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A bit more detail on plans to reduce one of the largest carbon footprints in Chicago—Willis (a.k.a. Sears) Tower.

Campbell explores the new main branch of the Cambridge Public Library, and the W Boston: “these two new buildings are worthy additions to a region where we too often don’t aspire to architecture this fresh and thoughtful.”

Pearman gives thumbs-up to Oxford’s Ashmolean makeover: the museum “has reinvented itself,” mixing “intelligence with showmanship.”

Davidson cheers NYC agencies’ “doggedly smuggling high-level architecture to the neighborhoods that need it most...ugly won’t cut it anymore”; and an eyeful of a perfect example: a Staten Island firehouse will have a close connection with its community.

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Engine Company 201: The building’s red glazed brick and backlighted Maltese Cross telegraph its function to the neighborhood...maintain a close connection with the community. -- RKT&B Architecture [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

This was the first museum. More than three centuries on, Oxford's Ashmolean has reinvented itself...Its latest incarnation mixes intelligence with showmanship. By Hugh Pearman -- Charles Cockerell (1845); Rick Mather Architects; Metaphor [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

What a posh hotel and a new library share: Architect creates transparency in both sites...One building is a gem. The other isn’t quite that, but it’s interesting. The first is the new main branch of the Cambridge Public Library, and the second is the W Boston complex... By Robert Campbell -- William Rawn; TRO/Jung Brannen; Bentel & Bentel; Ann Beha and Associates [slide show]- Boston Globe

Willis Tower looks to go green, from the rooftops on down. Rooftop gardens part of plan to improve efficiency...to reduce one of the largest carbon footprints in Chicago...to "green" the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. -- Sara Beardsley/Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture- Chicago Tribune

PUC Yeah! After delays, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission breaks ground on SF’s most sustainable office building...designed to exceed a LEED Platinum rating... -- KMD Architects [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Architecture that can change the world: Article 25...uses design skills to aid international development by providing shelter for the world’s poorest...The charity makes architecture relevant by plugging a gap, concentrating on the added value an architect’s approach can best provide. -- Norman Foster; Sunand Prasad; Stewart McCol/Maxwell Hutchinson; Jack Pringle; Pierre d’Avoine Architects; Foster & Partners [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Omrania l CSBE Student Award for Excellence in Architectural Design:...students from ten countries in the Arab World participated...entries featured a wide array of landscaping and urban interventions as well as building types... [images, links]- Center for the Study of the Built Environment (CSBE)


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