Shortsighted Polemics: The ideological catfights over housing threaten to marginalize all of architecture. Now that architects are taking shots at one another over housing, can we do better than we did in the last century...? By Blair Kamin -- Norquist/Congress for the New Urbanism; Eric Owen Moss; Duany Plater-Zyberk; Calatrava; Gehry; Metropolis Magazine

A 'green' building rises amid Beijing smog: The new structure is China's first to pass the stringent, globally recognized LEED certification. new five-year plans goal "is to build an energy-saving, environmentally friendly, and sustainable society". Yet changing ingrained behavior is always slow. -- Christian Science Monitor

Eco-friendly architect visits hostel site: Sim Van der Ryn and Humboldt Bay Environmental Technology Center supporters are hoping to create another equally visionary community project that will be replicated over and over... -- Times-Standard (Eureka, CA)

Projects planning Istanbul's future by Zaha Hadid and Ken Yeang/Llewelyn Davies Yeang: "Istanbul can be a tourism heaven..." [images]-- Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

Chicago, reaching higher: The Chicago City Council has approved the last zoning clearance for a hotel and condominium tower designed by Santiago Calatrava. Fordham Spire would top out at 2,000 feet and rise 124 stories... -- Chicago Tribune

Tilting toward Prairie Ave.: Proposal for modernist towers...prompting praise by neighborhood organizations who like the edgy design and criticism from a nearby townhome association who say the modernist skyscrapers are out of character with the block. -- Lucien LaGrange Architects [images]-- Chicago Journal

Major buildings set for Chicago, San Diego, Salt Lake City: 'Church of the Future' planned now...The Diocese of Chicago is moving forward with plans to erect a 64-story elliptical-shaped glass office and condominium tower... -- Voorhees Design-- Episcopal News Service

West peer: A new flagship attraction could rise 600ft from the ashes of one of Brighton's most beloved institutions...the architects behind the London Eye, revealed plans for what they are calling Brighton i360... -- Mark Barfield [image]-- Guardian (UK)

Seidler farewelled at memorial service: He wanted to be an "angry old man" and to council planners he probably was. But Harry Seidler's depth of vision and determination earned him his place on the highest shelf of public life.-- News.com (Australia)

Wal-Mart to Enter Urban Markets: Retailer Says It Will Help Local Businesses and Give Back to Blighted Areas...opportunity zones...would help small businesses withstand competition by teaching them how to do business with the company, offering grants... -- Washington Post

IDA/Metropolis First Annual Smart Environments Awards; deadline to request entry kit: April 21 [pdf]-- International Interior Design Association (IIDA)

Machines for living: The modernists are known for grand architectural visions, but they were just as concerned with making daily life more efficient...the presence in the V&A exhibition of the Frankfurt Kitchen will remind audiences of modernism's political roots... -- Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky-- New Statesman (UK)

Brad Pitt visited Caribbeans to discuss his plans to build the futuristic hotel in California... -- Thomas Willemot, Wolfram Pütz, Lars Krueckeborg/Graft-- Toronto Fashion Monitor

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

Zaha Hadid Architects: Phaeno Science Center, Wolfsburg, Germany