Age-old materials and a straightforward design fulfill a growing congregation's vision of a sacred place. -- Centerbrook Architects and Planners [images].

British firm wins Cyprus Cultural Centre bid in Nicosia. -- Hopkins Architects; Virdas and Patsalosav; Ove Arup and Partners; Kirkegaard Associates; Carr and Angier; Cyprus Mail

Abu Dhabi eco report unveiled: State of Environment Report - the first of its kind in the UAE - is being launched in an effort to highlight eco trends and problems in the emirates. government has responded to the bad eco reputation by getting behind more environmentally-friendly measures. -- ArabianBusiness.com

Atkins propels development of Bahrain forward: ... a pioneering stride for environmental architecture, the first building in the world to incorporate large scale integrated wind turbines. -- tests indicate will generate 11-15% of the energy requirements of the two Manama's Bahrain World Trade Center towers. -- AME Info (United Arab Emirates)

London's skyscraper boom: soon Foster's "gherkin" will be dwarfed. They say that London is taking over from New York as the world's pre-eminent financial centre. And if there's one thing a pre-eminent financial centre loves, it's talk of new skyscrapers. By Hugh Pearman -- Pelli; Rogers; KPF; Piano; Vinyo [images]. HughPearman.com (UK)

Tall and Thin, Back in Fashion: The sliver building is making a comeback in Midtown Manhattan. -- Israel Leyva [image]. New York Times

Old Town revamp makes the grade: ... plans drawn up by Edinburgh University...would see 330 new homes built...designed to turn the Holyrood area into a bustling neighbourhood. -- John Hope The Scotsman (UK)

Architect believes 'zipper zone' concept will expedite growth along Poplar corridor. Special design and zoning guidelines...should be established to promote smarter, more sustainable growth in the zipper zone. -- Frank Ricks/Looney Ricks Kiss. Commercial Appeal (Memphis)

Preservationists debate Fort Lauderdale beach's future: ... want to see Fort Lauderdale beach's past in its tourism future; developers balk. -- South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Will failing vision impair Opera House improvements? Joern Utzon is losing his eyesight. So how authentic is the work being carried out in his name, wonders Philip Drew -- Jan Utzon; Richard Johnson/Johnson Pilton Walker. The Australian

A Room for the Night (Not 40 to Life): A growing number of abandoned jails are being converted to hotels. -- Cambridge Seven Associates; Ann Beha Architects. New York Times

Oberlin celebrates addition that launched a design: ...the building helped launch post-Modernist design. -- Cass Gilbert (1917); Venturi Scott Brown (1977). Cleveland Plain Dealer

Creature comforts: From swanky kitchens to hot showers, design takes center stage in Chicago's coolest offices. -- DeStefano & Partners; Goettsch Partners; Genster; Powell/Kleinschmidt; OWPP; Skidmore Owings & Merrill; Cornerstone Architects [links, images]. Crain's Chicago Business

Greece is the word: He was the Indiana Jones of his day, dodging murderers to pull off astounding architectural coups. -- Jonh Glancy on the life and fast times of James 'Athenian' Stuart. the star of a new show at London's V&A... Guardian (UK)

Designs that grew out of nature: Dominic Bradbury reviews Alvar Aalto: Through the Eyes of Shigeru Ban at the Barbican. Aalto offers the inspiring example of the big, friendly Modernist giant. Call for entries: Schedule young architects' drawing portfolios. -- One we couldn't resist. Indianapolis architect announces run for governor.
Call for entries: Schedium: AIANY Chapter’s Emerging New York Architects (ENYA) celebrate the drawing abilities of today’s emerging architects; international practitioners are welcome; registration deadline: June 1- AIA New York

Indianapolis architect announces run for governor: ... has designs on the state’s top office. -- Jim Schellinger/CSO Architects- Northwest Indiana Times

-- Mecanoo architects: La Llotja Theatre and Congress Center, Lleida, Spain
-- Michael Maltzan Architecture: Rainbow Apartments, Skid Row Housing, Los Angeles