URBAN UPDATE

15th March 2013

from the Urban Design Group

A free service for all organisations and individuals who care about life in cities towns and villages including - architects – engineers – planners – landscape architects – urban designers – managers

Join the Urban Design Group – subscriptions unchanged for eight years!

New Jobs

Levitt Bernstein - Urban Design Assistant
London
http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/levitt-bernstein-urban-design-assistant

Origin 3 - Four Opportunities
Origin3 Urban Design,127 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol, BS6 6JE
http://www.udg.org.uk/jobs/south-west/origin-3-four-opportunities

In this edition ….

- Design Codes - How have they fared? - report
- Water Sensitive Urban Design – book launch
- Urban Design Awards – report
- Principles of urban design neither well understood nor mainstreamed in English planning work – UDG/UDL survey finds
- DfT report places value on public realm improvements

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RECOGNISED PRACTITIONER

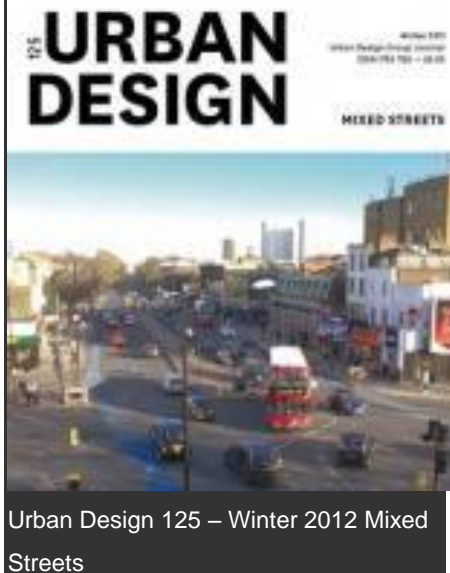FIND AN URBAN DESIGN PRACTICE

FIND AN URBAN DESIGN COURSE

URBAN DESIGN JOBS

URBANNOUS

UPCOMING EVENTS

URBAN DESIGN

MIXED STREETS

Latest Publications
Free to download online

Check the journals page on the UDG website to view some of the

Latest on Urban*nous*
Video on-demand

Design Coding –report launch
Matthew Carmona
Overview– free to view
http://www.urbannous.org.uk/Professor-Matthew-Carmona.htm

National Urban Design Awards 2013 – Winners

The Francis Tibbalds Awards

Practice Award
Allies & Morrison - District //S, Lebanon

Public Sector Award
Joint Winners:
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council - City Park
http://www.udg.org.uk/udupdate/news/awards-2013-bradford

Partnership for Urban South Hampshire - SPUD 5X5: Youth Voices in South Hampshire
http://www.udg.org.uk/udupdate/news/urban-design-awards-2013-spud-5x5-listening-youth-voices

UDG London Events 2013

Mixed Streets
Unlawful Streets
13 Mar 2013 - 6:30pm

Urban Design Directory – Launch Event
27 Mar 2013 - 6:30pm

Intelligent Cities
17 Apr 2013 - 6:30pm

Watch past UDG events on-line at Urbannous

http://www.urbannous.org.uk/

How do people actually use residential streets? - The practical impact of various design solutions. Mike Biddulph – University of Cardiff
http://www.urbannous.org.uk/mike-biddulph-urban-design.htm

Massive small – Kelvin Campbell
http://www.urbannous.org.uk/kelvin-campbell-urban-design.htm

High Streets: Identity, place and performance – Joanna Cave, David Lock Associates
http://www.urbannous.org.uk/joanne-cave-urban-design.htm

Reimagine your high street: Escaping from cloned town – Liz Cox, New Economics Foundation
http://www.urbannous.org.uk/Elizabeth-Cox-new-economics-foundation.htm

Understanding and interrogating statistics of inequality – Prof Danny Dorling University of Sheffield
http://www.urbannous.org.uk/Danny-Dorling.htm

editions of Urban Design from the late 1970s and early 80s.

