We lose a master of modern office furniture (whatever would we do without our Aeron?) — A call for Canada to take back its city centers that are “losing the war against bad taste, poor planning and the power of big-box retail.” — Pelli as the “architect’s architect.” — Toronto’s new botanical garden is “a supremely civilizing force and, therefore, much needed.” — Campuses jumping on the green bandwagon find payoff in many ways. — A low-tech, self-sustainable school takes shape in the Himalayas. — Long favored in Europe, a recycled composite is becoming a concrete that, thanks to the growing attraction of green living, has become one of the hottest building materials in the United States. — Florida county plans to vaporize landfill trash: $425 million facility...will use lightning-like plasma arcs to turn trash into gas and rock-like material...skeptics question whether the technology can meet the lofty expectations. (AP) — Public Architecture; Peterson Architects; Interstice Architects; Jensen & Macy Architects; Shift Design Studio; etc. (links) — San Francisco Chronicle

Delight In The Detail - after a long hiatus, architectural ornament is beginning to come back - not just at Yale but in many places around the country. By Philip Langdon — Kent Bloomer (slide show) — Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Gardens by the Bay [Singapore] Master Plan Design Competition: Two design teams have been named as joint winners — Grant Associates/Wilkinson Eyre/Atelier One/Atelier Ten/Land Design Studios/Meinhardt Infrastructure/Davis Langdon & Seah Singapore; Gustafson Porter/Ove Arup/Davis Langdon & Seah Singapore (links) — National Parks Board (Singapore)

Nepal gets its own garden of Babylon: However, the fabulous Garden of Dreams is not without thorns. — Gotz Hagmüller — DailyIndia

Call for entries: 2007 Chicago Athenaeum International Architecture Awards; deadline: December 1, 2006 — Chicago Athenaeum

Call for entries: Because Green Matters Award; deadline: March 1, 2007 — Project EverGreen

Ob's celebrate the best of South African architecture and interior design — INK/George Boomsma/Lisebo Mokhesi; Keith Architects; The Design Partnership; Sarah Stevens Design; Beth Murray; Boogertman & Partners; R&L Architects; Lionel Levin — ITP (Dubai)

ASLA Announces 2006 Student Awards; ... jury selected 24 projects representing 15 schools (links to images) — American Society of Landscape Architect (ASLA)

Desirius Personae: The architecture crit — that tragicomic rite of passage — often has a cast of characters worthy of Shakespeare...Many professions have their future generations, but is there another that takes such delight in it? By Philip Nobel — Metropolis Magazine

Sex and the City: Field Notes from the 10th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 1: Libidos on fire in Venice: Urbanism may not be sexy, but our lives may depend on it. By Margaret Helfand. FAIA (images) — ArchNewsNow

INSIGHT: Sounding Good: Inspired by the classics: Nashville's new Schermerhorn Symphony Center. By Paul Scarbrough — David M. Schwarz; Akustiks; Fisher Dachs —