ArcSpace revisits Chicago with an eyeful of the Pritzker Pavilion. – Kennicott finds the UAE a dreamland for architects: “They haven’t just learned from Las Vegas, they’ve transcended it.” – It’s between Edinburgh and Abuja, Nigeria, for 2014 Commonwealth Games – and big bucks. – Make fat people use the stairs: U.K. government enlists architects and planners to fight obesity. – Why pushing such an authoritarian health agenda will be “the envy of tinpot dictators.” – Even furniture designers being put on the spot to create different sizes for different people from different countries. – After 20 years, Berlin’s “Topography of Terror” center breaks ground again. – Blue-ribbon team for another Dubai extravaganza. – The battle over London’s Smithfield Market heats up. – Kamin finds the UAE a dreamland for architects: “They haven’t just learned from Las Vegas, they’ve transcended it.” – Even furniture designers being put on the spot to create different sizes for different people from different countries. – After 20 years, Berlin’s “Topography of Terror” center breaks ground again. – Blue-ribbon team for another Dubai extravaganza. – The battle over London’s Smithfield Market heats up. – Say goodbye to the old Smithfield. – Kamin gives thumbs-up to an instant skyline for a Chicago suburb that doesn’t have one. – Why people like living in glass boxes. – Hume on Toronto finally entering the global trend to invest in library design (a touch of the Bilbao effect included). – Glancey not convinced of redo of a grand British purveyor of “posh nosh and luxury fripperies”: “a bit like one of those Hollywood ladies sporting a serious facelift.” – NYC’s 40 Bond doesn’t disappoint. – Best Building in Scotland award winner (not Hadid). – An architect and planner from Shenzhen talks about growing up with Western influences and what’s ahead for China’s urban future. – Blue-ribbon team for another Dubai extravaganza. – The battle over London’s Smithfield Market heats up. – Say goodbye to the old Smithfield. – Kamin gives thumbs-up to an instant skyline for a Chicago suburb that doesn’t have one. – Why people like living in glass boxes. – Hume on Toronto finally entering the global trend to invest in library design (a touch of the Bilbao effect included). – Glancey not convinced of redo of a grand British purveyor of “posh nosh and luxury fripperies”: “a bit like one of those Hollywood ladies sporting a serious facelift.” – NYC’s 40 Bond doesn’t disappoint. – Best Building in Scotland award winner (not Hadid). – An architect and planner from Shenzhen talks about growing up with Western influences and what’s ahead for China’s urban future. – Blue-ribbon team for another Dubai extravaganza. – The battle over London’s Smithfield Market heats up. – Say goodbye to the old Smithfield. – Kamin gives thumbs-up to an instant skyline for a Chicago suburb that doesn’t have one. – Why people like living in glass boxes. – Hume on Toronto finally entering the global trend to invest in library design (a touch of the Bilbao effect included). – Glancey not convinced of redo of a grand British purveyor of “posh nosh and luxury fripperies”: “a bit like one of those Hollywood ladies sporting a serious facelift.” – NYC’s 40 Bond doesn’t disappoint. – Best Building in Scotland award winner (not Hadid). – An architect and planner from Shenzhen talks about growing up with Western influences and what’s ahead for China’s urban future. – Blue-ribbon team for another Dubai extravaganza. – The battle over London’s Smithfield Market heats up. – Say goodbye to the old Smithfield. – Kamin gives thumbs-up to an instant skyline for a Chicago suburb that doesn’t have one. – Why people like living in glass boxes. – Hume on Toronto finally entering the global trend to invest in library design (a touch of the Bilbao effect included). – Glancey not convinced of redo of a grand British purveyor of “posh nosh and luxury fripperies”: “a bit like one of those Hollywood ladies sporting a serious facelift.” – NYC’s 40 Bond doesn’t disappoint. – Best Building in Scotland award winner (not Hadid). – An architect and planner from Shenzhen talks about growing up with Western influences and what’s ahead for China’s urban future.

