behaviour? In 1966, British planner Maurice Broady came up with a new term...architectural determinism...groundlessly asserting that design solutions would change behaviour in a predictable and positive way...The loss of faith in architecture's power has been regrettable...[it has] become a soulless thing. But was determinism dismissed too soon?...environments do affect us, regardless of whether by design or by accident. By Jan Golembiewski/ Medical Architecture & University of Sydney- The Conversation (Australia)

Mass Capital: ...gargantuan De Rotterdam — the latest contribution to the city from its most prodigious architectural offspring, OMA...Impressive is one word...Perplexing is another...a larger-than-life exaggeration of the corporate podium-tower, anxious and engorged, casting a fractured reflection on the water and baring its guts. By Shumi Bose [images]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

How Rotterdam lost its architectural soul: ...architectural historian and professor of design Wouter Vanstiphout...on (De) Rotterdam...instead of being inspired of what made Rotterdam different as was the case with the Kunsthal, De Rotterdam seems just to refer to those things that make Rotterdam the same as everywhere...There is something exhilarating, something beautiful, but also something tragic about this building... -- OMA [images]- DesignCurial / Blueprint Magazine (UK)

Details still fuzzy on Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's research center:...expects to break ground...and yet we hardly know what they will look like. This is not for lack of renderings and plans...have mainly shown views of the project from 30,000 feet...the absence of information is deeply troubling...promised to enrich the neighborhood with welcoming parks and improved access to the riverfront...But the public spaces depicted in the pictures look anything but inviting. By Inga Saffron -- Pelli Clarke Pelli; Ballinger; Cooper, Robertson & Partners [images]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Tentative signs of progress in Metro's transit network design: A new template...moving toward a much-needed consistency,
if colorlessly so...signs of a new respect for architecture..."kit of parts"...a clear improvement...also overly restrained, even bloodless...more Apple Store neo-Modern than suggestive of contemporary Los Angeles. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Johnson Fain; Martha Welborne; Sussman/Prejza; Melendrez - Los Angeles Times

UTD’s arts and technology building is an ingenious lark: ...Edith O’Donnell Arts and Technology Building at the University of Texas at Dallas...ingenious if erratic, mechanical and humane, all mixed up but with a big-hearted intelligence that compensates for its flaws...Call it the cat-in-a-pillowcase school of architecture. By Mark Lamster -- Studios Architecture; VAI Architects,-Dallas Morning News

Another O’Neil Ford home faces demolition: In what is becoming a depressingly familiar refrain, a North Dallas residence...is headed for demolition...the Star house will be the second Ford home demolished...in a matter of months..."It's typical of Ford to sit quietly within the landscape"... By Mark Lamster -- Bodron and Fruit [images]- Dallas Morning News

Cincinnati Art Museum Seeks New Director: Aaron Betsky steps down...will help pick his successor. - The Architect's Newpaper

3rd Edition of the IS ARCH Awards announced -- Ana Bruto da Costa/Joana Gonçalves/Joao Moreira; Kang ji ho/Shim hun yong/Hwang ki soo/ARCH FRAME; Elena Capodarca/Luca Caroti [images]- ISARCH

Call for entries: New Venue for the Dubai Global Energy Forum: open to students and young graduates; cash prizes; earlybird deadline (save money!): February 16 (submission deadline: April 30)- ArchMedium

One-on-One: Architecture is not exactly global: Interview with Orlando Garcia: The Colombian architect talks about how good architecture and urban design can reach the greatest number of ordinary people. By Vladimir Belogolovsky- ArchNewsNow

OMA: The Speed of Shenzhen: Rem Koolhaas’ new Shenzhen Stock Exchange in China...people look down onto a sterile ideal city. By Ulf Meyer [images]

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