Pointing out some "some serious cracks in the world's biggest green-building brand name." -- Guggenheim + starchitects = franchise model, but "does not seem easily replicable." -- A Dutch accent for Cincinnati museum expansion. -- A Slovek and Austrian team wins urban planning competition in Slovakia. -- An eyeful of final designs for Ground Zero. -- U.K. will invite the best to design new eco-towns (they're not say who - yet). -- A workplace parking tax could be an alternative to congestion pricing. -- In Malaysia, Asymptote's biggest, greenest yet (lots of pix). -- A look at EPA's green new Denver digs. -- Q&A with Andreu re: his "kid," the National Grand Theater. -- Calatrava's Chicago Spire will sport a $40 million penthouse view. -- San Francisco's Presidio to sport a Disney museum. -- Campus news: Cornell's new space for "research, serendipity and intellectual collisions." -- Major renovations due at DuPage. -- Diller on Brown's Creative Arts Center: "We're going to use a healthy dose of our own experience." -- Fast Company's 2007 Masters of Design. -- Q&A with upstarts at WORKac. -- Gardner asks: "What would Jane Jacobs think?" -- A cross-cultural conversation between Noguchi and Kenmochi.

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The Green Standard? LEED buildings get lots of buzz, but the point is getting lost...some serious cracks in the world's biggest green-building brand name...as well as a very human tendency to reach for easy solutions to difficult problems. -- United States Green Building Council (USGBC) - Fast Company

A franchise model for the few — very few: The Bilbao effect — big-name architect, envelope-straining building, and high-profile cultural partner — does not seem easily replicable. I would suggest you need at least the following five ingredients in the mix... -- Gehry; Pelli; Calatrava; Foster; Legorreta; Stern; Soriano; Hadid- The Art Newspaper (UK)

Cincinnati Art Museum picks Dutch firm to lead expansion: ...short list was notable for its exclusion of architects whose work can be seen in the area. -- Neutelings Riedijk Architects; UN Studio; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Smith-Miller + Hawkinson; Tod Williams + Billie Tsien- Cincinnati Enquirer

Slovak and Austrian Architects Win Urban Planning Competition for Former Brewery in Nitra, Slovakia — GFI; aakh; BARAK; nonconform architekt vor ort [images - pdf] - nonconform

The Future of Greenwich Street: ...the final designs for WTC 2, 3, and 4. If nothing else, these images, like the thrum of the machinery on site, demonstrate that the project is finally, truly moving forward. -- Foster & Partners; Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners; Maki and Associates [images]- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Scandinavian architects inspire British design for eco-living: Architects from across the world will be invited to take part in a competition to design Britain's ten new eco-towns... -- The Times (UK)

Commuters facing £350 parking tax: The "workplace parking levy" is seen as an alternative to road pricing. - Telegraph (UK)

Asymptote Approaches (Carbon) Zero: New massive Malaysian project firm's biggest, greenest yet. Penang Global City...goals are analogous to those of Bilbao, Abu Dhabi, and Kuala Lumpur, all of which have used architecture to raise their global profile in one way or another. -- Hani Rashid; Lise-Anne Couture; Atelier Seraji; atelier ten [images]- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Force of Nature: Earth's elements are cornerstone of EPA's [Environmental Protection Agency] new Denver digs -- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects (ZGF); Opus Architects

The National Grand Theater: Designer Paul Andreu and his kid: "The building is a very quiet building, very traditional and very new."- People's Daily (China)

Calatrava's Chicago Spire Looking for Persons of Interest: Look, but you can't buy - at least not yet. Santiago Calatrava's design continues to evolve, $40,000,000 for a penthouse view. By Lynn Becker [images, links] - Repeat (Chicago)

Disney Museum Takes Shape in San Francisco's Presidio -- Page & Turnbull-Preservation magazine

Coming in 2010: New space for research, serendipity and intellectual collisions: ...an enhanced research and teaching space for Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Physics, and Applied and Engineering Physics... -- Koetter, Kim & Associates [image]- Cornell News

College of DuPage Awards Major Renovation Project to Loebl Schlossman & Hack-Contract magazine

Architect Diller looks forward to Creative Arts Center (CAC) project: "We're going to use a healthy dose of our own experience." -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- The Brown Daily Herald (Providence, RI)

2007 Masters of Design: ...fourth annual report on the intersection of business and...
design -- Yves Behar; Paola Antonelli; Philippe Starck; Claude Cormier; Kennedy & Violich; Masamichi Katayama/Wonderwall; Ponce de Leon/Tehrani/Office dA; Studio Dror; etc. [slide shows] - Fast Company

UpStarts: WORKac: Q&A with Amale Andraos and Dan Wood, who have proven that in architecture one can not rely on pedigree alone. - Archinect

What Would Jane Think? "Jane Jacobs and the Future of New York" poses a question that it does not attempt to answer. The point of the question is to cause viewers to see their surroundings not as something fixed and immutable, almost a natural occurrence, but as something created by man, for better or for worse. By James Gardner - New York Sun

Midcentury Moderns in a Cross-Cultural Conversation: A bamboo chair provides a departure point for the exhibition to compare the roles of Noguchi and Kenmochi in midcentury modern design. [images] - New York Times

Miralles/Tagliabue EMBT: Diagonal Mar Park, Barcelona, Spain

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