An almost refreshing change of pace today: There’s only one story about Ground Zero, and it’s about developer Larry Silverstein denying he will bow out (or be bought out) of his 99-year lease for the World Trade Center site.

Speaking of developers, there is a positive take from one on the AIACC’s Certified Development Strategist designation for architects. And the timing seems right considering a new strategy universities and developers are using to finance new student housing.

Elsewhere: Two books on New Urbanism should be interesting summer reading (or not). The headline about big names failing to show at the opening of the UIA Congress in Berlin yesterday is slightly misleading (it appears that Peter Eisenman was stuck on a plane, and his opening speech had to be rescheduled). Meanwhile, there seem to be plenty of big names milling around Berlin the city, which was described as “outpalying Las Vegas in mythmaking.” Vegas may not be getting its billion-dollar design center as soon as it would like. Moscow has plans for more mega-malls. Views on the Museum of Glass and MoMA QNS are plus and minus. Adaptive re-use of train stations is not as simple as it may seem, but it is being done a lot - with (mostly) success. It will be a white yet before we know if we’ll see Renzo Piano’s “shard of glass” rise in London. McMansions are tinderboxes. It might be just the right time to look into moving to a 13th century Italian village wired for the 21st century… and much more.

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