• Baillieu bemoans that, on the fourth anniversary of the Localism Act, planning in London "has never felt less local. There is very little democracy in evidence now - councils don't make the decisions; politicians do."

• Civic Innovation Labs are popping up in city halls across the country, leading "to taxpayer investment in private sector organizations addressing social issues," but perhaps a little less top-down and more bottom-up initiatives would be better.

• Chicago parks advocates take "a surprising legal tack" in efforts to block the Lucas Museum, and "will argue in federal court that the site sits on reclaimed waterways and therefore can't be handed over to a private entity."

• Q&A with the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities President Berkowitz re: how it is supporting resiliency strategies on a global scale.

• Investors have faith in Downtown Tulsa's reawakening, but "despite the area's improving fortunes, more density and content is needed to generate a true urban vibe."

• Swansea, Wales, taps Hassell's Maher (from Down Under) to help transform its city center "into a hub of commerce, culture and leisure" with hopes of transforming "the whole region's fortunes."

• Gehry's first Australian building "has drawn both praise and criticism - but for UTS it is what's inside that counts," and "the technology that went into the construction could be a game changer for the local industry."

• A "jaw-dropping" building for Diego Portales University in Santiago, Chile, "evokes permanence and stability, but stands out from the corporate architecture" around it - it feels "creative, but not whimsical."

• Former Frick Director Fahy speaks out against expansion plan: "It's awful."

• A progress report on the AIA 2030 Commitment: More projects are meeting targeted carbon reduction goals, but the number of firms submitting data is decreasing (hopes are that the numbers will grow with a new online system to make the process easier and more accessible).

• Green cheers Richmond, Virginia's "transformational riverfront plan" that should "boost revitalization efforts in this newly resurgent city."

• The winner of the UIA-HYP Cup 2014 addresses storms, both natural and political, in Cyprus. The NJIT/Kean University feud continues over plans for a Michael Graves School of Architecture - now, even Kean "faculty members also question the new program."

• Heatherwick's Garden Bridge across the Thames "passes first planning hurdle" - one more to go, and work could beking next year.

• Word is that BIG gets its first big break in the U.K. with a new public square to be a "front door" to the Battersea Power Station redevelopment.

• The NJIT/Kean University feud continues over plans for a Michael Graves School of Architecture - now, even Kean "faculty members also question the new program."

• Help Wanted: Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Architecture (Structures) at the University of Hartford.

• The AIA has partnered with the Department of Energy to create the 2030 Design Data Exchange...To make the process easier and more accessible, the AIA has partnered with the Department of Energy to create the 2030 Design Data Exchange...

• Baillieu bemoans that, on the fourth anniversary of the Localism Act, planning in London "has never felt less local. There is very little democracy in evidence now - councils don't make the decisions; politicians do. By Amanda

• The Next Frontier of Engagement: Civic Innovation Labs: The recent growth in civic innovation in city halls throughout the country has led to taxpayer investment in private sector organizations addressing social issues, but do these programs really lead to tangible, broad, citizen benefit? By Ma'ayan Dembo

• Parks group to sue over lakefront site for Lucas Museum: In a surprising legal tack...will argue in federal court that the site sits on reclaimed waterways and therefore can't be handed over to a private entity...a departure from previous arguments...that construction on the shoreline defies a long-standing ban on further private development east of Lake Shore Drive. -- Ma Yansong/MAD Architects - Chicago Tribune

• 100 Resilient Cities: How the Rockefeller Foundation is Addressing Resiliency on a Global Scale: ...help and funding to hire a Chief Resilience Officer and assistance in developing and implementing a resilience strategy...Q&A with President of 100 Resilient Cities, Michael Berkowitz:..."The reality is that resilience building is a multi-sector, multi-level kind of enterprise." - ArchDaily

• With Faith of Investors, Downtown Tulsa Reawakens: ...the central business district in the Oklahoma city is beginning to thrive again...a large concentration of Art Deco buildings...fell victim to suburban growth...investors have injected about $930 million...over nearly 10 years... Despite the area’s improving fortunes, more density and content is needed to generate a true urban vibe. -- César Pelli; Elizabeth Streeve/SWA Group [images] - New York Times

• Australian gold-medal-winning design expert drafted to help transform Swansea city centre into a hub of commerce, culture and leisure: "This shows how serious we are about transforming the city centre and the whole region's fortunes." -- Ken Maher/Hassell - South Wales Evening Post

