• Conventional wisdom about international practice is part myth, part reality. Can you tell one from the other? Question 2: If work dries up at home, it's smart to shift your focus to international projects. Answer: False. - Architect Magazine

• Architects Hard Hit by Financial Crisis: Next year looks even more dismal...as the U.S. financial crisis fans out to Europe, Asia, and beyond, many fear that even foreign markets might not provide a reliable refuge for architects. - Architectural Record

• Construction output to fall 3% in 2009: Experian issues bleak prediction, with housing activity suffering biggest decline of 14%...bleak figures were countered to some degree by a buoyant infrastructure market. - Building (UK)

• The tallest building in the world: the contenders: Five new towers have been proposed for the Middle East...we ask how many of these will be completed – and offer (extremely unofficial) odds on each ending up as the world's tallest. — Eric Kuhner, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Woods Bagot [images] - Building (UK)

• Renzo Piano's California Adventure Part I: At the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the clients were...Michael Govan and Eli Broad...The challenging setting is an unremarkable site on Wilshire Boulevard. It's hard to know which of these factors got out of kilter, but the Broad Museum, while it has its moments, falls far short of greatness. By Witold Rybczynski [slide show essay] – Slate

• James Dyson: 'Planning is a blight on progress': The vacuum-cleaner magnate and engineer talks to Richard Vaughan about his axed Bath academy and why he's appealed by the UK's planning system - The Architects' Journal (UK)

• Decorum on the Parkway: Nowhere in Philadelphia do rich and poor commingle so awkwardly as on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the cultural hub that is slated for a half-billion dollars' worth of investment and improvement...Civic groups want tighter rules for homeless - Philadelphia Inquirer

• Public Spaces Meant to Heal: The TKF Foundation has helped pay for more than 120 public garden spaces in crime-ridden neighborhoods throughout the mid-Atlantic region. -- Anthony Lawlor [image] - New York Times

• Future Systems couple in acrimonious split: Amanda Levete to set up own 50-strong practice while Jan Kaplicky retains practice name - BD/Building Design (UK)

• Doubleplusungood in Venice: Betsy's declared..."we need some icons and some emigmas." To judge by the exhibits, that appears to mean wacky furniture and naked ladies...loose translation: "We need an architecture that questions reality." Modern architecture already ignores reality. Instead...modern architecture should question itself. By David Brussat – George Orwell; Greg Lynn; Haddi/Schumacher; Barkow Leibinger; Philippe Rahm; Herzog & de Meuron - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)


• Q&A with Daniel Tal, designer at RNL Design on technology for landscape architects: practical steps companies can take to better use new technology, where the demand for new technology is coming from, and what technology means for hand drawing skills. - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

• A rising star: Young architect building portfolio for the future: Ondrej Chybek is only 23 years old, but he’s clearly one of Czech architecture’s rising stars...just took first place in the prestigious House of Wood competition..."Sometimes, the trouble with modern architecture is that it is shouting out too loud." - The Prague Post

• Call for entries: I.D. 2009 Annual Design Review: categories include environments, furniture, graphics, student work, etc.; deadline: December 1, 2008 - I.D. magazine

• Call for entries: HotSeat 3 annual chair design competition: Finalists to present their designs at the OFS Santa Monica Showroom opening on February 5, 2009; winning entry will be debuted by OFS at Neocon 2009, with the designer receiving royalty fees; deadline: December 26, 2008 - Metropolis Magazine / OFS

• Field Notes from the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale - Part 1: The Arsenalet: Betsy's eclectic curating and the polished and thoughtful presentations of the exhibitors make it a challenging, entertaining, and provocative show. By Terri Peters – David Rockwell; Jones|Kroloff; Thonik; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Greg Lynn; Droog; Aranda/Lasch; Gehry; Hadid; Philippe Rahm; An Te Liu; Barkow Leibinger [images] - ArchNewsNow

Morphosis: Madrid Social Housing, Madrid, Spain