Are you putting your back-copies of Urban Design to good use?

Why not help spread knowledge and understanding of urban design by giving them to a local developer, politician or community leader?

<u>Student Award</u>
Richard MacCowan, Leeds Metropolitan University - The Gas Works, Canvey: Using the principles of biomimicry to develop an urban design framework on Canvey Island

<u>Publisher Award</u>
Routledge for *The Temporary City* by Peter Bishop and Lesley Williams

The **Lifetime Achievement Award for 2013** was presented to architect and urban designer **Kelvin Campbell** for his immense contribution to urban design theory and practice over recent years. Kelvin was co-founder of Urban Initiatives in 1989 and more recently he co-founded the Smart Urbanism Group, one of the largest online communities bringing together sustainable urbanism with social innovation. Kelvin was also lead author of *'By Design'* (CABE) 2000, the national policy document on urban design, and the recent Mayor of London's 'Housing Design Guide', as well as publishing, editing and writing numerous books and articles on urban design, including 'Re:Urbanism: A Challenge to the Urban Summit', which led to his latest book MASSIVE SMALL.

The evening concluded with a **Special Award for Outstanding Service to the Urban Design Group and Urban Design** being presented to **John Billingham**, founder member of the Urban Design Group and the driving force between so many of the group's major activities over the past three decades, including Urban Design journal, the Urban Design Directory and the awards themselves. The award was presented, in the presence of John's wife and daughters, by UDG Trustee Arnold Linden who praised John's enormous output, vision and commitment; the UDG is indeed greatly indebted.

Entries for the 2014 Awards will open in the next few months

Convenor sought for New 2014 Award
For 2014 we are hoping to launch an award for clients and developers who have made a significant long-term contribution to urban design and we are currently seeking a volunteer to lead. The ability to come to London for meetings would be an advantage.
If you are interested, please email Robert.huxford@udg.org.uk / Louise.Ingledow@udg.org.uk

The UrbanNous archive is kindly provided by Fergus Carnegie

Other Events

**Venice Takeaway
@ RIBA to 27 April**
http://www.venicetakeaway.com/

On the radio

Urban Designs

Will Self laments what he sees as an absence of rational urban planning in our big cities and a fashion for dramatic skyscrapers driven by short term commercial values. "It occurred to me that the contemporary metropolitan skyline is really only a fireworks display of decades-long duration: a burst of aerial illumination intended to provoke awe, but doomed eventually to subside into darkness.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01pw5vp

Design Codes,   # News and Research

how have they fared?

Six years after the completion of a national design coding pilot programme which explored their use a report has been published through the UDG. Researched and written by Prof Matthew Carmona at UCL's Bartlett School of Planning, the report evaluates the diffusion of design coding as a tool in the planning and development process. The research comes at a time when the recently released National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) explicitly endorses their use by local planning authorities to help deliver higher quality design outcomes.

The research was based on a national survey of local planning authorities and urban design consultancies.

Headline findings include
How widespread are the use of design codes in England today?

o   In excess of a third of local planning authorities have had design codes produced for them, either through requiring or commissioning them, or otherwise through developers voluntarily submitting them as part of a planning application.
o   The use of design codes is advocated in policy in a quarter of local planning authorities, and this is rapidly increasing.
o   Around the two thirds of urban design consultancies have experience of producing design codes.
o   A significant element of diffusion is being driven by private developers, landowners or consultants submitting unsolicited design codes as part of planning applications.

What benefits do the use of design codes have?

o   Respondents believed that design codes: improve design quality, tying down 'must have' design parameters; ensure consistency (and where appropriate differentiation) in the delivery of key site-wide design principles between development phases.
o   They offer far greater certainly about outcomes and certainly to developers about the process; and bring key stakeholders together early in the process leading to smoother working relationships and to a better understanding of expectations and constraints from the start.
o   On the question of speed, codes do speed up the reserved matters planning applications associated with successive phases of large development projects, but this requires a considerable front-loading of design time to prepare and negotiate the codes.

