Some interesting responses in architecture critics’ survey. -- American architects struggle for simplicity. -- Developer calls British architects "Johnny-come-latelys" in social housing. -- Prefab making city life affordable. -- Chicago reclaiming its architectural crown. -- Toronto gets serious about becoming beautiful. -- A Massachusetts museum sparks an experiment in a town’s creative economy. -- Project for Public Spaces doesn’t give very high marks to Koolhaas library or Gehry buildings. -- Big museum plans in the Persian Gulf. -- New life for the Tent of Tomorrow? -- Lower Manhattan getting greener every day. -- Universal design principles inspire a home designed by university architecture lab. -- "Tribute in Light" to be an annual event. -- Affordable housing a new focus at Arizona State University. -- Phaidon Atlas is big and beautiful, but what does it tell us about architecture? -- Weekend diversions: Corvettes to Cuisinarts in Manhattan; iconic architectural photography in Massachusetts.

The Architecture Critic: A Survey of Newspaper Architecture Critics in America-
National Arts Journalism Program, Columbia University

American architects struggle for simplicity: The fear of empty spaces is driving a wave of overbuilding among architects - Staten Island Advance

The Johnny-come-lately of social housing: developer: "I am deafened by the silence of the RIBA [Royal Institute of British Architects]...not entering the debate about solving any of the social problems of today through architectural means." - Independent (UK)

Absolutely pre-fab: The cost of city-centre living is shooting up, but developers are using new construction techniques to keep prices at bay - Urban Splash; Building Design Partnership; Jasper Sanders - Independent (UK)

Chicago reclaims its architectural crown: hopes to stage an architectural renaissance with a $475m (£260m) Millennium Park - Frank Gehry; Jaime Plensa; Anish Kapoor; Rem Koolhaas; Helmut Jahn; Ralph Johnson - Guardian (UK)

Beautifying Toronto by bits and pieces: Time to stop complaining about our city's dowdy appearance and do something - Toronto Society of Architects (TSA); Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) - Globe and Mail (Canada)

What MassMoCA Has Wrought: North Adams's experiment with the creative economy - Wall Street Journal

Mixing with the Kool Crowd: Rem Koolhaas's new Seattle Public Library has garnered accolades from critics of every stripe. Have architecture critics forgotten how to judge public spaces? PPS presents a plan to remind them how it's done. - Project for Public Spaces

Making Places: Shame on You! Breaking down the Bilbao: A graphic look at why Frank Gehry’s buildings fail as public spaces. - Project for Public Spaces

The Guggenheim of the Persian Gulf: the towering ambitions of Sheikh Saud al-Thani - IM Pei; Arata Isozaki; Santiago Calatrava - Independent (UK)

Tent of Tomorrow looks like yesterday; first step in the city's effort to find a new use for New York State Pavilion...built for the 1964-65 World's Fair...Parks officials will accept letters of interest through Aug. 11 - Frank Campione/CREATE Architecture Planning & Design; Philip Johnson Alan Ritchie Architects - NY Newsday

Greening Ye Olde Manhattan: Lower Manhattan is getting greener by the day, thanks to the city's program to restore and create 14 parks downtown in the wake of 9/11. By David W. Dunlap [slide show] - New York Times

"Vitruvius": Home built according to principles of universal design to be presented at home show - Research Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access (DEA Lab) - University at Buffalo Reporter

Twin Beams to Return to City Skies, but Costs Are Daunting: "Tribute in Light"...has been guaranteed a place in the night sky every Sept. 11 for at least the next five years. - New York Times

Arizona State University lands expert for think tank on housing - Michael Pyatok - Arizona Republic

Fetish Items of the Rich and Famous: The Phaidon Atlas may be beautiful, but what does it tell you about architecture? By Christopher Hawthorne [images] - Slate

"Corvettes to Cuisinarts: Six Decades of Diversity in Industrial Design": The Art of Making Things That Look Good and Work...beautiful and useful objects at Pratt Manhattan Gallery - New York Times

Ezra Stoller at Williams College Museum of Art: genius on display - iBerkshires.com
