Green grumblings: National's ballpark doesn't include "even one symbolic square inch of green roof" (though it's being done elsewhere). – A £300m Yorkshire leisure complex better suited to brownfield than green belt. – On a brighter green note: Toronto Botanical Garden a growing work in progress. – A London hospital made teen-friendly. – A grand old Philadelphia hospital transformed to stylish senior housing. – Demolition of Toronto landmarks: progress or vandalism? – A reprieve for Bunshaft landmark in Connecticut. – Celebrating the Met's facade restoration (with a few side-swipes at some other NYC cultural projects). – Eminent domain sparks national property rights movement. – Gated communities are going global. – Toronto "trapped in a transit wasteland." – London's new take on libraries offers lessons for U.S. – A new skyscraper is a hint at a new Chicago architecture. – Harvard will take you there to see it all in person. – (with a few side-swipes at some other NYC cultural projects).

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Turf Battle: At the New Ballpark, Infield and Outfield but no Upfield! Despite a decree from the D.C. Council to incorporate the best environmental practices...HOK Sport and Davroux & Purnell, failed to specify even one symbolic square inch of green roof. By Linda Heales – Michael Van Valkenburgh; American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)- Washington Post

'Green' row on leisure complex: Build on brown-field site instead, say countryside campaigners: ...£300m Yorkshire Entertainment Sensation (Yes) project...the biggest indoor leisure and tourism development in Europe...will swallow up valuable green-belt land...- Yorkshire Post Today (UK)

Blot on the landscape: The biggest country house to be built in decades may be green but its looks will dismay traditionalists...Step forward Geoff Dyson: your new [40,000sq ft] home is going to receive a lot of attention, and you'd better get used to it. -- Felidn Clegg Bradel: Dan Pearson [image]- The Times (UK)

Toronto Botanical Garden a (green) work in progress: it's a hurry-up-and-wait kind of thing.
By Christopher Hume – Montgomery & Sisam; PMA Landscape Architects; Tom Sparling; Martin Wade; Outoff- Toronto Star

Pioneering unit for teenage cancer care at University College London Hospital...a teenager-friendly environment for the delivery of state of the art clinical care, alongside sensitivity towards social and psychological needs. – Llewelyn Davies Yeang- HD - The Journal for Healthcare Design and Development (UK)

Stylish senior homes in grand old hospital: Unlike the standardised, no-frills housing that HUD typically favours, Neumann is a wild-eyed eccentric. every unit is different...capture at least a few of the hospital's quirky architectural details. By Inga Saffron -- Ballyinger & Parratt (1980); Cecil Baker & Associates [slide show]- Philadelphia Inquirer

No more rooms at this inn: In many cities, the destruction of a landmark would be seen as an act of vandalism. In Toronto, it's business as usual. Inn on the Park (1963)...designed by pioneering modernist architect Peter Dickinson...has been demolished to make way for a car dealership. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

The Wilde Is Saved: ...an icon of modern architecture and a laboratory for the new American workplace when it was built in the 1950's, will continue as an insurance office in the 21st century. That is good news. – Gordon Bunshaft/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (1957)- Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Celebrating a Restoration: Metropolitan Museum of Art...restoration of its Fifth Avenue facade...God bless the Met for not falling prey to the delusion that Renzo Piano can improve upon McKim, Mead & White - or Richard Morris Hunt. By Francis Morrone- New York Sun

Op-Ed: States Take Action To Protect Property Rights: Oregon's Measure 37 has inspired a national property rights movement to restrict local regulatory takings and dramatically reduce eminent domain powers...galvanized by the Kelo decision and M37. By Leonard Gilroy, AICP- PLANetizen

Behind Closed Doors: The appeal of gated communities is spreading across the world.- Newsweek

The error of our subways: While the rest of the world gets it right, Toronto is trapped in a transit wasteland. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Branching out: Welcome to the Idea Store, London's answer to the fusty old public library--and maybe America's too...a retail approach to aspects of design, promotion, and even financing. – David Adlige; Dattner Architects- Boston Globe

The Third School: A new kind of skyscraper heralds a new kind of Chicago architecture. Aqua is going to be one of the most striking buildings in the city. By Lynn Becker -- StudioGangArchitects; Douglas Garnofalo; John Ronan; James Gootsch; Pei Cobb Freed; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; DeStefano + Partners; Solomon Cordwell Buenz [slide show]- Chicago Reader

Architectural Tour of Chicago June 14-19: a fundraiser for Student Financial Aid at the Harvard Graduate School of Design- Harvard Graduate School of Design

At home in the world: Norman Foster pairs dynamic innovation with respect for history. No wonder everyone wants a piece of him. - Newsweek

While waiting and seeing, Libeskind keeps moving: ...an eclectic mix of more pedestrian if no less interesting buildings - shopping malls, student centers, condominiums, boys and girls clubs in places like Warsaw, London, Singapore and Sacramento. For architectural
superpowers, Daniel and Nina Libeskind are earthy, likable, a bit goofy even.-
International Herald Tribune

Branching out: For years the AA [Architectural Association] has been using the Serpentine pavilion as a teaching tool, but this summer a group of its students will build their own structure...outside the school in Bedford Square...the winning scheme and the runners-up [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

-- Maya Lin: Confluence Project, Cape Disappointment State Park, Ilwaco, Washington
-- Maya Lin: Systematic Landscapes, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, Washington