Urban design around the World
Citymart Urban Ideas Competition
http://designbuildsource.com.au/new-urban-ideas-22-cities-prepare-to-pilot-the-future
http://citymart.com/Default.aspx

A history of future cities
St. Petersburg, Shanghai, Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and Dubai
http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/entertainment/191837511.html

Walkable urbanism as foreign policy
How the U.S. should reposition itself in a world defined less by threats from communism or terrorism and more by the global challenge of sustainability.
http://www.theatlanticcities.com/housing/2013/01/walkable-urbanism-foriegn-policy/4547/

Australia
Cities four degrees warmer than countryside: Study
A team from the Universities of Melbourne and Monash is trying to establish how street trees, parks, green roofs and green facades (collectively known as green infrastructure) can interact with urban design to reduce temperatures in cities.
http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=164602

Newcastle develops urban renewal strategy
http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-02-20/rail-off-the-table-at-urban-renewal-sessions/4529412

Perth pushes for higher urban density
The 'Transforming Perth' report, claims that 80 per cent of the Government's total infill target of 154,000 dwellings by 2031 could be built this way.
http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-02-20/unlikely-partners-launch-infill-housing-push/4530392?section=business

Canada
How urban design affects our health
Interview from Canada
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/the-city-state-how-urban-design-affects-our-health/article7616817/?cmpid=rss1

China
What makes a city great – a view from Shanghai
http://www.chinalawblog.com/2013/02/the-rise-of-new-shanghai.html

'The next generation of urbanism'
http://www.worldarchitecturenews.com/index.php?fuseaction=wanappln.projectview&upload_id=21872

Pollution
Polluted rivers…
http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/the-24000-question-would-you-take-a-dip-in-chinas-polluted-rivers-8505612.html

Airpocalypse smog
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/16/chinese-struggle-through-airpocalypse-smog

What support exists for the continued use of design codes in the future?

o The assessment amongst planning authorities was overwhelmingly positive, with the vast majority of those who had previously used design codes declaring their intention to use them again in the future as and when the right opportunities arose (namely sites large enough to justify their production).
o A large majority of planning authorities and urban design consultants who have not used codes intend to do so in future.
o Planning authorities particularly welcome the increased control design codes give them over the outputs of the volume housebuilding sector, although stressed the need for an in-built review process to maintain flexibility.

The full report can be downloaded here:
http://www.udg.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Design-Coding-Diffusion-of-Practice-in-England.pdf
www.udg.org.uk/publications/udg-publication/design-coding-diffusion-practice-england

Smartphone Apps
mini-workshop –report
Plus a list of apps for you to try

Around fifteen open minded enthusiasts turned up to the UDG's first smartphone app workshop last month. The notes of the discussion can be viewed on the UDG website.
http://www.udg.org.uk/apps-for-urban-life-and-design

Try out this selection of Smart Apps
http://www.udg.org.uk/apps-for-urban-life-and-design-Smartphone-Apps-List

Urban Design Group Solent - February Meeting

Presentations from both November and February meetings can now be downloaded on this link.
http://www.udg.org.uk/UDG-Solent-Library

o **Bournemouth Town Centre vision –** this was a brilliant demonstration by Caroline Peach of how it is possible to create support for the improvement of an area that can survive the vicissitudes of political change.
o **Eastleigh Quality Places SPG –** Eastleigh Borough Councils excellent and
o beautifully illustrated ambition

Pollution linked to cancer in villages
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/9887413/China-admits-pollution-has-caused-cancer-villages.html

http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2009/05/a-map-of-chinas-cancer-villages/

New Zealand
Good city design must pass stress test – New Zealand Herald
Herald editorial has made a case for new housing policy and the intensification of terraced houses and apartment units in Auckland it will lead to. However urban living is associated with changes in the way the brain responds to stress. (examples are citied in the article including double the rate of schizophrenia
Good urban design that integrates accessible parks, tree-lined streets and well-designed new buildings will be critical in minimising the negative effects of urban living on the brain.
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/property/news/article.cfm?c_id=8&objectid=10866151