Gehry Partners: Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park, Chicago

Arabian Heights: Oil-Rich Dubai Raises Its International Profile With Towers Meant to Be Icons – but Icons of What? They haven’t just learned from Las Vegas, they’ve transcended it. By Philip Kennicott – Hadid; Gehry; Nouvel; Ando; HOK; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Wahid al-Heloo [slide show] – Washington Post

Cities in last lap for Games gold: On Friday, the host of the 2014 Commonwealth Games will be announced - and Scotland or Nigeria stands to gain £2bn and thousands of jobs– Observer (UK)

Make fat people use the stairs, architects told: Architects and town planners are to be recruited in the Government’s drive against obesity.- Telegraph (UK)

Brown’s ‘get fit’ towns: Kim Jong-il would be proud: With its new towns that will force people to keep fit, New Labour is pushing an authoritarian health agenda that will be the envy of tinpot dictators...UK government will now try to design urban areas that force us to exercise more – and that’s official. - Spiked (UK)

Size matters: There is no such thing as a standard size...people from different parts of the world vary in terms of dimensions, sometimes quite dramatically...The little differences between nations mean that designers and facilities managers still have to act local, whether this is cost effective or not.- ArabianBusiness.com

Nazi Documentation Center Finally Underway in Berlin: It took two decades and a second cornerstone laying ceremony, but on Friday, construction at the ‘Topography of Terror’ got underway...Peter Zumthor’s drawings were officially pitch in 2004 and the modest beginnings to his building were torn down. – Ursula Wilms [images]– Der Spiegel (Germany)

Four global architectural firms short-listed for UAE’s Sheikh Zayed national museum in the Cultural District of Saadiyat Island... – Foster & Partners; Snohetta; Shigeru Ban; Moriyama & Teshima- Al Bawaba (Jordan)

The Plazas at Downtown Jebel Ali launched: ...will be the transport, entertainment and retail hubs...with a multipurpose outdoor arena... – Raphael Vinoly Architects; Pelli Clarke Pelli [image]- ArabianBusiness.com

Knives are sharpened for the battle of Smithfield Market: Plans are being drawn up to turn historic meat market into a leisure venue...promises to be one of the most fiercely fought heritage battles of the era. By Vanessa Thorpe – Terry Farrell; Kohn Pederson Fox (KPF).- Observer (UK)

Instant skyline: Architect-developer marries form and finance along the Edens: ...Optima Old Orchard Woods...one of the most exhilarating new high-rises to emerge from the Chicago area’s current building boom. By Blair Kamin – David Hovey/Optima inc [slide show]– Chicago Tribune

Yours for the Peeping: ...glassy towers...which have been spreading like kudzu...the lives of the inhabitants are increasingly on exhibit...It’s not always a pretty picture. – Fletcher/Lillo/Graft; Richard Meier; Philip Johnson; Costas Kondylis – New York Times

Librarians at the gate: Cities worldwide are investing in libraries as never before, hoping for that ‘Bilbao effect’...In its modest way, Toronto is no exception. By Christopher Hume – Raymond Moriyama (1977); Aeon Moriyama/Moriyama & Teshima– Toronto Star
A facial at Fortnum's? Never! Fortnum & Mason, the great British purveyors of posh nosh and luxury fripperies, has had a revamp for its 300th birthday. The result is about as exciting as a Las Vegas mall...a bit like one of those Hollywood ladies sporting a serious facelift. By Jonathan Glancey – Jestico and Whiles; David Collins

Remembrance of Things Cast: ...unlike so many apartment projects that look good on paper but not in reality, 40 Bond doesn’t disappoint. By Pilar Viladas – Herzog & de Meuron; John Pawson [slide show]– New York Times Magazine

Pier Arts Centre wins Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland award by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) – Reiach and Hall Architects [image]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Two Kinds of Knowledge: Architect and planner Huasheng Sun talks about urban planning in South China’s fastest-growing city...about growing up with Western influences, managing the phenomenal growth of Shenzhen since 1980, and looking ahead at China’s urban future. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Jack Travis, FAIA, on Black Identity: Q&A with Stephen A. Kliment, FAIA..."there are lessons of GREEN design in the study of BLACK design." – Studio JTA; Frederic Schwartz Architects; GF55 Architects [images]- AIArchitect

Sitting on a gold mine: As a late entrant into the game of using design to add value to natural resources, British Columbia should look to the remarkable success story of the Nordic countries...All of this is evident in "Danish Way of Living" exhibition... By Trevor Boddy– Globe and Mail (Canada)

Silber's architecture shocker: Move over, Prince Charles. Former Boston University president John Silber covets your title as the world's leading Architecture Crank..."Architecture of the Absurd: How 'Genius' Disfigured a Practical Art" – Libeskind; Johnson; Gehry; Josep Lluis Sert; Cannon Design- Boston Globe