Looming Debate: The battle over building heights in Paris pits a popular socialist mayor against real estate developers who would love to see the City of Light enter the 21st century. Delanoë, knows that living well is the most effective business incentive... -- Christian de Portzamparc; Antoine Grumbach; Yves Lion; Bruno Fortier - Metropolis Magazine

Cities for Living: Antidemodernist Léon Krier designs urban environments to human scale. The New Urbanist movement... owes much to Krier... Though he abhors modernist vandalism, he never utters an uncharitable word about its perpetrators. -- The Architects' Journal

Scottish architects fear reduced design roles: have attacked the Scottish government's shake-up of the planning system, claiming it is reducing architects to the role of 'technical advisers' -- Malcolm Fraser; Neil Simpson - The Architects' Journal (UK)

RIBA backs down in bridge competition row:...deciding to allow submissions for a bridge competition from engineer-led teams after originally excluding them. Changes...go so far as to suggest that teams need not include architects at all... buildability is now one of the three main criteria. -- New Civil Engineer (UK)

Delhi's Architectural Face:...how do we react to the buildings surrounding us? Love them, deplore them, ignore them? Tripti Lahiri does a site inspection... the good, the bad, and the ugly... -- Outlook India

Miranda Plowden...has somehow assembled an impressive line-up of both international practices and emerging talent to help with the £200 million transformation of two Housing Market Renewal Zones (Pathfinders)... in the targeted South Yorkshire suburbs... -- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Shop-ing at the Seaport: SHoP's proposal for South Street Seaport would reintegrate the historic district into its surrounding neighborhood... not as a distinct megaproject... -- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Revivifying Yale's Brutalist Pile: Gaethney...is a diplomate among architects, whereas Rudolph was a mud wrestler... when the renovations of the old building and the construction of the new one are completed... -- New York Sun

A Facade Like No Other: Once Temporary; Now a Fixture Worth Restoring: The badly damaged 1993 facade for the Storefront for Art and Architecture gallery in Lower Manhattan, by Steve Holl and Vito Acconci, will be restored... -- New York Times

All aboard the fun palace: With its floating galleries, sloping walls and exhibits that talk back to you, Will Alsop's daring new arts centre was worth all the wrangling... He inherited Prichard's sentiment that architecture should be fun... -- Guardian (UK)

Will Alsop's The Public, a new arts building for West Bromwich; Architect thinks The Public, his new multi-purpose arts building is the most daring thing he's done. And with its bright colours, quirky shapes and innovative ideas, it certainly is a building you couldn't fail to notice... -- Guardian (UK)
Big buildings on horizon for harbour: Proposals for aging motel sites include a condo described as modern art. A triangular building is being proposed... heralding a dramatic change to Victoria's tourist district. “But is Victoria ready for this?” -- Roger Hughes [image] - Victoria Times Colonist (Canada)

Digital Water Pavilion Makes A Splash: An MIT-designed building with walls made entirely of water is being unveiled Thursday at the opening of the Zaragoza World Expo in Spain -- Carlo Ratti/SENSEable City Laboratory - ScienceDaily

To the Class of ’08: In the season of the commencement speech, Metropolis’ Susan S. Szenasy has some advice for new grads: learn what it really means to connect..."I challenge you to use your famous ability to connect with others and share information about big, world-changing ideas...to form creative collaborations that reach farther and deeper than we’ve seen before."
- Metropolis Magazine

The next big step in sustainable design: Elogico, a new initiative, seeks to incorporate eco consciousness from blueprints to finished buildings...short for Ecological Thinking, a joint venture between Italian design branding firm Brandit, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago - Plenty magazine

Call for entries: Spark Awards 2008 innovation and design competition; deadline: August 1 - Spark

Call for entries: Red Hook (Brooklyn, NY) Bicycle Master Plan Design Competition; registration deadline: July 18 - Forum For Urban Design

Call for proposals: Rafael Viñoly Architects Grants for Research in Architecture 08-09; deadline: August 1 (international) - Rafael Viñoly Architects

-- Ground broken: Arquitectonica: Trinity Place, San Francisco
-- Under construction: Reiser + Umemoto: O-14, Dubai