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Another Stick in the Wal-Mart: Al Gore takes his green message to Wal-Mart headquarters...brought a screening of An Inconvenient Truth; more than a few audience members could be seen dabbing teary eyes... Many of Wal-Mart's multifarious critics aren't mollified... But some environmentalists are hopeful. - Grist Magazine

Constructing a Better Environment: A Green Roof Can Cut Energy Costs, Too... Green roofs...have long been popular in Europe and are increasingly cropping up on buildings in major cities across North America. - ABC News (US)

Space to work, rest and play: Richard Simmons, the chief executive of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (says) urban design is improving but there is much to do... the dearth of public building in recent years hasn't helped Cabe to get its message across. - The Times (UK)

Construction matters: An independent panel of design gurus - including Lord Rogers - has been established to ensure that all major projects for London 2012 are fit for purpose during the Games but also "provide a lasting legacy of high quality, inclusive and sustainable buildings and public spaces". - Telegraph (UK)

Rooms at the top answer to urban woes: Vertical or horizontal? Urban or suburban? While the debate rages in Toronto, other cities have long since made their decision. As Singapore and Vancouver have discovered, the issue isn't height but what happens at grade. Get that right and the sky's the limit. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Spire project changes hands: Dublin developer replaces Carly... Shelbourne acquired the site for $64 million... Kelleher must still negotiate to buy the striking tower design. By Susan Diesenhous and Blair Kamin -- Santiago Calatrava; DeStefano + Partners Chicago Tribune

Flight 93 memorial design spat continues -- Paul Murdoch- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Robo-Building: In a slew of new projects, smart facades automatically control daylighting, ventilation, and more, benefiting occupants and the environment alike. Call it auto-itecture, By C.C. Sullivan -- Stephen A. Gage and Will Thorne; Cannon; James Carpenter; Fent Inc.; SANAA; Gould Evans/Lord Aeck Sargent Architecture; Foster; Arup; Mayne/Morphosis; Michael Fox- BusinessWeek

Sex museum plan sparks Rio row: Plans to erect the 'interactive' Cidade do Sexo (City of Sex) just off Copacabana beach have divided Rio de Janeiro... a futuristic, phallic-like white labyrinth - the planned museum resembles an oversized set from Stanley Kubrick's A Clockwork Orange. - Icor de Veterven [Image]- Guardian (UK)

Work begins on oft-delayed $46 million Jewish museum: Energetic design in city's culture gulch reuses power station. By John King -- Willis Polk (1907); Daniel Libeskind; WRNS Studio [Images]- San Francisco Chronicle

A long time coming; Hired in 1998 to design — then downsize — the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco, Daniel Libeskind will finally see ground broken... new design features a 60-foot tilted blue steel cube rising from the old PG&E building. - WRNS Studio- Los Angeles Times

First peek at stadium not tantalizing enough: 49ers' proposal lacks specifics but suggests possibilities... a chance to sculpt a true architectural icon. But it won't be easy... By John King -- HNTB [Images]- San Francisco Chronicle

The new Princes' Gates: This project of small gestures is a big hit... is once again part of the city and a space for people, rather than a monument isolated by the automobile. By Christopher Hume -- Sering + Sistema Duemila; MBTW Group- Toronto Star

Princes' Gates, Italian style: ... that most iconic symbol of Toronto's colonial antecedents, has undergone a facelift... to sex up the project with a dash of European style, the design team headed up by a pair of architectural firms based in Milan, Toronto's twin city... -- Sering + Sistema Duemila; MBTW Group- Globe and Mail (Canada)

60 second interview: Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers: Zoé Blackler catches up with a pair of old friends fresh from their latest collaboration driving sheep across the Millennium bridge and finds them in lighthearted mood [Image]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Call for entries: What's your recipe to change downtown? Lower Manhattan Cultural Council to create a cookbook of recipes for the future of downtown; deadline: August 17- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)

"G" is for Genome (and Green): Terrence Donnelly Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Research: A new campus building is a symbolic and physical bridge between an
Exhibition Review: “Portable” at Storefront for Art and Architecture: Three artists consider the nomadic impulse to brave the unknown and the sedentary urge to hoard and build. By Laurie Manfra (images) - ArchNewsNow

Jean Nouvel/Architectural Alliance: Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis, Minnesota