solid crossword
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and shapes (in-
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iron! There is

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Editor's Note: In the last fifty years, the construction of novelty forms (solid crossword arrays with unusual outlines) has almost died out. Three examples have appeared in previous issues of Word Ways: Palmer Peterson's Hollow Diamond (May 1971) and Armless Man (Feb 1980), and Walter Shedlofsky's Windmill (Aug 1973). (The latter occasionally appears in the Enigma, the monthly publication of the National Puzzler's League.) The two Linking Word Squares forms depicted below are believed to be new. There is nothing exactly like them in puzzle literature; the closest analogues are the Cushion Square and the Hollow Diamond. Note that all squares are double, and that no words are repeated within a pattern.
Definitions of unfamiliar words:

abele - the white poplar
amide - an organic compound
anana - var. of ananas, the pineapple
anime - a type of resin
ara - a South American monkey
arête - the crest of a mountain range, or ridge between peaks
asper - a Turkish coin
Assam - a state in India (Gazetteer section)
bolos - plural of bolo, a single-edged knife
debuge - to eliminate error (Web 3)
degas - to free from gas
Edens - paradises (such as Eden)
edile - var. of aedile, a Roman urban official
elem - a type of fig
Eluls - plural of Elul, a month of the Jewish calendar
Ethan - a masculine proper name
Erato - the Muse of poetry
Erica - a genus of evergreen shrubs
eskar - a narrow ridge or mound of sand or gravel
esses - plural of the letter S
ester - an organic compound
étage - floor of a building (Fr.)
gesso - plaster of Paris, prepared for use in painting
gests - plural of gest, something done or achieved
Gigis - plural of Gigi, a feminine proper name
hocus - to cheat, deceive
hoser - or
horst - a block of the earth's crust, bounded by faults
Horus - a
Irani - a
Isère - a
kolas - plural of kolas
Leyte - a
Loran - a
losel - a
malar - plural of malar
Mediterranean
merer - the
Ninos - plural of Nino
Norias - plural of noria
Ombra - a
ovolo - a
raser - on
redes - the
reled - past
renet - var
rerage - to
Salar - a
sater - one
Sered - a
seres - plural of sera
sheas - plural of shea
steres - plural of stera
stere - a
tamas - plural of tamar
Tatar - a
Tatas - plural of Tata
telar - pert
telas - plural of tela
timor - drea
ulema - a b
Edina - a c
Horus - an Egyptian god
hoser - one who hoses (a coinage, not in Webster)
Irani - a native of Iran
Isère - a river in France (Gazetteer section)
kolas - plural of kola, a nut
lenes - plural of lenis, a soft consonant (Phonetics)
Leyte - a gulf in the Philippines (Gazetteer section)
Loran - a long-range navigational system
losel - a worthless person
malar - pertaining to the cheek
maqui - a Chilean shrub
Medes - natives of ancient Media
merer - the comparative of mere (rarely used, acc. to Webster)
ninon - a fabric, as a silk voile
Noras - plural of Nora, a feminine proper name
olent - fragrant
Onega - a Russian lake (Gazetteer section)
ovo - a rounded, convex molding
ovolo - a rounded, convex molding
raser - one who scrapes with a sharp object or tool
redes - (he) makes ready, puts in order
reled - past tense of relead, to lead once more
renet - var. of rennet, a substance for curdling milk
rerag - to bully once more (a coinage, not in Webster)
reran - past tense of rerun, to show again (as a motion picture)
retro - backward
Salic - pertaining to a 4th-century Frankish people
saran - a tough flexible thermoplastic (Web 3)
sater - one who sates, satisfies (a coinage, not in Webster)
Sered - a Biblical name
seres - plural of sere, a claw or talon
sheas - plural of shea, a tree
snees - dirks
stere - a cubic meter
stoss - the side of a hill first overridden by a glacier
tanas - plural of tana, a Sumatran squirrel shrew
targe - to cross-question (Scot.)
Tatar - a member of a Turkic group
tatas - plural of ta-ta, good-bye (hyphenated in Webster)
telar - pertaining to tissue
telas - plural of tela, a tissue
timor - dread (if capitalized, a Pacific island)
tulema - a body of Moslem scholars trained in religion and law
Edina - a city in Minnesota (Gazetteer section)