EDITORS NOTE: ArchNewsNow will be celebrating the Thanksgiving Day holiday (U.S.) with family and friends...we'll be back Monday, November 28. — Bringing back the Big Easy: Designers discuss what it will take. — Pundits argue what it will cost and who will pay. — Urban evacuees find themselves lost in suburbia. — U.K.'s Urban Task Force issues a cautionary report about the government's Sustainable Communities Plan (though not all is doom and gloom). — Montreal could lead the world if it buffs up its transportation system. — An Oregonian is gungho for suburbia, not new urbanism - but worries about infrastructure. — A good thing to worry about as McMansions spawn Mini-Taj Mahals for us common folk. — Manila's mid-rise mania. — Gehry and Olin serve up striking and whimsical elements in hopes of dazzling Brooklynites with Atlantic Yard plans. — A Himalayan ski village closer to reality. — A Neutra treasure saved. — A tribute to Philadelphia's master planner. — Christopher Wren is focus of "Leaders & Success." — Whimsical hot air to float at Art Basel Miami Beach.

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Bringing Back the Big Easy: Four designers discuss what it will take to rebuild New Orleans. By Martin C. Pedersen — Lake Douglas; R. Allen Eskew/Eskew + Dumez + Ripple; Reed Kroloff; Elizabeth Mossop; Spackman + Mossop Landscape Architects [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Costliest Part of Gulf Rebuilding Yet to Come: Who Will Foot the Bill Is Still Unclear - Washington Post

Katrina Evacuees face urban-dwellers' nightmare: suburbia: Without cars they struggle to live in remote complexes...As time passes and the chances of returning to New Orleans dwindle, many of the residents here have grown restless, bored and homesick - Austin American-Statesman (Texas)

Prescott's urban blue print under fire from Lord Rogers: Social housing supply across the country is too low and the overall design quality is not good enough, according to an independent report by the Urban Task Force.- 24dash.com (UK)

Sustainable Communities plan failing the environment, Urban Task Force warns:...marginalises the environment, urban areas are under threat from poor design, and high-quality urban renewal is constrained by a confusing plethora of public sector regeneration bodies. — Lord Rogers- edie.net (UK)

Transit upgrades crucial: An expanded and enhanced system could reduce car use: Montreal is well positioned to become a model city on climate change in Canada, and perhaps worldwide, if it can build on the transportation advantages it already has. - Montreal Gazette

Saving the suburbs: Don Morissette builds his case for single-family homes...the only member who did not care much for the New Urbanism trend that calls for compact neighborhoods to be built near where people shop and work.- Portland Tribune (Oregon)

Taste for Space Is Spawning Mansions Fit for a Commoner: Hot Housing Market Opens Doors to Mini-Taj Mahals - Washington Post

Mid-rise frenzy: Going up? Over the past year, Metro Manila has become awash in plans for mid-rise condominiums or developments... — Nestor S. Mangio and Associates- Philippine Daily Inquirer

Nets plan flushed out: ...striking elements under consideration for Brooklyn's [$3.5 billion] Atlantic Yards project. — Frank Gehry. Laurie Olin- NY Daily News

Ford not to have exclusive rights in Himachal tourism projects: $520 million Himalayan ski village project is moving closer to reality. — Jack Zehren/Zehren & Associates- New Kerala (India)

Icon of Modern Architecture and One of America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places Has Been Saved; Neutra-designed George Kraigher House in Brownsville, Texas, to be restored- National Trust for Historic Preservation

A Look Back: Planner Ed Bacon: ...the last of a generation of heavy-duty planners died on October 14. Like Robert Moses in New York and Edward Logue in Boston, Bacon left an indelible imprint on Philadelphia... - Architectural Record

He Brought His Vision To Life: ...Christopher Wren was devastated by the loss of the city's legendary St. Paul's Cathedral in the Great Fire of London in 1666...offered an opportunity perfectly suited to his life's work. It was a chance to mix practical problem solving with visionary innovation.- Investor's Business Daily

Miami Architecture: Full of Hot Air? "The Fabulous Floating Inflatable Villa" will be on display during Art Basel Miami Beach, November 30—December 4. — Luis Pons/Aponwao Design [image, links]- Interior Design Newswire