• Q&A with an architect who explains how Low Impact Development can be an environmental, economical, and aesthetic alternative for those who lack the resources to pursue LEED certification.

• The fascinating tale of a Port-au-Prince landmark that “has become a lone bright spot in Haiti’s stalled reconstruction” (link to McAslan site for great images).

• Merrick on what’s in store for 2011: “Brute bigness will be a defining feature” (even the master of “anti-bling architecture Chippio bigs it up” – oh joy).

• Czech architects launch the For a New Prague initiative to move beyond construction projects “guided by politicians’ short-term and individual interests” to “provoke a dialogue” between city government and citizens.

• The massive Royal Meccia Clock Tower “appears to have delivered the final blow to Mecca’s architectural dignity.”

• Boston’s newest skyscraper, “probably the last large property built on the downtown side of the city’s waterfront for some time,” is ready for its close-up – with BSA as one of its tenants.

• Calculating the social and economic ROI on green, affordable housing (it’s pretty impressive!).

• Kennicott, inspired by Gatje, bemoans the lack of great public squares in Washington, where urban design is “all about views, vistas and open sight lines.”

• Hume fumes as a Toronto gem falls to fire, calling it “demolition by neglect” by an owner who saw it as “an obstacle to profitability.”

• Heathcote wonders if clients and architects today think in terms of their houses becoming a part of our future heritage.

• As an almost lost London Victorian gothic treasure is about to re-open, the “building’s real saviors go unmentioned – and uninvited to glitzy parties for its reopening.”

• Davidson gathers an impressive (and amusing) mixed bag of “arguers” to debate what NYC’s greatest building is.

• An eyeful of Room for London competition entries for a single room atop the Southbank arts centre (we’ll take at least one!)

• How could we resist a true tale about Texas and architecture that ends with: “They buried her in a martini shaker” (a truly Texas way to go).
What Passes for Beauty: A Death in Texas: ...to a few who know about both Texas and architecture (I am thinking here of the late "Texas Ranger" John Hejduk), it is a sort of myth...As most stories do, this story has an ending, and the ending is so strange that I will break with convention and reveal it now: They buried her in a martini shaker ... and a Dixie-cup. By Jim Williamson - Places Journal

Book Review: "Cities for People" by Jan Gehl: Copenhagen's urban-space guru explains the principles, practices, and priorities that make cities more livable - beginning, but not ending, with dethroning King Car...He’s clearly earned his increasing influence, which this masterful book will help spread and cement By Bill Millard - ArchNewsNow

Gwathmey Siegel & Associates: Teel Family Pavilion, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California
Reiser + Umemoto (RUR): Port and Cruise Service Center, Kaohsiung, Southern Taiwan, ROC