• Lewyn parses a paper that addresses the frequency of minimum density regulations and similar regulations that "critics of smart growth often claim seek to 'force' density on Americans - we found that minimum density requirements are in fact quite rare."

• Saitta finds the remains of a 100-year-old striker's camp in "Nowheresville," Colorado, to be "a useful foil for discussing current intercultural urban planning and design."

• Stott delves into why China's president has called for an end to weird buildings that has "the potential to affect the landscape of architectural practice worldwide."

• Wainwright rounds up an amazing collection of "the most outlandish oddities that have appeared so far" in China (some familiar, some totally outta this world!).

• Altabe takes on McMansions "abusing themselves from Quoque to Queensland": these "castles in the air are back, clamoring for attention and annoying neighbors" (and bringing down architecture).

• UK planning experts head to China to offer advice on building sustainable cities and "the need to avoid Los Angeles-style sprawl."

• Betsky bemoans the demise of DS+R's "visionary and beautiful" Facsimile on the Moscone Convention Center façade: it "never worked the way it was intended," but it took on "big issues that take a big artwork" that few artists or architects are willing or able to take on.

• Libeskind has big plans for a condo complex in Boca Raton "ironically named after another architect with an extremely different design sensibility" (how could we resist a headline like "Mama Mizner!").

• Grimshaw tapped to lead the team to design the almost billion-dollar expansion of Lima's international airport.

• The PWP/Rogers Partners competition-winning design for the National Mall's Constitution Gardens gets important thumbs-up's to move forward.

• Sarks heads from Harvard to MIT as the 10th permanent dean of the School of Architecture and Planning.

• Kamin cheers Siza and H&deM taking home the inaugural Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize for two of the best built works in the Americas.

• SCAPE takes the $100,000 2014 Fuller Challenge with "Living Breakwaters."

• Hashim Sarkis named dean of the School of Architecture and Planning: Practicing architect, also a prominent scholar of architecture and urbanism, joins MIT from Harvard...will become the 10th permanent dean of the School of Architecture and Planning.

• Grimshaw Architects selected for Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport expansion: ...designs for the near-billion dollar expansion are set to be revealed in 2015. -- ARCADIS; CH2M; HILL; Ramboll - Peru this Week

• National Mall's Constitution Gardens Redesign Approved and Moving Forward: The competition-winning plan covers a 50-acre site and features a lakeside glass pavilion. -- PWP Landscape Architects; Rogers Partners Architects+Urban Designers (formerly Rogers Marvel Architects) [images] - Architect Magazine

• MLS of impressive names make the Icon Awards 2014 shortlist.
IIT offers another major architecture award: ...the first winners of its new award for architecture in the Western Hemisphere. It goes by the unwieldy name of the Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize - or the snappy MCHAP, for short...architects of the winning projects will receive $50,000 for research and a publication that explores the theme of "Rethinking Metropolis"... By Blair Kamin -- Álvaro Siza/Iberê Camargo Foundation; Herzog & de Meuron/1111 Lincoln Road [images] - Chicago Tribune

Donna van Milligen Bieleke €40,000 Prix de Rome Architecture 2014: ...for her "radical and poetic intervention" -- Cabinet of Curiosities -- for the Hoogstraat in Rotterdam. The Prix de Rome is the oldest and largest prize in the Netherlands... [image] - ArchDaily

Pop-up restaurant by OS31 will be built over a frozen river: British studio has won a competition to design a pop-up restaurant on the surface of a frozen river in Winnipeg....RAW:almond restaurant will be installed at the point where the mouth of the Assiniboine meets the Red River, as part of the Canadian city's annual winter festival. [images] - Dezeen

City Chooses Australian designer Daniel Tobin to Design AIDS Monument for West Hollywood Park: The city's Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission had recommended Susan Narduli, a Los Angeles architect and artist. [images] - WEHOville (West Hollywood, California)

Acclaimed international architects compete with Australian firms for Sydney Modern Project: Plans to double the size of the Art Gallery of NSW/New South Wales are gaining momentum... -- Candalepas Associates; Sean Godsell Architects; Fender Katsalidis; Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA; Kengo Kuma and Associates; Kerry Hill Architects; Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos; RMA Architects (Rahul Mehrotra Architects); Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; David Chipperfield Architects; Renzo Piano Building Workshop); Herzog & de Meuron - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Finalist Teams in Future Ground Competition to Develop Long-Term Strategies for Reuse of Vacant Land in New Orleans. -- Team LEX; Team PaD/ James Dart/DARCH/Deborah Gans/etc.; Team Stoss/STOSS Landscape Urbanism - Van Alen Institute / New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA)

The short list: 15 finalists for the 2014 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation: ...assessed more than 200 entries highlighting innovative programs in cities around the world. By Neal Peirce and Farley Peters - Citiscope.org

Icon Awards 2014: shortlist revealed: ...judges shortlisted five people, projects, products or practices in each of ten categories...includes globally renowned architects and designers as well as up-and-coming practices and technical and social innovators. [links to images, info] - Icon (UK)

-- The International Photography Awards: winners of the 7 architecture subcategories.
-- Irene Kung: ...has expanded her repertoire to include photography..."I am fascinated by architecture as an extraordinary and indicative expression of human beings."
-- "Constructing Worlds - Photography and Architecture in the Modern Age," Barbican Art Gallery: These photographs offer a way of understanding the architects' intentions in relation to the lived reality... By Kirsten Kiser

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