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| **URBAN UPDATE** | **6th May 2016** |
| **Main news**  **Design Review – Big Meet Event Report**  Sponsorship Opportunity – Urban Design Graphics 2  **Jane Jacobs Centenary – commentary from across the globe**  French railways invest in 700mph inter-city 'hyperloop' super-tube train which could make HS2 obsolete  **Sydney invests in research to aid urban design..**  New Hastings Pier dubbed – “The Plank”  **Parts of Middle East and North Africa could become uninhabitable by mid-century**  **UDG AGM – and Executive Committee Elections**  **New Jobs** | **from the Urban Design Group**  *A free service for all individuals and organisations who care about life in cities towns and villages ……… planners – landscape architects – architects – conservation practitioners – engineers –surveyors – masterplanners – managers – urban designers - urbanists – health professionals - politicians – public*  ***We are here to encourage anyone and everyone who wants to see better urban design – the design of towns and cities – streets and spaces*** |

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| ***Join the Urban Design Group***  <http://www.udg.org.uk/join> | ***Trouble viewing this email?***  ***Especially people using Hotmail accounts*** | | ***Download as.docx document***  <http://www.udg.org.uk/udupdate/news/urban-update-06-May-2016> |
| ***Forthcoming UDG London Events***  ***@ The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street***  ***London EC1M 6EJ***  ***Free for members and Students***  ***£7 for non-members***  **Jane Jacobs Centenary Celebration**  **Led by Paul Reynolds**  *Brief talks followed by a walk - and perhaps a cake.*  11 May 2016 - 6:15pm - 8:15pm  <http://www.udg.org.uk/events/jane-jacobs-centenary>  [**UDG AGM and Kevin Lynch Memorial Lecture - Sir Terry Farrell**](http://www.udg.org.uk/events/udg-agm-and-kevin-lynch-memorial-lecture-sir-terry-farrell)  8 Jun 2016 - 6:15pm - 8:15pm  <http://www.udg.org.uk/events/udg-agm-and-kevin-lynch-memorial-lecture-sir-terry-farrell>  **Other Gallery Events**  <http://alanbaxter.co.uk/about/gallery-events.php>  Monday 9 May, 6.45pm  The last taboo: What to do about the global sanitation crisis?  Thursday 12 May, 6.30pm  Open space protection, management and exploitation  *The London Forum*  Wednesday 18 May, 6.30pm  Played in London: the heritage of a city at play *Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society*  Thursday 19 May, 6.00pm  What does nature do for London?  *CPRE London*  Wednesday 1 June, 6.00pm  Importance of ecology in construction and dealing with Japanese knotweed  *Chartered Association of Building Engineers*  Friday 17 June, 6.45pm  Taming the Baronial; the Scottish Response to the Arts and Crafts Movement  *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society London and South East Events*  **IHBC/UDG Urban Design and PlaceMaking Event**  (followed by IHBC London Branch AGM)  Wed 18 May 2016 - 13:30 to 16.00  Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners - 14 Regent's Wharf All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL  **Farrell Review and Place Alliance**  Lucy Natarajan of Place Alliance,  **Urban Design London’s remit regarding contextual development in historic places**  Esther Kurland, (Director, Urban Design London),  **The Tottenham Court Road / Crossrail Station Masterplan**  Roger Hawkins from Hawkins Brown Architects,  **Historic England London region - Update**  Nigel Barker, (Head of Planning, London Region, Historic England).  Booking  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ihbcudg-urban-design-and-place-making-event-followed-by-ihbc-london-branch-agm-tickets-24863745131>  ***Have you used the***  ***Urban Design***  ***journal archive yet?***  ***100+ editions now available to download free***  UDG volunteers working over the holiday break have completed the digitising of all available back copies of Urban Design. Well over 100 are now available to download free.  <http://www.udg.org.uk/publications/journal> | UDG AGM  & Executive Committee Elections If you would like to stand for Election to the UDG Executive Committee, please submit a completed nomination form to the UDG by 6.00pm on Wednesday 25th May  <http://www.udg.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/UDG_Executive_Nomination_Form_2016-17.doc> Jane Jacobs Centenary Celebrated **Was Jane Jacobs right?