New York Times

How the chill wind of commerce killed off the bow tie. When did architecture depart the gentlemanly mindset to become that saddened and compromised shadow of itself we see today?...Beauty has become an embarrassment, never to be discussed outside those inner-sanctum slide nights... By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

Katrina Spawns Cottage Industry:..."Katrina Cottage" and "Coastal Cabana." billed as comfortable, durable and affordable alternatives to the flimsy trailers...also could be a good solution for affordable housing nationwide... (AP) -- Bruce Tolar; Marianne Cusato; Andres Duany- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Transforming cargo containers into a weekend studio... 320-square-foot "cargotecture" prototype... a stunning reminder of what architecture ought to be about: solving some of civilization's thorniest problems by radically reconsidering the built environment. By Lawrence W. Cheek -- Robert Humble/Joel Egan/ HYBrid [images]- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Straw houses serve seasonal workers: Forget traditional construction: This project is stacking the bales -- Greg Miller/Telamon- Richmond Times-Dispatch (Virginia)

The 'Lugano Plan': Erasing Yehud's Arab past: At its heart are four- to five-story apartment buildings, with facades mimicking those in central Lugano: painted shades of lemon, peach or apricot with neo-Classical columns and windows with neo-Classical arches... -- Israel Rosio- Ha aretz (Israel)

On Lake Michigan, a Global Village: A Community Coming to Grips with Change: For better or worse, what is happening to the Racine area, and how the community is responding, offers a window to economic realities that resonate across the country. [slide show]- New York Times

Booming Development Driving away Persian Gulf's Endangered Wildlife: Environmental watchdogs are few in Arabia. Those that exist acknowledge they stand little chance against developers... (AP)- Environmental News Network

On the Mississippi, a Vision Steeped in an Industrial Past: The new Guthrie Theater should offer comfort to those who miss the 1980's... -- Jean Nouvel... coaxes new meaning out of a haggard landscape. By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]- New York Times

A Heart of Darkness in the City of Light:...Musée du Quai Branly. The place simply makes no sense. Old, new, good, bad are all jumbled together without much reason or explanation, save for visual theatrics. The atmosphere is like a discothèque at 10 a.m. By Michael Kimmelman -- Jean Nouvel [slide show]- New York Times

Musée des bogus arts: France's new museum [Musée du Quai Branly] is an ill-judged disaster that rivals our very own dome for incompetence:... As with the dome, it would be wrong to blame the architect entirely. -- Jean Nouvel- Guardian (UK)

The very English modern art gallery: a treasure chest of postwar stars, by the architect that knows them...new Pallant House is a very rare example of an art museum designed by one of the principal movers and shakers in its collection. By Hugh Pearman -- Colin St John (Sandy) Wilson; Long and Kentish [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

A Temple Reborn: The process of building the Komyo-ji Temple was a chance to rediscover and become conscious of the origins of my own architectural methods: water and wood, history and landscape. By Tadao Ando [images]- Faith & Form Magazine

On Fifth Ave, glamour in glass and steel: Apple showroom, Longchamp boutique daze with baroque and austere designs...each creates a wow by illusion. America's best skylines are the product of benevolent megalomania... By Justin Davidson -- Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Thomas Heatherwick; Tadao Ando; Gehry; Koolhaas [slide show]- NY Newsday

The gas ceiling: A helium roof that rises and falls with the weather? Rem Koolhaas's Serpentine Pavilion is a joyous extravagance that stretches the definition of built form a little further. By Steve Rose -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture, Hadid; Libeskind; Ito; Niemeyer; Siza/Soulo de Moura; MVRDV [images]- Guardian (UK)

Rendering so real they fake you out: Technology helps architects visualize a final product in a way no hand-drawn image could...a tool with downsides as well -- in time, perception and cost... - Roanoke Times (Virginia)

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-- Two Books: Peter Zumthor Thinking Architecture, and Atmospheres

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