Greening of Chicago Starts at the Top Floor: Mayor Daley Pushes Urban Ecology Into the Mainstream- Washington Post

Mayor of San Francisco Looks Eastward for Urban Inspiration: Winds of change blow from Chicago... the philosophical gap between civic cultures is profound. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Building a zero-carbon world: Ken Livingston is in cahoots with Bill Dunster, but it’s in China where the eco-architect is fulfilling his dreams- Observer (UK)

Welcome to China’s Thames Town: Builders are putting the finishing touches to a new town that is forever England, complete with pub and market square. This is not the Home Counties, however, but the outskirts of the world’s fastest-growing city. £200m development will be part of Songjiang City. - WS Atkins- Independent (UK)

Our Man in Shanghai: Ben Wood Takes On History... has transformed himself from a successful Boston architect into a Shanghai power broker whose designs translate into billions of dollars in development. What’s he promoting? Preservation or pastiche? By Julie V. Irvine (slide show)- New York Times

Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) selects architect for “Masterplan” to develop a major section of the AED 16 billion... enhancement of the DWTC Complex and surrounding area. -- Hopkins Architects; WSP Group- Mena Report (Jordan)

The new look of community: In an area known more for its sprawling suburbs and commuter lifestyle, new communities with a retro feel are on the cutting edge of neighborhood design. Pasco County,... got its first Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) ordinance, codifying standards that began life in the architecture-driven, antisprawl New Urbanism movement... St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

£200m plan to restore glory of Tuileries Palace: The reconstruction task would be made easier if the 10 foot foundations still stand and detailed architectural plans have survived... could be completed within a decade. - Telegraph (UK)

Pact to buy JCC, restore Louis I. Kahn-designed Trenton Bath House... building will be included in the county’s tourism pitch.- The Times (New Jersey)

Is modern worth saving? The TWA building, which is getting a $25 million makeover, may provide some answers. By Steve Paul - Raymond E. Bales/Morris Schechter (1956); David Dowell/El Dorado [images]- Kansas City Star

Cam’s intrigue echoed in Mercedes museum:... a stunning building that celebrates Mercedes’ good taste, yet serves as a subversive commentary on today’s use of architecture as a promotional tool... a perfect metaphor for the state of museum architecture today: a never-ending loop of art and commerce, without beginning, middle or end. By Inga Saffron -- UN Studio- Philadelphia Inquirer

Developer’s lawyer assures Calatrava’s tower on track:... he still had to negotiate to buy the striking design. Veteran Skidmore, Owings & Merrill structural engineer John Zils... has announced that he’ll retire in late September. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Here’s hoping 1,900 new units don’t add up to one big monster: Only architects as sculpturally inventive as the ones at Arquitectonica could take an overstuffed political deal like 1177 Market St and come up with a design that has the potential to be an energetic, counterintuitive triumph. By John King [image]- San Francisco Chronicle

Some modern building details are simply gewgawful: It’s these little things - the oversights of otherwise decent architects, the corner-cutting that results from “value engineering”... that often make the difference between a good building and a great one, or that taken together define a real turkey. By Whitney Gould -- Calatrava; Uhen; Hammel; Green and Abrahamson; David Kahler; HOK [slide show]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Landscape Class Cultivates Access: A UCLA Extension course puts able-bodied students in wheelchairs to teach them how to design for everyone. - Los Angeles Times

Looking for some credit: Lisa Austin and Madis Pihlak aren’t demanding money or threatening a prolonged, costly lawsuit. All they want is recognition... maintain that the evolving design for the Flight 93 National Memorial is strikingly similar to their own. -- Paul Murdoch Architects- The Tribune-Democrat (Pennsylvania)

Call for entries: How to Provide Affordable Housing Innovation Award Competition deadline: August 23- Changemakers

Fine Tuning: Utah State University Performance Hall: Inspired by the surrounding...
mountains, a new building establishes a campus arts precinct that bridges the town/gown divide. -- Sasaki Associates [images]-- ArchNewsNow

-- Inauguration: SANAA/Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa: Zollverein School, Essen, Germany
-- Under construction: Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Coal Washing Plant, Zollverein Mining Complex, Essen, Germany
-- Master Plan: Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Zollverein Mining Complex, Essen, Germany

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