Arthur Erickson's 80th a cause for civic celebration. -- You, too, can buy a St. Petersburg palace - and have money left over for restoration. -- Where the big bucks for big projects come from these days. -- Another New Jersey land initiative: sprawl or smart growth, depending on whom you talk to. -- Timely questions raised re: Kennedy Center expansion and plans for a Manhattan stadium. -- In China: A Scottish firm wins big in Beijing, and protesting too much "novelty architecture" and "squandered state assets on quirky notions of modern grandeur." -- Two cases of possible conflicts of interest in the U.K. -- Culture by committee at Ground Zero. -- Four proposals to bring Lee Halles back to life. -- Huzzle waves poetic about Nervi's Manhattan bus station. -- Alsop would rather you either love or hate (and eventually learn to love) his buildings. -- Interview with editor of the new book that celebrates African-American architects. -- AIA selects 2006 president.

Erickson's Vancouver: CITYSCAPE I: Architect Arthur Erickson's influence on the city will be felt for centuries...[his] upcoming 80th birthday is cause for civic celebration. By Trevor Boddy - Vancouver Sun

Oligarchs line up to buy listed buildings: The governor of St. Petersburg has proposed legislation that will allow the sale of palaces for half their estimated value — but to be restored - The Art Newspaper

Q&A: The Big Money for Big Projects: This isn't your father's venture capital. Amusement parks, satellite networks, oil fields, toll roads: HBS Professor Benjamin Esty studies financing of large projects - Harvard Business School - Working Knowledge

Second Part of Land Deal Speeds Up Development: Supporters say it will help fight suburban sprawl and speed the process of urban revitalization [vs.] "This will give New Jersey the worst environmental rules anywhere in the country." - New York Times

Hearing on Kennedy Center Expansion Raises Timely Questions: By the time the project is completed, its cost is likely to exceed half a billion dollars. By Roger K. Lewis - Rafael Vinko; Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn - Washington Post

Stadium of Dreams: With evangelical fervor, deputy mayor has been selling a plan to remake Manhattan's West Side with a stadium for the Jets at its center. But when the cheerleading stops, a question remains. Does the plan make sense? - Kohn Pedersen Fox [images] - New York Magazine

RMJM Win Competition To Design Beijing Olympic Green Convention Centre: ...master plan concept for the grounds by Sasaki Associates and Tianjin Huahui Architecture and Design [image] - Archiseek (Scotland)

A Glass Bubble That's Bringing Beijing to a Boil: "...some Chinese cities have become experimental sites for novelty for novelty's sake by some foreign masters" - Paul Andreu; Herzog + de Meuron; Norman Foster; Rem Koolhaas/Ole van Schemer - New York Times

Terry Farrell in Edinburgh conflict of interest row: Upset as council-owned client lines up city's design tsar for £60 million flagship project - BD/Building Design (UK)

Stuart Lipton is expected to stand down as chairman of the Commission for Architecture & the Built Environment after independent auditors report on potential conflicts of interest - BD/Building Design (UK)

At Ground Zero, Culture by Committee: The arts at Ground Zero are being entrusted to second string organizations. - Wall Street Journal

Paris Prepares to Take Back Its Belly: Les Halles now faces a new future. - Rem Koolhaas/OMA; David Margirison; Jean Nouvel; Winy Maas/MVRDV [slide show] - New York Times


Building a new vision: As architect Will Alsop announces his plans for a new Mersey project [Fourth Grace], Jane Woodhead reports from Toronto on his latest building, - icLiverpool (UK)


Katherine Lee Schenck, FAIA, Elected 2006 AIA President - AIArchitect

Metaphors for Motion: University of Connecticut Farmington Musculoskeletal Institute by AHSC Architects [images] - ArchNewsNow

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