ArcSpace takes us to Kansas, Russia, and Reno. — Russell on LEED rating system: can it meet the daunting challenges ahead? — In Beirut, a confab converges to take on issues of public space and public art. — Imagining Rwanda's future: an urban planner's dream - and a curse. — Beyond its bigness, Dubai has some serious ambitions. — For Boddy, one plan for Vancouver waterfront is "a hamster run surrounded by squat caged gorillas," another is best chance to forge a much needed architectural landmark. — Chicago's next big green step: rebuild 2,000 miles of alleys with sustainable road-building materials. — Kaplan brings back lessons from Barcelona for L.A.'s Broadway. — Glancey gushes over NYT HQ: it's NYC's "best skyscraper in 40 years." — King on San Francisco's new glassy skyline: architects like it, planners worry that it might look "like it parachuted in from Dallas." — Kamin coos over Spertus Institute's "gemlike wall of glass": it's an "object lesson in how the past should engage the present." — Another take on Yale finding itself "at the forefront of a movement to restore modernist buildings." — Despite controversy, Toledo likes its Gehry. — Campbell revisits Wright's Ennis House and finds it "the poster child for a problem nobody seems to be interested in solving: How do we protect our great works of architecture?" — Will the young guns of British architecture be sidelined to kiosks and bridges for 2012 Athletes Village? — King visits two Oakland infill projects - architectural opposites yet total successes. — Heathcote visits Paris architecture museum and likes what he sees. — Calls for entries (registration deadlines loom): a tower for Incheon, Korea. — Deadline extended: "What If New York City" competition for post-disaster provisional housing.

Can LEED Survive the Carbon-Neutral Era? The rating system is beginning to gain wide acceptance, but critics now wonder whether the checklist approach can meet the daunting challenges ahead, coping with climate change, could threaten the current model. By James S. Russell — Arup; KieranTimberlake; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Foster + Partners; Renzo Piano; Doug Farr; Valerio Dewalt Train, etc. - Metropolis Magazine

Academia, art community converge to take on issues of public space and public art: "Communities and Territories," a week-long project sponsored by Heinrich Boll Foundation and _eMAZElab. — Vito Acconci; Nadim Karam/Atelier Hapsilutis; George Araki; Mona Fawaz; Wardie-Fawaz/ASSABIL - Daily Star (Lebanon)

Planning Rwanda: Thirteen years after the genocide, the tiny African nation begins imagining its future. This project is an urban planner's dream: to...shape the ideal city. But...it is also the urban planner's curse: a city for whom? By Andrew Blum — OZ Architecture; EDAW - Metropolis Magazine

Beyond the Spectacle: Dubai's insane rate of development is easy to misinterpret — even caricature — but the cliché obscures the city's more serious ambitions. — Koolhaas/de Graaf/Office for Metropolitan Architecture(OMA); FXFowle; Constantinos Doxiadis; SOM; Foster + Partners [images] - Metropolis Magazine

In North Vancouver, the new Lonsdale slowly emerges: ...a hamster run surrounded by squat caped gorillas...the true 900 pound gorilla...the massively guff, multi-block, multiple-building development called The Pier. — Trevor Boddy — I.B.I/Hancock-Bruckner; Henriquez Partners [image] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

In Miles of Alleys, Chicago Finds Its Next Environmental Frontier: ...effort to redo its alleys with sustainable road-building materials is one of the most ambitious public street makeover plans in the country. — New York Times

In Search of a Great Street: Barcelona's Ramblas Provides Hints for Downtown Los Angeles's Broadway. What we lack now when compared to Barcelona is the civic commitment to creating a Great Street and a great Downtown. By Sam Hall Kaplan — LA Downtown News

The power of the tower: The New York Times Building isn't just a striking new home for the paper — it's the city's best skyscraper in 40 years. Jonathan Glancey hails a Manhattan renaissance — Renzo Piano - Guardian (UK)

Newest towers will give San Francisco skyline a touch of glass: ...city planners who approved these translucent high-rises already are having second thoughts...But architects say glass is in sync with today's world, a symbol of contemporary life as well as technological innovation. By John King — HOK; Patri Merker Architects; Handel Architects; Heller Manus Architects [+ audio slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle

Blades of glass: New Spertus Institute's "gemlike wall of glass a welcome counterpoint on South Michigan...a beguiling expression of light, both actual and metaphoric...an object lesson in how the past should engage the present. — Blair Kamin — Krueck & Sexton [slide show] - Chicago Tribune
Pennies To Build, Millions To Restore: Yale finds itself at the forefront of a movement to restore modernist buildings to their original glory and bring them up to contemporary environmental standards. -- Louis Kahn; Eero Saarinen; Gordon Bunshaft; Paul Rudolph; Robert A.M. Stern; Polshek Partnership; Kevin Roche; KieranTimberlake; Gwathmey Siegel- New York Sun

Questions follow designer of local building: MIT lawsuit renews concerns about function, utility of Gehry's architecture...Yet for all of its unconventionality, Toledo's Gehry building [Center for the Visual Arts] is well-liked among those who work there every day and has aged well since opening in December 1992... [images]- Toledo Blade

How the mighty are falling: Wright's Ennis House...is a prime example of a famous work that needs to be protected...the poster child for a problem nobody seems to be interested in solving: How do we protect our great works of architecture? By Robert Campbell [image]- Boston Globe

Young guns miss out on Athletes Village first phase: Established names scoop lion's share as Lend Lease boss promises "time to be playful later"...their contribution may be limited to kiosks and bridges. -- Glenn Howells; Ian Ritchie; Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands; Penoyre & Prasad; Patel Taylor; Mundenbeck & Marshall; 6a, Heneghan Peng; Peter Barber Architects- BD/Building Design (UK)

Oakland: Two 'infill' designs that catch the eye...the fact they're architectural opposites is no problem at all. It just shows that substance is more important than style...Aqua Via reinforces the original character; 200 Second adds a splash of contemporary fun. By John King -- KTGY Group; David Baker + Partners [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Architecture's space in the sun: The Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine...is the world's biggest, and arguably its only serious, museum of architecture...a tentative recognition that architecture too demands space in which to be shown. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Call for entries: International Idea Competition for Cheongna City Tower Design in Incheon, Korea; registration deadline: December 7 - KLC (Korea Land Corporation)

Deadline extended: What If New York City...Competition for post-disaster provisional housing for NYC in the aftermath of a Category 3 hurricane; registration closes December 7; submissions due January 4, 2008- NYC Office of Emergency Management/Rockefeller Foundation/Architecture for Humanity-NY

A Civic Gateway: Santa Monica Civic Center Parking Structure: The humble parking garage is humble no more with a bold design that makes it a sparkling destination point in itself - oh, it's LEED green, too -- Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners [images]- ArchNewsNow

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