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Dumb Growth: The smart-development movement has made sprawl worse, not better: Our smart growth planners, blind to the consequences of their plans, certainly consider themselves to be winners...The losers include all of us who have paid way too much for our homes and spend way too much time in traffic. - Washington CEO Magazine

Measure R is more than roads and rails: The vote on transportation funding has implications for how we build, perceive and experience L.A....an effort to help subsidize a transition in L.A. back to an earlier model of public-transit mobility and perhaps a return to a broader, more comprehensive urban universe as well. By Christopher Hawthorne- Los Angeles Times

Dutch to adopt BREEAM: Dutch Green Building Council favours UK assessment tool over LEED as its building assessment tool for the Netherlands. - Building (UK)

Say Goodbye To Going Green? Not So Fast: ...current economic collapse would seem to have made reducing your carbon footprint a luxury....Not necessarily...."Emerging Trends" report says constructing or retrofitting buildings so they tread lightly on the earth remains a competitive selling point, and a good way to save money...you sidestep going green at your own risk. -- Urban Land Institute (ULI)- Washington CEO Magazine

Letter From Helsinki: Building with care in the Finnish capital...The Public is the all-important, perennial client, who must be informed of every new planning goal and design concept...and (in some cases) mollified well before ground is broken...open competitions are "practically the only way to get going" for young Finnish architects. -- Laituri; NRT Architects; APRT; ALA Architects; SANAFA Finnish Association of Architects; Arup; ARK-House Architects [images]- Architect Magazine

Reforma Movement: Mexico City's iconic avenue is experiencing an incongruous influx of luxury high-rises...Whether they can recapture the avenue's early heyday, though, is uncertain...those naked farmers aren't going anywhere. -- Teodoro Gonzalez de Leon; Pelli Clarke Pelli [images]- Metropolis Magazine

One of the First Grand Hotels Meets One of the Country's First Cities: ...58-story Waldorf=Astoria Hotel and Residences Philadelphia...$420 million hotel-anchored mixed-use project...will be the city's sixth-tallest building...to support a sustainable footprint... -- Cope Linder Architects; Re:Vision Architects; Frank Nicholson [image]- MarketWatch

Design Museum targets Commonwealth Institute building for new home: ...epic search for a larger new home is finally set to end. ...-- Johnson-Marshall & Partners (RMJM) (1962); Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Deyan Sudjic - BD/Building Design (UK)

Israel court OKs Museum of Tolerance's controversial branch: Frank Gehry-designed museum can rise in Jerusalem on a site that was once a Muslim cemetery...[images]- Los Angeles Times

Frank Gehry, Moshe Safdie on ke's short list: A competition to pick a designer for the National Eisenhower Memorial, slated for a site just off the Mall in Washington, D.C., is down to seven finalists -- Peter Walker; Stanley Saitowitz; Rogers Marvel; Ralph Johnson/Perkins + Will; Ron Kueck/Kueck and Sexton- Los Angeles Times

Leading architectural studios shortlisted for design of Government centre in Sofia -- Foster+Partners; Zaha Hadid; Dominique Perrault; Obedienenie G-3;Georgi Stoilov; Massimiliano Fuksas; ADAIS proekt- Sofia Echo (Bulgaria)

Dispute over Gettyburg cyclorama building heads to court: ...if the building can't be saved on the site, the Park Service should consider moving it. Two Gettyburg businessmen have offered to accommodate the building on their nearby properties. -- Richard Neutra (1961); Christine Madrid French/Recent Past Preservation Network; Dion Neutra- Philadelphia Inquirer

Irish Housing crisis has a silver lining: Jittery developers in Florida recently dumped the modern architecture of a proposed upscale residential project and chose Spanish Colonial-style bungalows instead...If Rand were to rewrite The Fountainhead today, he'd make Howard Roark a traditionalist. They are the ones battling the entrenched establishment... - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

At 90 degrees, Sydney's in the shade: ...Australian Institute of Architecture awards...Melbourne trounced us....It's quite a turn-up for Sydney to be stuck wearing the sensible shoes while Melbourne gets to party all night in blue vellum stilettos...It's the look. You have it or you don't. We don't. By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Edmund and Corigan; Denton Corker Marshall; Ashton Raggett McDougall (ARM); LAB; James Stockwell; McBride Charles Ryan; Tonkin Zulaika Greer; John Wardle- Sydney Morning Herald

Fuss over winning designs: ...two elite private schools have controversially won the country's two highest "public architecture" awards. ... -- Australian Institute of Architects; John Wardle; m3architecture; Phooey Architects; McBride Charles Ryan- The Age (Australia)

Double-decker bus-stop hits the Oxo tower: Architects' transformational designs in two new initiatives include bunk-bed bus...