A first look inside NYT HQ - the Gray Lady sports "Renzo red." -- It's an artful day: Hawthorne offers a (mostly) thumbs-up for Coop Himmelb(l)au debut in Akron. -- Norton's new adventure in North Carolina: a museum that puts sculpture on the skyline with just the right amount of "wow" factor. -- Hadid's Serpentine debut (tonight), and her crystal connection with Swarovski. -- Appelbaum + Gates = a Seattle tourist attraction. -- A former military-electronics complex will transform into Beijing Contemporary Art Museum. -- An international shortlist for Bird Island green home competition in Malaysia. -- Green architecture taking root in Florida and Michigan. -- How design-build encourages green building. -- Suburban cities turning to towers to realize their downtowns. -- Columbia University (and the architects) gets gritted about its expansion plans. -- Futuristic design for University of Tasmania research institute takes it to approval. -- A touch of Brasilia in store for new Libyan government HQ. -- Someone (finally) in charge (again) of U.N. renovation. -- An artful bridge with a view. -- Olmsted's eternal vision for a cemetery reflects "a higher social function." -- Call for applications: James Marston Fitch 2007 Mid-Career Grants.

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Bold Print: The New York Times has moved into a new home and from the ‘Renzo-red’ lobby to the state-of-the-art newsroom the Gray Lady has never been brighter. Marisa Bartolucci takes the first look. -- Renzo Piano; FXFowle Architects; Gensler [images]- The Architect’s Newspaper (NYC)

Coop Himmelb(l)au’s Akron, Ohio, museum wing adds space-age lines: ...soaring, audaciously sculptural...attached to the museum’s existing home...like a spaceship hitched to a locomotive ...frequently edges from drama into melodrama. By Christopher Hawthorne [image]- Los Angeles Times

Architect unveils art museum’s design: ...a modernistic home for the Fayetteville Museum of Art that appears to float above the park. -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; Perkins + Will [images]- Fayetteville Observer (North Carolina)

Magic mushrooms sprout in Kensington Gardens: Zaha Hadid’s fabric parasols, designed to shelter guests at the Serpentine Gallery’s summer party [image]- This is London (UK)

How we met: Zaha Hadid & Nadja Swarovski: ‘We both have in common the ability to think beyond our comfort zones and aim high’- Independent (UK)

Museum Designer’s Task: Explain Mission of Gates Foundation: A sleek glass, copper and concrete visitor’s center...may become a Seattle tourist attraction when it opens in 2010. Q&A with Ralph Appelbaum- Bloomberg News

Belgian Art Collectors to Open Beijing Contemporary Art Museum: located in Beijing’s 798 or Dashanzi Art District, the site of a onetime military-electronics complex -- will be spread over 6,500 square meters. -- Jean-Michel Wilmotte; Ma Qiyou- Bloomberg News

YTL Land does its bit to preserve environment via Bird Island Green Homes Competition: ...shaping the mental and physical landscape for a greener housing industry...8 international architectural firms will compete to build six “sustainable architectural” designs: -- Atelier 10; Grant Associates; Plasma Studio; GRAFT; Zoka Zola; Innovarchi; KplusK Associates; MAD- The Star (Malaysia)

Green architecture is design of the future: From mansions to college campuses to town homes, South Florida architects and builders are increasingly using Earth-friendly designs -- Michael Carlson; Chad Oppenheim; Florida Green Building Coalition- South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Blueprints go green: Environmentally friendly buildings gaining popularity, certification. In Michigan, 211 projects have applied for official LEED status with 45 certified to date. -- Detroit Metro Times

Op-Ed: How design-build encourages green building: ...may never be the primary method for project delivery in the United States, but it can be effective for making green building a matter of professional practice rather than a mandate, novelty or showcase for pet projects. By Steve Clem/Skanska USA- Sustainable Industries Journal

Building Up, Downtown: As the region’s outlying cities seek revitalization, many are turning to towers.- New York Times

City Planning Commission (CPC) Grills Columbia: In a contentious meeting, the commission voices concerns about the university’s expansion in Manhattanville -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Renzo Piano- The Architect’s Newspaper (NYC)

Building morphs into favour: The futuristic morrophed shape is still there but the new design for the University of Tasmania School of Medicine and Menzies Research Institute is set to get the nod from the Hobart City Council. -- Lyons Architects- Mercury - The Voice of Tasmania (Australia)

German architects to build new Libya government seat...complex has been compared...to the futuristic, utopian architectural style employed in...Brasilia in the 1950s by German architect Oscar Niemeyer. -- Leon Wölflage Wernik Architekten
U.S. architect appointed to oversee $1.9 billion renovation of U.N. headquarters (AP) -- Michael Adlerstein - International Herald Tribune

Sure, the Bridge Is a Marvel, but How About the View? Some say the best way to see Maine's natural beauty is atop the 420-foot public observation tower on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge. -- Figg Engineering Group [slide show] - New York Times

Tomb with a View: Frederick Law Olmsted's eternal vision for Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery...designed in defiance of late-19th-century trends...a consideration for how the formal aspects of landscape design may reflect and support a higher social function. By Lauri Puchall -- Alexander Gorlin Architects [images] - The East Bay Monthly (California)

Call for applications: James Marston Fitch 2007 Mid-Career Grants: historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, architectural history, the decorative arts; deadline: September 14 - James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation

-- Construction start: Asymptote Architecture: 166 Perry Street, New York, NY
-- Competition winner: Erick van Egeraat: Tatarstan National Library, Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan
-- Announcement: arcspace + Second Life