LA Times offers a series of articles exploring New Orleans' "new spirit of innovation" from the ambitious to the avant-garde to the "slightly nutty." -- A look at where Europe's creative class is really going ("London is passe. Berlin has missed the boat."). -- Stern snaps Bush library gig (now they need to decide where to put it). -- Three teams shortlisted for Singapore's new National Art Gallery. -- Hawthorne's hilarious take on architects wanting to be more "Rovian." -- King calls for the banishment of the word "icon" from architectural lexicon: "It is so 2002." -- Glancey finds that "common sense married to bursts of uncommon architectural delight" proves "new galleries do not have to be bombastic to succeed." -- L.A. is no longer the "architectural desert" it once was. -- No matter what you think of the new ROM, Hume says its new plaza "is poised to become a marvelous addition to the public realm." -- A new Florida community will combine smart growth, new urbanism, and green building (so what if it spells Huckleberry incorrectly). -- A look at some architects' dream houses built for themselves. -- A modest California ranch transformed into a Modernist marvel. -- Yale's 40th First Year Building Project ready for its close-up. -- An international conference looks at the power and potential of urban screens. -- 2007 INDEX Awards for innovative projects designed to improve life are amazing. -- We couldn't resist: an ode to construction cranes.

New Orleans: Two Years Later: Old city revels in a new spirit of innovation...The Big Easy is awash in ideas...the new and the ambitious, the au courant and avant-garde, the idealistic and the slightly nutty. -- Elizabeth English; Global Green USA; Brad Guy; Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; John Knost [links] - Los Angeles Times

Forget London and Paris: An Inside Look at Europe's Coolest Cities: A fierce competition has broken out among Europe's leading cities for a new, creative class of urban professionals...where they are heading...may surprise you. -- Charles Landry; Richard Florida; Der Spiegel (Germany)

Bush Library design firm chosen: N.Y.-based architects...are no strangers to high profile and politically sensitive projects. -- Robert A.M. Stern Architects - Dallas Morning News

Creating a distinctive identity for Singapore's Arts scene...top three winning designs that have been selected...in the design competition...for the new National Art Gallery... -- Studio Milou Architecture/C.P.Q Consultants; Ho+ Ho Studio Architects/AEDAS; Chan Sau Yan Associates/Lekker Design - ChannelNewsAsia

Architects want to move closer to the centers of power: Like others, Karl Rove is called an 'architect' in his field. Building designers wish they had as much influence...They want to be metaphorical architects -- of disaster recovery, of urban rebirth -- and not just the real thing. By Christopher Hawthorne - Mayne; Koolhaas - Los Angeles Times

Calling a new Transbay tower an icon doesn't make it one: Memo to architects and their enablers: It's time to put "icon" to rest The word should be banished from the world of design...It is so 2002. By John King - Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners/SWM; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Davan Sudduc - San Francisco Planning + Urban Research (SPUR) - San Francisco Chronicle

Just add water: It's not big, brash or bold. But Newlyn's revamped art gallery easily rivals its famous neighbour at St Ives...Common sense has been married to bursts of uncommon architectural delight. These are small but yet powerful architectural triumphs... By Jonathan Glancey - James Hicks (1895); MUMA (McInnes, Usher, McKnight Architects) - Guardian (UK)

Dream Teams That Shape L.A.'s Skyline: Los Angeles was known in the past as something of an architectural desert. But all that's changed...Suddenly L.A. is becoming known as a welcoming home for daring architects. -- Meier; Moneo; Gehry; DeStefano and Partners; Welton Becket - Los Angeles Business Journal

ROM plaza will bring Bloor St. new life: Though it doesn't have a name...this new [Royal Ontario Museum] plaza is poised to become a marvellous addition to the public realm. -- By Christopher Hume - Daniel Libeskind; Quinn Design Associates; Brown and Storey - Toronto Star

Smart Growth, New Urbanism, Green Building and Environmental Preservation at Heart of Planned Town of Huckleberry Creek, Florida -- Duany-Plater-Zyberk & Company [DPZ] - BusinessWire

New Houses on an Old Land: Several well-known architects have designed houses for themselves at the far end of the North Fork of Long Island. -- Hideaki Aizumii/Quinlan M. Berrylstudio ab; Bill Ryall/Ryall Porter Architects; Richard Gluckman/Gluckman Mayner Architects [slide show] - New York Times

Ranch House Made Over: From Modest to Modernist. Built in 1961...it was an ordinary box amid hundreds of ordinary boxes. By Fred A. Bernstein - Luce et Studio [images] - New York Times


Urban Screens Manchester 07: an international conference: The omnipresence of public displays...demands a critical reflection on their impact on the city...offer new
possibilities for artistic and non-commercial use, for community development and play. October 11-14- Manchester Urban Screens (UK)

2007 INDEX: Award Winners Announced: Innovative projects designed to improve life receive recognition [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Cranes swoop into the capital: A host of gangly invaders is dominating London's skyline - have a look before they move on to stalk another city - Guardian (UK)

-- Under construction: Zaha Hadid Architects: Guangzhou Opera House, Guangzhou, China
-- 3XN: Aesion, Danish University South, Science Park South & Concert Hall, Sonderborg, Denmark

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