Los Angeles has a new cultural "living room." -- As urban planners go global, there's more needed than just knowing the local codes. -- While not all are pleased by the "remodeling of Beijing by outsiders," Chinese architects "now have the tools to build great buildings. But without foreign influence, that would have been unthinkable." -- China's tower boom raises concerns about safety and environmental protection. -- In Viet Nam, HCM City needs a plan, but is not quite sure how to go about it (will investors wait?). -- Kamin warns that L.A.'s "final frontier" for "post-spread urbanism" might not be such a good idea. -- King has high hopes that 5 stellar teams vying for San Francisco tower will come up with "sustainable, elegant urbanity." -- A pioneering housing development (only 7 years old) set to bite the dust. -- NYC is losing its pedestal edge. -- Why can't the 35th Street Bridge look more like Frank Gehry's BP Bridge? Bridging the gap between utility and art. -- It may be time to hit the brakes: Putting homes, schools and parks by freeways was seen as a final frontier in L.A., but a USC study on pollution could force a rethinking. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Eric Owen Moss; Perkins + Will; Coop Himmelblau; Los Angeles Times

Less razzle-dazzle, more subtlety needed for high-stakes Transbay Terminal design: San Francisco doesn't need an exclamation point. It needs a subtle and subtle vision...that stands as a symbol of what sustainable, elegant urbanity can be. By John King -- Foster + Partners/Heller-Manus Architects; Richard Rogers Partnership/SOM; Pelli/WRNS Studio; Calatrava/Chong Partners/KMD Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM).-- San Francisco Chronicle

Now they're coming down! A pioneering Leeds housing development...is now to be torn down. £3m CASPAR (City Centre Apartments for Single People at Affordable Rents)...was hailed as revolutionary...LifeHomes wants...a design that retains many of the "style and affordability values that made the original building so distinctive." -- Levitt Bernstein (2000); architects 2B -- Yorkshire Evening Post (UK)

Op-Ed: The City That Never Walks: ...as far as pedestrian issues go, New York is acting more like the rest of America, and the rest of America is acting more like the once-innovative New York. -- New York Times

Why can't the 35th Street Bridge look more like Frank Gehry's BP Bridge? Bridging the gap between utility and art. By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Calatrava, di Domenico + Partners -- Chicago Tribune

City That Loves Mass Transit Looks to the Sky for More: For all the fuss...the tram is more like the rest of America, and the rest of America is acting more like the once-inspiring New York. -- New York Times

Superstar Architects May Dazzle, Can't Outshine Talent of Mario Botta: Two recent buildings in Europe...mark him out as one of the most varied and original architects working today. By Colin Amery -- Bloomberg News

Fitting in with the South End neighbors: 424 Mass. Ave. has historic context and modern flair...a model for infill buildings in historic neighborhoods. By Robert Campbell -- Doug Dolezal-- Boston Globe


Global as a matter of course: China native Qingyun Ma, USC's new architecture dean, is steeped in a bi-continental approach: Eastern tradition meets Western technology — with the freedom to blend the best of both. -- MADA s.p.a.m.; Zhu Pei -- BBC News

High-rises raise major concerns; Safety and environmental protection should be the chief concerns of Chinese cities in their race to build more skyscrapers. By Blair Kamin -- Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN)

Beijing builds on foreign footings: ...remodelling of Beijing by outsiders has not pleased everyone. Some of the new buildings have infuriated China's architectural establishment and caused a backlash from the Chinese leadership. -- Herzog & de Meuron; Paul Andreu; Koolhaas/Scheeren/OMA; Zhu Pei; -- BBC News

There's a lesson in making a small house a work of art. -- A Wright home that's a lesson in making a small house a work of art can be yours for $2 million. By Robert Campbell -- Doug Dolezal; Eric Owen Moss Architects [images] -- The History Channel

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Wanted: The Wright Buyer: For sale: Historic local home that's a lesson in making a small house a work of art...square footage is irrelevant to the quality of life that it engenders. By Lawrence W. Cheek [Images] - Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Exhibition: Museums in the 21st Century: Concepts Projects Buildings, Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz, Austria – Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Spacelab Peter Cook/Colin Fournier; Anamorphosis Architects; Fumihiko Maki; Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture; Zaha Hadid; Shigeru Ban; Jean de Gastines; Gehry Partners; Rafael Viñoly; Jun Aoki; Renzo Piano; Tadao Ando; Mario Botta, etc.