• Sacs pens an in-depth look at how cities we build from scratch could actually bite us back: "As they mature, some of the world's most heralded eco cities may suffer from a few sustainability alligators in their sewers." 
• Renne ruminates on the arrival of a new era of transit-oriented development and "networked livable communities."
• Does history prove that the current spate of record-breaking skyscrapers is a sign of economic doom?
• A fascinating look at how and why some developers are "cherry-picking some of the UK's better practices to transform our urban wastelands and unloved spaces" (they get the value of good design - what a concept!).
• NY1's (terrific!) Cities for Tomorrow Conference is now online - and well indexed, so you can watch who/what you're most interested in (fab line-up of speakers).
• A lively conversation between Lopate and Goldberger re: the new residential towers going up in Midtown Manhattan.
• Wainwright offers his wickedly witty take on the 10 worst London skyscrapers: one has "three Eyes of Sauron," another looks like "it had a fight with a gigantic porcupine, and the porcupine won."
• Hill thinks "defending the skyline against barbarians is important, but the damage they are doing is far greater than just spoiling a view."
• King cheers the scuttling of plans for the Warriors' waterfront arena as "the best thing that has happened to San Francisco's waterfront in years - not because of what is gone, but what now could be."
• The Police Married Quarters in Hong Kong is now a hub for local design talent: "The 1950s housing project was once the antithesis of creativity" - now, it is a "major test case" on how the city "conserves and revitalizes historic buildings."
• Shipping containers are making their mark in Auckland on two prominent city sites.
• Some disturbing statistics in the RIBA Business Benchmarking Survey (nearly two-thirds of practices don't have a business plan?!?!)?
• Bozikovic profiles KPMB and how it became Canada's big-city visionaries of architecture (who sweat the small stuff, too)."
• Hadid is a hit in Hong Kong and helping to shape the future of the mainland China, a "'land of opportunity,' she says of the building boom and shifting social ambitions."
• Brynes brings us eyefuls of bomb shelters in Sderot, Israel, transformed by a city initiative, with artists turning them into "something less foreboding" and "a little more inspirational. Though they still serve an all-too-serious purpose.”
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speculative work...Nearly two-thirds...do not have a business plan and only 15% plan more than a year ahead. - BD/Building Design (UK)

How KPMB became Canada’s big-city visionaries of architecture (who sweat the small stuff, too): ...has assumed an important place in Canadian culture, as city builders, mentors and advocates. But nothing about their work or their career has been simple. By Alex Bozikovic [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Zaha Hadid’s distinct style is a hit in Hong Kong and on mainland: ...distinctive neo-futuristic style has brought her worldwide fame and is helping shape the future of the mainland...she believes a lack of confidence is the major reason for the dearth of women at the highest levels of architecture, and is hopeful that can change...."China became the land of opportunity,” she says of the building boom and shifting social ambitions. [images]- South China Morning Post

In Israel, Turning Bomb Shelters Into Art: Sderot has about 200 shelters. A city initiative tries to turn them into something less foreboding...many city residents, especially children, show symptoms of PTSD. To help address the problem...artists turn these shelters into something a little more inspirational. Though they still serve an all-too-serious purpose... By Mark Byrnes [images]- The Atlantic Cities

Don’t judge Designs of the Year 2014 at face value: Should I, and then you, really be expected to make judgements based on puff...and nonsense...If all we have are the rhetorical statements of the author-architect, and some static images, then what is a perpetuated is a culture of disengagement and spectacular display. Issues of use and experience are suppressed...Overall, there are many interesting ideas hiding under the puff. By Jeremy Till- The Conversation

European Prize for Urban Public Space 2014 Prize winners: 25 finalists, amongst which it has awarded two ex aequo prizes and four Special Mentions...Renovation of the old port/Vieux-Port, Marseille, France; "The braided valley,” Elche, Spain. -- Michel Desvigne Paysagiste MDP, Foster + Partners, Tangram, INGEROP, AK; Francisco Leiva Iovra, Marta García Chico, Antoni Baile Jiménez, Prócoro del Real Baeza [images]- Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB)