China puts restrictions on building boom to protect the environment and avoid being “littered with unneeded shopping malls, luxury housing…” – Problems in Japan’s construction industry get bigger. – An extensive report from Beirut looks at critical issues in the city’s rebuilding efforts. – An international competition for housing in New Orleans. – Design team selected for Fayetteville, NC, museum. “Why be average when you can be world class?” – High hopes for a new concert hall in Poland being designed from the inside out. – Pelli’s concert hall in Costa Mesa a concerto in waves (despite the critics). – A bold project by Legorreta in Mexico City’s historic district heralds a high sign for urban renewal. – Big plans and high hopes for Hoboken. – A Holabird & Root church rediscovered and rescued. – A broad look at changing perceptions of Pittsburgh. – A competition for students to win “Instant Fame.” – Today marks the solstice – the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere (the days will now grow longer!), and summer in the Southern Hemisphere (wish we were there!).

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China limits building of villas, golf courses: … restrictions are meant to limit “blind investment” and protect the environment… trying to rein in a building boom that could leave China littered with unneeded shopping malls, luxury housing and other projects… – China Daily

Building a case: The searches over Aneha's false reports could be the start of unveiling wider problems in the construction industry… So far, 82 buildings have been confirmed built based on fabricated structural reports… could be more buildings at risk. – Asahi Shimbun (Japan)

5th Worldview: BEIRUT: … how this complex city is rebuilding following years of civil war. – The Architectural League (NYC)

Designing the Future of New Orleans: An international dual competition for new housing in New Orleans; registration deadline: February 1, 2006. – Architectural Record/Tulane School of Architecture

Fayetteville Museum of Art selects architects to design downtown building. – TEN Arquitectos; Perkins+Will. – Fayetteville Observer (North Carolina)

Acoustics first, then architecture: In progress is Wroclaw’s first new cultural structure, a concert hall that the city hopes will rank with Europe’s finest… being designed from the inside out. – Artdeco/Russell Johnson; Kuryłowicz & Associates; Maka Soks; Mackow Pracownia Projektowa. – Financial Times (UK)

Wave theory: Cesar Pelli’s design for a concert hall tries to reflect the spirit of Orange County and cast a spell on audiences. [images] – Orange County Register (California)

A Modern Space in Mexico City’s Historic Center: An architect hopes to bring urban renewal with his bold new project. – Ricardo Legorreta – New York Times

Reviving the Glory of Hoboken Terminal: … hopes to unlock the earning potential of an underused resource by adding stores, restaurants and possibly apartments on the 65-acre site. – McKim, Mead & White (1907); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. – New York Times

Getting Back to the Root: A little-known church by Daniel Burnham and John Wellborn Root is rescued and rediscovered in all its original warm beauty. By Lynn Becker – Holabird & Root [images]. – Repeat (Chicago)

Pittsburgh Then & Now: What were they thinking? From the 1890s to the 1980s, architecture critic Patricia Lowry tracks changing perceptions of Pittsburgh buildings [images]. – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Instant Fame: I.D. magazine 2006 Student Design Review; deadline: February 1, 2006. – I.D. magazine

Dec. ‘05 Build Business: Why Hire a Marketing Staff? No longer considered unethical and tacky, marketing has morphed into an essential tool for savvy A/E/C firms.

-- SANAA/Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa: Glass Pavilion, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio
-- Under construction: Gehry & Partners: IAC Headquarters, New York City

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