Future planners: "They aren't just petty-minded conservatory-deniers." — Austin thinks vertical with VMU (vertical mixed use) zoning (and a slew of other alphabet soups). — In China, pesky antiquities getting in the way of Olympic construction (unless the bulldozers or looters get there first). — London Olympic plans have great green goals - and skeptics. — Valentine’s Day will have London architects speed dating to woo 2012 Olympic planners (we couldn’t resist this one). — Q&A with Salt Lake City’s oh-so-green mayor. — A green jewel teaches by example in Georgia. — The high-stake challenges for building industry professionals and homeland security. — What’s in store for decommissioned historic military bases? — In Colorado, Longmont Museum o.k.’s addition (now wait for the money to pay for it). — Abu Dhabi courts another big cultural fish. — Kamin on AIA’s 150 favorite buildings list: “studded with surprises sure to make architects and architecture critics cringe.” — Call for entries: Archi-Tech AV Awards for integrating technology into otherwise traditional construction projects. — Davidson’s take on exhibits that reappraise Robert Moses. — Oourussoff finds “Clip/Stamp/Fold” exhibit a “piercing critique” of our contemporary design culture.

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Future Planners: Re-thinking the cultural, environmental and democratic role of planners and planning— Demos (UK)

Going Vertical: The new VMU zoning could transform your neighborhood. Austin is growing so fast...the only real growth choice: To sprawl or not to sprawl? Austinites are being asked to accept increased density. — Hailey/Johnson Architects: Weiss Architecture; L.S. Johnston Architects [images, links]— Austin Chronicle

Olympic Construction Unearths Ancient Treasure Trove: Construction zones across [China] are uncovering so many antiquities that it might be considered a golden era for archaeology — except that sites and antiquities are often simply demolished by bulldozers or looted. — New York Times

Ringing the changes: The organisers of the London 2012 Olympics have promised that the games will be the most sustainable ever. But are their much publicised green goals really as ambitious as they sound?— Guardian (UK)

Excellent Olympic Speed Dating for London Architects:...practices are being offered the opportunity of a "hot date" with the people responsible for the 2012 Olympic infrastructure on 15 February. Playing cupid is Tom Dyckoff... — AOC; HOK Sport; Allies and Morrison-AzoBuild.com (Australia)

School of Rocky: Q&A with Salt Lake City mayor and green innovator Rocky Anderson...[his] Salt Lake City Green program has slashed the city government’s greenhouse-gas emissions...enticed private businesses to go greener, and made Salt Lake more friendly for walkers and cyclists.— Grist Magazine

Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center a green jewel...teaches by example. — Lord, Aeck & Sargent— Atlanta Journal-Constitution


Off Base: What Will Happen to Historic Military Bases Set to Close in Four Years? One possible model...is San Francisco’s famous Presidio.— Preservation magazine

Design OK’d for Longmont Museum & Cultural Center addition:...timeline for construction will be based on how the fund-raising goes.— OZ Architecture [images]— Daily Times-Call (Colorado)

Abu Dhabi in talks with British Museum...about establishing a presence at the emirate’s flagship $27bn cultural district, Saadiyat Island. — ArabianBusiness.com

A list with serious design flaws: Fame trumps quality in building picks: A new poll of Americans’ 150 favorite buildings is ridiculously superficial, riddled with questionable choices, but still worth a good hard look...studded with surprises sure to make architects and architecture critics cringe.— By Blair Kamin— Chicago Tribune

Call for entries: 2007 ARCHI-TECH AV Awards:...honor outstanding examples of the creative and effective integration of technology into otherwise traditional construction projects; deadline: February 23— ARCHI-TECH magazine

In reappraisal of Robert Moses, much praise: Three-part exhibit offers a less cynical blueprint of the master builder’s mixed legacy. By Justin Davidson— NY Newsday

Such Cheek! Those Were the Days, Architects: The exhibit “Clip/Stamp/Fold: The Radical Architecture of Little Magazines 196x-197x” is a piercing critique, intended or not of the smoothness of our contemporary design culture. By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]— New York Times

In Their Own Words: Abu Dhabi Cultural District: How Gehry, Hadid, Nouvel, and Ando envision their cultural venues on Saadiyat Island. [images]— ArchNewsNow

Curtain Up: Billy Wilder Theater at UCLA Hammer Museum: Los Angeles has a new cultural “living room.” — Michael Maltzan Architecture [images]— ArchNewsNow

— Ando, Gehry, Hadid, and Nouvel: Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE
— SMC Alsop: Palestra, London, UK