Sunday News No. 58

September 1st, 2019

Ten years ago, YDreams was challenged by APL (the Lisbon Harbor Administration) to imagine the Tagus Estuary as a stage. We proposed, with help from LNEC and others, to turn it in one of the most exciting places in the World: a living lab for art, science, technology and fun, operating as a de facto open theme park.

YDreams ideas included: The Legendary Guardian, a giant robot showing surprisingly here and there (like the Loch Ness monster); massive interactive projections and personal AR/VR experiences; energy gardens; a network of new built spaces on the water (ranging from pools to underwater studios); experimental vehicles (inspired by English Channel crossing attempts); and the use of retro communication media (such as mirrors and smoke signs) between the two River margins.
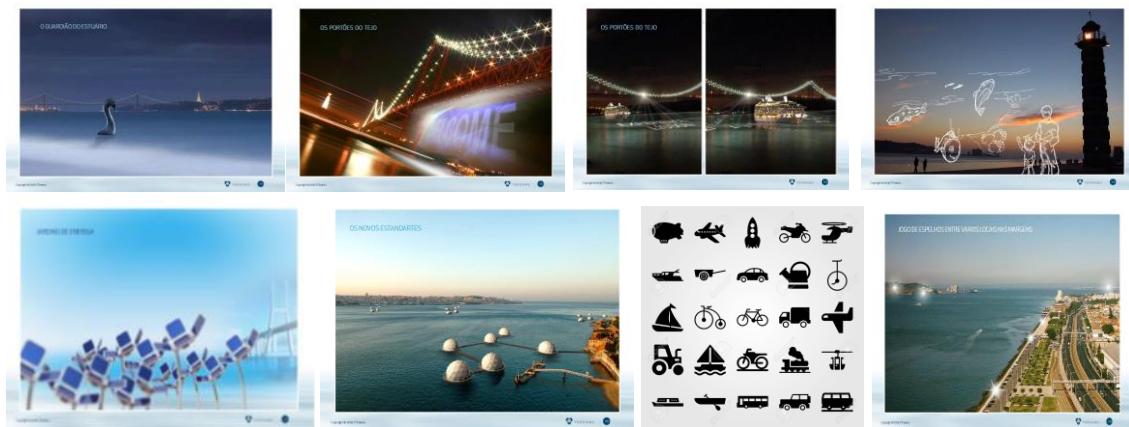
All the municipalities and public institutions involved with the Estuary supported the project. Then the crisis came to Portugal… and the Estuary is still an empty stage

Sunday News is a selection of about 20% of the links posted daily by the Explora community. I can add you if you want (need to have a Facebook account). Newcomers can check previous Sunday News editions at Explora live.

Have a Great Sunday
Antonio Camara

Education
What STEM requires; dance provides

Special issue from Bloomberg Businessweek focusing on the periodic table with one compelling story for each of the elements

Excellence by Nonsense: the competition for publications in modern science. See also The Publications Arms Race and ideas on how to improve scientific research.

Teens are creating their news outlets, as they do not trust traditional media

Food
Vertical farming is taking off

[$150 exploding cakes](#)

Mobility
[The (global) race for the electric car](#)

[The autonomy ecosystem](#), by Andreessen Horowitz

[Hyundai electric scooter](#)
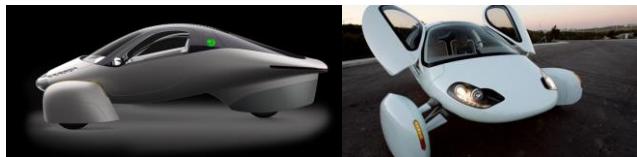
[Aptera's new life with its aerodynamic trike](#)

Cities, Nature and Clean Tech
[Google Maps now lets you pair transit directions with biking and ridesharing](#)

[Amazon sells a $37,000 tiny home that expands with the click of a remote](#)

[The Future of Cities.](#) Architect and former mayor of Curitiba Jaime Lerner famously said "if you want creativity, take a zero off your budget. If you want sustainability, take off two zeros."

