• Forget Copenhagen. Chakrabarti imagines a city-focused national strategy to make the U.S. healthy, prosperous and green.

• Anderson wonders whether '09 was "the best of times or the worst of times for green progress in New York City and Planet Earth."

• Prince Charles in hot water again for meddling in eco-town policies (he wants them to look like Poundbury).

• How Prince of Wales's aides tried to influence Labour ecotowns policy: ...should follow the model of Poundbury, the controversial neo-Georgian village built to Charles's vision...Hank Dittmar...promoted the prince's view, vigorously disputed by many architects, that new towns should be built using "traditional" styles. By Robert Booth-Guardian (UK)

• In Las Vegas, one final echo of the boom years: The massive CityCenter complex...it's tough not to wander through the place and think...about what might have been if a really rip-roaring group of firms, one with a collective taste for scale, color, irony and abandon, had been allowed to drain that $8.5 billion budget. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Daniel Libeskind; Norman Foster; David Rockwell; Cesar Pelli; Rafael Viñoly; Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn; Gensler; Helmut Jahn-Los Angeles Times

• Q&A with Daniel Libeskind: In Times of Crisis 'People Do Extraordinary Things': Star architect doesn't think small. His current project in Las Vegas is part of the biggest privately funded building project in US history...[he] explains why it's more important than ever to build big -- and why he's sick of the bickering over Ground Zero. [slide show]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

• Frank Gehry: 'Don't call me a starchitect': Is there any future for extravagant, 'wow-factor' buildings? According to the world's most famous living architect there is -- and he has a few more home truths for doubters. As a show celebrates his career, Michael Day gets an earful."Urban planning is dead in the U.S." - [he] wonders. [slide show]- Independent (UK)

• More Mortar: Updates on Yesterday's Museum Building Story: "Me too!" say museums with major expansions. Hirshhorn's balloon -- not a robin's egg, after all. It's a Brancusi. Who knew? By Lee Rosenbaum -- Gwathmey Siegel; Machado and Silvetti; Thomas Phifer; Rick Mather; Zaha Hadid [links]- ArtsJournal

• Buffalo charges ahead into past: ...wants to use its fine old buildings to improve its image. Problem is, it has old buildings in need of repair. By Alissa Walker -- Daniel Libeskind; David Rockwell; Rafael Viñoly; Eugene Kohn/KPF; Helmut Jahn; Cesar Pelli [images]- Fast Company

• Scottsdale Bridge Marks Milestone for Paolo Soleri: Now, at the age of 90, Soleri might finally get to see one of his bridges built (in Scottsdale).

• Blueprint's picks of the change-makers for 2010.

• Francine Houben, the first female starchitect, and her team have transformed the old GM headquarters in Detroit into the new headquarters of the General Motors Foundation.

• Saap Turns Vandalized Building to a Work of Environmental Art: A little graffiti at the entrance of the former NYU building on 7th Avenue...was restored to its former course...Legalized prostitution...has made this parcel particularly promising to conservationists because it essentially kept development at bay, improving the chances of restoring the flora and fauna. -- The Nature Conservancy [slide show]- New York Times

• Brazil's 102-year-old architect spends 'crap' birthday: Oscar Niemeyer, celebrated his 102nd birthday Tuesday in typical fashion: at work on projects rather than pondering his supercentenial age. "Turning 102 is crap, and there is nothing to
Call for entries/Request for proposals: 2010 Homeless World Cup Legacy Center Concept Design - Youth and Women's Leadership Center in Santa Cruz, Rio de Janeiro; winner gets the commission and the building will be built by summer 2010; registration deadline: Jan 1, 2010 - Architecture for Humanity

Zaha Hadid's Award-Winning Snack-itecture Inspired by Doodles, Chips, Furryuns: We examine her work as it relates to a greasy, sour cream-and-onion-scented heap of Frito-Lays. By Alissa Walker [images] - Fast Company

A Star is Reborn: Fox Oakland Theater and Oakland School for the Arts: A faded movie palace - and the surrounding neighborhood - gets a new lease on life. -- Architectural Dimensions; ELS Architecture and Urban Design; Starkweather Bondy Architecture [images] - ArchNewsNow

-- Zaha Hadid Architects: MAXXI museum, Rome, Italy
-- Rafael Viñoly Architects: Carrasco International Airport, Montevideo, Uruguay

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