• We are so saddened by the news that we've lost Randall Stout, and Giovannini's eloquent tribute reminds us why: "he translated his inspirations from nature into built form with unpretentious grace."

• On a brighter news note, a bit of foreign flair heads to NYC as Sterli is named MoMA's Chief Curator of Architecture and Design.

• Saffron sees the down-side of Philly's "over-success" as chains begin "colonizing" shopping districts "at a stunning pace - there is a numbing sameness" and "a risk that these big-money players could do more harm than good."

• King minces no words about what a bad neighbor, architecturally speaking, Kaiser Permanente's new Oakland hospital is: "It's an oversize, thin-skinned thud, massive in scale and anemic in tone. At least up until you step inside."

• Lord Rogers minces no words about what he thinks of the call for "garden cities" to help alleviate the U.K.'s housing crises that will end up being no more than "commuter dormitories," better to build in the cities and put "brownfield first."

• Meanwhile, Transport of London shows off three "futuristic visions" to replace runways with "Heathrow City" - "in the increasingly unlikely scenario that Boris Johnson gets his way, and relocates the airport to the Thames Estuary."

• Wainwright worries that "skyline debate might end up being the least of our worries" as "the architecture giant" Aedas's Chinese clients "have their sights set on London, and they know what they want" (think mega-everything).

• If that's not a depressing enough thought, the University of Miami has sold 88 acres of "one of the world's rarest forests" to a developer who plans to build a mega-Walmart, along with 900 apartments and a few not-very-classy restaurant chains; needless to say, "the deal has left environmentalists and biologists scratching their heads."

• O'Sullivan says "other European cities would do well to watch Paris carefully" as the city plans to fine owners of vacant commercial buildings who don't convert them to residential use.

• Capps reports on a new web portal to connect potential developers with cities' distressed or vacant properties.

• Davidson delves deep into why we "are still not sure how to care for" our Beaux-Arts buildings; case in point: the Frick expansion: "it would be a mistake to expand into another knockoff of a knockoff of a knockoff."

• The backlash broadens against plans for a Helsinki Guggenheim: the "final decision will be determined largely by the current open international architectural competition," with backers "counting on the power of design to transform the rancorous debate into an enthusiastic one."

• Kats has a lively Q&A with Seldorf re: her rejiggering of the Clark Art Institute: "the most important thing is to identify what is perfect, what is beautiful, what needs to remain as is."

• An in-depth look at Bjørke's "NYC blitz": the "architectural wunderkind already has four projects underway and is angling for more," but his "celebrity and bullish confidence has garnered criticism."

• Winners all: Holl hauls home the 2014 Praemium Imperiale (and about $150,000 purse).

• The Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize narrows the shortlist of the best built work in the Americas down to seven.

• An impressive list of winners (and great presentation) of the 2014 Re-thinking the Future Awards.

• Two big winners of the 2014 Australia Award for Urban Design.

• Call for entries: Design Action 2014: Private Choice, Public Spaces to address the public-private interface of the last remaining abortion clinic in Mississippi.
A New Portal to Pair Eager Developers and Underused Properties: OpportunitySpace is a website where city governments can link up with private investors looking for development data...and for residents to figure out who owns the distressed or vacant properties in their communities. By Kriston Capps - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Melbourne launches architecture and design hub...Sean Godsell commissioned to create the inaugural MPavilion in Queen Victoria Memorial Gardens...the first major project to be delivered by the recently established Naomi Milgrom Foundation. [image]- Infillink (Australia)

Why It's So Hard to Keep Beaux-Arts Museums Looking Beautiful: The plutocrats of the last Gilded Age left us unfathomable architectural treasures...but [we] are still not sure how to care for...most Beaux-Arts buildings are architectural Frankenstein's monsters...All that tinkering has left an uneven legacy of splendor and scars...The Frick has a right to grow as it ages, and a record of graceful surgery. But it would be a mistake to expand into another...knockoff of a knockoff of a knockoff. By Justin Davidson -- Davis Brody Bond; McKim, Mead & White; Renzo Piano; Kevin Roche; Richard Morris Hunt; Gluckman Mayner Architects; John Russell Pope; Carrère and Hastings; Russell Page; Annabelle Selldorf - New York Magazine

Helsinki Divided on Plan for a Guggenheim Satellite: ...the huge costs of the proposed development are stirring a backlash...final decision will be determined largely by a yearlong open international architectural competition...counting on the power of design to transform the rancorous debate into an enthusiastic one. - New York Times

Q&A: Annabelle Selldorf On the New Clark Art Institute: "...the most important thing is to identify what is perfect, what is beautiful, what needs to remain as is. It's equally as important to be critical and to be cognizant of what doesn't work and why it doesn't work. Did it never work?" By Anna Kats -- Tadao Ando; Reed Hilderbrand [slide show]- Artinfo

Bjarke Ingels' NYC blitz: The Danish architectural wunderkind already has four projects underway and is angling for more...What if power-broker Robert Moses and urban activist Jane Jacobs had a love child? His answer: the Big U, an eight-mile buttress that [HUD]commissioned to protect Lower Manhattan from another superstorm like Hurricane Sandy...But Ingels’ celebrity and bullish confidence has garnered criticism. By Christopher Cameron -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG - The Real Deal (NYC)

Steven Holl awarded 2014 Praemium Imperiale arts prize: ...named as the architecture laureate [by] the Japan Art Association. - Dezeen

Kenneth Frampton Announces Seven Finalists for Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize: The awards program, founded by Phyllis Lambert, Wiel Arets, and Dirk Denison, honors the best built work in the Americas. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Rafael Iglesia; Álvaro Siza Veira; Smiljan Radic; Undurraga Deves Arquitectos; OM+LVN; Pezo von Ellrichshausen - Architect Magazine

2014 Re-thinking the Future Awards -- Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG/DIALOG; UNStudio; HOK Houston; WOW Architects/Warner Wong Design; IDOM/UK/Virender Khanna Associates; Biome Environmental Solutions; Sergio Sebastián Franco; FGMF Architects; Andrey Hodkevich; LMN Architects; RRA; Laboratorio Habitat X0; Architecture Research Office (ARO); etc. - Rethinking The Future

Australia’s best new urban design: a Sydney pool and a new Canberra princint: Molongo Group/ Fender Katsalidis/Oculus, and Neeson Murcutt Architects/Sue Barnsley Design/City of Sydney were the two big winners at the 2014 Australia Award for Urban Design hosted by the Planning Institute of Australia. New Acton mixed-use precinct and Prince Alfred Park + Pool... - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Call for entries: Design Action 2014: Private Choice, Public Spaces to address the public-private interface of the last remaining abortion clinic in Mississippi; will be exhibited at Parsons on Fifth Avenue in New York City this September...will also travel; send your response to on a 5x7 inch postcard using both sides; deadline: August 30 - ArchiteXX.org

10 Museums Worth Visiting: ...more than just containers that hold art collections, they are also essential instruments in town planning...Museums continue to be essential agents in creating new local identities and new urban centers. -- Atelier Peter Zumthor; Zaha Hadid Architects; BIG/Bjarke Ingels Group; Herzog & de Meuron; Ryue Nishizawa; Steven Holl Architects; Sambuchi Architects; SANAA; Tadao Ando - [images]