• MP's Jaw-Dropping Business Faculty in Santiago, Chile: Two distinctive towers...establish a unique architectural identity in this scheme by Rafael Hevia, Rodrigo Duce Motta, and Gabriela Manzi... evoke permanence and stability while standing out from the corporate architecture...to achieve a complex that felt creative, but not whimsical. [images] - Azure magazine (Canada)

• Former Frick Collection Director Speaks Out Against Expansion Plan: Everett Fahy..."I can’t believe anything close to the current designs would be approved by Landmarks Commission. It’s awful. That intimacy and atmosphere would be lost." -- Russell Page; Davis Brody Bond [images, links] - artnet News

• Key Takeaways from the AIA's Progress Report on the 2030 Commitment: More design projects are meeting the AIA's targeted carbon reduction goals, but the number of firms submitting data is decreasing...To make the process easier and more accessible, the AIA has partnered with the Department of Energy to create the 2030 Design Data Exchange... -- Architect Magazine

• Richmond, Virginia's Transformational Riverfront Plan: ...600-acre James River Park...part of its smart riverfront plan...to boost revitalization efforts in this newly resurgent city...the goal is to show the park’s value as a "habitat, not just pseudo-wilderness..." much of the riverfront plan came out of earlier hard work on the downtown master plan. By Jared Green -- Hargreaves Associates [images] - The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
Designing a storm within the Green Line: Cypriot Stefanos Theodorou won first prize in the UIA-HYP Cup 2014 International Student Competition. "The Unexpected STORM in Nicosia, Cyprus"...addresses two local matters – that of the shortage of water and the conflict between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots... -- Biel Susanna Vladoi; Polytechnic University of Catalonia: Aalto University - ICYprus

Garden Bridge passes first planning hurdle: Lambeth council approves Heatherwick's Thames crossing...If Westminster council approves it...work could start in late 2015, with the bridge planned to open to the public in 2018. -- Heatherwick Studio; Arup; Dan Pearson [images]; BD/Building Design (UK)

BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group expected to make UK debut at Battersea Power Station: ...so-called Malaysia Square...will link the pedestrianised high street at the centre of Frank Gehry and Foster + Partner's proposal with the revamped power station by Wilkinson Eyre, as well as to the new housing areas underway by Ian Simpson Architects and dRMM - Dezeen

NJIT blasts Kean University architecture school plans; calls proposal duplicative, wasteful: Kean counters that it will have a program emphasizing students' drawings to them give a stronger feel for their projects before they used computer programs...Kean faculty members also question the new program. -- Michael Graves School of Architecture - NJ.com (New Jersey)

Help Wanted: Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Architecture (Structures) at the University of Hartford (Connecticut) College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), - University of Hartford

Europe's most important and emerging young architects and designers as 2014 Europe 40 under 40: ...hail from across eleven European nations... [links to images, info] - Chicago Athenaeum/European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies

Spark Winners Announced! 8th Annual Spark Design & Architecture Awards -- studio mk27; Diamond Schmitt Architects; Studio O+A; JAM Eight Inc.; Gensler; Skidmore, Owings & Merill/SOM; KLD; Millimeter Interior Design; One Plus Partnership; AECOM/Perkins Eastman; Karim Rashid; Karim Rashid, etc. [links to images, info] - Spark Awards

2015 City of Dreams Pavilion Competition finalists announced: ...will be a gathering place on Governors Island, NYC. -- FIGMENT/ENYA/AIANY/SEAoNY

ANN Feature: Spaceship Lucas Lands in Chicago: Given the civic importance of the site, it's difficult to imagine how this vision for "Chicago 2020?" [Lucas Museum of Narrative Art] won't stir up a lot of very vocal opposition to it. And rightly so. By Martin C. Pedersen -- Ma Yansong: MAD Architects - ArchNewsNow

-- Ma Yansong: Designing an Imaginary Future: ...he seeks to combine cutting-edge technology with ancient Eastern precepts, and in so doing he hopes to forge a balance between the cosmos, humanity and nature. By Kevin Holden Platt -- MAD Architects

-- 7 Exceptional Concert Halls -- OMA; Henning Larsen Architects; Gehry Partners; Ateliers Jean Nouvel; Paul Andreu Architects; Santiago Calatrava; Snøhetta

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