• Joachim ponders "what if you could redraw NYC’s map - and build it from scratch?" Some of this city of tomorrow is already taking shape. This next version of New York is dependent on us.

• Taki, on the other hand, says NYC "is gone forever" and blames progress that "stinks" and Modernism that "is bleak and sterile - a panacea for the talentless and the phoney."

• Meanwhile, the London skyline debate rages on: Olciayto explains why the AJ/Observer's Skyline campaign "is not anti-skyscrapers," but calls for a "thoughtful plan that ensures high-quality architecture but also gives something back to the townscape."

• Baillieu posits that the debate is "all out of proportion," with folks' "knickers well and truly twisted over towers;" the real problem is "the fact few Londoners can afford to live in them."

• Brussat says "it's hard to work up much sympathy for London - if my eyeballs will stop rolling for an instant, let me welcome London to reality, which has not been pretty for decades."

• Bakewell compares Italy's neglect of its heritage to London's skyline being "diminished by modern tower blocks" - a problem that "infects so many of today's cities. The urge to be the most modern threatens to render every 'downtown' identical. How reckless of us."

• Despite car bombs, Beirut is "buzzying" with new building - it "seems to be a city that endures when it comes to real estate." by Rory Olciayto - The Architects' Journal (UK)

• Case in point: Hoff's Le Yacht Club Beirut, Lebanon's first private club, "is built to look like the wreckage of a mammoth future ship."

• Rosenblum finds good and questionable design decisions in the new/old Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem, where "oriental splendor meets New York grandeur - poor Jerusalem deserves a bit of splendor."

• The Library of Birmingham has some researchers and academics fuming because "thousands of books can't be reached by librarians": it's "great to gawp at, but it is unfit for purpose" (until the right equipment arrives; delivery date TBD).

• Q&A with HOK's Monk re: the future of sustainable design: "it's not only about the bottom line."

• Eyesfuls of the winner of Architectural League/Socrates Sculpture Park Folly 2014 competition (and some "notable entries").

• Call for entries: newly-launched Moriyama RAIC International Prize (with $100,000 purse!) + Call for papers: 7th International Urban Design Conference: "Designing Productive Cities" in South Australia in September.
receive scholarships of $5,000. Submissions are due by August 1 — Raymond Moriyama/Moriyama & Teshima Architects — Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC)

Call for entries: Call for papers: 7th International Urban Design Conference: “Designing Productive Cities” in Adelaide, South Australia, September 1-3; deadline: May 30 — Urban Design Australia Conference

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