Lest anyone thinks there's a shortage of architectural criticism, the news today leads with three very different takes on Raimund Abraham's new Austrian Cultural Forum in New York City—from "Wow" to "Ow" and back again (ANN will be featuring the project shortly). Eric Owen Moss is creating a stir in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Architectural Association of Ireland's annual competition is called "the meanest in years." And at the same time Daniel Libeskind’s "Spiral" design for the Victoria & Albert Museum in London got the go-ahead, it was turned down for a Heritage Lottery grant - on the startling grounds that it was an "insufficiently distinctive" addition. Our profile of the 2002 Pritzker Prize Laureate Glenn Murcutt is now the lead feature on ANN's home page (click "Home" above).

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Gift of Vienna That Skips the Schlag: Austrian Cultural Forum By Herbert Muschamp - Raimund Abraham - New York Times

New York's 'cutting edge' tower: More 'Ow' than 'Wow': Austrian Cultural Forum By Blair Kamin - Raimund Abraham - Chicago Tribune

Austria makes soaring debut on the New York arts scene: Austrian Cultural Forum - Raimund Abraham - Christian Science Monitor

'Rubbish bags' outrage St Petersburg: The Kremlin steps in to quell the storm over radical plans for a new opera house and arts complex - Eric Owen Moss - The Guardian (UK)

Lots of prestige - but not enough players: 13 awards and a staggering 108 rejections add up to the meanest AAI Awards since the scheme was started 17 years ago (via Archeire.com) - The Irish Times

Mount Vernon Plans $85 Million Addition: ...bringing the experience of visiting the first president's home into the multimedia age. - Grieves, Worrall, Wright and O'Hatnick - Washington Post

V&A transformation spirals to £150m: 'Caff with quite a nice museum' plans rooftop spectacular - Daniel Libeskind's Spiral - The Guardian (UK)

Democrats Question Bush Policies on Workplace Injuries: new ergonomics policy...would rely on voluntary steps by corporations and yet-undeveloped guidelines - New York Times

(Practically) Live Coverage of the APA National Planning Conference - PLANetizen

Corporate architecture done right (almost): Computer Sciences Corp.'s new downtown complex works in near-perfect harmony with it natural surroundings and city ideals - Page Southerland Page Architects - Austin American-Statesman

Brave new city; Under-35 set creates designs for orphaned spaces: "Orphaned Spaces in the Public Realm" competition and exhibition - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

John McAslan + Partners plans for Deptford gin distillery get go-ahead: a 26-storey tower and conversion of an old gin distillery for a £60 million mixed-use scheme - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Debate on Hawthorne: mixed-use development...plans were unveiled last week for a modern design with towering glass windows, community leaders balked - Vallaster and Corl Architects - The Oregonian

A top scorer: One of the most environmentally sustainable homes in Australia - TT Architecture - Infolink (Australia)