Design resolutions for the new year from the NEA Director of Design/Mayors' Institute on City Design. – Not a lot of cheerleaders for affordable housing and smart growth strategies in Massachusetts. – Opinions differ about Philadelphia's fight against blight. – High hopes (and high design) for Harlem. – Planner has big plans for Anacostia Waterfront Project. – Urban investors prefer Washington, D.C. to London and Tokyo. – Putting a lid on big-box retailers. – New police stations are community-friendly. – Affordable housing reader's guide. – Houses built by robots and pre-fab in our future. – Wanted: Peace Bridge design. – Foster's bridges, literally and figuratively. – Danish professor studying American fascination with Danish design. – American engineer deciphers Eiffel Tower's elegant shape. – One we couldn't resist: from the Guardian review of the film "White Noise": "Michael Keaton...plays an architect – a dream job in films, conferring creativity and class and generally requiring nothing more taxing than standing around pointing at cardboard model buildings." (If only it was that easy!)

Jeff Speck: Dear mayors: Vibrant cities need your vision. City Design Resolutions for the New Year- Commercial Appeal (Memphis)

Little support for smart growth. Massachusetts' latest strategy to build more affordable housing and limit sprawl is drawing little enthusiasm. - Boston Globe

Mayor Street's fight against blight proceeds ahead of schedule: The divergent opinions about the [Neighborhood Transformation Initiative] show how difficult it is to gauge whether the program is making a lasting difference. - Philadelphia Inquirer

High Hopes for Harlem: A group of investors is betting $220 million on a new Harlem renaissance, in the form of a new office, hotel and retail complex. - Enrique Norten [images]- The Slatin Report


Washington, DC top spot for urban investors: bested London and Tokyo for the third year in a row. - Washington Times

Wauwatosa wants to put a lid on big boxes: joining a growing number of communities across the nation looking to impose stricter limits on - and sometimes capping the size of - so-called big-box retailers. - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Arresting design: police stations get a lift: ...spiffed-up buildings play an even more complex social role. - WWCOT Architecture; OWP/P; Roth & Sheppard Architects- San Francisco Chronicle

Affordable Housing Reader: ...more than 100 documents and articles from APA publications that examine the affordable housing problem. - American Planning Association (APA)

Houses built by robot? If scientist gets his way... takes its instructions from an architect's computerized drawings and then squirts successive layers of concrete, one on top of the other, to build vertical walls and domed roofs. - Los Angeles Times

Forecast: Fast and Warmer: This may be the year the prefab housing industry finally takes flight. By Julie Irvine - Charles Lazor/Flatpak; Werner Aisslinger/Loftcube- New York Times

International bridge designers and architects invited to participate in design competition for the new Peace Bridge- Canadian Architect

Building bridges to the people: Sir Norman Foster: The striking designs of Britain's best-known architect are admired and denounced in equal measure, but are always popular with the public. - graduateengineer.com (UK)

Bridge in the clouds: Something as wonderful as this could probably never be built in Britain. Grand Viaduc du Millau - Norman Foster- graduateengineer.com (UK)

Danish detective: A question of desire: Professor wants to understand U.S. enthusiasm for his country's designs- San Francisco Chronicle

Elegant shape of Eiffel Tower solved mathematically [by] American engineer- PhysOrg

-- Richard Meier: Jesolo Lido Village, Jesolo Lido, Italy
-- Rojkind Arquitectos: casa pR34, Tecamachalco, Mexico
-- Travel: Design Hotel, Great Eastern Hotel, London
-- Book: Eating Architecture, Edited by Jamie Horwitz & Paulette Singley

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