Dubai's latest excesses are enough to make conservationists weep.

Litt on the shaky "architectural marriage" at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

China still the destination for architects looking for large-scale work.

Kamin handicaps the just-announced shortlist for Eisenhower Memorial.

Mies van der Rohe Award 2009: 340(!) projects compete.

OMA's plan to revamp of the Commonwealth Institute dismayed conservation groups.

Brusats calls for a revival of Rhode Island's historical-preservation tax credits to save architectural gems from becoming "icons of deterioration, demolition and, most likely, uglification."

Four-wheeled gas guzzlers rule: they "bloom like viruses in our public spaces and they attach themselves like barnacles to our expressways, streets and laneways."

Woodman - and 16 other notable names - chime in with their Year in Review: "We might have had a bleak end to 2008, but it was actually a good year for splendid buildings."

Weekend diversions: 1970s "Ecotopia" speaks "to our ecological present."

An eyeful of Hodgetts' 1978 drawings for the Hollywood version that never made it to the silver screen (wow!).

King on Huxtable's "On Architecture": "she never loses sight of architecture's uniquely high stakes...the backdrop is the real-world implications of what takes shape."

"Le Corbusier: A Life" paints a "detailed and often disturbingly inhuman portrait of the man."

Rylkewt makes a "graceful contribution" to his life's work, and a "history of how some have resisted the loss of our common ground with artists."

A tome on Deborah Berke's work "demonstrates admirably" that she is "is among the best American architects practicing today."

WSJ round-up of books well worth a read: Pei, Gabellini Sheppard, skyscrapers, and cars included.

Tabanlioglu Architects on view in London shows "Turkey has more to offer than domes and amphitheatres."

The Year in Review: Designs to beat the architecture downturn blues: We might have had a bleak end to 2008, but it was actually a good year for splendid buildings and inspiring architectural exhibitions...18 major players in the business to pick out their highlights. By Ellis Woodman - BD/Building Design (UK)

Book Review: The Novel That Predicted Portland: "Ecotopia," a 1970s cult novel by Ernest Callenbach...now being rediscovered, speaks to our ecological present...much of Portland, Ore., with its public transport, slow-growth planning and eat-local restaurants, can seem like Ecotopia made reality...a blueprint for the future. - New York Times

Green '70s Flashback with Smiles and Shades of Blue: Craig Hodgetts' 1978 vision for the cult novel "Ecotopia"...a wondrous set of drawings for a Hollywood movie adaptation...drawings were exhibited and published, but alas, the project never made it to the silver screen. -- Hodgetts + Fung [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Book Review: "On Architecture" hits the right angle: ...concerns the work or specific designers...an equal emphasis on pieces that kept track of how certain types of buildings shaped our urban landscape...For all of Huxtable's palpable love for the art of design, she never loses sight of architecture's uniquely high stakes...the backdrop is the real-world implications of what takes shape. - Christian Science Monitor

Book Review: "Le Corbusier: A Life" by Nicholas Fox Weber: The guru of modernism is now revealed through a rich trove of images...a history of how some have resisted the loss of our common ground with artists...reveals both the poison and the cure, and it is up to us which one we choose to take. - The Architect's Journal (UK)
Book Review: Deborah Berke's architectural impact: ...is among the best American architects practicing today, as a new book by Tracy Myers demonstrates admirably. - Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)


Modern Turkish: Turkey has more to offer than domes and amphitheatres, as "Istanbul and Beyond: Selected Projects of Tabanlioglu Architects at RIBA Gallery shows...Now there's no excuse for overlooking Turkey's contribution to contemporary practice. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Voluntary Prisoners of Downtown Miami: "The Prisoner's Dilemma"...a potent and compelling exhibition [at] the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation...The CIFO building itself...is also impressive...The show...is a must see. -- Rene Gonzalez - The Architect's Newspaper

Voluntary Prisoners of Downtown Miami: "The Prisoner's Dilemma"...a potent and compelling exhibition [at] the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation...The CIFO building itself...is also impressive...The show...is a must see. -- Rene Gonzalez - The Architect's Newspaper

Rick Prelinger's Land of the Lost: "Lost Landscapes of San Francisco": You know a film screening is going to be good when...the presenter refers to things like "this incredible document about civil engineering"...collages a range of "unofficial documents" to explore the history and built environment of the City by the Bay...to investigate how "models of the past inform models of the future." - Metropolis Magazine

Going Once, Going Twice, Sold! Empire State Building drawings auctioned: wooden massing model was the auction's top seller, bringing in $72,000...results of the sale were mixed...caused concern among institutional collectors of architectural materials who fear it will encourage designers to break up drawing sets rather than donate them as intact archives. - The Architect's Newspaper

Thrifty shopping with Philippe Starck: In 20 minutes, the designer pulls together an elegant yet economical look at a Big Lots in Hollywood...Total: less than $50. - Los Angeles Times

Best Architecture Books of 2008: 10 tomes from the superior to the indispensable. By Norman Weinstein -- Felix Candela; Jerry Yudelson; Bauman Lyons; etc. - ArchNewsNow

-- Competition winner: MVRDV: Gwanggyo Power Centre, Seoul, South Korea

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