ArcSpace brings us to New York, Spain, and a Pei sketchbook. — Ourossoff on why starchitects working with developers is not necessarily "a Faustian bargain." — An extensive report on Abu Dhabi’s “startlingly contrarian gamble" to build green and build its architectural cred. — Rochon finds "inspired hospital design is wishful thinking," and cheers Safdie for "refusing to call bubble diagrams architecture." — Talks with UNESCO re: Gazprom tower fail to produce a resolution. — Two architects disagree about whether UNESCO exerts too much power over cities. — It’s glass vs. sandstone in debate about gigantic mall makeover in Sydney. — Heathcote practically swoons for Nouvel’s new MoMA tower: the “most radical skyscraper in New York since the Chrysler Building.” — Campbell finds "no preening architecture" in the New Museum (and he likes that). — Boddy picks his Dwelling of the Year: a "model for Vancouver’s eco-dense future." — AECOM acquires China’s largest firm. — Design for Asia Awards shows the region’s growing taste for style. — More picks for the best of the year: Hawthorne: “there were some beams of light in an otherwise dim annum,” and he revisits the Getty Center 10 years later. — Woodman offers similar yet different takes on U.K.’s highs and lows. — Heathcote offers birthday greetings to Niemeyer; and the master plans to remain a living legend for a while.

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products created by this year's Design for Asia award-winners represent the region's growing focus on style. --Takaharu + Yui Tezuka architects; Edward Ng; Studio Mumbai Architects; Ho Kwongian; Rossanu Hu/Lyndon Neri [slide show] - BusinessWeek

The Best of 2007: Year's designs help L.A. build its architectural momentum: With the exception of Steven Holl's extension to the Nelson-Atkins Museum...no building by a prominent architect to debut this year escaped critical complaint...it seems we expect more of our high-design buildings than ever. Or perhaps...we're getting tired of the iconic-building model...it's about time, isn't it? By Christopher Hawthorne -- Piano; Cloepfi; SANAA; Coop Himmelbl(e)au; Daly Genik; Ken Smith; Mia Lehrer; Enrique Norten; Gehry; Arquitectonica; Lorcan O'Herlihy [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

The Getty Center at 10: Still aloof, yet totally L.A.: Design questions raised at the center's birth on a hilltop remain relevant as its relationship with the city evolves...permanently altered the way we think about new high-profile buildings here. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Richard Meier; Michael Palladio; Thierry Despont - Los Angeles Times

BD's buildings of 2007: Ellis Woodman looks back at the architectural highs and lows of 2007: "Hadid's ever-diminishing Aquatic Centre speaks volumes about the ineptitude of public clients"...too architects pick their favourite buildings of the year -- Alford Hall Monaghan Morris; Muf; Buschow Henley; FOA; dRMM; Caruso St John; SANAA; Reiach & Hall; van Gameren Mastenbroek - BD/Building Design (UK)

Review of the year: Architecture: Why are so many of our world-class architects working elsewhere. This year will not, I fear, go down in the annals of British architectural history as a vintage one. By Ellis Woodman -- David Chipperfield; Buschow Henley; De Rijke Marsh Morgan; Alford Hall Monaghan Morris; Hadid - Telegraph (UK)

Happy century, dear Oscar: The man of whom Fidel Castro once said: "Oscar Niemeyer and I are the last Communists on this planet" celebrates his 100th birthday...Contemporary architects...have been inspired and encouraged by his daring and his quest for an extravagant but humane beauty. By Edwin Heathcote - Financial Times (UK)

'People Need Beauty': Architect Oscar Niemeyer Turns 100: the last surviving founder of architecture's Modernist movement, turned 100 on Saturday. The grandfather of Brazilian architecture is a living legend, and plans to remain so for a while. [slide show] - Der Spiegel (Germany)

Welcome to the Neighborhoods: Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Headquarters...addresses corporate agility through space planning... -- IA Interior Architects [images] - ArchNewsNow

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