Zara, on the other hand, found it appeared “to be better to do so with well-worn, proven classics than a proliferation of wares that may come and go.”

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Alderson explains “how the media is getting the story on cities and millennials wrong.”

Capps ponders the significance of Saffron’s Pulitzer and what it means for architectural criticism.

ArcSpace offers Meyer’s take (and lots of pix) on Hadid’s design plaza in Seoul, and whether it is “an architectural marvel or an ‘urban pimple’ - it is political envy that blurs its appreciation now.” + Q&A with structural engineer Takaue re: his fine art architectural photography.

Urban planner McDonnell calls for planners to “stop being boring”: the field needs to start “rocking it out” instead of being “curmudgeons who default to ‘no’ and ‘how much is that going to cost?’ instead of it’s ‘possible’ and ‘let’s see where this can go?’”

Capps ponders the significance of Saffron’s Pulitzer and what it means for architectural criticism.

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A great look at how urban alleys, once considered “dirty and dangerous, are moving beyond garbage and garages” to become “pathways to revitalization.”

Baumgarten cheers a subdivision outside of Melbourne using “sound landscape design principles as a starting point for the layout,” but too bad about the “rather drab” housing design - “we can hope that a maturing landscape will cover a great many sins.”

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Bozikovic cheers this year’s Canadian Governor-General’s Medals in architecture winners: they “are far more than visual one-liners - notable for their careful urban design and public spirit” that “animate and enliven public spaces.”

Rosenbaum ruminates on the demise of AFAM: “many of MoMA’s spaces designed by big-name architects have been razed or significantly altered to make way for the next architect’s vision,” so “why should anyone be shocked?”

Goldberger waxes positively poetic about “New York’s most beautiful ruin,” the New York State Pavilion: it “does make a rather cool ruin. But it could also be something else...and it is one of the best reminders we have that the architectural legacy of the 1960s is more than just glass boxes.”

Novak takes another tack entirely re: all the attention to Johnson’s pavilion: “The architecture community has a bit of soul searching to do. Why do so few people want to discuss the fact that he was a despicable fascist? And should we consider his history of hate during debates about what to do with his buildings?”

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Diamond Schmitt’s living wall in Toronto turns 10 and is still growing strong: “we now we have a very good library of data demonstrating how well the technology works.”

A Chinese company claims it made 10 3D printed houses costing $4,800 each in less than 24 hours, but are they genuinely 3D creations, or will the DUS project in Amsterdam will call the title of the world’s first.”

Wainwright parses the seven category winners in London’s Design Museum’s Designs of the Year, from “chains that make you fidget” (on purpose), to Hadid’s “bellowing monument to the Azerbaijan’s former president - who presided over a tyrannical regime.”

Warren-Hicks weighs in, wondering how one can determine “the superior merits of a curvy Zaha Hadid building over an app that works to reduce blindness worldwide.”

From Milan’s Salone del Mobile, Haldane found an “emboldened design industry” with the prevalent trend being “the playful exploration of material imitation.”

Zara, on the other hand, found it appeared “to be better to do so with well-worn, proven classics than a proliferation of wares that may come and go.”
Grand Façade: A Final Farewell to Former American Folk Art Museum: West 53rd Street is already one big procession of diverse MoMA façades, although many of the spaces designed by big-name architects...have been razed or significantly altered to make way for the next architect's vision...why should anyone be shocked by MoMA's willingness to knock down the architectural statement of a neighboring institution? By Lee Rosenbaum -- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Daniel Libeskind; Rick Bell/AANY; Diller Scofidio + Renfro - ArtsJournal

What Will Become of New York's Most Beautiful Ruin? ...New York State Pavilion, the leftover structure from the 1964 New York World's Fair in Flushing Meadow Park...does make a rather cool ruin. But it could also be something else...an unusual combination of bold, lively, and serene, and it is one of the best reminders we have that the architectural legacy of the 1960s is more than just glass boxes...managed to be as majestic, and as joyous... By Paul Goldberger -- Philip Johnson- Vanity Fair

One of America's Most Famous Architects Was a Nazi Propagandist: 50th anniversary of the 1964 New York World's Fair...special attention is being paid to...the New York State Pavilion...The architecture community has a bit of soul searching to do...Why do so few people want to discuss the fact that [he] was a despicable fascist? And should we consider his history of hate during debates about what to do with his buildings? By Matt Novak- Gizmodo

A Masterpiece, With Shortcomings: ...Frank Lloyd Wright's SC Johnson Research Tower in Racine, Wisconsin, opens for tours next month. Visitors will see firsthand its functional shortcomings along with its spectacular innovations...Some will see the tower's interiors as proof that he cared more about form than function; others will recognize a triumph of architectural experimentation...Neither group will be disappointed. By Fred A. Bernstein [slide show]- Architectural Record

Limestone Cliff emulation by ARM Architecture wins WA design competition: ...concept design of the Joondalup Performing Arts and Cultural Facility...centred around a limestone scheme that was intentionally reflective of the Joondalup region... -- Ashton Raggatt McDougall [images]- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Living Wall in Toronto: Large indoor plant system an icon of sustainable design...turns 10 years old this spring. The living wall biofilter..."Ten years on, we now we have a very good library of data demonstrating how well the technology works. If anything, the system has exceeded our initial ideas about its impact on the indoor space"...The first living wall at U. of Guelph Humber is growing strong today -- Diamond Schmitt Architects [images]- e-architect (UK)

Is this the world’s first 3D printed house? Shanghai WinSun Decoration Design Engineering Co, says it made 10 3D printed houses costing $4,800 each in less than 24 hours, according to 3ders.org...some debate over whether the house built is genuinely a 3D creation...A 3D house under construction in Amsterdam by DUS Architects may therefore have a chance to claim the “world’s first” mantle... -- Financial Times (UK)

Designs of the Year: chairs that make you fidget and a piano from the future: From the Pro Chair that makes schoolkids squirm to an all-black piano, plus Prada and Zaha Hadid, here are the seven category winners from the Designs of the Year. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Are These the Best Designs of the Year? London's Design Museum has announced the seven winners...it's not entirely clear how the top score will be settled...Determining the superior merits of a curvy Zaha Hadid building over an app that works to reduce blindness worldwide...By Colin Warren-Hicks [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Trail Blazers: What Milan Design Week Tells us About the Industry: An emboldened design industry puts creative collaboration centre stage: ...in light of our globalised and democratised creative industries, the Italian furniture business must work harder than ever to hold its own...prevalent trend was the playful exploration of material imitation. By James Haldane- Architectural Review (UK)

Milan's Safe Bet: Midcentury Reissues at Salone del Mobile: As the world's capital of design struggles financially, the show must go on, and better to do so with well-worn, proven classics than a proliferation of wares that may come and go. That's the last thing the design world needs now. By Janelle Zara [slide show]- Artinfo

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