The Valuable Art of Urban Design
A look at the origins of urban design in New Zealand, starting with the contributions made by Civil Engineers in the 19th century.
http://www.odt.co.nz/opinion/opinion/243131/valuable-art-urban-design

South Africa
A perspective on South Africa's fortress homes and "security villages"
http://www.chinapost.com.tw/commentary/afp/2013/02/20/370763/S-Africas.htm

USA

USA's 10 most walkable cities – generated by "Walkscore"
http://greenbuildingelements.com/2013/02/08/new-urbanism-americas-10-most-walkable-cities/
http://www.walkscore.com/rankings/
Find out about the Walkscore algorithm
http://www.walkscore.com/rankings/ranking-methodology.shtml

SoBro master plan calls for connectivity, flood mitigation
http://www.tennessean.com/article/20130131/BUSINESS/301310144/SoBro-master-plan-calls-connectivity-flood-mitigation?nclick_check=1

Tampa: Green Initiatives Shape Urban Design
http://83degreesmedia.com/features/encore012913.aspx

Waterfront Park Louisville named finalist for urban design award
http://www.wfpl.org/post/waterfront-park-named-finalist-urban-design-award

Walmart super centre struggling to fit into central Miami and comply with established Midtown design standards
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/grant-stern/miami-walmart_b_2717507.html

MIT Launches Centre for Advanced Urbanism
Centre will initially look developing multiple uses out of transport infrastructure
http://archinect.com/news/article/67459186/mit-launches-new-research-center-on-advanced-urbanism

- o **Cheriton development, Eastleigh–** one of the few schemes that claims to reflect local architecture and actually does.
- Minutes of the February meeting

Could you help with the ongoing Digitisation of back copies of Urban Design?

Volunteers are sought to help with a project to get all the back copies of Urban Design on line. The journal has been scanned, but help is needed with the next stage: OCR –converting the scans into a text based PDF format. If you think you might be able to help produce one or more back copies, please contact Robert Huxford – robert.huxford@udg.org.uk. Computer and software available at the UDG Office – Farringdon.

Bringing urban design skills Designing the underworld

A number of people have responded to the call in the last newsletter, and are now looking at ways of sorting out the morass of sub-street cables and pipework that are fundamental to the operation of towns and cities, and looking for ways to neatly incorporate space for tree pits, runoff storage and infiltration tanks, and underground cassette based wasted management systems.

WSUD
Water Sensitive Urban Design
Ideas Book Launch

http://www.ciria.org/service/Home/AM/ContentManagerNet/TemplateRedirect.aspx?Section=Home&Template=/ContentManagerNet/ContentDisplay.aspx&ContentID=25286

Supported by the UDG, CIRIA, the Construction Industry Research and

Tactical Urbanism in Texas
http://one.arch.tamu.edu/news/2013/2/4/tactical-urbanism-lecture/

Green urbanism
http://www.ecoseed.org/low-carbon/green-buildings/16085-palafox-creating-green-urbanism

GB
DfT Valuation of Townscapes and Pedestrianisation
This report, produced for the Department for Transport by Atkins and the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds, is intended to help address the absence of any valuation guidance in the DfT's Webtag
Willingness to pay values have been produced based on research in four locations.
- Shared space £20-25 per person per annum
- Improved surfacing £10 per person per annum

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/valuation-of-townscapes-and-pedestrianisation

Views sought over 'UK's highest' residential tower
At 293m (960ft), the 75-storey tower would be the UK's second tallest building and would provide 864 homes.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-21093503

Shale gas no panacea for UK - Bloomberg New Energy Finance.Report
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/oilandgas/9886981/UK-shale-gas-revolution-is-wishful-thinking.html

Press reaction to 20mph speed limit guidance

DfT publish revised guidance on « Setting Local Speed Limits »
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2264829/War-speeding-motorists-Drivers-face-20mph-limits-extra-cameras.html