[Scientists create albino lizards using CRISPR.](#) Meanwhile, [gene editing cattle have a major screwup in their DNA](#)

[The circular economy could create an enormous jobs boom](#)

Envisioning the Hyperloop
[2115: A 100-year Review of Ecomodernism](#)

Developing new companies
[13 reads on choosing what to work on](#)

[Gift economies](#)

[The future of credit cards](#)

[Funded Today](#). The World's top crowdfunding agency. Educational

[Meet the woman who's created the 21st century finance model for emerging technologies](#). Check also Riva Tez's [Permutation Ventures](#) and her [Longevity Cookbook](#) project

A sample of IPO verbiage: [Slack](#), [Peloton](#) and [We Work](#)

[Norway's 1 trillion dollars Sovereign Fund will go after promising tech startups](#)

[The Economists' Hour](#). Sorry economists you are not going to like to read it. See also [Economist's take](#) on this book, and its criticism of proposals towards [collective capitalism](#)

AR/VR/AI/QC (or DARQ)
"Elon Musk: Computers are much smarter than humans on so many dimensions. Jack Ma: Computers may be clever, but human beings are much smarter. We invented the computer—I've never seen a computer invent a human being." [China AI Summit](#)

Very interesting week on this front. Forbes announced that [5G will be about AR and that Apple and Google will dominate](#) via hardware and software. In both, they will have competition from Asia. Note that AR (and VR) will be the interface for AI and look to [the AI showdown: Google Lens vs Bixby Vision vs Huawei HiVision.](#) Recognizing objects is one of the challenges. Knowing the coordinates of the point clouds is another. [6dai](#) is doing the machine readable 3D map of the World and now they can [crowdsource a 3D space in 10 minutes.](#) Douglas Rushkoff [asserts](#) that all these developments will further develop the current advertising/e-commerce nightmare. He is partially right, but he forgets that AR will enable indexing both the Real and Data Worlds, which will be revolutionary. The 2D linear Web will be replaced by a new 3D platform.

Meanwhile, Europeans (read the EU) want their [Vision Fund](#) to invest in tech. They (we) are worried because Europe is now third fiddle behind US and China. Well, Europe dominated AR in the beginning of this decade with YDreams, Metaio, Layar and Total Immersion. But there was zero vision in the Continent (except for France that tried to save Total Immersion). All the others are now transformed in or bought by North American companies. The good news is that key (formerly) YDreams talent remains in Portugal.

Most US led efforts are machine oriented, forgetting thousands of years of human recognition of objects, our own sensors and traditional mapping (and spatial analysis) knowledge (see Portugal's 500 year old tradition [here](#), password: dafundo). There are still chances.

[BBC to launch Alexa rival that will grasp regional accents](#)

[How googly eyes solved one of today's trickiest UX problems](#). "A little robot at a library in Helsinki went from reviled to beloved, all because it got a new pair of plastic eyes"

[Robot pilot that can grab the flight controls gets its plane license](#)

[Bodies behind the bots: Colombians receiving $2 an hour guide food delivery robots](#)

[The future of wearables. Linen thread that can be sewn into your body](#)
"It could be used to create something like an internal internet, connecting organs and tissue with sensors in a seamless network"

[What is quantum computing?](#) Typology and applications

Far out

[House of Beautiful Business 2019](#) "will take place from November 2-6 in Lisbon. It brings together 500 Residents from business, public sector, science, technology, the humanities, and the arts to envision and experience new models for the future of our economies and societies at human scale".

[A growing community called Randonauts believe that journeying to random locations can help put us in new realities](#)

[Geography of loss—a global look at the uneven toll of suicide](#)

The "how do I" question each country googles more than any other. Based on English-language searches. Source: NY Times, May 2016

[Be an optimist](#), you will live longer