History reduced to rubble: Lindsay Hilsum charts the Chinese government’s ambiguous relationship with ancient buildings. The scandal of Shanchang... instead of covering the site in high-rises, they’re thinking of building a museum. - New Statesman (UK)

City losing its soul, brick by brick: This willingness to sacrifice the public realm, architecture and the built form of the city to the most crass economic considerations have kept Toronto from achieving the greatness it craves. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Plans for a high-rise condo next to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) were shelved in 2005, but the idea isn’t dead yet... if... taken seriously as an opportunity for public education, the inevitable uproar could be turned into Toronto’s first important, ongoing discussion of the role of tall residential buildings in the urban fabric. By John Bentley - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Witte Museum may uproot trees for more parking: ... raising eyebrows from those who say the natural history museum is plotting to destroy natural history. - San Antonio Express-News

Olympic masterplanner quits: Foreign Office Architects (FOA) leaves over fears that design of Olympic park has been dumbed down... still on the shortlist to design the Olympic velodrome. -- EDAW, Buro Happold, Allies and Morrison; HKD Sport - Building (UK)

What is Effective Urban Planning? ...the biggest chits in play are transportation and buildings. -- Tony Gale/Starbucks Corporate Architect; Dr. Joe Schwieterman/DePaul University-Chaddick Institute [audio] - Smart City Radio

Development anchor or urban showpiece? If you listen to GSA’s project leads and designers, this new courthouse shouldn’t be shunted aside in the city’s periphery, but featured prominently as a city staple. ...- Susan T. Rodriguez/Polshek Partnership - Patriot-News (Pennsylvania)

Aarhus will have the best harbour front in Denmark: Openness, vividness and multiplicity characterise the winning proposal... - 3XN, LUNSudio, Gehl Architects [image, link to images] - Immo-news

Architects narrowed down for Austin Children’s Museum... none of which are in Austin. -- Duda Paine Architects; Griffin Enright Architects; Koning Eizenberg Architecture; Pugh + Scarpia Architecture; Rockwell Group; Roto Architects - Austin Business Journal (Texas)

Zaha Hadid unveils wonder of Dubai: ... reveals another show stopping design which will sit next to the Burj Dubai [images] - Building (UK)

Koolhaas, Foster clash over ‘similar’ designs: No plagiarism but we were first, says Rem, as Foster’s deny any real likeness between schemes [images, links] - Building Design (UK)

Lord Foster’s star descends on Spanish vineyard: ... the latest star architect to savour the fruits of Spain’s image-obsessed wine producing industry. €25m (£17m) Bodegas Portia, shaped like a three-pointed star... - Gehry; Calatrava; Hadid [image] - Guardian (UK)

Eco-homes offer hope of lunar future: ... “superadobe” designs have attracted the interest of NASA scientists studying the feasibility of building lunar colonies. – Nader Khalili/California Institute of Earth Art and Architecture (CalEarth) - iAfrica.com

Cemeteries Seek Breathing Clientele: Historic cemeteries, in need of money for restorations, are reaching out to the public in unusual ways... repositioning themselves for the afterlife... their own. -- Julia Morgan; Benjamin Henry Latrobe; Frank Lloyd Wright [slide show] - New York Times

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Pallant House wins museum of the year: £100,000 Gulbenkian Prize, a surprise victory for a comparatively small independent regional gallery. -- Colin St John Wilson

Guardian (UK)

Starring New York, City of Grit and Glamour: Grand Central Terminal’s magical role on screen makes it the ideal location for “Celluloid Skyline: New York and the Movies,” an exhibition of background paintings, film clips, production stills and archival photographs...on view through June 22. -- James Sanders [images, video link]- New York Times

Building a recognition of environmental costs: The annual Doors Open Toronto event this weekend will feature homes and condos with a new green consciousness. By Dave LeBlanc- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Singapore Built & Unbuilt: 32 winning works and finalist entries of recent competitions and projects; National Museum of Singapore through June 24 [images]- DesignSingapore

Two Tokyo exhibitions honor architect who sees dandelions in the sky -- Terunobu Fujimori- Asahi Shimbun (Japan)

Steven Holl Architects: Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri