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• Litman lays out some of the highlights from his public policies report that "provides practical guidance for creating cities that are healthy, wealthy and wise."

• Weder wades into the growing use of engineered wood that is creating "a paradigm shift in construction" with an eco-friendly replacement for concrete and steel.

• Harris offers an in-depth analysis of how high-fidelity stereos "posed new challenges" for post-war house builders (a touch of Don Draper, Cost Cob, and great 1960s ads included).

• Two takes on vintage visions of Manhattan and Times Square's future, "some of which never caught on and some of which still have a chance."

• Living Building Challenge energy and water documentation can now get LEED credits without added paperwork, "but it is at least partly symbolic."

• Q&A with Will Hunter re: how he hopes his London School of Architecture will "overhaul the way architecture is taught," and change an "undervalued and marginalized" profession.

• Across the Big Pond, AIAS launches the Promote Early Licensing: Professional Advancement Support Scholarship to "encourage aspiring architects to actively seek licensure to kick-start their professional careers."

• Zara parses the inaugural Chicago Architectural Biennial lineup of more than 60 studios from 30 countries.

• A UK-Korean firm wins The Lake Isle of Innisfree competition with its "luminous" Square Moon pavilion.

• Webb is wow'd by Kevin Daly Architects' UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music: it is "as joyful and exuberant as a Handel anthem or Stravinsky's wind octet. Each of its three elements has its own expressive personality, but plays in harmony like a polished trio."

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• The Whitney and the Broad are only the latest museums going with the trend for vast column-free spaces, "the latest must-have, but curators and budgets can suffer;" says Selldorf: "It is a buzzword, and it's not the be-all and end-all."

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• Comment> Alan Hess says Googie is as modern as a Craig Ellwood house: The avalanche of support for Norm's La Cienega...recently threatened with demolition, exposes an often overlooked fact: Modernism can be popular...

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• A Tale Of Two Meatpacking Districts: Unlike New York, Copenhagen's burgeoning Kødbyen district makes room for creative newcomers and traditional trades. "New York's preservationists and planners are limited to working with the city's zoning code, and, in a developer-driven real estate economy, that's ultimately a blunt instrument."...— Serban Cornea/Mutopija [images]: Fast Company / Co. Design

• Beam Me Up: Building "plyscrapers" with engineered wood: A posse of Vancouver architects, engineers, manufacturers, and consultants...are leading a paradigm shift in construction...they may well also have found an eco-friendly replacement for concrete and steel...The North American industry will have to retool if it wants to keep pace with its counterparts across the Atlantic. By Adele Weder -- Michael Green Architecture; Greg Dowling; Office of McFarlane Biggar; McFarland Marceau; Perkins+Wills; Fast + Epp; Acton Ostry Architects/Architecten Hermann Kaufmann; Guido Wimmers [images]: The Walrus (Canada)

• Design in Crisis: How Economic Bust Has Redefined the Value of High Design: "the positive effects that the world's financial crisis has had on luxury design...Developers have discovered a European sensibility, looking abroad for architects and designers to realize ambitious projects that often incorporate hybrid programs and features. By Piero Lissoni [images]: Metropolis Magazine

• Union Station in Washington Has a Grand Development Plan: The 14-acre project to develop air rights over the tracks will feature 1,300 residential units, retail space, more than 500 hotel rooms, and parks and plazas...to be called Burnham Place..."If London can figure out how to do it, we're hoping we can."...— Daniel Burnham (1908); Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Engineers; Grimshaw Architects; Shalom Baranes Associates [images]: New York Times

• New Whitney and Broad Museum on trend with vast column-free space: Super-sized, flexible spaces are the latest must-have, but curators and budgets can suffer...Most architects agree that "column-free has become shorthand for "super-sized" and "mega-flexible," two qualities that are highly valued in museums today. "It is a buzzword, and it's not the be-all and end-all."...— Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Renzo Piano; Annabelle Selldorf; Kulapat Yantrasast-The Art Newspaper (UK)

• Kevin Daly Architects brings the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music into the digital age; Ostin Music Center is as joyful and exuberant as a Handel anthem or Stravinsky's wind octet. Each of its three elements has its own expressive personality, but plays in harmony like a polished trio...The scale is humane, the facades tactile... -- Daniel Burnham (1908); Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Engineers; Grimshaw Architects; Shalom Baranes Associates [images]: The Walrus (Canada)

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A Tiny Orchestra in the Living Room: High-fidelity stereo and the postwar house: how did stereo change the design of residential spaces? The perceptual dissolution of boundaries between spaces, and particularly between the private home and the outside world, is one of the key impacts of stereo technologies...new "sonic age" posed new challenges for house builders. By Dianne Harris [adapted from a chapter in "Making Suburbia: New Histories of Everyday America"] [images]- Places Journal

Forgotten Plans for NYC That Should Be Revived: Sometimes good ideas come before their time, or get squelched for random political reasons...Infrastructure that doubles as office space...it probably wasn't worth tearing down Carnegie Hall to build a skyscraper. But a fire-engine red office building somewhere in New York? That's a great idea. -- Gustav Lindenthal; Pomerance and Beines (1957) [images]- New York Magazine

Imagining the Future of Times Square, Again and Again: ...has always been about reinvention - no matter what state it's in...Here are some plans for the future...some of which never caught on and some of which still have a chance. -- Cooper, Robertson & Partners (1979); Snøhetta; etc. [images]- New York Magazine

Living Building Challenge Energy and Water Documentation Now Satisfies LEED Requirements: Projects certified under LBC will be able to get LEED credits without added paperwork. The alignment could have practical implications for project teams, but it is at least partly symbolic. -- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); Living Future Institute (LFI) - Architectural Record

New architecture school aims to change "undervalued and marginalised" profession: London School of Architecture's Will Hunter talks about his plans to overhaul the way architecture is taught...new school opens at the Design Museum in London in September..."What we're interested in is how practice and academia can be closer together." - Dezen

AIAS Launches Campaign to Promote Early Licensing: Professional Advancement Support Scholarship, or PASS...encourages aspiring architects to actively seek licensure to kick-start their professional careers. - ArchDaily

Chicago Architectural Biennial Announces Inaugural Lineup: More than 60 studios from 30 countries will be represented in the first-ever North American architecture biennial, to take place this fall..."The State of the Art of Architecture," will include both new and commissioned works... By Janelle Zara -- Joseph Grima and Sarah Herda; Theaster Gates; Iwan Baan [images]- Architectural Record

UK-Korean firm wins Yeats poetry pop-up contest: Shindesignworks has won a competition for an installation in Lough Gill, Ireland inspired by William Butler Yeats' 1892 poem "The Lake Isle of Innisfree"...Square Moon...an aluminium-scaled frame and luminous lantern light...impressed the judges with its 'clarity and simplicity'...will then be relocated to a permanent home on the Institute of Technology Sligo campus. [image]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

2015 A+Awards Winners Announced: Heatherwick Studio, Studio Gang, and James Corner Field Operations Among Winners: A total of 150 firms and companies are represented among the winning projects... [images]- Architizer

8th International Design Awards: 2014 Architect of the Year: PLUS-SUM Studio: Guggenheim Helsinki; 2014 Interior Designer of the Year: Gensler: San Francisco International Airport, Terminal 3; etc. - International Design Awards (IDA)

Interview: Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos: ...his recent projects and general approach to architecture... "It's a process and a lot of it is trial and error...It is not, as you say, a magical inspiration. It's not a doodle on a napkin. It's a lot of work...architecture is a group effort." By Morten Wilhelm Scholz [images]