In New Orleans, plans to salvage and recycle tons of building materials "have been shot down, or gone nowhere." – A call for engineers to find innovative ways of designing and working with the architects. – "Wind, wave - or we'll go nuclear": Buildings eat up 60 percent of the country's electricity - that's why we have to build sustainably... Services engineers need to look at innovative ways of designing and working with the architects. – Cesar Pelli; Foster and Partners; Adamson Associates; Jean Nouvel; b720 architects; Enrique Norten; TEN Arquitectos; Al Rahim; Hira Jamelle; Contemporary Architecture Practice; Calatrava; Prince Ramos/Office for Metropolitan Architecture; Gehry/Childe/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Hadid; Isozaki; Libeskind; Maqqjara [slide show essay] - Slate

Yes, in your backyard: Homeless centers are rarely welcomed, but smart design can soothe neighbors' fears... It would be encouraging to see talented firms lining up to offer their services... smart architecture can save public money — and maybe help... shake off the stigma [shelters] still carry. By Christopher Hawthorne – Gin Wong Associates; Jeffrey M. Kalban & Associates; Sam Davis [images] - Los Angeles Times

Part 1: Housing urban poor in Nigeria: With half of the world population living in urban areas, the challenge of improving the living environment of especially the poor urban dwellers cannot be over-emphasised. By Y. Oruwari - The Tide (Nigeria)

Part 2: Housing urban poor in Nigeria: In looking at the present housing finance systems, several things stand out. By Y. Oruwari - The Tide (Nigeria)

Part 3: Housing urban poor in Nigeria: ... four of the challenges ahead... the changing role of the architect in housing design... women in housing; housing and globalisation; and bridging the gaps. By Y. Oruwari - The Tide (Nigeria)

Building blocks: Architecture was something this city used to fear. Now, through regular exposure, the public has become a more discriminating and demanding client. By Lisa Rochon – Donald Chong Studio; Kukawara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects; Shim-Sutcliffe Architects; Baird Sampson Neuert Architects; Gehry; Libeskind; Diamond + Schmitt - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Art Meets Nature In New Britain: New Britain Museum of American Art... What a building. What a cultural coup for the region. – Ann Beha Architects; Frederick Law Olmsted – Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Provincetown Museum Mixes History With Avant-Garde: ... no attempt to reconcile past and present. Yet that very in-your-face attitude is why the new museum is such a triumph. – Machado and Silvetti - Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Museum Is Going Dark to Add Light: National Museum of American History will close for almost two years to reconfigure the core of its often-mystifying layout and build a new gallery for the Star-Spangled Banner. – McKim, Mead, and White/Steinman, Cain, and White (1964); Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Chermayeff & Geismar & Haviv; FOA; Schmitt - Washington Post

Strategic Moves in Lighting: Chess Park in Glendale, CA... a quirky attraction... Glendale, CA's first urban park... designed to be a safe, stimulating environment for chess players and community members. – Rios Clementi Hale Studios [images] - LandscapeOnline

So last century: Sydney's modern heritage houses have become collector's items. -- Bruce Rickard; Bill Lucas; Harry Seidler; Neville Gruzman; Docomomo Australia; Syd Ancher; Arthur Baldivinson; Russell Jack; etc. - Sydney Morning Herald

Learning to love archi-torture: Yesterday, the seniors effectively graduated... And three weeks from now, a new crop of masochists will vie to hunch over the same computers in the same concrete bunker... Why? - Yale Daily News

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

-- Exhibition: Santiago Calatrava: World Architecture, DAC (Danish Architecture Centre), Copenhagen