Here's to a healthy, prosperous, and more peaceful New Year for us all — It's off to a running start with CABE's Festive Five Awards to the "pace-setters for 2007." — Towering futures with "a renaissance in British high-rise architecture." — In Edinburgh, "making skylines is an art that's rather been lost." — King takes on towering plans in San Francisco. — A look at what was and what could be the best and the worst in London, Detroit, Toronto, and Miami. — Proposed smart growth fixes to stem suburban sprawl in Miami-Dade County come under fire. — Will Chicago's Landmark Commission set a precedent that would make "façadectomies" a whole lot easier? — In Washington, DC, the "compulsion to gum up memorials with unnecessary kiosks, shops and museums only gets worse." — Boston's ICA is a "sexy new building" that "will remind its owners of its own self-imposed limits on edginess." — Restored Yale gallery is "a work of cultural courage." — Two thumbs-up's for Holf projects. — A "relatively dark" (but not all that dark) conversation with Frank Gehry.

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CABE hails the pace-setters for 2007… a Festive Five Award to five individuals, organisations and companies whose forward thinking and high aspirations have resulted in great architecture and design: — NVB Architects; van Heyningen and Harward Architects; DSDHA; Cazenove Architects; Caruso St John; Pegasus Architects; David Morley Architects; bptw partnership; Capiella Percy Thomas; Allen Tod Architecture; Snøhetta; da Cruz Architects; Studio E Architects; CUBE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, UK)

Styrcapers spring up in response to rising demand: They sound more like theme park rides than symbols of progress, but towers such as the cheese-grater, the walkie-talkie and the helter-skelter are leading a renaissance in British high-rise architecture: — Guardian (UK)

The sky's the limit: Edinburgh is feeling its way to the future in an unorthodox manner: Do we really want our 21st century skyline, the representation of our civic identity, to emulate the 9-5? "Making skylines is an art that's rather been lost" — Colin Moggridge; Norman Foster; Renzo Piano; Malcolm Fraser: — The Scotsman (UK)

Sky's the limit South of Market: 4 of developers' proposed highrises would be taller than anything else in S.F., tallest towers outside of New York and Chicago… By John King — Renzo Piano — San Francisco Chronicle

Nothing to lose with lower towers: Design would still be striking but fit in… the look would be stylish as well as sleek. What's the problem? Simple: It's too much of a good thing: — By John King — Renzo Piano; Chong/Partners — San Francisco Chronicle

The death of the glass box? Decoration was back on the agenda, as architects flagged up the old in the new. The bad news first: the realisation of what kind of architectural legacy we can expect from the 2012 Olympic Games. By Ellis Woodman — Zaha Hadid: HOK Sport; Herzog & de Meuron: Fat; Caruso St John: — Telegraph (UK)

Contemporary styles help update look of region: There were more hits than misses this year in metro Detroit's architectural scene. By John Gallagher — Valerio Dewalt Train Associates; Albert Kahn Associates; Teng & Associates; SmithGroup; Hamilton Anderson Associates [images]: — Detroit Free Press

A banner year for building: Year brought critical mass of first-class projects to city accustomed to the second rate. A few more years like 2006 and Torontonians will have to get used to feeling good about architecture. With some exceptions… By Christopher Hume — MAD; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB); Gehry; Libeskind; Goldsmith Bogart; architectsAlliance; Behnisch Architects; Foster; Montgomery Sisam; NOOR: Diamond and Schmitt — Toronto Star

A sense of place emerges: There were iconic buildings and tall towers aplenty, but the year belonged to small statements attempting to stem the tide of sameness. By Lisa Reich — Jane Jacob; Calatrava; David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Holton Bakker Boniface Haden Architects + Urbanistes; Shore Tibbe Irwin & Partners; Will Alsop; TAG; Jodoin Lamarre et Pratte Associés Architectes; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB); Diamond and Schmitt Architects — Globe and Mail (Canada)

Can James Corner build a beautiful waterfront? Another year, another set of great expectations. Can we solve the waterfront (finally)? — Field Operations — Globe and Mail (Canada)

2006's most memorable moments in architecture. By Beth Dunkop — Savino Hialeah: Pelli Clarke Pelli; Herzog & de Meuron; Richard Heisenthal: — Miami Herald

Growth plan holds line in S. Dade: An ambitious plan intended to serve as a blueprint for development of Miami-Dade County's last frontier would hold the line on suburbia right where it is until at least 2025… But the "smart-growth" fixes proposed… have come under mounting fire — Miami Herald

Chicago Landmark Commission Posed to Eviscerate Key Protection for City's Architecture: A proposal on… January 4th agenda raises the question of why… members would vote to set a precedent that would make destroying the city's landmark buildings a whole lot easier. By Lynn Becker — Philip Maher (1920s): Lucien Lagrange — Repeat — Chicago

Memorial Advocates Are Sold On the Kiosk: Even before a design has been proposed, there is an upfront admission from the [Dwight D. Eisenhower] memorial's supporters that nothing the architects or planners or designers create will be self-sufficient… The compulsion to gum up memorials with unnecessary kiosks, shops and museums only gets worse. By Philip Kennicott — Washington Post
Museum Sticks Its Neck Out -- but Only So Far: Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)...this sexy new building on the edge of the water will remind its owners of their own self-imposed limits on edginess. By Philip Kennicott -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Washington Post

Kahn's Design Restored in Yale Gallery's $44 Million Overhaul: With so many important works of baby-boomer-era modernism threatened...treating this modest but seminal building like a masterpiece is a work of cultural courage. By James S. Russell -- Polshek Partnership Architects - Bloomberg News

Steven Holl's Latest Design Is Business as Unusual: Swiss Ambassador's Residence...steeped in intellect rather than brimming with emotion. That makes his buildings easier to admire than to love at first sight. By Linda Hales - Washington Post

Steven Holl's Dark Year Gets Brighter: ...the New York architect, is a seasoned pro who has weathered an array of professional embarrassments over the past year...Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art..."a jaw-dropping 'wow.' " By Julie V. Iovine [images] - New York Times

The Architect: A relatively dark conversation with Frank Gehry. "I don't know why people hire architects and then tell them what to do" - Wall Street Journal