ArcSpace updates its life in Second Life, and, of course, an eyeful in Akron. – Who didn’t go to Akron: Kamin and Ouroussoff have high praise for art museum’s exterior and the architects as the “Rolling Stones of architecture,” but both are disappointed with parts of the interior (a failure of nerve). – Opinions of other architects are (mostly) positive. – The museum “reflects the vision of the architect” and “the spirit of the city.” – After Akron, head to Michigan State University for more museum talk. – Or hop over to Hamburg and its own Ellis Island-like museum. – London’s mayor gets serious about protecting urban views. – How to build 3 million new homes: “avoid the hideous mistakes of the past and replace dogma with design” (and bring on the young turks). – Or don’t: for some, traditional is better. – Boddy brings back lessons in density from Japan. – The true wonders of the world: our cities. – Green is paying off for businesses in Tennessee. – NYC may have great transit, but its buildings lag in efficiencies. – Hume ponders the optimism he found at the Congress of the World Green Building Council. – Australian head-turners and prize winners - not without debate. – A call to let Thom’s Tarrant County College campus stand. – Eye-catchers in Greenwich Village and Edinburgh also catch some heat.

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-- arcspaceSL: Second Life Latest News
-- Coop Himmelb(l)au: Akron Art Museum, Akron, Ohio
-- Architype: Chilterns Gateway Centre, Dunstable Downs, UK

Radical design in Akron? Yes, Akron: Art museum expansion an addition to Ohio’s avant-garde buildings... If architecture is frozen music, the museum now sings... This is architecture with a capital "A,"... so it is a letdown to... enter into a suite of galleries that are nothing more than variations on the boxy, "white cube" galleries... By Blair Kamin -- Coop Himmelb(l)au; Westlake Reed Leskosky-- Chicago Tribune

A Fine View, on the Outside at Least: The new addition to the Akron Museum of Art underscores how hard it can be to strike a balance between daring architecture and enjoyable spaces for viewing art... galleries show that a stifled imagination can do more harm than a splash of vulgarity. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Coop Himmelb(l)au [slide show]-- New York Times

Architects mostly like new Akron Art Museum: The specter of destination architecture replacing blockbuster shows as a way to pull in the public seems to have been resurrected. -- Coop Himmelb(l)au-- Beacon Journal (Ohio)

An Akron creation: The new art museum reflects the vision of the architect. Its extraordinary forms also point to the spirit of the city. -- Coop Himmelb(l)au-- Beacon Journal (Ohio)

Public invited to observe museum architectural competition: ...architectural firms will make presentations on Wednesday, July 18 [for] Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum – Coop Himmelb(l)au; Kohn Pedersen Fox; Zaha Hadid; Randall Stout; Morphosis- MSU Today (Michigan State University)

Hoping to Lure Visitors by Recalling Departures: The BallinStadt museum is dedicated to the five million Europeans who passed through Hamburg, Germany on their way to North and South America. -- LeisureWorkGroup [images]-- New York Times

Mayor publishes planning guidance to protect views of London's landmarks: ...development within these 11 viewing corridors must take account of this guidance to ensure the landmarks within them are not obscured from stipulated viewing points. - Greater London Authority (UK)

Let's start thinking outside the box: How can we build Gordon Brown’s 3 million new homes and still have a green and pleasant land? The answer is to avoid the hideous mistakes of the past and replace dogma with design. By Stephen Bayley -- Paul Clark; Allies and Morrison; Feilden Clegg Bradley; Roger Evans Associates; Proctor and Matthews; Bill Dunster; Clique Architects; Chetwood Associates; Richard Rogers; Patrick Lynch; Pierre d’Avoine; Will Alsop-- Observer (UK)

Traditional buildings more eco-friendly...according to a study... "Actually the architectural establishment do know this but they don't want it said...This is the great secret that no one wants to reveal." -- Robert Adam Architects; Atelier 10; James Pickard Architects-- Telegraph (UK)

Listen to the Japanese: Learning to manage with smaller dwellings, Vancouverites must now look to... cultures where people have lived at high population densities for a long time, and have developed the folkways and habits needed when rooming cheek by jowl. By Trevor Boddy-- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Civilisation in the city: For the wonders of the world we should look where humanity is living and creating together... it seems - because we spend most of our time complaining about them or trying to escape from them - they are cities.-- Guardian (UK)
Harnessing technology: Businesses find energy efficiency, conservation can pay off in long run -- McCarty Holsaple McCarty Architects; Elizabeth Eason Architecture; ASEGI - Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee)

The Cost of Saving Energy: New York City’s extensive mass-transit system means lower auto emissions, but the city’s residential buildings are less energy-efficient than those in many other places. - New York Times

Building a bold new green world: It sounded at times like a meeting of Optimists, but, no, it was the seventh Congress of the World Green Building Council (WGBC)...the hot air generated at this conference will be worth whatever warming it may cause. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Station's curves prove real head-turner: Southern Cross Station has won Victoria's top architecture award, but the building is not without its design shortcomings...Equally debated...the gold-tipped colossus that dominates the Melbourne skyline — the 88-storey Eureka Tower. -- Grimshaw/Daryl Jackson; Fender Katsalidis; Robert Simeoni; Kangan Batman - The Age (Australia)

It's an idea that deserves our support: Enough, already. It's time to tell Bass no...Tarrant County College campus...original design by Bing Thom is simply better, much better, than anything Bass and his consultants have offered up.- Star-Telegram (Dallas/Ft. Worth)

An Eye-Catcher Takes Some Heat, Too: A luxury condominium [One Jackson Square] planned for Greenwich Village is likely to catch the eye — though some preservationists say that will be happening for all the wrong reasons. -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) [images] - New York Times

Critics hit out at plan for £20m gap site office block: ...glass-fronted building will be too big, out of character with the World Heritage Site...architect behind the scheme says it will help revitalise the area... -- Allan Murray - Edinburgh Evening News

Water Walls: Digital Water Pavilion: A building made of water that will flow at Expo Zaragoza in Spain next year. -- MIT; carlorattiassociati [images] - ArchNewsNow