Lessons From Colombia: Ex-Bogotá Mayor Enrique Peñalosa Lectures City Officials On How to Steer a Car-less Future - LA Downtown News

General Services Administration mandates building information modeling; GSA is just dipping its toe into the water... "It's only a piece of what BIM could be, even for a new building. It's a very small first step. The long-range benefits are just huge." - Federal Computer Week (FCW)

75-story tower would awaken Boston’s sleepy skyline... real estate industry officials say they’re optimistic the project will be built... gien the recent rebound in the downtown office space market... - Renzo Piano - Boston Herald

Tommy’s Tower: Just pie in the sky... A 1,000-foot Renzo Piano masterpiece... The cherry on top is a half-acre park in the sky at the very top of the proposed skyscraper. Too bad it will never get built...five big reasons to hold off on plans for that picnic in the skies... - Boston Herald


Beirut Gate’s final design plans submitted to Solidere -- Christian de Portzamparc, Arquitectonica; Nabil Ghelam; Enqa Group (image) - Property World Middle East (Dubai)

Not Another Martyr: The 1960s epoch, was Lebanon’s golden age. It was the time of modernity in economy, culture, art and architecture... some monuments still stand... Beirut City Center by Joseph Philips Karam... milestone of Lebanese design is on death row... making space for the new $600 million Beirut Gate project... (image) - Ya Libnan (Lebanon)

Green light goes on at old Cooper lamp factory: A Chicago real estate developer aims to turn... factory in Logan Square into a green Merchandise Mart... with showrooms featuring eco-friendly products and services... - Crain’s Chicago Business

Ando takes down-to-earth, witty look at architecture; Competition for University of Chicago project; Ray Clark to head Calatrava project; Stricter fire guidelines... By Blair Kamin -- Hans Hollein; Studio Daniel Libeskind; Mayne/Morphosis; Fumihiko Maki and Associates; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects; Perkins + Will - Chicago Tribune

So You Want Ivy Around Your Desk? Companies have a lot to say about what you say about yourself in your work space... A national telephone survey... found that only 40 percent of companies encourage employees to personalize their work space. That number fell from 56 percent a decade earlier... - New York Times

Square route: The prestigious Opus architecture Awards have recognised once again Ireland’s love of the rectangular. It’s still hip to be square in Ireland... - McGarry NiEanaigh; Cloonan O’Donnell; Carew Kelly; ODOS; Bone O’Donnell; Box - The Times (UK)

Orchids & Onions: Invigorated awards show roars back... A reinvigorated emphasis on finding new ways to spark public discussion about our region’s architecture, planning, design and public art surged through this year’s program... - By Ann Jarmusch (image) - San Diego Union-Tribune

The beautiful and the bad: Orchids & Onions, San Diego’s 30-year-old program promoting the best and disissing the bad in local architecture, returned after a three-year break... (image) - San Diego Union-Tribune

The chase for what was or could have been... two books that have nothing in common... these books show us two examples of obsession... but each one the aftermath of seduction. The same holds true for cities... - By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

Times Square debuts holiday toilets: The city famous for its lack of public restrooms got an early -- albeit temporary -- holiday present Monday, in the form of 20 toilets that are being billed as "the plushest flush" in town... (slide show) - AM New York

EPA 2006 National Awards for Smart Growth Achievement: Winners offer lessons for us all... (images) - ArchNewsNow

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center: In Cincinnati, A riverfront museum embodies the geography of escape... By John Meadows, AIA -- Blackburn Architects; BOORA Architects (images) - ArchNewsNow