**  <http://www.treehugger.com/urban-design/was-jane-jacobs-right.html>  **How Jane Jacobs changed the way we look at cities - Guardian**  <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/04/jane-jacobs-100th-birthday-saskia-sassen>  **A Lesson for Bernie: How Jane Jacobs Saved Washington Square**  <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/04/13/a-lesson-for-bernie-how-jane-jacobs-saved-washington-square.html>  **Jane Jacobs’ legacy to a grateful city**  <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/bill-de-blasio-jane-jacobs-legacy-grateful-city-article-1.2623789>  **Quiz: What Would Jane Jacobs Think of Your Neighborhood?**  <http://www.curbed.com/2016/5/4/11579272/jane-jacobs-neighborhood-quiz>  **European researchers prove Jane Jacobs was right?**  The researchers analyzed six cities, including Rome and Florence, and found neighbourhoods that conformed to Jacob’s ideals had higher levels of mobile phone activity, which they took as a proxy for “urban vitality.”  <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/04/07/european-researchers-prove-jane-jacobs-was-right.html>  [http://arxiv.org/abs/1603.04012#](http://arxiv.org/abs/1603.04012)  *Join us at the Gallery for our* ***Jane Jacobs Centenary Celebration and walk***  11 May 2016 - 6:15pm - 8:15pm  <http://www.udg.org.uk/events/jane-jacobs-centenary>  **Graphics for Urban Design and Planning**  ***new edition***  ***sponsorship opportunity***    The first edition of Graphics for Urban Design and Planning inspired a generation of computer graphics and influenced the way we tell the story of physical transformation. It has sold over 2,500 copies in the UK alone.  A new edition is being proposed to bring readers up-to-date with current tools, techniques and processes, expanding significantly on the first edition.  If your organisation is interested in co-sponsoring this second edition, which is to be published by ICE publishing, please contact  **Bally Meeda** on 01234 353870 or email  bally@urban-graphics.co.uk | | Home  PRACTICE OF THE WEEK  **CityCAD**  [**Holistic City Software**](http://www.urbandesigndirectory.com/practices/holistic-city-software)    *CityCAD models can be projected onto a wall and options tested in real time with instant analysis*  Our CityCAD software was used to support the Grovehill Future community group in Hemel Hempstead by testing development options for a local centre at a collaborative design workshop.  CityCAD was used to build an information-rich model of Henry Wells Square, a busy and well-used neighbourhood centre. This contained a conceptual 3D model of the area, but also data on dwellings sizes, population rates, values and construction costs. The model was projected on a wall, and different options were tested on screen, with analysis of quantities immediately available.  The software helped the group to visualize proposals in 3D, and informed discussion on a range of topics relevant to the group’s neighbourhood plan:   * Is the overall quantity of development right? * If there is going to be redevelopment, how should it be phased and what part should be built first? * Where should a new community centre go? * Should buildings be restricted to 3 storeys as previously agreed? What difference would it make to viability if the buildings were permitted to be 4 storeys? * What will the new public square look like? * How many parking spaces will be needed, and can they be shared between flats and shops at different times of day?     *CityCAD – Screenshot*  **Jobs**  **Assistant Urban Designer - PRP - London**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/london-and-south-east/assistant-urban-designer-prp-london>  **Urban Designer - PRP - London**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/london-and-south-east/urban-designer-prp-london>  **1 x Principal & 1 x Consultant Masterplanner/Urban Designer - EDP - Gloucestershire**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/south-west/1-x-principal-1-x-consultant-masterplannerurban-designer-edp-gloucestershire>  **Urban Designer - JMP – Birmingham**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/west-midlands/urban-designer-jmp-birmingham>  **Community Planning Assistant – JTP**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/london-and-south-east/community-planning-assistant-jtp>  **2 x Career Grade Officer (Design & Conservation) - Islington Council**  <http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/2-x-career-grade-officer-design-conservation-islington-council>  To advertise jobs in Urban Update – please email  [administration@udg.org.uk](mailto:administration@udg.org.uk) |
| **Big Meet 5 – Design Review** | | | |
