

YEAR IN REVIEW | ARCHITECTURE

The issues keep building up

Dallas and the world paid attention to urban environments in 2014

While next year may be determinative, 2014 will be remembered as the year Dallasites obsessively turned their attention to their urban environment. Schools? Crime? The Cowboys? Yes, we care about those things, too, but issues such as the Trinity River, the demolition of historic buildings and the debate over big-box development have achieved a centrality in the public discourse.

By **MARK LAMSTER**
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1. Stream of conscience

Debate over the proposed Trinity toll road assumed center stage in Dallas politics, with proponents grasping to justify a project sold under false pretenses that has metastasized into a boondoggle that would compromise the city's greatest potential amenity.

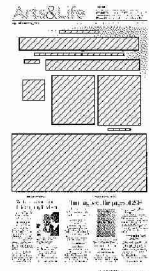
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Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

2. Flight status

Love Field got the love, but back in January, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, our no-nonsense monument to efficiency, turned 40. Yeah, it could use a nip and a tuck, but still, we'd be nowhere without it. The long-awaited extension of DART's Orange Line, offering a direct transit link to the airport from downtown, was a fitting birthday present.





Kye R. Lee/Staff Photographer

3. Eureka moments

The Thomas Heatherwick exhibition at the Nasher Sculpture Center is a joyful celebration of creativity and invention. Not every project is a winner, but across scales ranging from buttons to buildings, they collectively suggest a direction for architecture and design driven by an optimistic intellectual curiosity and sense of humanism.

4. City without history

Upon receiving a preservation award for the restoration of the Joule Hotel, billionaire Tim Headington promptly moved on a demolition of historic buildings downtown. Questions dog many other Dallas landmarks, among them the erstwhile Cabana hotel. You only get one history. Don't destroy it.

5. Grumpy old man

Frank Gehry opened a massive museum in Paris for Louis Vuitton and then gave critics the finger, telling them most of the built world stinks. Tactful? No. Accurate? Yes. It's time to put a brake on kitschy sprawl.

6. Fair in Fair Park

Jamie Carpenter's *Light Veil* at the Cotton Bowl, a work of thoughtful, modern delicacy, elevated the aesthetic standards of its surroundings. Bigger questions re-

main for the remaking of Fair Park, which is too little park and too much parking.

7. Moving on in New York

1 World Trade and the 9/11 Memorial Museum are finally open. Finally. Santiago Calatrava's transit hub? Don't ask. Meanwhile, the Museum of Modern Art demolished the neighboring Folk Art Museum, by noted architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien. It's not only Dallas that could use some preservation help.

8. Not in my backyard

Activists struggled to block a proposed Sam's Club big-box store in Uptown, where they were promised a more pedestrian-friendly development. Fight the power.

9. Bridge to nowhere

The Continental Avenue Bridge opened in Dallas, a welcome pedestrian span across the Trinity, though one compromised by the uncertain future of the proposed toll road. It's great on the West Dallas side, but cross it and you end up in no-man's land.

10. Hype and hangovers

Controversy dogged Olympic and World Cup sporting venues in Russia, Brazil, Qatar and Japan, as the massive expenditures on infrastructure and over-scaled design ignited public outrage.

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Coming up

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Monday: Pop music

Wednesday: Celebrity and arts deaths

Thursday: 2015 look-ahead in the arts

Jan. 2: Joy's Jaunts of the year in Guide

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David Woo/Staff Photographer

Demolition crews keep tearing down historic buildings downtown, and questions dog many Dallas landmarks.



Francois Guillot/Agence France-Presse

After Frank Gehry's massive museum in Paris for Louis Vuitton opened, the architect told critics that most of the built world stinks.



Ron Baselice/Staff Photographer

The Continental Avenue Bridge is a welcome pedestrian span across the Trinity.



Louis DeLuca/
Staff Photographer

The proposed Trinity River toll road debate took center stage in Dallas politics for 2014.