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-- Under construction: Raimund Abraham: JingYa Ocean Entertainment Center, Beijing, China
-- Randall Stout: Art Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke, Virginia

Tower of banal: Latest Freedom Tower design erases original vision of remembrance and renewal...the latest and most visible sign that the redevelopment is slouching toward mediocrity. By Blair Kamin -- Chicago Tribune

Call for Entries: Cityscape Architectural Review Awards 2005: “Design For An Emerging World”: projects in the Gulf states, the Middle East, Africa, South America and Central, South and East Asia; deadline: July 31 -- Cityscape/Architectural Review

The Mall That Would Save America: Destiny U.S.A. _aspires to be not only the biggest man-made structure on the planet but also the most environmentally friendly. Equal parts Disney World, Las Vegas, Bell Laboratories and Mall of America -- with a splash of Walden Pond... [image] - New York Times

A Livable Shade of Green: Newly released data show that Portland, America’s environmental laboratory, has achieved stunning reductions in carbon emissions...while booming economically. At the Group of 8, that should be a no-brainer... - New York Times

Holcim Foundation First Forum for Sustainable Construction releases publication: First Forum: The diversity of sustainability -- Eduardo Souto de Moura; Winy Maas/MVRDV; etc. - Holcim Foundation

Capital vision for new city within a city: Architects plan development in east London to house 500,000 -- Richard Rogers; Norman Foster; Will Alsop; David Adjaye; Josep Acebill; Terry Farrell; Peter Hall - Guardian (UK)

Turning over a new Leith: Developers masterminding a £2 billion overhaul of the port over the next 20 years want cutting-edge architecture to shine on Edinburgh’s new waterfront. -- RMJ (image) - The Scotsman (UK)

Seeking First to Reinvent the Sports Arena, and Then Brooklyn: Frank Gehry’s new design for a 21-acre corridor...suggests another development model: locate real talent, encourage it to break the rules, get out of the way. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Olin Partnership (slide show) - New York Times

Futuristic luxury homes unveiled: A showpiece collection of futuristic luxury homes set in a Cotswold nature reserve and designed by some of the UK’s top architects unveiled. -- Will Alsop; Piers Gough; Eva Jiricna; Sutherland Hussey; Roger Sherman; Sarah Featherstone; Alison Brooks; Richard Reid (link to images) - BBC News

Walking the Line on SCI-Arc: A Lawsuit Ends, a Neighborhood Looks to the Future, and an ‘Embedded Critic’ Speaks. By Sam Hall Kaplan - LA Downtown News

Hubris on the hill: One home is endangered yet lovely. Another is all spiffed up but still a mess. When it comes to Frank Lloyd Wright and L.A., nothing is quite as it seems. By Christopher Hawthorne (images) - Los Angeles Times

Marriage of old and new: Architect Raja Datuk Kamarul Bahrin Shah...said preservation of traditional heritage can be achieved by a practical marriage between traditional elements and contemporary materials. -- Senibahri Arkitek (images) - The Star (Malaysia)

Opera house sadly ordinary: a modest and humble effort that’s more community centre than cathedral. By Christopher Hume -- Diamond and Schmitt Architects; Gehry; Safdie - Toronto Star

American University's Artsy-Curvy Turn: New Arts Center Measures Up To Its Lengthy Task. By Benjamin Forgey -- Einhorn, Yaffee, Prescott; EDAW - Washington Post

Bridge art is light fantastic on the Clyde: Kingston Bridge...will be transformed into a shifting palette of lights that will react to traffic flow on the landmark construction. -- Lenn Schwendinger Light Projects; Ian Alexander/JM Architects - The Herald (Scotland)
Toshiko Mori discusses how she integrates innovative materials and fabrication with traditional techniques to produce stunning architectural and design works. [audio] Architecture Radio