Who Is Killing New Orleans? ... local business elites, advised by conservative think tanks, "New Urbanists" and neo-Democrats, have usurped almost every function of elected government. By Mike Davis – Urban Land Institute; Bring New Orleans Back - The Nation

Living in the future: South Louisiana needs a lot of new houses--fast--and that has innovators saying the next evolution of home building is now...Enter "systems building," a blanket term that describes a number of technologies for mass-producing large parts of houses in a factory. - Greater Baton Rouge Business Report

ATLien Invasion: Will an Atlanta parks and redevelopment project benefit low-income residents?...the sprawl capital of the South...embarking on...the BeltLine, an ambitious project to transform a mostly unused railroad into a 22-mile, in-town loop of parks, trails, and transit...will it follow the course of other Atlanta revitalization efforts -- making way for the rich folks while moving the poor and underserved out of benefit's way? - Grist Magazine

Italy's Architectural Wonders: Richard Meier's new museum in Rome is leading the trend of the modern in a country steeped in history...Not unlike China, Italy also seems keen to modernize its national identity through architecture. -- Hadid; Koolhaas; Fontana; Pei Cobb Freed; Piano; Foster; etc. [slide show] - BusinessWeek

Swingin' Calgary: Get over it, Toronto. Oil-rich Calgary is the new centre of the universe -- and the party's just getting started...the prevailing aesthetic is generic global super-rich...Steroidal growth doesn't come without side effects. - Maclean's (Canada)

Austin's first extensive 'green roof' takes shape in Circle C development: Little bluestem meets white chocolate mocha on this rooftop "prairie" -- Enviroplan Architects & Planners; Heather Venhaus, ASLA [images] - Austin American-Statesman (Texas)

The house that the Central Artery built: Big Dig engineer turns highway refuse into a striking home...a symbol of a future world of sustainability, one in which people...will save and recycle far more carefully than we do now. By Robert Campbell -- Paul Pedini; John Hong/Single Speed Design - Boston Globe

Redmond's striking new City Hall: ...a 17-acre municipal campus that is becoming an all-things-to-all-people city park...City Hall is the campus' keystone, and its architectural ambition sets a high standard. -- MulvannyG2 Architecture [images] - Seattle Post-Intelligencer

A colorful new toy for the city: Cesar Pelli's dash of Red is about to join the Pacific Design Center's changing campus...The progress of the Red Building is worth paying attention to...By Christopher Hawthorne -- Gruen Associates [images] - Los Angeles Times

SOM Wins Design Competition for Sustainable Skyscraper in China -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill- PR Newswire

Artist risks ire of regulators over theme park satire: "Martucket Eyeland"...Army Corps of Engineers is hoping [artist's] joke isn't planted in his cheek...could face stiff penalties...lauded by the Boston Society of Architects' recent "Windscape Ideas" competition... -- Jay Critchley [image] - Cape Cod Times

Brad Pitt talks architecture on PBS: ...will narrate Design: e2...a series about environmentally friendly architecture, which is slated to air in June... (AP) - Boston Globe

Northwestern University Ford Motor Company Engineering Design Center. Engineering and design education now cross traditional departmental boundaries in a light-filled, LEED Silver campus building. -- Davis Brody Bond [images] - ArchNewsNow

Op-Ed: Cyclone Larry: Building After the Event: The rebuilding in post-cyclone northern Queensland, Australia, affords a major opportunity to rebuild for a changing climate. By Tony Fry - ArchNewsNow

-- The Gehry Collection: Tiffany & Co.
-- The Camera: Michael Wolf: Architecture of Density, Hong Kong, China
-- Exhibition: Honey I'm Home, Danish Design Centre, Copenhagen