ArcSpace takes us to a new Bilbao hotel that is a perforated "sculpture." -- Kotkin brings us "New Suburbanism." -- Toronto's renaissance: "It's not about buildings, it's about human content." -- Hume (and several others) takes on "What if Toronto..." -- A town square in Maryland gets it right. -- The South Bronx takes inspiration from Bogotá. -- NYC's test cases for really green office towers. -- There's a "cause for hope" at Ground Zero. -- At the Getty Villa in Malibu, new and the old are combined to make the place "superb." -- The Phillips Collection expansion in Washington, DC, suffers from a case of "facadism" (and a few other shortcomings). -- An irreverent British firm offers everything but "facadism"; so what will they do when they hit the big time? -- Young designers stir the pot with ideas for Chicago's Navy Pier. -- Q&A's with a French developer who believes in green, and an American architect in India who lives in a village and plans for the world. -- Deadlines: World Habitat Awards; an international survey of planners; and an interesting job opportunity.

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Toward a New Suburbanism: The predominant form of urbanism in the twenty-first century will reside outside the city. By Joel Kotkin - Metropolis Magazine

The billion-dollar baby: The idea of creating something vital seemed doomed at every turn. Now...if the people at the helm of Toronto's renaissance don't have ears for simple message --- it's not about buildings, it's about human content --- then all this effort may yet have been in vain. - Globe and Mail (Canada)

What If: Hogtown the beautiful: For Toronto to morph from an ugly duckling into a place we can be proud of, we need to focus much more on design and planning, perhaps starting with our schools. By Christopher Hume -- Tony Coombes; Brown and Storey Architects [links to other "What if's"] - Toronto Star

In Rockville's Public Square, Doing as the Romans: ...its physical form, geometric proportions and visual qualities are already evident...a special urban space...It will demonstrate why public open spaces conceived in the abstract...often yield dead spaces. - Roger K. Lewis - Washington Post

Bikes Connecting Bogota and the South Bronx: City residents are aiming to build an 11-mile network of bikeways and parks in an unexpected place -- the South Bronx, taking as their inspiration another city you might not immediately think of -- Bogota, Columbia. -- Majora Carter/Sustainable South Bronx; Enrique Penalosa; WNYC (public radio)

7 World Trade Center and Hearst Building: New York's Test Cases for Environmentally Aware Office Towers -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Foster & Partners; FX Fowle - New York Times

Ground Zero's Saving Grace: The first building to rise from the ashes of the World Trade Center is cause for hope...7 WTC...a rediscovery of the extraordinary sensuality of glass, a renewal of our romance with the elemental box. By Karrie Jacobs -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); James Carpenter; Jenny Holzer - Metropolis Magazine

Getty Villa works on many layers: Archeology-dig metaphor brings unity to renovation. Wonderful buildings are rare...The architects...invented a brilliant way to pull new and old into one complex. By Robert Campbell -- Machado and Silvetti - Boston Globe


Give us a frill: Are decorative facades the start of a whole new housing trend? Steve Rose meets the men from Fat [Fashion Architecture Taste]...they could find themselves in the mainstream. Then what would they do? -- Sean Griffiths, Sam Jacob, Charles Holland/Fat - Urban Splash - Guardian (UK)

Young designers float ideas for new Navy Pier;...competition did what it was supposed to do; Besides being a lot of fun, it stirred the pot and introduced ideas of substance rather than simply being a beauty contest. By Blair Kamin -- RTKL; Forrec - Chicago Tribune

Eco Housing Questions Answered: Q&A with Domenico Provenzano, developer of France's first large-scale, multi-housing sustainable construction and development project - ECOHABITAT - CarbonFree (UK)

"I learn from Indian villagers": Q&A with American-born architect Christopher Charles Benninger has lived and worked in India for the past 33 years - Indian Express

World Habitat Awards 2006: for projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems; deadline: June 1 - Building and Social Housing Foundation

International Survey of Status of Women and Men in Planning; deadline: May 31 - Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Employment Opportunity: Director, Mayors' Institute on City Design, Washington, D.C.; application deadline: May 15 - Mayors' Institute on City Design