MTA is on the wrong track: The agency's plan to install turnstiles at subway and light-rail stations is a betrayal of their design...should keep in mind that a turnstile is as much an architectural instrument as a fiscal one -- as much physical, visual and psychological barrier as money-saver. -- By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

School Heads Back Dyson: Headteachers across the Bath area have called for civic leaders to ensure that the city is the home of Sir James Dyson's £25 million engineering and design school. - Bath Chronicle (UK)

The 75-storey Aura condo tower is sleek, smooth and predictable: ...how did it happen that...tower design survived all this high-powered vetting and review as the underwhelming, ordinary thing it is? By John Bentley Mays — Bernardo E. Graziani [image] - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Six vie for Urban Splash Birnbeck Pier: ...finalists in competition to develop Birnbeck Island and Pier in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset -- Richards Partington; Pierre d'Avoine/White Young Green; FLACQ; AOC; Levitate; MOH Architects [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

CABE 'unconvinced' by Allies and Morrison's Three Sisters scheme in Waterloo, London: £1 billion project...criticised by the design watchdog, particularly over its scale and grouping. [image] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

A Rough Beauty: An irreverent client and the realities of building in New York taught Tokyo-based SANAA to get tough...has satisfied the contemporary lust for spectacle while creating a museum building that is all about the art. By Alan G. Brake - The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

I, Robot: Advanced CNC (computer numerically controlled) fabrication allows builders to go bigger: ...the unfolding saga of François Roche and his competition-winning scheme for a museum of ice. -- R&Sie(n); Gramazio & Kohler; Bearth & Deplazes; Shigeru Ban/Jean de Gastines [images] - The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

St Pancras: nice station despite the hype: Gus Alexander visits the station for the first time and pays tribute to its saviour...if it hadn't been for decades of tireless effort by one man, in the face of an increasingly philistine transport authority, St Pancras would have been razed decades ago. That man was the poet laureate John Betjeman. - Building (UK)

Zoo-Eye View: Berlin to Build Europe's Highest Ferris Wheel: Construction has begun on the Great Berlin Wheel, a 185-meter structure that will loom over Berlin and top the London Eye as Europe's largest ferris wheel. -- Pott Architects [image] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Call for entries: Beijing solicits designs for Asia's first solar power plant tower; deadline: January 15, 2008 - China.org

Ai Weiwei’s spider’s web for Liverpool Biennial, opening next September; Web of Light promises to be the ‘must-see’ landmark public work for Capital of Culture. -- Arup [image] - The Art Newspaper (UK)

2007 Design Exchange Awards (DXA) announced -- Kohn Shnier; Diamond and Schmitt; MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller; Studio Junction; Donald Chong; Cindy Rendely Architecture; Janet Rosenberg/Claude Cormier/Harari Pontarini Architects; Moriyama + Teshima; figure3; etc. - Canadian Architect

Constructing Christmas: Local Architecture Firms Design Dynamic Gingerbread Structures for a Changing City...it seems clear that good gingerbread design exists in inverse proportion to good architectural design. If a firm excels at one, it fails at the other. City planners take note. -- Mulvanny G2 Architecture; KMD Architects; Callison Architecture; Mithun; DLR Group; NBBJ [images] - The Stranger (Seattle)

The Gingerbread Diaries: Building an eco-home from a favorite holiday sweet...ike any construction project in the real, non-gingerbread world, no project ever really comes on time and under budget, even when you act as your own general contractor. [image] - Grist Magazine
A Walkway Paved With Pennies, for the Sake of Charity: Teddy Gross and James S.
Polshek have been building their own Penny Lane... Penny Harvest Field at Rockefeller
Center... will be open every day... through Dec. 31 -- Common Cents- New York Times

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