Time to get tough on Cowtown: No one wants to stroll Calgary's downtown. The streets are lifeless and the buildings too boring. But things are beginning to change. By Lisa Rochon - Foster and Partners; Zeidler Partnership; Sturgess Architects; Globe and Mail (Canada)

The Vanishing Class: Middle-income neighborhoods are disappearing from cities, and in New York they're being squeezed to the very edge. By Karrie Jacobs -- Alexander Gorlin; Rogers Manvel Architects; Metropolis Magazine

Architect Lord Rogers in Olympic boycott threat: ...said contracts for the venues were not being made on an architect-led basis, leading to fears about the design quality. Games authority rejects project quality concerns- Guardian (UK)

Well building syndrome: Zaha Hadid's health centre balances light and curves to achieve fluidity. As modest as it is, Maggie's Fife is up there with Hadid's best work and one can only hope it will lead to more British commissions. By Ellis Woodman [slide show]- Telegraph (UK)

Taiwah architect to design Palestinian culture museum: Senan Abdelkader will be designing the Palestinian culture and art museum in Umm al-Fahm, after four years of negotiations with British architect Zaha Hadid did not bear fruit. By Esther Zandberg-Ha'aretz (Israel)

OMA's Race to Construct in China: International architectural partnership OMA (of Rem Koolhaas fame) is relishing the challenge of building a new headquarters for China's national broadcaster (CCTV). It hasn't been an entirely smooth ride. -- Ole Scheeren- BusinessWeek

Why we need to talk about Kevin Roche ... He helped design Busaras when he was 24, then made his mark as an architect in the US. Now he hopes the conference centre he designed in Spencer Dock a decade ago will soon be built. By Frank McDonald- Irish Times

Living Small, but Living Well: Marianne Cusato's apartment in Greenwich Village is barely 300 square feet, which she said helped her to design a series of tiny houses for victims of Hurricane Katrina. By Fred A. Bernstein- Images- New York Times

A challenge, loud and clear: The lot was wedged between a freeway and an airport -- one of the noisiest sites in San Diego -- but Lloyd Russell built his house anyway. It may contribute to a re-examination of what urban planners, residential designers and the public consider to be a habitable site. [slide show]- Los Angeles Times

Where the Corner Bakery Is Sure to Be Organic: Although it would have cost less to comply with the already-strict environmental restrictions required by the Battery Park City Authority (Riverhouse), the developer exceeded those standards and spent more than 15 percent of the $200 million project cost on advanced green measures. -- New York Times

Why relentless green drive may end up costing us the earth: Already, national morale is wilting under the relentless green propaganda message. We will never achieve anything in response to climate change until we return to hard science, free-market economics, evidence-based policies and democratic accountability. - The Scotsman (UK)

The Politics of Play: There is a movement afoot to create recreational spaces that better serve our cities and our children. -- Tim Nash; Murase Associates; Aldo van Eyck; Hattie Copprand/Snug & Outdoor; Helle Nebelong; Ron King- Metropolis Magazine

Industry will thrive if we focus on good design: I fear the UK is more interested in marketing than making. For British design to prosper, we need to think long term. By James Dyson- The Herald (UK)

U.K. factory by Canadian architect won't be demolished: James Dyson - unveiled new plans for the Dyson School of Innovation and Design in the historic English city of Bath, preserves the 50-metre-long, red-brick-and-stone façade of the foundry. -- Thomas Fuller (1950s): Wilkinson Eyre- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Liverpool reveals first glimpse of its European Capital of Culture programme for 2008: ...hosts both the RBA Stirling Prize for Architecture and the UK's biggest exhibition for 20 years on the seminal designer and architect Le Corbusier.- 24dash.com (UK)

[Opus] Design awards demonstrate variety and vitality of Irish architecture -- ODOS Architects; Bone O'Donnell Architects; DTA Architects; Office of Public Works (OPW); Heneghan Peng Architects/Arthur Gibney & Partners; Shay Cleary Architects; Cloonan O'Donnell/Carew Kelly Architects; etc.- Archiseek (Ireland)
New Jiang Wan Cultural Center, Shanghai: While the skyline explodes in a thicket of skyscrapers, a cultural center beckons to a new era of environmental concerns. – RTKL [images] ArchNewsNow

Found in Space: Griffith Observatory’s New Exhibitions: Innovative exhibits for an iconic institution are designed to build an appetite for discovery. – C&G Partners; Pfeiffer Partners; Levin & Associates Architects [images] ArchNewsNow

-- SANAA: Competition Sketches, De Kunstlinie Theatre and Cultural Centre, Almere, The Netherlands

-- “Shopping” in Tokyo (Part 1)