• ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of seven "outstanding transformations" of buildings that changed their "original program or structure, or both.*

• Leigh adds to the clamor to kill Gehry's "awful, comic-opera anti-monument," a.k.a. Eisenhower Memorial.

• Heathcote explains why "cities need boring bridges not celebrity self-indulgence. These are baubles for celebrities and developers: expensive and unnecessary" (blame the trend on Calatrava).

• Meanwhile, the Garden Bridge Trust executive director goes into spin-control, making the case that Ritchie's "animosity towards the "flawed and unnecessary" bridge is not shared by most Londoners" (comments are even more enlightening).

• Hadid blames the Japan Sport Council for the "high cost that doomed" her 2020 Olympic stadium design.

• Speaking of spin-control in London, the mayor seems to agree with Wainwright's report that financial viability assessments are "something of a dark art" and concedes developers are sometimes "getting away with it" when it comes to avoiding including affordable housing.

• Cramer cheers Chicago (finally) releasing redevelopment plans for the Cabrini-Green site, but says "what architecture needs more of now are smarter, smaller-scale solutions to knit our communities back together" - a sort of noble quest to right historical wrongs.

• Lincoln Institute takes a long look at the "evolution" of manufactured housing. Though they "have long been cast aside as a housing choice of last resort, today's models are robust, efficient, and inviting, with the potential to help alleviate the nation's shortage of safe, affordable housing."

• Eyefuls of Ban's solution for modular emergency housing in post-earthquake Nepal that re-uses brick rubble - when tragedy strikes, "humanity is lucky to have an architect like Shigeru Ban."

• Wainwright minces no words about UNESCO's "impotence": "after 43 years of bestowing its sought-after seal on the world's most precious landscapes," it is "beginning to seem more ineffectual than ever" - mayors and marketing managers "should be careful what they wish for."

• Bartnick offers a solution for a "much-needed makeover" of Boston's Brutalist City Hall (demolition not included).

• LAVA comes up with a stylish (though probably expensive) solution to save a Sydney Brutalist landmark that could appease both those who would like to see it demolished, and those who call for preservation.

• Paris-based Moreau Kusunoki talk about winning the Guggenheim Helsinki competition: "With big projects like this one, there's always going to be controversy."

• Dittmar calls for London mayoral candidates to get behind a "walker's charter": "A safe and inviting pedestrian realm is essential to London's quality of life."

• Froud and Harris look at evolving architectural education, and what "pedagogic pioneers (or guileless guinea pigs) can look forward to."

• Sorg Architects merges with DLR Group (the firm's New Delhi office not included).

• A longggg shortlist for LEAF Awards 2015.

• One we couldn't resist: Piano pens instructions for "how to build the perfect sandcastle."

• Call for entries: CHIDESIGN International Ideas Competition for new HQ for the Chicago Architecture Foundation, CTBUH, and more (registration deadline looms!).

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Op-Ed: Give Boston’s City Hall a much-needed makeover: As a massive and complex outdoor “sculpture,” [it] really does have its merits...There are those who would like to see the building demolished...Proposals to alter the exterior have ranged from the superficial to the esoteric and hypothetical, with some practical and exciting possibilities in between...Sheath the building with a tinted glass curtain wall — but not to create another modernist glass box. By Harry Barton [images] - Boston Globe

LAVA architect Sirius about saving Sydney’s brutalist landmark: Some have called it a “brutalist eyesore” and for its demolition, others an essential part of Sydney’s architectural history and for its State Heritage listing. But there is one plan on the table to save Tao (Theodore) Gofers’ Sirius apartment building at The Rocks...that could appease both sentiments. -- Chris Bosse [images] - Architecture & Design (Australia)

Unesco impotence takes shine off world heritage status: Organisation faces criticism for not only failing to protect sites from fanatics and planners but also accelerating their destruction by encouraging tourism...after 43 years of bestowing its sought-after seal on the world’s most precious landscapes...beginning to seem more ineffectual than ever...As mayors and marketing managers compete for recognition in the heritage hall of fame, they should be careful what they wish for. By Oliver Wainwright - Guardian (UK)

Exclusive: Moreau Kusunoki discuss winning controversial Guggenheim Helsinki contest: “With big projects like this one, there’s always going to be controversy,” said Nicolas Moreau, co-founder of the Paris-based practice... - CLAD (Community of Leisure Architects & Designers)

London needs a walker’s charter: The first two London mayors championed buses and bikes. The next one should put pedestrians first: Pedestrian issues have received less attention than public transport and cycling, although they account for 40% of all London trips...Targeting hot spots through redesign...has to continue to be a priority for the next London mayor...A safe and inviting pedestrian realm is essential to London’s quality of life...By Hank Dittmar - BD/Building Design (UK)

So you want to be an architect: But what is it that you’re actually working towards becoming? And how will you get there? ...pedagogic pioneers (or guileless guinea pigs) can look forward to qualifying as an architect in six years or fewer...an equally desirable output of a (perhaps abbreviated) architectural education will be practitioners, unconcerned with title, who are able to think creatively and collaboratively...By Daisy Froud/Bartlett and Harriet Harriss/Royal College of Art - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Sorg Architects Merger with DLR Group: ...will henceforth be known as DLR Group | Sorg...the transaction does not include the firm’s New Delhi location...Suman Sorg, FAIA will retain her design leadership...Nikki Sorg will manage the office’s operations and Principal Rachel Chung, AIA, will lead the design studio.- Contract magazine

12th annual LEAF Awards 2015 Official Shortlist: ...projects include buildings that are setting the benchmark for the international architectural community.- Arena International

Renzo Piano: how to build the perfect sandcastle: He’s most famous for designing the Shard in London but the Italian architect learned to dream big as a little boy on the beach... - Guardian (UK)

Call for entries: CHIDESIGN International Ideas Competition: Center for Architecture, Design and Education (CADE), new headquarters, visitor center and exhibition spaces of the Chicago Architecture Foundation; Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH); a design and allied arts high school, and flexible learning spaces; cash prizes; registration deadline: August 7 (submissions due September 9)- Chicago Architecture Foundation