Urban planning issues proliferate. In Leeds, UK, an architect has established a forum that brings together key players who don’t often communicate with each other - or the public. As for Ground Zero, other options are being explored to provide 11 million square feet of office space. Apparently, Herbert Muschamp and the New York Times are taking matters into their own hands with a “package” of notable names that “will resemble something akin to an architectural Pro Bowl” (but no one named would comment). Two young Israeli architects are (for all intents and purposes) censured by the Israel Association of United Architects - an exhibition and catalog they were commissioned to do for the World Congress of Architecture were canceled, fearing they “would damage Israel’s image abroad by presenting a uniformly hostile view of the Israeli settlements…” Meanwhile, a “suburban dream” rises in the hills of Jerusalem. Princeton may be sticking to Gothic Revival, but MIT sees an obligation to create significant architecture. New York City has plans for unified street furniture (we really liked the cows). Sports and housing get the go-ahead in Islington, UK. Michael Graves Portland Building was (and still is) “a real deal.” On a lighter note, you, too, can live in a manse like Tony Soprano’s…and much more.

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Pioneering Forum Stimulates Urban Regeneration Debate: A British architect’s vision...brings together key players who shape cities and towns throughout Yorkshire. - Ian Tod/Allen Tod Architecture

Proposals Could Expand Memorial Site: options that would reduce by nearly one-third the amount of office space that is planned for ground zero. - New York Times

Off the Record: On Sept. 8, The New York Times Magazine, led by Herbert Muschamp, will lay out its own vision...future of Ground Zero. - Fred Schwartz; Rafael Virkky; Charles Gwathmey; Peter Eisenmann; Richard Meier; Bernard Tschumi; Stephen Holl - New York Observer

Are Politics Built into Architecture? ...slice of history helps explain the intensity of a dispute currently dividing Israeli architects. - New York Times

Homes Lost and Found on Hill Where an Israeli Project Rises: Har Homa is becoming a reality of stark white stone and glass brick, a suburban dream hewn from a tormented landscape. -New York Times

MIT goal: a campus to inspire the mind: now embarking on a building program that is probably bigger and riskier than anything of its kind in the nation today. By Robert Campbell - Frank Gehry; Stephen Holt; Kevin Roche; Fumihiko Maki; Charles Correa; Moore Ruble Yudell; Laure Olin - Boston Globe

Mayor proposes unified street furniture plan: Once the resolution is OK’d, the Department of Transportation will release a request for proposal. - Crain’s NY

Arsenal clears final hurdle to new £250 million stadium: the £400 million plans include a sealed waste and recycling scheme by housing scheme... - HOK Sport+Event+Venue; Sheppard Robson; Allies and Morrison - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Landmark to Frugality: Portland Building designed by Michael Graves- NY Newsday

A Toast to a Man Who Left His Imprint on L.A. - Welton Becket- Los Angeles Times

Big Brother amidst invisible architecture: National Museum of Contemporary Art focuses on the idea of surveillance and its influence on the architectonics of life- Athens News (Greece)

Going Retail With Market Research: The walls have ears -- and eyes -- at the Once Famous shop... - Wired magazine

For You and the Gang, a House Like Tony’s: in one of those moments when life blurs into art..."The Sopranos" house available to anyone. - New York Times

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