| There is a lot of interest in design review at the moment, and it is timely that the Place Alliance’s Big Meet 5 should have taken it as its focus. England’s National Planning Policy Framework states that “local planning authorities should have local design review arrangements in place to provide assessment and support to ensure high standards of design” Mandatory design review is one of the recommendations of the Select Committee report on National Policy for the Built Environment. But what is design review? Is it the review of a design by experts? Is it a quality audit? Is it a public consultation? Should it be a public exercise or a frank but confidential assessment? Is there evidence that it improves design and speeds schemes through the planning system? There are many questions that this conference attempted to address.  Professor Matthew Carmona began the day with the history of design review, tracing its origins to 1802 with the establishment of the Committee for the Inspection for Models for National Monuments, set up in the aftermath of the Napoleonic War. It became known as the “Committee of Taste”. In 1841 the Fine Arts Commission – was established to supervise issues of public taste and works of art for the newly built palace of Westminster. In 1924 the Royal Fine Arts Commission was set up to advise on War memorials. It went on to conduct design inquiries. For many years the committee pursued a policy of discretion to the point of virtually abstaining from public comment. Notable works reviewed were the GPO telephone boxes. It was a voice against the clean sweep of post War reconstruction proposals.  Finally under in the 1990s under Lord Fawsley (aka Norman St John Stevas) they become more vocal, and then became subject themselves to criticism in the press such as being elitist. (There is an anecdote about Lord Fawsley presiding over a design review where the scheme promoters had brought a scale model. “I wonder what it looks like from the south” said Lord Fawsley. “If you would like to come round to this side of the model you can see”. “I wonder what it looks like from the South” he repeated. And this continued until someone realised that the noble Lord expected the model to be picked up and rotated so that its southern aspect addressed his noble face.)  In 1999 the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment replaced the Royal Fine Art Commission. The approach taken was to have fewer reviews of higher quality. Regional design reviews soon followed on. The closure of CABE led in 2011 to the emergence of a free market in Design Review with several different approaches including:   * Public panels * Private sub-contracting * Not for profit sub-contracting * Private panels for hire * Specialist panels * Private panels   Most local authorities assumed that design advice had statutory weight, when in fact it did not. Critics described the process as “*a day out for unemployed architects with little relevant skill on the matter in hand*” or “*self-serving, fairy-dust-sprinkling grandstanding by designers whose stars were past their sell by date.* “ Less poetic criticisms were that design review was divorced from the democratic process, and there was no means to challenge the findings.  Carmona took the view that CABE’s influence was profound and profoundly positive. A lot of the impact was in the things that it prevented, and this may have been its greatest contribution. Though, referring to the Walkie Talkie he reflected that sometimes it didn’t always get it right. | **Material considerations?**  Victor McAllister of the Design Council CABE, reported on a review of design review. He raised the issue of the weight attached to material planning considerations, where generally greater weight is attached to issues raised which are supported by evidence rather than solely by assertion. Was there evidence that design review sped schemes through the planning process. Where was the monitoring? These were questions which needed to be answered.  Clearly review comes in different forms. A video prepared for the event by Ludo Campbell-Reid’s Auckland Design Office team interestingly referred to “Urban Design Review”. David Ubaka spoke about the street design quality audit methodology proposed by the CIHT, and published as Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/11 which proposes a framework of checks, and a series of specialist component audits, such as cycle audit, pedestrian audit etc, carried out at different stages. Max Farrell spoke about Place review, including the review of existing places.  **More resources needed for design support**  Amy Burbidge of the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit gave picture of running a design review and support service on limited resources. The NNJPU is a local partnership of Corby, Wellingborough, Kettering and East Northamptonshire councils together with Northamptonshire County Council which are working together to create an overall plan for North Northamptonshire. She implied a ratio of roughly 1 design staff member for every 5000 houses in production. The more numerate among the audience will have compared this figure with the ratio of 1 planner for every 5 houses built in the UK annually, and will have concluded that there is scope to redirect resources from the legal and procedural side of planning and into actual town planning and urban design.  **Developer’s perspective**  Nigel Longstaff - Group Urban Design Director – Barratt Developments plc told of their aspiration for “great ordinariness” and went on to list some of the practical problems faced by developers:   * Local authorities with out of date design guides * Highway authority requiring standard surfacing materials such as tarmac if a scheme is to be adopted * Heavy commuted sums * Parking – always a problem … some councils restrict parking, some require so much parking that there is little room for landscaping   Several speakers spoke on the practical side of running a design review service, and this continued into the discussion sessions as to the composition of panels, and whether members of the public should be involved.  **Discussion**  Should design review be carried out in public or in private? There were some who advocated transparency and openness, and on the other hand being able to offer frank or commercially sensitive opinions that it would not be possible to voice in public. The irony would be that by making the reviews fully public, openness would actually reduce, if panel members became reluctant to voice their true opinions.  The issue of inclusion was raised, and whether this should be reflected in panels. by gender, ethnicity, age, or any other attribute. It should be remembered that all professionals individually owe a moral duty to the public, and often this will be written into professional codes of conduct; there may also be legal duties under the Equality Act 2010. It is unquestionably a role for the Design Panel to ensure that the design is inclusive, and that an appropriate and proportionate amount of public consultation and involvement has been carried out.  The stage in the design process at which design review should be undertaken was an issue, and there were advocates for advocate revisiting the same design using the same panel as the scheme evolved. | | The last word goes to Ben van Bruggen, of van Bruggen Urbanism who coordinated and chaired the event on behalf of the Place Alliance, and the Place Quality Group.   * The event clearly demonstrated that there is great value in peer review – and this is the fundamental definition of design review, the review of a scheme design by experts. * The speakers also showed that there is a lot more going on than people are generally aware of. Many people think they are not doing design review when in fact they are. It could be an urban design forum organised to discuss a scheme, or sitting down with an applicant to discuss the design – these are all forms of design review. What design review isn’t are things such as the review of a neighbourhood plan, or policy documents strategy, or an examination of the future of a high street –these are is more like a project rather than review of a project. There are other tools including community involvement, but this is not design review – the review of a scheme by experts, though it may be a wise to involve councillors or community representatives through the panel or as observers. It is important to choose the right tools for the right circumstance. * As to public involvement, it is important to make comments publicly available, so that a pool of knowledge can develop. The more the design review process is privatised, the more there is a risk that this knowledge will not get beyond the panel. * The expert role of the design review panels cannot be overstressed. In a world that is ruled by procedures, and doctrine, the independence of the panel can be essential in countering the dogmatic or institutional approaches that are sometimes encountered. * There are still difficulties in conveying clearly what is meant by good or bad design, using a language that professionals, developers and politicians can all understand. Without a common language the debate about design quality will always be vulnerable to claims of elitism. * More co-ordination and collaboration is needed with the aim of raising standards and ensuring bad practice doesn't prevail.   **Next steps – An opportunity to get involved**  The Place Quality Group will be taking these issues forward. Everyone is welcome to join. To express interest, please contact the Place Alliance. |