Government urges councils to cut speed limits to 20mph in residential areas and busy town high streets
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/government-urges-councils-to-cut-speed-limits-to-20mph-in-residential-areas-and-busy-town-high-streets-8458058.html

Britain's Seven super cities
    Newcastle – science ;
    Liverpool – Culture and branding ;
    Brighton- alternative economy;
    Leeds – financial and ancillary services
    London-creative;
    Bristol-advanced manufacturing;
    Glasgow –renewable energy
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/industry/8550490/Britains-seven-super-cities-revealed-in-pictures.html

England
English Housing Survey 2010 published

Information Association has launched a WSUD Ideas Book. The document brings together a number of key strands and has identified the benefits and opportunities of WSUD in a UK context. It's a journey that no one organisation can take on their own and it will require collaboration to embrace the organisations, disciplines and individuals to deliver a radical change in how water is perceived and managed in the UK. The engagement document will be followed by a full scoping study later in the summer.

The PDF can be downloaded on: …
http://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/ciria_guidance/wsud_ideas_book.pdf

Principles of urban design neither well understood nor mainstreamed in English planning work – UDG/UDL survey finds

A survey by the Urban Design Group and Urban Design London of urban design practitioners has revealed substantial disagreement with one of the key statements in the Taylor review: that " the principles of good urban design, (contained in *By Design*).. are considered to be well understood and mainstreamed in planning work.".   Barely one fifth of respondents agreed with this contention, with the majority in strong disagreement

93 per cent of respondents anticipated that design quality and certainty in the planning system would be damaged if *By Design* were cancelled before the new guidance had been made available, Over 90 per cent of respondents wished that *By Design* should be retained until the revised guidance was in place.

As to who should prepare and maintain the revised guidance, the most popular choice was a consortium of interested groups eg central and local government, professional institutions, local design centres, academia and so on.

The results of the survey have been sent to government.

Thanks go to the 170 practitioners who participated the survey.

http://www.udg.org.uk/Taylor-Review-Survey

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6748/2173483.pdf

Using the ONS population figures, brings the rest of average household size in 2010 was 2.34, and that there was just short of 40 square metres of usable floor space per person.

South east regional strategy abolished
The 9 million population of the area are now empowered to sort strategic issues on a local basis.
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-powers-to-local-communities-as-south-east-regional-planning-abolished

Guidance on pre-application process for major infrastructure projects
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-pre-application-process-for-major-infrastructure-projects

English white population self-segregating – abandoning inner cities and suburbs in favour of countryside
Birkbeck College, University of London, in conjunction with think tank Demos.
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2269058/British-families-self-segregate-whites-abandon-urban-areas-countryside.html

Nottingham Architecture and Urban Design
http://bftfblog.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02/nottingham-architecture-and-urban-design.html

Richard Rogers: We need a new plan to build an even greater city
http://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/richard-rogers-we-need-a-new-plan-to-build-an-even-greater-city-8499562.html

Liverpool houses to be sold for £1 in bid to spark regeneration
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/9879456/Pound-land-Derelict-houses-in-Liverpool-to-be-sold-for-just-1.html

Ancient light laws to be reviewed by Law Commission
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/architecture/9880212/Natural-light-is-a-beacon-for-the-human-spirit.html

Oxford Street Retailers Launch Million Pound Global Tender for World Famous Christmas Lights
http://www.udg.org.uk/udupdate/news/oxford-street-retailers-launch-million-pound-global-tender-world-famous-christmas-ligh

Scotland
A+DS launches Design and Communities – new housing study
Research over the next two years will develop knowledge of consumer attitudes to design and policy.
http://www.ads.org.uk/designforum/features/design-and-communities-new-a-ds-housing-values-study-launched

Rethinking Wellbeing Series - 'thinking about society differently'
http://www.ads.org.uk/urbanism/features/thinking-about-society-differently

Housing starts up 11 per cent on year
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/03/housing-statistics-for-scotland06032013

