ArcSpace brings us a photo-essay of the building of a Gehry museum in Germany, and a new theater in The Netherlands. -- Recent rants against New Urbanism reveal less about the movement's real flaws, and more about one line of deceptive attack. By Michael Mehaffy, Director of Education, The Prince's Foundation in London- PLANEten

Don't Be Smart, Be Smarter: Sometimes Master Planners Miss the City Right in Front of Them..."smarter growth": an increased focus on center cities and their ragged edges. By Sam Hall Kaplan- LA Downtown News

Once upon a time in Mexico City: Despite its many problems, this remains a remarkably urban centre. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Annoyed over Beijing's "alien" theatre: The growing western influence has raised concerns among Chinese architects that their city is being turned into a testing ground for foreign counterparts to experiment with often outlandish and expensive designs. -- Andrei Koohfas; Foster, Herzog & de Meuron- The Sunday Times (UK)

Impact of a Stadium: A Look at Other Cities: Officials for the Jets and the city argue that the building will be an agent of renewal. Opponents say the stadium is a brassy and architecturally undistinguished behemoth... -- Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates; Pelli; Cooper, Robertson & Partners- New York Times

Now and Zen: Trees, flowers, pavilions, water... Expo 2005 [Nagoya, Japan] is more like an ancient Japanese palace garden than a design showcase. Jonathan Glancey is less kinder to start from scratch. By Deyan Sudjic- Toronto Star

A Forest of Pillars. Recalling the Unimaginable: The new Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, designed by Peter Eisenman...is able to convey the scope of the Holocaust's horrors without stooping to sentimentality... By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]- New York Times

A memorial to incompetence: As it opens again, the Diana fountain is still bogged down in controversy... This is so far from the design that won the competition that it would have been kinder to start from scratch. By Devon Sudic -- Kathryn Gustafson- Observer (UK)

Edmonton to pick among luminaries: four design teams in the running for a $48-million commission to revamp the Edmonton Art Gallery. -- Zaha Hadid; Will Alsop/Quadrangle Architects; Randall Stout; Arthur Erickson/Nick Milkovich/Eugene Dut;- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Rebuilding the Box: Minneapolis museum's expansion another step in modernization of museums on the 'central coast'. The newly expanded Walker Art Center is calculated to please. By Steve Paul -- Herzog & de Meuron; Barnes (1971); Pelli; Nouvel, Graves; Gehry [images]- Kansas City Star

Designing the Future: In a new interview series, Newsweek talks to a leading ecological architect whose goal is nothing less than eliminating waste and pollution. -- William McDonough/McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry- Newsweek


Building on Sacred Ground: Toshiko Mori likes a challenge: Altering the work of the most revered modern masters, without offending the purists. By Fred Bernstein -- Wright; Rudolph; Breuer; Lee [images]- New York Times

Designing inside the box: Historic renovations to older buildings and a regional boom in infill construction are fueling new design challenges for local architecture firms. -- Trivers Associates; HKW Architects; Mackey Mitchell Associates- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

San Dieguito Union High School District [Encinitas, CA] Performing Arts Center Design Competition: Statements of Qualifications deadline: May 25- San Dieguito Union High