| **Events and Webinars** |  | |  |
| Urban Design London Events coming up – extensive programme some free, some charged/ £175+VAT (Free for UDL subscribers)  <http://www.urbandesignlondon.com/events-listing/>  **What has TfL done for Design?** 10th May 2016 (09:45 – 15:00)  **Creating Streets for Cycling** 11th May 2016 (09:45 – 16:30)  **Legible London** 18th May 2016 (09:15 – 12:30)  **Dealing with Density & Planning Calculations** 19th May 2016 (Full Day)  **Understanding Streets for Life** 24th May 2016 (Full Day)  **Academy of Urbanism**  <http://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/events/>  [**Study Visit / Learning from San Sebastián**](https://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/events/study-visit-learning-from-san-sebastian/)  May 4 @ 6:00 pm - May 6 @ 5:00 pm  [**AoU Congress XI: The Future of Urbanism**](https://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/events/event-aou-congress-xi-the-future-of-urbanism-june/)  9th June London  <https://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/events/event-aou-congress-xi-the-future-of-urbanism-june/>  **Place Alliance**  <http://placealliance.org.uk/whats-on/>  **Good Homes Alliance**  **T**[**he future for Sustainable Housing Debate & GHA AGM**](http://www.goodhomes.org.uk/events/184)  UBM, 240 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8BF  <http://www.goodhomes.org.uk/what-we-do/events>  **Landscape Institute**  **Trees in Hard Landscapes - London**  Seminar 1:  15 June 2016, 2:00pm - 5:15pm  Seminar 2:  22 June 2016, 2:00pm - 5:15pm  Book here  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trees-in-hard-landscapes-seminars-reimagining-streets-for-greater-sustainability-the-role-of-trees-tickets-24487822737>  <http://www.landscapeinstitute.co.uk/events/> East Midlands **Delivering Successful Places - From Concept to Reality**  21 April  <http://rtpi.org.uk/events/events-calendar/2016/april/place-making/> West Midlands Urban Design Forum &  **MADE**  **City Builder Academy**  July 2016  <http://made.org.uk/events> Engage Liverpool **Light Night Liverpool**  **7th May**  <https://www.engageliverpool.com/events/>  **Yorkshire**  Nothing listed at the moment | **Architecture and Design Scotland**  <http://www.ads.org.uk/category/news/>  **Say Hello to architecture**  **IHBC**  [**IHBC Annual School: Worcester 2016 – People Power – Catalyst for Change**](http://ihbc.org.uk/events/?p=5527)  Thursday 23rd – Saturday 25th June 2016 Day School on Friday 24th June 2016  **Understanding the Significance & Character of Place** 24 & 25 May  **Current Approaches to Landscape Archaeology** 8 June  <http://ihbc.org.uk/events/> Museum of Walking [**http://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/events/**](http://www.museumofwalking.org.uk/events/)  **First Thursday Haiku on Foot**  Thursday 2 June 6.30pm-8.00pm  **Centre for Cities**  **Throughout June – Regional Events on Newly Elected Mayors**  [**International Conference on Cities in Transformation**](http://www.centreforcities.org/event/international-conference-on-cities-in-transformation/)  14 July 2016 | St. Catharine's College, University of Cambridge  <http://www.centreforcities.org/events/>  **Design South East / Kent Design**  <http://www.kentdesign.org/events/>  Event Calendar  **BOBMK Events**  <http://bobmk.org.uk/our-programme/>  **Oxfordshire**  **Rural and Self-Build Development – RIBA**  25th May - Oxford  https://www.architecture.com/WhatsOn/May2016/RuralandSelfBuildDevelopment-25thMay2016%E2%80%93Oxford.aspx PTRC **Transport Practitioners Meeting 2016 – Nottingham**  29-30 June 2016 | Nottingham  Call for papers open.  <https://www.ptrc-training.co.uk/Events/TPM2016.aspx> Transport Planning Society [**“Future of Transport” Workshop**, Milton Keynes](http://tps.org.uk/future-of-transport-workshop-26-may-milton-keynes)  Thursday 26th May 2016 14:30 - 17:00  <http://www.tps.org.uk/main/events/>  **Research Events**  [**Feeling**](http://made.org.uk/events/design-and-the-midland-engine) **good in public spaces – Dialogue series**  <http://www.arcc-network.org.uk/health-wellbeing/feeling-good-in-public-spaces/#.Vr3l7vmLTZ4>  [**Sensing through impairments**](http://www.arcc-network.org.uk/health-wellbeing/feeling-good-in-public-spaces/sensing-through-impairments/)  10 May, IBI, London  **CIHT**  **Society of Road Safety Auditors Conference**  21 June 2016  <http://www.ciht.org.uk/en/events/events-listing.cfm/society-of-road-safety-auditors-2016-conference>  **Northern**  **Essentials of Urban Design in Planning**  <https://www.architecture.com/WhatsOn/May2016/EssentialsofurbandesigninplanningGateshead.aspx>  **North West**  **Transport Investment and Development – What are the links**  Tuesday, 17 May 2016 at 6:00PM - 8:00PM  <http://rtpi.org.uk/events/events-calendar/2016/may/transport-investment-and-development/> | | **Latest Lectures  on UrbanNous**  ***New***  **Governance, housing policy and the consequences.**    With particular reference to London.  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/housing-policy.htm>  **Improving the quality of new housing: Negotiating improvements in delivery and design**    Amy Burbidge is Design Action Manager at North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit.  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/housing-quality.htm>  **Improving the quality of new housing: New issues for affordable housing.**    Andy von Bradsky is former Chairman of PRP, Chair of the RIBA Housing Group, Board Member of the Housing Forum and recent chair of the Government appointed Challenge Panel for the Housing Standards Review that advised on UK standards for housing of all tenures.  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/housing-affordable.htm>  **A better future for high streets and town centres.**  Julian Dobson, Urban Pollinators  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/from-agora-to-polis.htm>  **Towns and cities: Function in form**  Julian Hart, Lancefield Consulting  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/cities-function-in-form.htm>  **Designing the business model:   Sharing land uplift and unlocking long term value.**  Yolande Barnes, Director of the World Research team at Savills  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/development-economics.htm>  **Weather in the City – How Design Shapes the Urban Climate**  **Sanda Lenzholzer**  <http://www.urbannous.org.uk/climate-and-city-design.htm>  *All urban designers, architects, planners, and highway engineers should have a knowledge of this subject.*  ***UrbanNous Catalogue available on-line***  *Highlights include Christopher Alexander, George Ferguson, Hans Monderman and scores of others.*  [www.urbannous.org.uk](http://www.urbannous.org.uk)  Urban Nous is produced and operated by Fergus Carnegie for the benefit of practitioners worldwide.  **RICS**  **Placemaking and viability: delivering more and better quality developments.**  30 June - London  <http://www.rics.org/uk/training-events/conferences-seminars/rics-viability-and-planning-conference-/london/>  **RIBA**  **RTPI**  **Design in the Planning System**  12 May - London  <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/events/events-calendar/2016/may/design-in-the-planning-system/> |
| Urban Design around the WorldAustralia **Sydney invests in research to aid urban design..**   1. **Urban pinboard app enabling Developers to offer design collaboration with community** 2. **Connectivity measurement tool**, to work out how well different areas are serviced by infrastructure, public transport and community facilities. 3. **Polycentrism - building new urban hubs away from established city centres**   <http://www.domain.com.au/news/developers-to-offer-design-collaboration-with-community-through-urban-pinboard-20160430-gohxmf/>  **Queen Victoria Market must perform as a public space too, urban design expert says**  <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/queen-victoria-market-must-perform-as-a-public-space-too-urban-design-expert-says/news-story/778fa1828fd584529c168c75c33133c4> Canada **Hamilton waterfront urban design study final consultation**  <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/news/get-a-final-look-at-the-waterfront-urban-design-study-before-it-s-approved-1.3560067> India **‘Integration of technology and design should be made simpler’**  Report of the ‘Smart Cities Opportunities and Challenges, conference ’ organised by Institute of Town Planners India  <http://www.navhindtimes.in/integration-of-technology-and-design-should-be-made-simpler/> Luxemburg **Top 6 Things to do in Luxembourg for Design City 2016 - See more at:** http://uk.