Star Cities: The world's best-known architects are turning to planning, Joan Ockman asks: Is a new form of urbanism emerging? -- Gehry, Libeskind, Nouvel, Hadid, Foster + Partners; Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Leoprelle; Pelli; Calatrava; Starck; Stern, Morey, Murphy/Jahn, Piano; Arets; van Berkel; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); China Architecture Design & Research Group (CAG); Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF); SHoP; Niemeyer; Eisenman; Arquitectonica; Ekes Manfredi; Rockwell Group [images] - Architect Magazine

Realty industry attracting international planners & architects; International names come with a price tag, but nobody is complaining...easily recovered from the premium of up to 20% on account of better design -- FXFowle; Omista One Architecture; SRS; Architects; Bentsen Associates; Callison; SWA; EDAW; HMJ; HOK; Woodham Meikle Zhan Architects; KTGY - The Economic Times (India)

Open door to creativity, says top architect: When it comes to design, not many people in Hong Kong understand the difference between the good, the bad and the ugly...tends to be too conservative for creativity, the problem is that architecture has been dominated by developers -- Rocco Yim - The Standard (Hong Kong)

Whose Property Rights? The clash between private interests and public welfare in Oregon raises a question that has vexed the nation since its founding...property-rights battle serves as a cautionary tale for environmentalists nationwide. By James S. Russell - Metropolis Magazine

New Brooklyn Vistas, and a Fight Over Plans for Them: An abandoned warehouse on the north side of Brooklyn's Pier 1 is being taken down, and differing ideas of what to do with the space are surfacing. -- Michael Van Valkenburgh; Fred Koren/Project for Public Spaces - New York Times

Request for Qualifications (RFO): Design Services for Hudson Yards Park and Boulevard and Streetscape for Hudson Yards Area, Manhattan (Stage 2 will be RFP); deadline: April 21 - NYC Department of Design and Construction / Hudson Yards Development Corporation

Extreme makeover for Quay, Darling Harbour and beyond:...part of the City of Sydney's grand vision for 2030...city would be greener as well as sleeker... -- Jan Gehl [links, video]- Sydney Morning Herald

Op-Ed: Yale's Architectural Do-Overs: Universities, even the best of them, make architectural mistakes. Two projects at Yale show how they can sometimes be corrected. By Philip Lanordon -- Venturi, Scott Brown; Pelli Clarke Pelli; Edward Larabee Barnes; Koetter Kim - Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Eco towns should overturn conventional thinking on infrastructure;...recommendations in the first eco town worksheets on transport, community development and water cycle management launched by the planning experts at Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) [links to worksheets] - New Civil Engineer (UK)

Cleaning Up: Could present-day landfills be the goldmines of the future? It may sound far-fetched, but a collaboration of CU researchers is on the cusp of turning a large portion of Colorado's trash into a cash-crop for the newest wave of environmentally friendly construction materials. - Colorado Daily

Reichstag to run solely on renewable power: Wind, water and solar sources to fuel building. German parliament to be the world's greenest - Guardian (UK)

Home to a Thousand Souls: Tigerman McCurry architects eschews sentimentality in the design of one of the world's largest homeless shelters. Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago [images] - Architect Magazine

When modesty is the best policy: In the South End, a building for an admirable public purpose fits in beautifully with its surroundings...Despite the low budget. GateHouse is a near-perfect building...a statement that diversity is OK. By Robert Campbell -- Hacon + Associates - Boston Globe
Gehry unveils Serpentine Pavilion: part-amphitheatre part-promenade with a ‘seemingly random’ glass and wood structure. The ‘highly articulated’ ‘chaotic’ structure was designed and engineered in close collaboration with Arup and Cecil Balmond... [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Perfect pitch: The locals are calling it 'the ice cube'. But Watford Grammar's sleek new music school (Clarendon Muse) is a red-hot success...the architect has spent that £5m very carefully. The new building is quietly brilliant...proof that suburbia can adopt modern architecture to its benefit... By Jonathan Glancey -- Tim Ronalds Architects [audio slideshow] - Guardian (UK)

Revealed: Utzon's finishing touch: The curtain is finally up on the interior vision conceived by the original architect...part of the bold vision for a refurbished Opera Theatre...is the public prepared to pay in the vicinity of $700 million for changes it might hear...but mostly cannot see? ...for that sort of money it could get a new...opera house. - Richard Johnson; Ken Woolley; Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Take Me to the Big Shorts! Beijing Nicknames New Architecture...Chinese architects are conspicuously absent from helming the capital's marquee projects. -- Koolhaas/Scheeren/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA's Foster + Partners; Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Ai Weiwei; Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM); Ma Yansong/MAD - Bloomberg News

Modern Iconic Landmarks in the Middle East: Last chance to vote for your iconic landmark! [images, video] - AME Info (United Arab Emirates)

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