• ArcSpace brings us Piano in San Francisco and Viñoly in Brooklyn.
• King is captivated by Piano's "captivating addition to the city."  
• Five visions vie for NYC's Hudson Yards grand boulevard.
• Rochon x 2: she finds magic in WaveDeck on Toronto's waterfront. - And she wonders if Ground Zero memorial will really be built (Arad is hopeful).
• Plans put forth to close Heathrow and build a new airport on man-made "Boris Island" in the Thames.
• The curtain rises on Zecchetto's new performing arts center for "culture-craving Westsiders."
• Woodman finds a U.K. craft center could change minds about concrete "as a bleakly anonymous material" - here it's anything but.
• RIAI advises Irish architectural graduates to seek work abroad.
• On the green front: In Montreal, a renovated historic building introduces green principles "in a manner that is as unpretentious as its context."
• In New Orleans, green building standards are not always the worthy option.
• In Tennessee, the rapid evolution of sustainable design has its good and bad points (a big plus: "an emphasis on substance trumping style in architecture").
• One of the most in-depth reports we've seen on the benefits of green walls and roofs.
• Landscape architects suggest a radical solution to creating healthy ecosystems out of polluted landscapes.
• Flint, Michigan wants to illuminate the night with lighting powered by urban wind turbines.
• Islington, U.K., will buy you a bike if you give up your car.
• Winners all: Paraguayan architect Solano Benitez wins the first £50,000 BSI Swiss Architectural Award. - 114 projects win Chicago AIA's 2008 International Architecture Awards. - 20+10+X World Architecture Community Award winners.
• Voting starts today for Cooper-Hewitt's 2008 People's Design Award.
• How could we resist: Gehry roofs around the world to be stages for dancers (and a video to prove it).

Openness a virtue at new Academy of Sciences: ...a captivating addition to the city...You sense an artist's joy at applying a lifetime's experience to a rigorous set of new demands. By John King -- Renzo Piano; Thinc Design; Stantec Architecture; Rana Creek, SWA Group [slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle

City's Spectacular New West Side Story: ...five teams of architects vying to design the park and boulevard...part of the Hudson Yards redevelopment -- WORK Architecture; Gustafson Guthrie Nichol; Allied Works Architecture/PE Americas; Hargreaves Associates/TEA Architects; James Carpenter, Michael Van Valkenburgh; West Infinity [slide show] - New York Post

A new wave for Toronto's waterfront: The seating and handrail are awkward. But there's magic in the latest addition to the shoreline...The magic has to do with what's visible and invisible. There's a sense of craft with the wood on display at the WaveDeck rarely seen in Toronto. By Lisa Rochon -- West 8; Du Toit Allsopp Hillier - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Defending design: the Ground Zero memorial: Will it be built? More than the formidable issues of budget and political infighting, the greatest test...is whether it has the power to draw people out of themselves...to seek comfort and strength by standing among strangers and calling themselves, even for a day, New Yorkers. By Lisa Rochon -- Michael Arad - Globe and Mail (Canada)

'Boris Island' airport may replace Heathrow: The London mayor plans to shut down the city's main airport and build a new four-runway hub in the Thames estuary - The Times (UK)

A concrete example of good construction: The material associated with post-war brutalism has been rehabilitated in a new Ruthin Craft Centre. If you think of concrete as a bleakly anonymous material, this is a building that could persuade you otherwise. By Ellis Woodman -- Sergison Bates [image] - Telegraph (UK)

Architects told to seek work abroad: A flood of graduates will find a barren jobs market...Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI) has warned of a job famine facing hundreds of new graduates who are preparing to enter the workforce...- The Times (UK)

Leading Light: The Normand Maurice Building shows how multiple federal agencies can go green in a renovated historic building...has introduced green principles to the Quebec metropolis in a manner that is as unpretentious as its context. By David Soló - Beauchamp-Bourbeau Architectes; ABCP Architecture & Urbanisme; Bessy Perkins+Will [slide show] - GreenSource Magazine

Green building standards not always worthy option: Only three Louisiana buildings measure up to highest LEED certification...unique challenges of building on the Gulf Coast bring in additional factors that in many cases tip the scales against the national green building program. -- Concordia Architecture; FutureProof; Perez APC; Byron Moxton/Bild Design

Army embracing 'green': Sustainable design evolving rapidly...The biggest of all pluses...from the new green movement is a return to an emphasis on substance trumping style in architecture. -- Lyle-Cook-Martin Architects; Clark & Associates Architects - The Leaf-Chronicle (Tennessee)

Verdant Surfaces: As the benefits of green walls and roofs become common knowledge, interest grows as rapidly as the vegetation...developers and building owners need to learn about the economic benefits. -- Green Roofs for Healthy Cities; Jean Nouvel; McDonough + Partners; Renzo Piano; Chong and Partners; SWA Group; ARUP; Rana Creek Living Architecture; SmithGroup; Michael Vergason Landscape Architects; Evangeline Dennie; Mass Studies; Heikkinen-Komenon;
In Italy, a Redesign of Nature to Clean It: A new breed of landscape architects is recommending a radical solution..."We are trying to invent an ecosystem in the midst of an entirely engineered, polluted landscape." -- Alan Berger; MIT P-Rex/Project for Reclamation Excellence- New York Times

A bright idea: Flint planners want to use wind power to light up Buckham Alley and Riverbank Park...as vital nighttime spaces...a fundamental element would be after-dark lighting powered by urban wind turbines. [image]- The Flint Journal (Michigan)

Islington Council offers to buy bike for anyone who gives up their car...in an attempt to reduce the borough's carbon footprint.- Telegraph (UK)

Paraguayan architect Solano Benitez wins the first £50,000 BSI Swiss Architectural Award- BD/Building Design (UK)

2008 International Architecture Awards: 114 new distinguished buildings selected [images]- Chicago Athenaeum/European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies

20+10+X World Architecture Community Awards...20 projects [images]- World Architecture

Cooper-Hewitt Opens Online Voting for 2008 People’s Design Award Sept. 22–Oct.21- Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Architectural “Rapture”: A Choreographer Creates Work to Be Performed on Frank Gehry Buildings -- Noémie Lafrance [image, video]- Wall Street Journal