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1388365/top-6-things-to-do-in-luxembourg-for-design-city-2016#sthash.tYewriA7.dpuf  <http://uk.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1388365/top-6-things-to-do-in-luxembourg-for-design-city-2016> Malaysia **When a country is rapidly urbanising, it’s time to look at urban design**  [**http://www.thestar.com.my/metro/views/2016/05/02/time-to-look-at-urban-design/**](http://www.thestar.com.my/metro/views/2016/05/02/time-to-look-at-urban-design/) Pakistan **Karachi – a non-inclusive, fractured urban landscape**  <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1095329/karachi-a-non-inclusive-and-fractured-urban-landscape/> UAE **Exclusive: UAE considers creating man-made 2000 metre high mountain in bid to improve rainfall**  <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/exclusive-uae-mulls-man-made-mountain-in-bid-improve-rainfall-630079.html>  **Torrential rain in Dubai shuts schools and contributes to accidents**  <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/uae-rains-cause-253-accidents-schools-stay-shut-624493.html>  Perhaps the mountain won’t happen after all…. UK **New Hastings Pier dubbed – “The Plank”**  <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3572122/You-spent-14m-Hastings-new-pier-dubbed-Plank.html>  **Civic Voice announces shortlist of 16 schemes for community nominated ‘Design Awards’**  <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/civicvoiceawards/civic-voice-award/designawards/>  **CABE publish brief case studies on new housing developments**  <http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/news-opinion/how-design-improving-quality-new-homes>  Abode at Great Kneighton is well worth a look. The buildings are clearly a success, with varied design, quality materials and high energy performance. It is said that they are based on historic vernacular, although it is not clear which vernacular that is. The Great Kneighton expansion as a whole is quite a different matter. The main road seems to be in the trunk-road style, with super-elevation, suggesting a design speed of 40 mph or more, a glass noise barrier, and a massive roundabout lacking landscaping.  **Birmingham City University Students design urban pocket park for Gardner’s World NEC Exhibition**  ‘A Place to Dwell’– designed by students at Birmingham City University’s School of Architecture & Design, aided by Node Urban Design have created a flexible, secure and multifunctional sheltered space in  which will be relocated in its entirety to the Jewellery Quarter straight after the Show.  <http://www.eventindustrynews.co.uk/meetings-incentivetravel-conference-exhibitions-news/exhibitions/bbc-gardeners-world-live-returns-summer-nec/> USA **Sarasota form-based zoning code out for consultation**  [**http://www.yourobserver.com/article/urban-design-studio-solicits-feedback-new-code**](http://www.yourobserver.com/article/urban-design-studio-solicits-feedback-new-code)  [**http://www.sarasotagov.org/UrbanDesignStudio.cfm**](http://www.sarasotagov.org/UrbanDesignStudio.cfm)  **Comprehensive approach needed for rebuilding neighbourhoods in Philadelphia**  If you only focus on housing, what about the crime issues? What about amenities? What about the education?”  <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/04/realestate/commercial/to-rebuild-sharswood-philadelphia-goes-beyond-housing.html>  **Four competing designs for LA’s Pershing Square**  <http://www.dezeen.com/2016/04/28/competion-pershing-square-downtown-los-angeles-morphosis-james-corner-field-operations-why/> | | Latest Research, Policy and PracticeHumans Health Society **People who think they live in diverse neighbourhoods are less likely to be accepting of minority ethnic groups, - University of Sheffield**  <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/nr/diversity-prejudice-study-leeds-warsaw-1.571955>  **An investigation into growing inequalities in adult lifespan**  In England and Wales, 5% of men that have attained the age of 30 are living on average to 96.0 years, 33.3 years longer than the lowest 10%. Lifestyles are the main cause of the widening gap, with men in the lowest socio-economic group more likely to make damaging lifestyle choices  <http://www.cass.city.