Sidewalk Critics: the problem with the end-of-year summaries hasn't really to do with any of the individual critics or their surveys; the problem is that these annual lists expose what have become the limitations of the enterprise. By Nancy Levinson - Pixel Points

Squaring up to the future: Landscape artist Martha Schwartz’s arresting designs for Grand Canal Square are like nothing we have ever seen -- Libeskind; Manuel Aires Mateus; Duffy Mitchell O’Donoghue - The Times (UK)

Martha Schwartz’s designs for [Dublin’s] Gran Canal Square [images] - Archiseek (Ireland)

Abandoned Hospitals for the Mentally Ill Morph Into Housing: While the projects bring benefits, they are often hard to develop; rotting buildings filled with asbestos and lead paint stigmatizes the sites...preservationists who are worried about the fate of historic buildings - New York Times

Barlow Hospital’s Bidding Battle: Developers, activists, preservationists and park advocates are eying the 25-acre site...sets up a landmine of a land-use conflict - Los Angeles Times

FAT (Fashion, Architecture, and Taste) is a postmodernist issue: British pranksters get serious...less promised much, down the years. Now, it is starting to deliver. By Hugh Pearman [images] - HughPearman.com (UK)

Why the Berghoff is safe from wrecking ball: City landmarks are a slippery subject. Simple questions get complicated answers, and the final word sometimes isn’t...Chicago developed a kind of shadow landmark system by color-coding buildings that might have architectural or historic importance - Chicago Sun-Times

Vagabond Motel’s new owners hope restoring the landmark will inspire a revival of 1950s architecture on Biscayne Boulevard...brightest in a constellation of 1950s boulevard motels...in a style lately christened as MiMo, for Miami Modern. — Robert M. Swartburg (1953); Teri D’Amico; Allan Shulman - Miami Herald

Where Old and New Collide: By joining two historic buildings, Steven Holl’s modern addition to Pratt’s architecture school makes a more vibrant campus. By Fred A. Bernestein -- Rogers Marvel Architects [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Ford ski resort plan runs into deity opposition:...in the process of setting up its ambitious $520 million ski village...may now have to appease the local deity to push through its dream project. -- Zehren and Associates - New Kerala (India)

PNC Plaza designers envision one office tower, two images of Pittsburgh: Architects propose a building that reflects Downtown’s past and looks to its future...city’s first new Downtown office tower in almost 20 years. By Patricia Lowry -- Gensler; Astorino - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A casualty of war: In the 20th century, classical virtue was hijacked by fascism. Now one modernist working in Germany is daring to revive columns...his newest building is a fissure of apocatastasis. Dayan Sudic -- David Chipperfield - Observer (UK)

Balancing a Love of the Land and an Escape Fantasy: Few things are more deadly to the career of a budding architect than the lure of the celebrity spotlight...Senan Abdelkader is already demonstrating the kind of patience a young architect needs to master his art. By Nicolaou Oroussoff [images] - New York Times

Architect draws notice: Celebrity designer billboard promotes a capital high-rise -- Daniel Libeskind -- Sacramento Bee (California)

Home, steel home: A 1946 prototype of the inexpensive houses that united powerful needs with energetic men is up for grabs in Chester County. -- Oskar G. Stonorov; Louis Kahn; Edmund Bacon - Philadelphia Inquirer

International Open Ideas Competition: Market Square, Newport (Wales) - a renewed place and space; registration deadline: February 23; submissions due March 5 - RBA (UK)
