• ANN Feature: Nuts + Bolts #8: Best Friends Don’t Make the Best Partners: For the successful partnership, it’s all a matter of balance. By Michael M. Samuelson, AIA, AICP - ArchNeNow

Commentary: Needless Destruction: Citing specious dangers, the Seagram Building’s owner aims to remove a Picasso...this weekend...from the landmarked Four Seasons restaurant...the dubious legitimacy of the stated reasons for doing so make the act all the more egregious. By Belmont Freeman - Architectural Record

Taking Down Picasso: The real estate mogul Aby Rosen is planning to remove a historic Picasso stage curtain from the Seagram Building...moving the delicate, unframed, unstretched Picasso painting could be its death sentence..."the work is so brittle and fragile that it could, as one of them put it, ‘crack like a potato chip.’" By Martin Filler - New York Review of Books

Demolition of Alexandria architectural gem begins: Owner of Villa Aghion, a landmark from city’s 1920s heyday, blames foreign governments and groups who declined to help fund restoration...one of the most important examples of Egypt’s architectural modernism...modemist villa built in 1928 by Auguste Perret...one of at least 36 landmark sites to have been destroyed in the past five years. That figure is expected to rise sharply...— Guardian (UK)

Emerging Voices Awards 2014: spotlight individuals and firms based in the United States, Canada, or Mexico with distinct design voices... — David Benjamin/The Living; Geoff di Girolamo/James Lord/Roderick Whylle/Surfacedesign; Basar Girit/Aleksey Lukyanov-Cherny/Wes Rozen/Bradley Samuels/SITU Studio; Joyce Hwang/Ants of the Prairie; Salvador Macias Corona/Magal Peredo Arenas/Estudio Macias Peredo; Ronald Rael/Virginia San Fratello/Rael San Fratello; Mauricio Rocha/Turbide/Gabriela Valdes/Terrer/NEW DESIGN ARCHITECTURE; Betsy Williamson/Shane Williamson/Donald Chong/Williamson Chong Architects [images] - Architectural League of New York

Know Your Winter Olympic Venues: With the budget-blowing games opening, we take a look at Sochi’s architectural bling. — Populous; Mostovik; Central Research Institute for Industrial Buildings (CINPChromodan); Strypoekt/Ural Expert; Maiproekt-4/Ingemark; Story/International/Cannon Design [slide show] - Architectural Record

Unbuilt city: The San Francisco that could have been: Now that George Lucas has been thwarted in his quest to build a neo-classical museum on Crissy Field — insert Star Wars-themed joke here — one more landmark has been added to San Francisco’s shadow landscape...So kick back; put on your rose-colored glasses...Don’t feel guilty if you feel a tinge of regret — or breathe a sigh of relief. By John King [slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle

SKYLINE 2014 — Los Angeles’ Annual, Free, 10-Day, Architecture, Art, and Technology Event, February 13-22: ...architects, designers and artists transform unique, hidden spaces within downtown L.A. into destination places... — amphibianArc; Juan Azulay + Benjamin Rice (MITT MGMT); Natasha Bajc + Samy Kamkar; Heidi Duckler Dance Studio; Behnaz Farahi; Raymond Salvatore Hannon + Heavy; Guvenc Ozet (Ozet Office); Joanna Shaw + Helen Cheuk + Christian Prasch; Peter Tokin + Yunhee Min; Hughesumbanhowar Architects; Felipe Valente and more - LERATA (Laboratory for Experimentation and Research in Art, Technology and Architecture)

Palm Springs History: Works reflect architects’ vision: Palm Springs has probably one of the most well preserved...
collections of elegant homes and landmark buildings constructed during the 1940s, '50s and '60s...Modernism Week [Feb. 13-23] will celebrate...prime examples of these architects' creativity and ingenuity. -- Lloyd Wright; John Porter Clark/Van Pelt & Lind.; Albert Frey; Richard Neutra; John Lautner; William F. Cody; E. Stewart Williams; Donald Wexler; A. Quincy Jones; Paul R. Williams; William Krisel [images] - The Desert Sun (Palm Springs)

Barry Bergdoll Explains MoMA's "Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal": ...pointedly resisted the temptation to do a crowd-pleasing "masterpieces" show...chose to explore an intriguing, sometimes perplexing subset of Wright's work —his eccentric notions of urban (or non-urban) planning, which never gained much traction, but which, for better or worse, have new relevance today. By Lee Rosenbaum [video] - ArtsJournal

"In the Making," Design Museum, London: Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby have curated a curious, wonderfully engaging show: ...exhibition of half-finished objects...took seductively sculptural, abstract, occasionally deceptive and counterintuitive and, occasionally, utterly beautiful...a design show of rare modesty...a pure celebration of making and the designers' pure pleasure in process shines through. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

Eduardo Souto de Moura at the Royal Academy: Most of the other architects in "Sensing Spaces"...have filled their spaces with massive pieces of work..."I build to solve problems – not to provoke emotions or sensations"...some real problems on display here. These may be spaces conceived by architects but they are somehow inauthentic as architecture...[his] arches stand very much as objects in the gallery. By Edwin Heathcote -- Álvaro Siza; Kengo Kuma; Diébédo Francis Kéré; Li Xiaodong; Pezo von Ellrichshausen; Grafton Architects - Financial Times (UK)

Strange geometries: "Sensing Spaces" at the Royal Academy: Seven...life-sized interventions designed to confront the senses and engage the mind...an unusual and clever move...confronting the thorny issue of communicating architecture to the general public...The ambition is admirable; the difficulty is deciding whether it has succeeded or simply left the visitor bemused. By Amanda Levete/AL_A -- Kengo Kuma; Grafton Architects; Álvaro Siza - New Statesman (UK)

Miami Turns Up the Design Heat: The Miami Center for Architecture opens new space with inaugural exhibition, "Drawn From Miami": ...explores the role of the urban planners and architects who created the fabric of the Magic City...a fitting provocation from the new center. -- Jake Brillhart; Nick Gelpi; Jean-Francois Lajune; Terence Riley; and Allan Shulman [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

Troubled Times: Three exhibitions on Italian design between the world wars reveal a culture producing great beauty in an era of turbulence...on view at the Wolfsonian-Florida International University museum in Miami Beach...[images] - Metropolis Magazine

"Architecture for Place: The Work of Glenn Murcutt" at the UQAM Centre de Design in Montreal: ...travelling exhibition, produced by Architecture Foundation Australia, presents a selection of his projects and examines his process...demonstrating that Murcutt's sustainable approach to architecture was well ahead of its time. - Canadian Architect

-- "The Architect's Brain: Neuroscience, Creativity, and Architecture" by Harry Francis Mallgrave...a thought-provoking historical commentary... By Ralph Spencer Steenblik
-- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG: Danish National Maritime Museum, Helsingør, Denmark...proposal was daring indeed, but also highly sensible.
-- "Hadid - Complete Works 1979-2013" by Philip Jodidio: ...the entire body of work...is very comprehensively presented.