Big may be the new beautiful in high-end tourism, but “building identical cookie-cutter luxury resorts will eventually prove short-sighted.” — Sustainability experts warn it’s “the triumph of hope over experience” in fast-track eco-town competition. — Zumthor’s Cologne museum is “magnificently successful.” — Chipperfield’s plan for Berlin’s Neue Museum wins fans and foes. — Kamin minces no words re: “fundamentally misconceived” plan put forward to put Chicago’s Children’s Museum underground; good architects being made to “walk an impossible tightrope.” — Big plans afoot for Baltimore’s Walters Art Museum. — A little brother for Chicago Spire? — First shortened, then approved, now South Bank tower plan “called in.” — Genzyme’s Boston flagship to get a lot bigger. — “One of the most remarkable texts in American architecture,” Marion Mahony Griffin’s “The Magic of America” now on the web for all to see. — A great reason to head to Weekend diversions: Boddy goes to the movies: see “One Way Street on a Turntable” and see a bit of what we are and what we are becoming. — An eyeful of artful representations from English Heritage. — Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands; Allies & Morrison; Lichfield; Allies & Morrison [images]; [links]; Sign and Sight (Germany)

Supersize me, you, everyone: Small, it seems, is no longer beautiful, at least in the world of high-end tourism. All around the world, resorts and hotels are competing to see who can build the biggest, tallest, most outrageous, most resource hogging developments. - ArabianBusiness.com

Eco-town winners to be announced by March: Sustainability consultants claim six-month timetable for choosing winning bidders for Gordon Brown’s 10 new towns is unrealistic. “the triumph of hope over experience”. — government will seek expressions of interest by the end of next month. — Building (UK)

Building on the past: Peter Zumthor’s new art museum in Cologne is magnificently successful, in terms of both material presence and dignified handling of the past. — Gottfried Böhm (1955s) [fr.] Frankfurter Rundschau; images, links]. — Sign and Sight (Germany)

Nefertiti’s New Berlin Home Wins British Architect Fans, Foes: David Chipperfield is either blazing a restoration trail or sabotaging old buildings, depending on which Berliner you listen to. — Neues Museum, part of Germany’s equivalent of the Louvre — the war-damaged Museum Island [Museumsinsel] complex. — — Friedrich August Stüler (1855) — Bloomberg News

Low blow in Children’s Museum debate: “one that reveals how fundamentally misconceived the plan is…An underground children’s museum is a terrible idea. Krueck & Sexton…are being made to walk an impossible tightrope.” — By Blair Kamin — Chicago Tribune

NY architects to develop master plan for Walters Art Museum. By Edward Gursky — Polshek Partnership Architects — Baltimore Sun

A kid bro in Spire’s shadow: Carley floats idea for hotel tower in Streeterville. — At about 1,100 feet would command attention and be only a couple of blocks from the proposed spire, a 2,000-foot composition of Calatrava. — DeStefano & Partners - Chicago Sun-Times

Doon Street Tower: proposed 43-storey tower and leisure centre on the South Bank will be the subject of a planning inquiry, application which was approved by Lambeth Council last month, has been “called in” by the secretary of state following representations from English Heritage. — Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, Allies & Morrison [images]; London SE1

ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge Designs $150 Million Expansion of Gargnano’s Flagship Allston Landing Facility in Boston — Boston/SF

A Landmark Event: The Art Institute of Chicago Brings Marion Mahony Griffin’s The Magic of America to the Web…one of the most remarkable texts in American architecture. By Lynn Becker — Walter Burley Griffin; Frank Lloyd Wright [images, links]. — Repeat (Chicago)

First annual VIENNA DESIGN WEEKs October 3-24: “…will concentrate all the dynamic variety of contemporary Austrian design under a single roof for the first time. — Images, links]. — VIENNA DESIGN WEEKs

A glimpse of the raw energy of a big city: Hong Kong has been the main source of Vancouver’s urban energy and city-building ideas for two decades, but we know so little about it. — Sit through “One Way Street on a Turntable” and see a bit of what we are and what we are becoming. — By Trevor Boddy — Globe and Mail (Canada)

Bathing beauties arrive: Post-modern beach huts are unveiled in the seaside towns of Mablethorpe and Sutton in Lincolnshire. — All the huts are available to rent. — Feix and Merlin; Michael Trainer; Willett and Patteson; Atelier NU; I-am associates [images]. — Building (UK)

The Objets D’Art Of Architects: Today, celebrated architects are practically household names. — But 25 years ago, few Americans knew their buildings let alone their
household designs. Two women wanted to change that. "The Architect's Table: Swid Powell and Postmodern Design" at Yale University Art Gallery... -- Meier; Johnson; Tigerman; Gwathmey; Venturi; Gehry; Graves; Eisenman; etc.- Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

The Meaning of Scribbles: "Drawing Architecture" at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery...explores the process of design, rather than the final building form. -- Gehry; Neutra; Marijeta Potrc; Robert Irwin; Acconci; Libeskind; Halprin; Gluckman; Meier; Hood; Moss; Holl; etc.- Artvoice ()

The Father Of Modern Design: "Piranesi as Designer" at the Cooper-Hewitt...have works on display, with examples by Piranesi hanging next to them, highlighting his influence on their work. -- Stern; Venturi; Scott Brown; Graves; Libeskind; Eisenman- New York Sun

"Provoking Magic: Lighting of Ingo Maurer" at the Cooper-Hewitt...a site-specific installation cum retrospective survey of 40 years' worth of works...Equal parts clown, engineer, and poet...- New York Sun

Of Photography and Fame: Photographer Richard Barnes talks to the renowned 97-year-old imagemaker Julius Shulman -- Ezra Stoller; Neutra; Lautner; Soriano; Ain; Schindler; Koenig; etc. [images]- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

I have been asked to help design a city...I recommend the following: First we kill the architects. Then we burn the malls...- New York Times

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