Scotland integrates adult health and social care
A project which has enabled 80 per cent of patients to stay in their home rather than being admitted to hospital, is to be adapted for use across Scotland.
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/03/hospital-at-home05032013

Low Carbon Scotland: Behaviours Framework
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/03/8172

Main findings from the Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme
The report highlights the opportunity to influence behaviour through altered social norms and via 'moments of change' such as having a first child, moving house, or starting a new job
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/03/9022

Scotland's Sustainable Housing Strategy: Analysis of Responses to 'Homes that Don't Cost the Earth' Consultation
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/02/4438

Wales
Swansea beats Cardiff in urban design and development
http://bftfblog.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02/nottingham-architecture-and-urban-design.html
Paper quotes article in the Bevan Foundation Review, which criticises Cardiff Bay development etc.

Energy and Climate Change
ON the value of windpower
http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21729000.200-wind-power-delivers-too-much-to-ignore.html
Future generation of wind turbines could use superconductors
http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21729005.600-wind-turbines-supercharged-with-superconductors.html

Movement
National Geographic articles on…..movement – and whether we are genetically hard-wired to explore
http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/01/restless-genes/dobbs-text
Is the "7R" gene a factor in creating a desire for incessant movement,? Does it explain the "constant travel time" hypothesis – the claim that on average we appear to move around for about 75-90 minutes per day?

Bronze Age boat tested for sea-worthiness
Boats have been one of the key driving forces in urbanisation. Experimental archaeologists are beginning to demonstrate the capabilities of these early craft.
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/will-it-sink-fullsize-sewntogether-replica-of-bronze-age-boat-launched-to-answer-questions-about-prehistoric-seafaring-8521472.html
http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/Replica-Bronze-Age-boat-makes-history/story-18341601-detail/story.html#axzz2MqbjOCk3

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-21681465

Research and Policy

Web re-defining' human identity - report
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-21084945
Full Report – The Future of Identity in the UK
http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/policy-futures/identity

Technology changing planning and urban design practice
An essay on the impact of Sketchup and Google Earth
http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20130218-NEWS-302180327

Politics, Philosophy Economics

UK Supermarkets capture 60 per cent of retail trade, up from 46 per cent a decade ago
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2280820/For-1-spent-shops-60p-goes-supermarket.html

Is the supermall the future for town centre shopping??
Take an existing street – throw a glass canopy over the top??
http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2013/feb/17/leeds-shopping-mall-trinity-centre

Shop vacancy rates reduce slightly
The national town centre vacancy rate in the UK was 10.9% in January 2013, down from 11.3% in October 2012

Shop Vacancy rates in Wales rise to 17 per cent
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-21496427
However there are no vacancies in Mold
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-16170861

BPA Report finds parking charges are not responsible for decline of high streets
Research found that in 2012, 94% of all parking acts were free. Of the remaining 6%, over 82% cost less than £3 and 50% cost less that £1.
http://www.localgov.co.uk/index.cfm?method=news.detail&id=108474
Readers may find the conclusion something of a leap from the evidence provided. The majority of parking may be free, but if one really wants to pay to park somewhere, one generally has to drive to a town centre or railway station. Drivers are known to be very sensitive to the marginal cost of vehicle use.

Principles of urban design laid down in Ireland Retail Design Manual
Developers are being told that they must pay attention to the Department of the Environment's new Retail Design Manual and the guidance it gives on selecting sites for shopping schemes – otherwise they risk refusal from the planning authorities.
http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/finance/2013/0213/1224329974222.html

Retail design guidelines
http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownLoad,30026,en.pdf
Retail design manual
http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownLoad,30028,en.pdf

'Bookshop of the future'
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/booknews/9880105/Bookshop-of-the-future-one-step-closer-to-realisation.html

The rise of the ready meal
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21443166
Is the ready meal an urban design issue? Yes, fundamentally. The first role of towns was to trade and process food. It requires routes in and out, markets and market spaces, places to store and process food, and the houses themselves require places to prepare meals from raw ingredients, and for the middle classes in their townhouses, accommodation for cooks and servants. With the ready made meals the meals are prepared in a factory in a remote out of town locations, by people who may be paid close to the minimum wage. The town houses are converted into flats, and microwave ovens abound.

