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Making the city livable: The Delhi of today is also under threat of collapse, on several accounts. By MN Ashish Ganju — Civil Society (India)

French 'starchitect's' debutante is a Minneapolis knockout: ...another stunner... Guthrie Theater... not about novelty for novelty's sake but about newness made newer by a complex, rather than saccharine, engagement of the past. By Blair Kamin — Jean Nouvel; Architectural Alliance— Chicago Tribune

Pelli's embrace of change intrigues: ...Minneapolis Central Library... light-filled and democratic in spirit... abandons the postmodern idea of architectural permanence and instead embraces the modernist notion of ceaseless change. By Blair Kamin — Jean Nouvel; Architectural Alliance— Chicago Tribune

Michael Graves misses mark with [Minneapolis Institute of Arts] wing: ...burdened with compromises — classical, but no classic. By Blair Kamin — McKim, Mead and White (1911); Kenzo Tange (1974)— Chicago Tribune

Not Innovative? SOM's Skyscraper Projects in China Tell A Different Story — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [images]; Architectural Record

Making a grand entrance? In their quest to win one of Philadelphia’s two available gaming licenses... The folks at the SugarHouse casino are trying a different tack: They’re touting the size of their driveway. By Inga Saffron — Cope Linder [image, links] — Philadelphia Inquirer

Outside blah, inside awe: While the exterior brick wrap is mean to the street, the interior of the new opera house is nothing short of triumphant. By Lisa Rochon — Diamond + Schmitt Architects; Halcrow Yolles; Sound Space Design—Globe and Mail (Canada)

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Innovation, simplicity, and sizzle on the West Coast: Europeans put imaginative stamp on three designs. By Robert Campbell — Herzog and de Meuron; Rem Koolhaas— Boston Globe

Duke's new museum a work of art in itself: Supporters hope the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University will become a cultural force in the Raleigh and Durham area and a catalyst of both art and artful thinking at Duke... design unfolds in stunning simplicity. — Rafael Vinyo— Miami Herald

Vital, elegant, magical: ...exclusive first look at the revamped Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art reveals a wonder in glass and stone... does nothing less than reassert architecture's power to transform the city. By Christopher Hume — Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg— Toronto Star

Gallic grandeur: Amid controversy over immigration and the proper role of ethnography, Jacques Chirac prepares to open a major new museum... Musée du Quai Branly... startles in many senses. It is a modernist architectural gem in the heart of historic Paris. It is a controversial project. — Jean Nouvel— The Economist (UK)

Paci's Moderna: After more than half a century of stagnation, the Eternal City lives up to its name and makes peace with Modern architecture. It is no secret that Richard Meier's new Ara Pacis museum... has been controversial [images]; Metropolis

Distillery keeps corporate names at bay... there's something else going on down here that in its own quiet way is different, even revolutionary... one little pocket of one little city safe...
from the forces of sameness. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

A Fence With More Beauty, Fewer Barbs: As a classic design challenge, The New York Times asked architects and urban planners to devise a fence between the U.S. and Mexico. -- James Corner/Field Operations; Calvin Tsao/Tsao & McKown; Eric Owen Moss; Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; Antoine Predock [images, audio]- New York Times

A modern marvel: Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid's blueprints for the future on display at the Guggenheim...a utopian at heart...she has designed societies and individual lives. Artists should not be given the power to realize their unified visions of everything. By Justin Davidson- NY Newsday

Big Tower on the Prairie: Exhibit Explores Okla. Realization of Wright's Skyscraper Dreams: "Prairie Skyscraper: Frank Lloyd Wright's Price Tower"...installation designed by Zaha Hadid... By Linda Hales- Washington Post

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