Grand plans for abandoned land in California. -- Ground Zero commentaries: the finalists are "the best proof yet that serious architecture will play a role in the redevelopment of one of the most important sites in U.S. history." -- "This is not just another real estate project. It is the supreme urban planning test of our time." -- Of monuments and memorials. -- Then there's the West Side. -- Teaching architecture and social responsibility. -- A San Diego school innovates while Miami schools crumble (with claims architects carry much of the blame). -- History being built in Rome. -- High praise for Viñoly museum design, but he WTC win raises fear that "Big-time architect comes to town and gives us his second-best effort." -- New space for London Symphony Orchestra - corpses not included. -- In Minneapolis, praising and panning Nouvel and Graves projects. -- FLW tower arts center and hotel worth a trip to Bartlesville. -- Corporate interiors tied to employee satisfaction (there's a new concept). -- The master of "blob architecture" designs an exhibition of artful blobs. -- The spectacle of architects' spectacles.

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Good Urbanism: RiverPark Master Plan to transform 700 acres of abandoned gravel-mining pits and a failed commercial project - AC Martin Partners [images]- ArchNewsNow

Commentary: Making ground zero fit: The finalists' designs share an ability to bend to commercial and political interests. By Nicolai Ouroussoff- Los Angeles Times

For WTC site, 2 good choices, but many questions remain. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Monuments and Memories: What History Can Teach the Architects at Ground Zero- The New Republic

The trail of tears: memorials multiply. As the war drums beat, we take stock of the mania for commemoration that has overtaken New York and Washington- The Art Newspaper

Grand Vision for Remaking the West Side: ambitious proposal to be unveiled tonight- New York Times

Designing Diversity: Seattle architect gives students the building blocks for social change - Sharon E. Sutton- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Guajome Park Academy innovates: charter school is creating an environment that mimics the business world to support its nationally recognized program - Sprotte+Watson Architecture and Planning- San Diego Union-Tribune

Crumbling Schools: Tens of millions wasted in slow, sloppy construction, and Miami-Dade children are the losers- Miami Herald

Rome rises again: Amid sites layered with history, new projects are reenvisioning the city while carrying its long legacy forward. By Nicolai Ouroussoff; Renzo Piano; Richard Meier; Zaha Hadid; Massimiliano Fuksas [images]- Los Angeles Times

Viñoly's Cleveland Museum of Art design heads in right direction. By Steven Litt- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Invasion of the bodysnatchers: How do you fit rehearsal rooms, toilets, a cafe and a library into a renovated Hawksmoor church? You dig up 1,000 corpses. By Jonathan Glancey- Levitt Bernstein Associates- Guardian (UK)

Commentary: What we think of the revised Guthrie, Children's Theatre designs. By Linda Mack - Jean Nouvel; Michael Graves- Minneapolis Star Tribune

Checking in at a Frank Lloyd Wright: in the tallest building designed by the architect there will soon be beds. - Wendy Evans Joseph Architecture- The Scotsman (UK)

Firms betting open-office design, amenities lead to happier, more productive workers - Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates; The Design Alliance; Studios Architecture- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

At Heinz, it's hoped openness begets oneness at renovated Gimbels quarters - The Design Alliance- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Show centers on architect's favorite shape: Greg Lynn likes blobs - Philadelphia Inquirer

Let Me Guess, You Must Be an Architect: "Make me a pair of glasses just like..." [images]- New York Times


- Raimond Abraham: Austrian Cultural Forum, New York City
- Michael Jantzen: M - House, Gorman, California