Hawthorne is a bit hesitant to put forth high hopes for L.A.'s new planning director: the "quick appointment suggests city leaders are more interested in speeding approvals of projects than in imaging and working toward a better cityscape."  

Litt sees "great promise" in design concept for Cleveland's Mall: it "would bring a strong, contemporary sensibility to a treasured public space" and the "mix could be exhilarating" - if there is "the courage to allow a provocative mix of new and old."  

More on plans for Harlem's defunct open air market under the tracks: if it "actually gets built, it might end up defining an urban-regeneration stereotype all of its own."  

Thanks to "the anti- iconic" design approach, the Israel Museum's makeover doesn't "undermine its original identity."  

Saffron visits Kahn's one-unhaled (and almost lost) Trenton Bath House: "a building that hides its wisdom in cool, shadowy corners, and is best experienced in person."  

Q&A with London Festival of Architecture 2010 folks re: "their strategies to invite the public into a shared sense of transformative possibility about the built environment."  


Weekend diversions:  

- Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture festivities include several architectural exhibitions.  
- As part of the V&A's "1:1 Architects Build Small Spaces," Studio Miro Serv对立 architects build a "poetic interpretation" of how an Indian family of eight can live in "a mere corridor of space."  
- "An eyeful of "Dreamlands" on view at the Pompidou Center: "real and imagined landscapes can make visitors feel alternately euphoric and overwhelmed" (and only through Aug. 9).  
- MoMA and the Yale Center for British Art "offer a fascinating look at London's innovative campaign to bring art into the Underground and create a strong civic environment."  
- Rome's MAXXI hosts University of Miami School of Architecture students' work as one of five inaugural exhibits that are "a significant curatorial event for researchers of modern architecture in Europe."  
- LaBarre finds an artist's drawings of imaginary suburban landscapes "that would scare a Stepford wife" are "a commentary on suburban fakery and a hopeless look at the very conceit of city planning. Depressing. We want one now." (with enough pix to depress us, too)  

Hawthorne hails Hines's "Architecture of the Sun": it "fleshes out the heroes of L.A. architecture" and also "makes a persuasive case for the talents of some underappreciated L.A. architects."  

Hamid's "Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities" explores how to "weave more green into the urban grid," and "shows that, when the political will is there, parks will follow."  

ULI's "Conservation Communities" offers anti-sprawl solutions to accommodate growth and save land.
University of Miami School of Architecture students exhibit work at Maxxi museum in Rome: ...displayed in one of five inaugural exhibits titled "Luigi Moretti Architetto from Rationalism to the Informal"...a significant curatorial event for researchers of modern architecture in Europe. - Miami Herald

Buy One Now! Suburban Landscapes That Would Scare a Stepford Wife: Ross Racine's drawings manage to make the artificial world of suburbia even more artificial...a commentary on suburban fakery and a hopeless look at the very conceit of city planning. Depressing. We want one now. By Suzanne LaBarre [images] - Fast Company

"Architecture of the Sun: Los Angeles Modernism 1900-1970: Thomas S. Hines fleshes out the heroes of L.A. architecture with a smart look at their most important buildings...makes a persuasive case for the talents of some underappreciated L.A. architects... By Christopher Hawthorne -- Charles and Henry Greene; Irving Gill; Frank Lloyd Wright; Rudolph Schindler; Richard Neutra; Gregory Ain; Welton Becket; Stiles O. Clements; Karl Klocko/AC Martin; Gordon Drake- Los Angeles Times

Creating Open Space Takes Politics and Planning: "Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities" by Peter Harnik...explores how to take advantage of this opportunity to weave more green into the urban grid...shows that, when the political will is there, parks will follow. - Gotham Gazette (NYC)

"Conservation Communities: Creating Value With Nature, Open Space, and Agriculture" by Edward T. McMahon Offers Anti-Sprawl Solution to Accommodate Growth and Save Land: ...showcases a shift away from the sprawling, highly land-consumptive development practices of the past to more sustainable practices that will pick up momentum as the economy recovers. - Urban Land Institute (ULI)

Snøhetta: National September 11 Memorial Museum Pavilion, World Trade Center Site, New York, NY