

Trending City

URBAN SNAPSHOT 04

Architecture, design, culture and great trends for cities - Trending City is a platform for sharing ideas from across the globe on what's keeping our cities vibrant, diverse and innovative. For more information visit us at Trending City HQ - www.trendingcity.org



FROM THE EDITOR

It's hard to believe that this is our fourth Trending City Urban Snapshot. In such a short period of time, TC has showcased inspiring ideas and trends in urban areas across the globe. As 2013 draws to a close it is important to reflect back on some of the creative, innovative and just plain awesome additions to the places we call home.

Pop-ups continue to be a popular way to showcase temporary ideas; citizens are more engaged in improving public spaces through DIY-methods and there continues to be a large emphasis on reducing greenhouse gases, becoming more energy efficient and promoting sustainable transportation.

If the past year is any indication of what the future may hold, it is clear that a lot of exciting things will emerge from cities around the world in 2014. If you have any ideas or examples of great things happening near you- we would love to hear from you! Get involved and help us promote new ideas and trends in urban living. Here's to an exciting 2014.

Jesse Darling

 JesseLeighD

FROM THE GALLERY

SKATEISTAN AFGHANISTAN

Skateistan is a new community tool that is using skateboarding as way to empower young people throughout Afghanistan. This project hopes to break the social, gender and ethnic barriers between children in this war-torn country. Read more about Skateistan here.



Image courtesy of www.theguardian.co.uk

ARTISTIC ELECTRICAL PYLONS ICELAND

Who says utility infrastructure has to be dull and boring? Choi + Shine Architects have proposed to redesign electrical pylons in Iceland to provide an artistic flare to infrastructure design. Read about how these architects are changing infrastructure here.

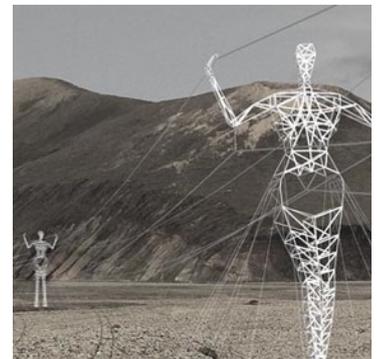


Image courtesy of Choi + Shine.

BANANA VENDING MACHINE BRISBANE

Brisbane is challenging the perception that vending machines are only stocked with unhealthy items. Instead of being filled with candy, pop or chips, Brisbane has a vending machine that sells bananas. Who says healthy food can't be quick and convenient too? Read more here.



Image courtesy of Josh Bavas.

PHONE CHARGING STREET FURNITURE NEW YORK CITY

The aftermath of Hurricane Sandy left thousands without the ability to connect with loved ones. In order to ensure that no New Yorker would ever be in this situation again, AT&T installed several pop-up solar power mobile charging stations across the city. Read more here.



Image courtesy of Street Charge.

FROM THE BLOGS

ART, COFFEE + LANEWAYS IN TOOWOOMBA

by John O'Callaghan

One of Australia's biggest trends has been the activation of laneways or the "Melbournisation" of Australian cities. Laneway cafes, bars, art galleries have been popping up all over the country in weird and wonderful underutilized spaces. Melbourne's national influence in creating social opportunities in unusual areas has hit Toowoomba, a regional centre located inland from Brisbane. Converting an old storeroom into a café has created a new space for boutique business and public art galleries in this city. Read more here.



Image courtesy of Ground Up Espresso Bar.

TRAM JAM- MELBOURNE STYLE

by Alvaro Maz

Melbourne's Music Week celebrates the city's reputation as a world-class music scene by bringing together international artists and music lovers. The logistics of an event of this magnitude can be a nightmare for everyone involved. In order to celebrate the spirit of the event while engaging in sustainable transportation, three Melbourne trams were converted into "mobile islands". Each tram will be playing summertime music for festival attendees to enjoy while being transported to and from the venue. Read more about the Tram Jam here.



Image courtesy of Melbourne Music Week.



Image courtesy of Indus Energy.

BRIGHT IDEAS IN UK TOWNS

by Tom Payne

The UK is hardly the sunniest place on earth. With the shift from fossil fuels to renewables and incredible improvements to technology, local authorities are seeking new ways to capitalize on the sun's energy to power public utilities. Improvements to PV systems, sun-tracking systems, transmission systems and energy storage are improving energy efficiency in cities. Read about how solar energy is changing waste removal in some UK cities here.

KIDNAPPING CONDOMINIUM ADVERTISEMENTS .

by Jesse Darling

Toronto has more cranes than any other North American City, but this construction boom has produced unanticipated problems for the city. The congestion of city sidewalks, which are filled with condominium advertisements, is just one negative externality. The large advertisements dominate sidewalk space, making it hard for pedestrians to get from place to place. In a creative way to bring attention to this issue, Toronto artists have stolen condominium advertisements from downtown sidewalks and replaced them with images of every day street life or old buildings. Read more here.



Image courtesy of Adam Krawesky

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