Genetic component in leadership
Research led by UCL estimates that a quarter of the observed variation in leadership behaviour between individuals can be explained by genes passed down from their parents.
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130115111553.htm

New York Grand Central Station – loveliest in the world?
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21353825

Selection of the world's finest railway stations
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21428797

Aerotropolis…. City of the future?
Will the world's cities that thrive be the ones that place an airport at their heart.
http://www.guardian.co.uk/artanddesign/2013/mar/03/aerotropolis-london-kasarda-rowan-moore

Battle against £86m Bexhill-Hastings Link Road
http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/video/2013/jan/18/bexhill-hastings-road-protesters-eviction-video
The scheme raises the question about the efficiency in which public money is spent. £86 million pays for 5 kilometres of new road, or 20 mph speed limits on 60,000 km of urban streets. Little over twice that figure would pay for the implementation of 20 mph limits in all urban areas across the entire of Great Britain.
http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/778F2F8B-34B7-4513-BB82-26AB84336DDE/0/BHLR_BAFFB_VfM_SUMMARY.pdf

Urban Design for Bicycles – a plausible, sustainable solution..
http://designbuildsource.com.au/urban-design-for-bicycles-a-plausible-sustainable-solution

Volkswagen XL1 diesel-electric car makes claim of being the world's greenest (or should that be least environmentally damaging) vehicle
127mpg in ideal conditions, 795kg weight (
http://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/geneva-motor-show-2013/radical-314mpg-vw-xl1-revealed

Volvo launch bicycle sensing car
http://www.copenhagenize.com/2013/03/cyclist-detection-system-on-volvo-cars.html
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Group of Academics backs introduction of Road Pricing
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Four out of five young drivers can't read a map - Claim by Churchill Insurance Survey
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2265917/Most-people-longer-navigate-map-reliant-satnavs.html#ixzz2Ihd81UM9

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http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2269772/French-artist-alters-road-signs-challenge-way-think.html

Technology available to reduce adverse impacts of vehicle use
Pedestrian Airbags
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http://www.telegraph.co.uk/motoring/car-manufacturers/volvo/9837302/The-future-of-road-safety.html

Humans Health and Society

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Who's kicking out ugly
http://chrisbrown.regen.net/2013/02/18/the-market-vs-planning-whos-kicking-out-ugly/

Co-creation
Co-creation is a popular technique in product design, but not when it comes to building our homes. Why?
http://www.guardian.co.uk/housing-network/2013/mar/06/designing-home-future-ask-residents

The Emergence of Container Urbanism
http://places.designobserver.com/feature/the-emergence-of-container-urbanism/37672/
This article looks at containers at a superficial level – their use as buildings. However the world economic system now revolves around the container: it has been the main enabler of globalisation and international trade, it has changed the shape and location of ports and supporting infrastructure, and of towns, cities and manufacturing industry, even streets are designed around container lorries and their tracking. This is container urbanism. The article would be better entitled container architecture.

How large will container ships get
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21432226

Intimate urbanism – the shocking intertwining of Bristolian Lamposts
http://blogs.artinfo.com/objectlessons/2013/01/24/intimate-urbanism-bristol-lamp-posts-to-engage-in-a-30000-conversation-this-summer/

Portuguese house with greenwalls
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Further research confirms health consequences of disturbed sleep
Researchers at Surrey University
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21572686

Doctors warn of obesity the greatest public health crisis affecting the UK
"Measuring Up – the Medical profession's prescription for the nation's obesity crisis£
http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/the-greatest-public-health-crisis-affecting-the-uk-doctors-demand-curbs-on-fizzy-drinks-and-fast-food-8498954.html

What humans can learn from tribal societies
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