Cramer ponders "the collective animus" toward Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial design that "seems visceral, almost feral. What gives? The problem, at least in part, is that Gehry's columns lack acanthus leaves."

Miranda mills Ando's Clark Art Institute expansion: "I'm hoping this bucolic little museum might serve as a template for other institutions that might confuse bigger with better."

Bratishenko gives (mostly) thumbs-up to Maki and Correa's Aga Khan Museum of Islamic Art and Ismaili Centre, but wonders about it being set so far from Toronto's other cultural institutions: "Can Maki's beautiful fortress and its refined grounds lure visitors all the same?"

Betsky reflects on his recent visit to three European cities and their "downtown dystopia": "what struck me was the continued march of sameness. It is on the edges where things are more vibrant."

Benfield explains why, "for smart growth, not all density is created equal."

Boston's new "Literary District" has high hopes that "literary tourists will promote business and enhance property values in their own eclectic, well-educated way."

O'Sullivan minces no words when it comes to a proposed almost $1 billion floating bike path on the Thames that is both "hilarious" and "insulting": "The proposal isn’t just wrong. It’s a whole club sandwich of wrongness, made of delectable layers of stupid" (and that’s just for starters).

Volner delves into the "emerging role of the design editor" as Nobel and McKnight don the new title for SHoP and SOM: "Whether other firms will follow suit will hinge on the tangible results that firm editors are able to produce" (and there’s always a hitch).

Bernstein has a most engaging Q&A with Makiwaki, the just-announced founding director of the new Harvard Center for Green Buildings and Cities re: why he "believes the center is uniquely positioned to rethink the design, construction and operation of buildings to enhance their efficiency - without regard to industry agendas."

Ferro has a most thoughtful Q&A with Libeskind re: "how he works, embracing failure, and why he’d love to design an airport" (though we question calling him "Freedom Tower architect").

Anderton has a lively Q&A with Scott Johnson, who "explains why skyscrapers look the way they do," what "performative means," "gentler, kinder" skyscrapers - and what's in store for L.A. now they don't have to be flat-topped giants.

A round-up of super-skinny skyscrapers that "offer great views, but also show off feats of engineering and design" (and no - they’re not all in NYC).

An architect considers stadiums, glass, and birds: "200,000 square feet of monumental glass walls" planned for the new Minnesota Vikings stadium does not bode well for our feathered friends. "Glass is what we make it. It’s time to make it safer."

Speaking of feathered friends, the poor, endangered piping plover bird is at the center of a Sandy recovery controversy on New York's Fire Island: "Besides arguing that the bird’s habitat is in jeopardy, critics say the $207 million project would be a huge waste of money" (others say just get over it).

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Maya Lin wins $300,000 Gish Prize for her "outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world."

Capps has a field day cheering Norges Bank for overruling its own jury to pick "glitch art" by Snøhetta to adorn one side of Norway's new currency: "bank notes goes..."
Why Skyscrapers Look the Way they Do: ...talks about what “performative” means, “gentler, kinder” skyscrapers, as well as...the retrofit of a Southland building by his onetime mentor Philip Johnson: the Crystal Cathedral. -- Johnson Fain [images] - KCRW (Los Angeles)

Secrets of skinny skyscrapers: 5 slender towers and how they do it: ...offer great views, but also show off feats of engineering and design. -- CetraRuddy; SHoP Architects; Fender Katsalidis; Triptyque; DLN Architects & Engineers; BKK architects [images] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

NYC architect comments on stadiums, glass, and birds: The proposed stadium for the Minnesota Vikings, designed with 200,000 square feet of monumental glass walls, is an example of the grave threat posed by a reflective glass building...Vikings have declined to revisit the stadium design...Glass is what we make it. It’s time to make it safer. By Deborah Laurel/Prendergast Laurel Architects -- Audubon - Minneapolis Star Tribune

Piping Plover Bird At Center Of Sandy Recovery Controversy: A court fight over a protected bird is holding up a $207 million plan to replenish the sand along a 19-mile stretch of New York’s Fire Island...Besides arguing that the bird’s habitat is in jeopardy, critics say the project would be a huge waste of money. -- Huffington Post

The Emerging Role of the Design Editor: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and SHoP Architects recently created new positions to develop in-house content creation: Whether other firms will follow suit will hinge on the tangible results that firm editors...are able to produce...but what kind of pudding bears the proof for these new in-house editors? And there’s the hitch... By Ian Volner -- Jenna McKnight; Philip Nobel - Architect Magazine

Newsmaker: Ali Malkawi: ...founding director of the new Harvard Center for Green Buildings and Cities...believes the center is uniquely positioned to rethink the design, construction, and operation of buildings to enhance their efficiency...without regard to industry agendas...will host an inaugural conference on November 7... By Fred A. Bernstein - Architectural Record

Freedom Tower Architect Daniel Libeskind: "Ground Zero Is Very, Very Close To My Original Idea": Q&A about how he works, embracing failure, and why he’d love to design an airport...and why design is all about patience...now describes his work as the master planner of the World Trade Center as something a bit different - more symphony conductor than star soloist. By Shaunacy Ferro -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [images, links] - Fast Company

Maya Lin Wins $300,000, 2014 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize: Though she first rose to prominence for her Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC, she has remained a leading figure in art and architecture with her large-scale sculptures and installations, as well as new media projects like What Is Missing?, calling attention to mass extinctions and environmental degradation. - artnet News

Norway’s Best Architecture Firm Designs the World’s Best Money: A contest to design Norway’s new print bank notes goes bonkers: ...in a stunning reversal, Norges Bank overruled its own jury’s decision...decided to co-award the commission to The Metric System...The reverse side of each bill will feature what appears to be glitch art by Snøhetta. By Kriston Capps [images] - CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

Call for entries: 2015 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence: projects must be a real place located in the continental United States; $50,000 Gold Medal, four $10,000 Silver Medals; deadline: December 9 - Bruner Foundation

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