• Gehry’s revisions for the Eisenhower Memorial are considered “disappointing”; “They moved a few trees around.”

• Saffron cheers “one of the most civic-minded projects” being built in Philly - too bad the “collection of architectural pastiches promises to be one of the weirder ensembles outside of Las Vegas.”

• 2014 Olympics design: The best: a visual guide to corruption at Sochi; the worst: the architecture.

• Eyeful of the AJ Small Projects 2014 shortlist; part two: 5 kilometres of rope, a wooden egg...

• More on the saga of Philip Johnson’s 1964 New York State Pavilion and its “dedicated defender.”

• Weekend diversions:
  - Wish we could spend an all-nighter at tomorrow night’s White Night Melbourne 2014 - it’s “sure to amaze and delight” (quirky names included).
  - The next stop for the documentary “The Vision Of Paolo Soleri: Prophet in The Desert” is Sedona (hi Mom!).

• New York State Pavilion designed by Philip Johnson: This April marks the 50th anniversary of the 1964 New York World’s Fair...While the jury is still out on whether the structures are worth the price of preservation, the Pavilion has a dedicated defender in Matthew Silva...People for the Pavilion...“Modern Ruin” is a love letter to the Pavilion... - Place Matters

• For or Against Smart Cities: Where Should Planners Stand? Are we using technology to plan for utopias? Or are we luddites who are ignoring an inevitable future? Should we be for our against smart cities? Two recent books take on this debate. For or Against Smart Cities: Where Should Planners Stand? Are we using technology to plan for utopias? Or are we luddites who are ignoring an inevitable future? Should we be for our against smart cities? Two recent books take on this debate. • "The Price of Desire" director Mary McGuckian talks to DoCoMoMo’s Shane O’Toole about her forthcoming film on Eileen Gray. The conversation took place at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. [video] - DOCOMOMO Ireland

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• Mormon development combines civic-mindedness, awful architecture: It’s hard not to wince when you first look at the renderings...The collection of architectural pastiches promises to be one of the weirder ensembles produced in 21st-century America outside of Las Vegas. Weirder still, they could end up as one of the most civic-minded projects now being built in Philadelphia. By Inga Saffron -- Robert A.M. Stern; Perkins+Will [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

• "The Architects' Journal (UK)"

• Documentary Explores Vision of Paolo Soleri: Lisa Scafuro’s "The Vision Of Paolo Soleri: Prophet In The Desert" explores the life and work of the Italian-born architect, urban designer, artist, craftsman, and philosopher, who died last April. - UrBiologe

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Alvar Aalto "Lightings" exhibition at Grand-Hornu in Belgium: Aalto's luminaires stand the test of time...The solutions that he developed aspired to a general sense of well being by promoting the social and even therapeutic benefits of light. [images]- designboom

Will the buildings of the future be grown underwater? "Exploration Architecture: Designing with Nature": Michael Pawlyn lays out his vision for architecture inspired by the natural world -- including biorock buildings grown entirely underwater and whole office blocks being lit by learning from the blind sea star; at the The Architecture Foundation, London. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

The pioneering Jane Drew: A new exhibition at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) celebrates the groundbreaking work of an overlooked architect and champion of women in architecture..."Jane Drew (1911-1996): An Introduction" also introduces her links to colonial Africa and Chandigarh in northern India where she worked with Le Corbusier. By Laura Mark [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

High and mighty: "The Brits Who Built the Modern World, 1950 – 2012"..."These architects led the way; they were sending shock waves around the world"...Also on view..."New British Works – Today and Tomorrow" which charts UK architectural designs currently being exported around the world; at RIBA London -- Norman Foster; Richard Rogers; Nicholas Grimshaw; Terry Farrell; Michael and Patty Hopkins [images]- Independent (UK)

"Concrete Spring": Oscar Niemeyer's work in Algeria: ...the focus of an exhibition of works by architectural photographer Jason Oddy at Smiths Row, Bury St Edmonds...the beginning of the Arab Spring soon after he arrived gave a political aspect to Oddy's work...- The Architects' Journal (UK)

ANN Feature: Informed by Learning: Interview with Joe Valerio and Randy Mattheis about education for the future at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools: "We wanted to dive deeply into the culture of the school...so one of the first things we did was to participate in its daily life." -- Valerio Dewalt Train Associates- ArchNewsNow

-- OMA/Rem Koolhaas: De Rotterdam, Rotterdam:...creates a city-within-a-city...Unintentionally it also proves that what works in Manhattan may not automatically work in the Netherland's second city. By Ulf Meyer

-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan:...will play a leading role in re-sculpting the capital's image and in the wider process of carving out the nation's cultural future.

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