ArcSpace brings us two hot L.A. projects. — A Frenchman takes International High-Rise Prize (commendations not too shabby either). — NYT Sunday Magazine totally devoted to architecture (plan to spend some time with this one!). — Farrell not just a bit suspicious of two new books extolling the virtues of suburbanism. — Thumbs-up and thumbs-down on New Urbanist communities (visiting local "villages" is a "great deal less expensive that visiting movie studios in Los Angeles" is one way to look at them). — Does "quirky" architecture make a town tacky or welcoming? — Big plans for U.K.'s Cowgate (make that the much more hip "SoCo"). — Some out-of-the-box thinking for a green Olympics could give Chicago the edge. — Foster wins big with school contracts - but not everyone is convinced it's the right way to go. — A piece of "fleshy, juicy fruit" of a new store for Apple is drawing the crowds. — Vision for Orange County Great Park is complex with a simple intention. — Montreal is first city in North America to be designated part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network. — Some "fantastically futuristic hotel designs" await visitors to the World Cup in Germany. — Demand for Ando everywhere. — Barbican exhibit of futuristic cities imagined between 1956-2006, but truly radical visions are found in films. — Fuller/Noguchi show "explores their rapport." — Three winners in AIA/HUD Housing and Design Awards. — Once we couldn't resist: a report on Libeskind's 60th birthday bash (be sure to check out NYT Mag to find out why he wears those glasses). — EDITOR'S NOTE: We are on the road, and hoping to have Internet access for a couple more days. If not, we'll be back Tuesday, May 30.

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So Tall: International High-Rise Prize 2006 Goes to Barcelona's Torre Agbar by Jean Nouvel — Commendations to: Calatrava; Delugan Meissl Architects; mecanoo architecten; and Riken Yamamoto & Field Shop [images] - ArchNewsNow

Architecture 2006: Engineering Conflict: What are we really arguing about when we argue about architecture? By Devan Sudjic: Socially Conscious Construction: Q&A with Richard Rogers; Middle-East Pieces: In Beirut, Bernard Khoury's architecture neither removes nor conceals the scars of Lebanon's civil war. By Nicolai Ouroussoff: Expanding on Jefferson: Battle for Biloxi: New Urbanists thought they had just the plan for remaking the Mississippi Gulf Coast city after Hurricane Katrina...etc. [images, slide shows] - New York Times Magazine

More reason than ever to fight for human cities: Brendan Gleeson's "Australian Heartlands: Making Space for Hope in the Suburbs" and "The Big Picture," by demographer Bernard Salt. The cloak may be humanist but the subtext is unreconstructed suburban fight-back. More suspicious still, both books appeared within weeks of the April death of Jane Jacobs... By Elizabeth Farrell - Sydney Morning Herald

It takes a village: New planned communities are designed so that people can live and work with everything they need nearby... survey...reveals that one-third of respondents have a strong preference for New Urbanism housing options... Why are the architects of today unable to promote an architecture that is about the present and future, not the past? - Indianapolis Star

Tacky Town? Do buildings whose exterior decor is really out there say to visitors, "Welcome to tacky Gainesville?" Or do they say that you've come to a community that embraces architectural diversity and celebrates its quirky, individual character? [images] - Gainesville Sun (Florida)

Cowgate rising from the ashes: A new hotel, arts centre, homes and offices are all planned for the Cowgate fire site, which is being touted as the home for a new cultural quarter in the city... £60m development, which is to be called SoCo... - Allan Murray - Edinburgh Evening News

Planting a green seed for Olympics bid: Chicago could set smart example for energy-mad world...several intriguing, out-of-the-box ideas for a green Olympics... By Blair Kamin - Phil Enquist/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill - Chicago Tribune

Blair schools hand windfall to Foster... landing contracts to design nine new schools worth a total of £290m... - The Times (UK)

Apple Opens Big Apple Core Store: ... hope the Pit becomes... a fleshy, juicy fruit drawing hordes of consumers into the transparent, 32-foot-square cube jutting up from the GM Building's beautifully transformed plaza... - Bohlen Cywinski Jackson [images] - The Slatin Report

Group hears [Orange County] Great Park designer's vision: Complex plans convey simple intention: for people to 'love the park,' Ken Smith says... - Orange County Register (California)

Montreal designated as a city of design by UNESCO: A first in North America, as part of the Creative Cities Network - City of Montreal

Architects make room for dedicated towers of style: A building frenzy ahead of the World Cup has produced some fantastically futuristic hotel designs... five of the latest and most radical openings. - Gott Architects; Jordan Mozzer; Olana Rose; John Seifer/Matteo Thun/Adam Tiffany; 3Meta - Observer (UK)

Buildings made of light and air: Tadao Ando is in demand around the world. As projects in Venice and Tokyo are unveiled, he talks to Benjamin Secher [images] - Telegraph (UK)
Tomorrow's worlds: In the 1960s, architects thought their designs for future cities were pretty far out. But for truly radical visions, look to film directors. "Future City: Experiment and Utopia 1956-2006" at the Barbican in London. By Jonathan Glancey--Archigram; Hadid; Ban; Superstudio; Harry Lange; Lawrence G Paul; Eupen Schiffmann--Guardian (UK)

Hanging Out With Bucky, Thinking Big: For 54 years Isamu Noguchi and Buckminster Fuller were the "Best of Friends," the apt title of an exhibition at the Noguchi Museum that explores their rapport. - New York Times

AIA Announces Three Recipients of 2006 AIA/HUD Housing and Design Awards: honor exemplary models of residential, community, and accessible design -- William Wilson Architects; Humphries Poli Architects; Koning Eizenberg Architecture [images]-AIArchitect

Surprise party a tall order: Daniel Libeskind and 400 of his closest friends gathered...to celebrate his 60th birthday. By Christopher Hume--Toronto Star

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