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12 October – 16 October 2026



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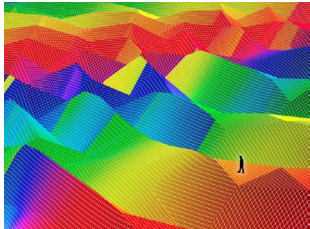
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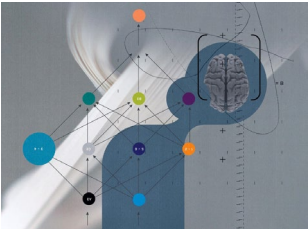
AI • Cybersecurity
Attempts to Keep Humans in the AI Loop May Actually Push Them Out



Researchers warn that approval checkpoints in agentic AI can degrade into routine permission-clicking rather than meaningful oversight. They argue that human-in-the-loop systems need redesigned workflows that preserve attention, understanding and genuine decision authority.

IEEE Spectrum | 6 October 2026

AI • Engineering
Master AI Chip Principles With New IEEE Design Program



IEEE introduced a five-course programme on AI processor architecture, memory hierarchies, dataflows and deployment trade-offs. Its dialogue-based avatar method is designed to teach hardware-software co-optimisation as AI accelerators become more specialised and complex.

IEEE Spectrum | 10 October 2026

Architecture • Sustainability • Materials
Building and Unbuilding: An Approach to Circular Timber Construction Addressing Material Waste



The (Un)Build research project explores reversible timber construction using friction, straps and reusable components instead of permanent fixings. The system treats buildings as material banks whose parts can be disassembled and redeployed rather than discarded.

ArchDaily | 7 October 2026

Architecture • Materials • Sustainability
Sculptural music centre shows bamboo as “a serious construction material”



Ekarth Studio used bamboo as the primary structural system for a music learning and research centre at IIT Madras. The project combines engineered bamboo and cane bundles in long-span vaults, demonstrating institutional-scale construction with low-concrete natural materials.

Dezeen | 7 October 2026

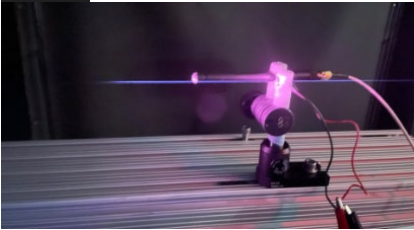
Cities • Architecture • Sustainability
East unveils updated images of its plans to pedestrianise Oxford Street



London studio East released updated public-realm proposals ahead of Oxford Street's planned traffic closure. The design reallocates road space to pedestrians, planting and civic use, illustrating a major city-centre shift away from vehicle-dominated streets.

Dezeen | 8 October 2026

Engineering • Optics • Sensors
Scientists create a lightsaber-like laser antenna that transmits radio waves



A laser pulse was used to ionise air into a controllable plasma filament that functions as a radio antenna. Because the plasma beam can be repositioned and resized rapidly, the concept could support reconfigurable communications, sensing and radar systems.

North Carolina State University | 9 October 2026

Health tech • Smart devices • Engineering
Scientists created a tiny device that can control your nerves to treat chronic pain



Engineers developed a seed-sized, battery-free wireless neuromodulation implant that can be delivered by needle near peripheral nerves. The miniature device could enable less invasive electrical stimulation for chronic pain and movement disorders.

New York University | 10 October 2026

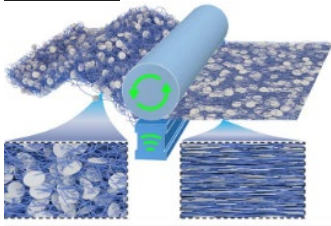
Health tech • Sensors • Smart devices
Terasaki scientists outline blueprint for next-generation wearable eye health sensors



Researchers set out design principles for wearable eye sensors that account for tear flow, blinking, evaporation and long-term biocompatibility. The framework supports smarter contact lenses and ocular patches for continuous biochemical and physiological monitoring.

Terasaki Institute for Biomedical Innovation | 8 October 2026

Materials • Engineering • Health tech
A single blast of sound solves foldable electronics' biggest heat problem



A one-second ultrasonic rolling process aligns thermally conductive fillers inside a flexible composite, sharply improving heat transport while preserving bendability. The scalable method targets foldable electronics, flexible sensors and compact medical devices.

International Journal of Extreme Manufacturing | 7 October 2026

Materials • Sustainability • Architecture
Researchers develop hybrid materials for more efficient thermal energy storage



Texas A&M researchers developed “salogels” that combine salt hydrates with polymer networks to store heat while limiting leakage and degradation. Potential uses include energy-efficient buildings, smart windows, batteries, electronics and anti-icing systems.

Texas A&M University | 9 October 2026

Robotics • AI • Sensors
Planning system ensures a robot's flight path will remain collision-free



MIT researchers developed a trajectory-planning method with mathematical collision-avoidance guarantees for aerial robots operating in unknown, changing environments. The approach is intended to make autonomous UAV navigation safer even when sensor information is incomplete.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 7 October 2026

Robotics • AI • Engineering
This Disembodied Hand Is All the Robot You Need



ETH Zurich researchers turned an off-the-shelf robotic hand into a self-contained mobile robot that walks on its fingertips and manipulates with the same fingers. Reinforcement learning lets the compact system move and operate controls in spaces that conventional arms may not reach.

IEEE Spectrum | 9 October 2026

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