Jane Jacobs takes big book prize for "Dark Age Ahead." -- A critical look at contemporary architecture: several starchitects raked over the coals, but should make at least traditionalists happy.

Wal-Mart pledges big bucks for nature to make up for its sprawling footprint (not all are convinced). -- Emerson College has big plans to revitalize Boston's Theater District. -- Preservationists not pleased with Chicago Art Institute's demolition plans: "the accomplishments of our secondary architects are being relegated to persona non grata." -- A vision for a "New Suburbia" gaining steam on Long Island. -- Architectural Association of Ireland awards pass the torch to a new generation. -- A garden designer helps heal the landscape in Panama, including a Gehry/Mau-designed museum of biodiversity. -- A Moscow architect holding his own against foreign talent. -- At a Milan Fair exhibition, contemporary architects take on legendary houses.

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Jane Jacobs snags book prize for stark work: Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing award of $15,000 goes to urban thinker for "Dark Age Ahead" - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Science, Pseudo-Science, and Architecture: I wrote a critical survey of Princeton University's architecture. First there were the normal people -- students and alumni alike -- who tended to be quite supportive of my critique. Then there were the architects. - Tech Central Station

Wal-Mart pledges $35 million for wildlife: compensating for wildlife habitat lost nationwide beneath its corporate "footprint." Sierra Club remains critical of giant due to sprawl (AP) - MSNBC

At last, 'Welcome to Manhattan': New Staten Island Ferry terminal is an elegant addition to city's architecture. By Justin Davidson -- Frederic Schwartz [images] - NY Newsday

Emerson College to take on Paramount Theater project: $70 million project would redevelop the Theater District landmark and two neighboring properties -- Graham Gund; Elkus/Manfredi Architects - Boston Globe

Art Institute gets land, preservationists peeved: ...see the destruction of the theater and modification of the plaza as another attack in recent years on the work of both men. -- Howard Van Doren Shaw; Walter Netsch; Renzo Piano - Chicago Tribune

Vision Unveiled for "New Suburbia": addresses the need for planned development within a 3-square-mile area in the center of Nassau County, Long Island. -- Fox & Fowle Architects; The STV Group - Buildings.com

Growing acceptance that good design is more than worth it: After 20 years of the Architectural Association of Ireland Awards, it seems that the torch for cutting-edge design has finally been passed to a younger generation of Irish architects... By Frank McDonald - The Irish Times

Relative youth has its day at Architectural Association of Ireland (AAI) awards. By Frank McDonald -- Boyd Cody; Niall McLaughlin Architects; Cullen Payne; Donnelly Turpin Architects; Murray O'Laoire Architects/Arup; O'Donnell + Tuomey; MV Cullinan Architects - The Irish Times

Panama Calling to Preserve Its Edens: Edwina von Gal, a garden designer, is helping to restore parts of the Panamanian landscape... [also] creating a biodiversity museum with Frank Gehry... [slide show] - New York Times

A Museum Waiting to Spread Its Wings: Edwina von Gal went to Panama two years ago to help create a park for the $50 million museum of biodiversity designed by Frank Gehry and Bruce Mau... - New York Times

Standing Firm Through Moscow's Building Boom: Moscow is emerging as a prime destination for some of the world's leading architects. Mikhail Khazanov...one of Moscow's premier architects...is among the few Russian masters who not only held their ground... - Forward

In Milan, Reimagining Legends: "Enter Slowly" looks at what happens when design and human drama interact. -- Le Corbusier; Gray; Aalto; Schindler; Kenzo Kuma; Steven Holl; Michael Maltzan [images] - New York Times


April '05 Build Business: Generating the Most Profitable Fees. By Eric P. Mott

-- Diller Scofidio + Renfro with Field Operations: The High Line, New York City
-- Book: Nanoarchitecture: A New Species of Architecture By John M. Johansen; photographed by Michael Moran