California architects doing good in Darfur. -- Lottbly house makes high-tech green building a prefab snap. -- Left Coast vs. Right Coast: L.A. architects have more "room to dream" than NYC architects. -- Duany takes on critics of new urbanism, avant-gardist architects, and environmentalists. -- Becker wonders if Chicago Spire developer is "visionary or delusional" (and offers a sharp exchange with Kamin). -- Meanwhile, Kamin passes out grades for new campus architecture: "To icon or not to icon?" (and gives an A+ to Holl in Iowa.) -- Old money vs. new Foster tower in NYC: the "plate tectonics of power" are shifting. -- Using a "velvet hammer," NYC's planning commissioner scores (mostly) thumbs-up as "the curator of a living, breathing city." -- "Disneyfication" 40 years ago meant something very different than it does today. -- An architect calls for creativity to transform the Modernist City Hall into a civic center for contemporary Boston. -- Orbitz design takes off: ...new home of the online travel agency...is not your daddy's workplace. Alternately sleek and spare, refined and raw, it's a series of canny juxtapositions of design elements... By Kevin Nance -- Ken Locascio/OWP/P Architects

A Tale of Two Urban Plans: It would seem then that there is a kind of gravitational drag that weighs down on architects in New York that is not present in Los Angeles...In Los Angeles, architects and buildings have the necessary room to dream. By James Gardner - - Ebenezer Howard; Lewis Mumford; Robert Moses; Frank Gehry; Richard Meier - - Old Money and New Construction: In New York, a Proposed Condo Tower Pits the Rich Against the Rich and Famous...The plate tectonics of power in New York in fact are shifting. -- Norman Foster - - Washington Post

Dazzling moves for University of Iowa building: ...new art and art history building...is that rare thing: A strong design that overwhelms neither its site nor its users...It isn't just an object; it's a place -- precisely what campus architecture (actually, all architecture) should be. By Blair Kamin -- Steven Holl; Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck - - Chicago Tribune

Definition of 'tasteful' has changed a lot in past 40 years: Does taste in buildings vacillate like hemlines? By Robert Behre - - A Tale of Two Urban Plans: It would seem then that there is a kind of gravitational drag that weighs down on architects in New York that is not present in Los Angeles...In Los Angeles, architects and buildings have the necessary room to dream. By James Gardner - - Ebenezer Howard; Lewis Mumford; Robert Moses; Frank Gehry; Richard Meier - - Old Money and New Construction: In New York, a Proposed Condo Tower Pits the Rich Against the Rich and Famous...The plate tectonics of power in New York in fact are shifting. -- Norman Foster - - Washington Post

Op-Ed: New, improved modernity...with enough creativity the present City Hall can be transformed into a civic center for contemporary Boston. By David Figer/Einhorn Yaffee Prescott - - DOCOMOMO - - Boston Globe

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Can Johnny Come Out and (Be Taught to) Play? New York City's new ideas about structured fun might make parents happy. But children could have other ideas. -- Rockwell Group Image + audio slide show - - New York Times

The difference between architecture and theatre. By Daniel Libeskind - - All About Jewish Theatre

Smooth Move: At home with Marc Newson, an industrial designer who has always been ahead of the curve. [slide show] - - New York Times

Book review: Why we like the buildings we like: A thoughtful and provocative book "The...
Architecture of Happiness,* by Alain de Botton explores the origins of differing tastes in architectural styles...the best introduction to architecture I have ever seen. By Robert Campbell - Boston Globe

-- Richard Meier & Partners: Eli and Edythe Broad Art Center, UCLA, Los Angeles
-- Steven Holl Architects: T-Houses, Copenhagen

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