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2016/april/an-investigation-into-growing-inequalities-in-adult-lifespan>  **Walking through doorways causes forgetting, new research shows**  Previous research has shown that environmental factors affect memory and that information learned in one environment is retrieved better when the retrieval occurs in the same context. The act of passing through a doorway serves as a way the mind files away memories  <http://news.nd.edu/news/27476-walking-through-doorways-causes-forgetting-new-research-shows/>  Then what happens when walking through the public realm?  **Zika virus may lead to 1 in 100 risk of microcephaly and 1 in 5 risk of other symptoms in unborn children**  <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-36184799>  **Candida infections linked to memory loss and mental illness**  <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/05/160504121327.htm>  **Obesity could be linked to bacteria which may be communicable - Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute**  Researchers have found that one third of the gut microbiota from a healthy person produced spores that allow bacteria to survive in the open air and potentially move between people.  <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/05/04/obesity-could-be-contagious-like-superbug-cdiff-suggest-scientis/> Built Environment **Future of Suburbia – MIT Center for Advanced Urbanism Conference report**  **Most people want a detached home ……deal with it…..?**  “designed intelligently, suburbia can be a highly productive test bed for clean energy, clean water, food, carbon storage, social diversity, and certainly affordable housing.” The report mentions autonomous vehicles and Elon Musk’s proposed “Hyperloop”, but major issues such as health, social contact, life and lifestyles are not covered. A 1200 page book – Infinite suburbia – is to be published in 2017.  <http://news.mit.edu/2016/future-of-suburbia-conference-0427>  **Reaping the benefit of urban greenery**  Research shows urban settings could be affecting mental health — a problem more new green spaces could alleviate.  <http://www.mndaily.com/news/campus/2016/05/01/reaping-benefit-urban-greenery>  **The architecture and urban design of terrorism**  <http://swarajyamag.com/world/suicide-bombings-by-isis-portent-of-a-coming-storm>  **Retrofitting brutalist buildings**  <http://archpaper.com/2016/04/retrofitting-brutalism-peabody-terrace/#gallery-0-slide-0> Politics, Philosophy, Economics **'Storefront Index' interactive maps retail density in US cities**  <http://www.chron.com/business/retail/article/Where-Houston-s-storefronts-are-and-are-not-7386179.php>  <http://cityobservatory.org/the-storefront-index/>  **Asia Looks To Airport Cities For 'Competitive Success'**  “Our largest and most important population and economic centers were once centered around seaports, then, successively, around river ports, railroad junctions, and highways. It’s called transport-oriented development, and its fifth wave may prove to be aviation.”  <http://www.forbes.com/sites/wadeshepard/2016/04/29/asia-looks-to-leverage-airport-cities-for-competitive-success/> Energy, Climate Change **Climate-exodus expected in the Middle East and North Africa – 5 degree increase in summer temperatures possible by mid century may make part of the area uninhabitable - 50 degree centigrade mid-day temperatures may be encountered by the end of the century**  <http://www.mpic.de/en/news/press-information/news/dem-orient-droht-ein-klima-exodus.html>  As a comparison, the heat and humidity of The Cave of Crystals in Mexico - 58 degrees Centigrade, and 90-100% humidity is sufficient to kill humans within minutes Movement **Trompe** **l'oeil traffic management**  [**http://www.curbed.com/2016/4/28/11531250/3d-crosswalks-optical-illusion-india**](http://www.curbed.com/2016/4/28/11531250/3d-crosswalks-optical-illusion-india)  **South Wales Metro project**  <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/business/business-news/south-wales-metro-project-moves-11278096>  **Dutch style roundabouts, with second outer ring for cyclists, for the USA??**  <http://www.treehugger.com/urban-design/going-circles-could-we-build-dutch-style-roundabouts-north-america.html>  **French railways invest in 700mph inter-city 'hyperloop' super-tube train which could make HS2 obsolete**  <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/french-railways-invest-in-700mph-inter-city-hyperloop-super-tube-train-which-could-make-hs2-obsolete-a7012866.html>  **Light Rail Needs More Frequent Stops**  Most urban LRT lines have stops spaced at 400-500 metres.  <https://raisethehammer.org/article/2943/light_rail_needs_more_frequent_stops> | |

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