A very urban day: Stellar teams line up to vie for chance to build San Francisco's tallest skyscraper. — Cities at the forefront of fight against global warming, says one report. — Another report says just the opposite. — Cities all over are reaping rewards by covering urban highways with parks - and a growing desire for streetcars. — A driverless taxi in our future? — Q&A with America's "green mayor." — Rochon hopes Vancouver's new city planner will let architects design. — Will 3rd time be the charm for big development near Boston's Fenway Park? — L.A.'s development boom pushes south (and pushes some buttons). — U.K. pushes for energy efficiency in healthcare system. — Boddy purrs about ROAR. — The "undisputed queen of landscape architecture" who thinks like an architect. — A (mostly) thumbs-up for "Design Like You Give a Damn."

Transbay terminal race is on: 5 teams jockeying for coveted chance to build tower that could be San Francisco's tallest structure. By John King — Richard Rogers Partnership; Foster + Partners; Santiago Calatrava; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Skidmore Owings & Merrill — San Francisco Chronicle

Cities Most Innovative in Global Warming Fight: the most innovative ideas... are coming from cities and local initiatives... — Worldwatch Institute (Reuters) - Environmental News Network

Cities' vows to cut gas emissions questioned: 'Many will miss goals by a wide margin,' report says... Those working to reduce emissions disagree with that finding. — Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Benefiting from a Cover Up: Cities reap rewards for decking highways with parks: Regardless of cost, the actual force driving the trend is the opportunity for private development and redevelopment around the parks. — Governing

Cities rediscover allure of streetcars: As cities experience a much-publicized urban renaissance, streetcars have become another draw for investment in housing, stores and restaurants. — USA Today

German Company Engineers Driverless Taxi: ...a driverless Railcab for passengers and freight is born — and its developers are ushering in a new era of rail travel. [slide show]— Der Spiegel (Germany)

The Great Green Augustus: Q&A with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley: eco-consciousness, philosophy of government and the path that led him to become America's "green mayor." — Conscious Choice Chicago

Time to build outside the box: With a new planner at the helm, Vancouver has a chance to shake things up. And as the 2010 Olympics loom, there's a new sense of urgency. By Lisa Rochon — Larry Beasley; Brent Toderian; Bing Thom; BIHB Architects; Fentail/Elliot Associates; James Cheng; Robert A.M. Stern; Paul Merrick Architects; Arthur Erickson; Walter Fraund; Robert Stern — Globe and Mail (Canada)

For developer, 3rd time may be charm: latest plan to remake the Kenmore Square neighborhood near Fenway Park, a 1.3-million-square-foot project that would put two residential towers along the Massachusetts Turnpike. — Carlos Zapata Studio, D'Apostolo Izzo Quirk Architects — Boston Globe

22 blocks slated for hip surgery: City officials hope to bring gentrification to the Washington Boulevard area south of Staples Center. But some residents remain skeptical. — Los Angeles Times

Survey finds more energy efficiency awareness needed: As the government announces a £100m funding initiative to help the NHS [National Health Services] increase energy efficiency... many... in the health and hospital industry are not aware of the savings they can achieve and the options available to them. — Nightingale Associates — HD/Hospital Development magazine (UK)

Vancouver's year in housing exits in style with a ROAR: ...hardly a better example in this city of a building that combines design innovation with livable Green features. By Trevor Boddy — Lang/Wilson/LWPAC; Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden — Globe and Mail (Canada)

Mother Nature: Thanks to projects like Robson Square, the Museum of Anthropology and the National Gallery of Canada, 82-year-old Cornelia Oberlander is the undisputed queen of landscape architecture... sees landscape as a device to link the building to its site... why so respected by architects. She thinks like one. — Bing Thom; Arthur Erickson; Moshe Safdie — Vancouver Magazine

Book Review: "Design Like You Give a Damn" by Sinclair/Stohr/Architecture for Humanity: ...a narrow focus on design is both the success and the flaw of this book. By Lance Hosey, AIA, LEED — AIA COTEnotes

Celebrating Green: The decade-long history of the AIA/COTE's Top Ten Green Projects program is a portrait of evolution in the field. By Kirra Gould — ArchNewsNow

-- Gehry Partners, LLP: Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris
-- Oppenheim architecture + design: COR, Miami
-- Exhibition: Skin + Bones, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles