Today's News - August 11, 2003

A two-parter looks at the architect(s) of Ground Zero, and the slurry wall engineer. — A humorous (if disheartening) look at Washington, DC's underground future. — Architectural giants ignored and forgotten in Philadelphia and Scotland. — Good news for waterfronts in Baltimore, Washington State, and the Hudson River. — “Fed up with snipes from the artworld,” architect says its time to tear down 25-year-old “temporary” waterfront pavilion in Venice. — Despite its travails, Scottish parliament building declared a masterpiece. — Affordable housing wins big being green. — Once inside, new library checks out fine. — Is $33 million too much or not enough for new African American Cultural Center. — Gehry takes center stage with Disney Hall and Bard (lamps, wristwatches, and vodka bottles are next). — Chicago Mart tries retail (again). — In New York, sex zoning change changing a neighborhood (it’s a 40% formula).

Editor's note: We're sorry to report that the LA Times Calendar Live section now wants to charge us (and you) to view articles…interesting headline: Women reshaping architecture…oh well…

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Dug In at Ground Zero: Daniel Libeskind Wants to Ensure His Lofty Design Goes Up, and Down, According to Plan - David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Santiago Calatrava - Washington Post

The Hidden Hero of 9/11: George Tamaro’s Sunken Wall Held Back the Waters at Ground Zero, Then Emerged to Shape the Memorial There - Washington Post

Tunnel Visions Of the Dim Future: ...a tour of the city of the future...citizens seem to be tiring of the whole underground shtick. By Benjamin Forgey - Washington Post

Sorry days for an elegant trio: Uncertainty about Convention Center expansion has left North Broad a mess. By Inga Saffron - Louis I. Kahn; Robert Venturi; Romaldo Giurgola - Philadelphia Inquirer

The architects left in the giants’ shadows: a “poverty of knowledge” about all but a handful of Scotland’s architects is putting historically significant buildings at risk. - Charles Rennie Mackintosh; Alexander “Greek” Thomson; William and James Playfair; William Adam; etc - The Herald (Scotland)

Harbor plan to limit traffic: New master plan seeks to create pedestrian links to rest of downtown. - Cooper, Robertson & Partners; Cho Benn Holback + Associates - Baltimore Sun

Port Townsend embarks on a voyage of heritage: Waterfront center to tie maritime past, present - Miller-Hull Partnership [link to images] - Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Moving Closer to Regaining a Riverfront [Hastings-on-Hudson]: will be reclaimed for use as parks, residences, stores and trails - New York Times

Tear down my shack: It’s time for the Australian pavilion at the Venice Biennale to go, says the architect who designed it. - Philip Cox - The Age (Australia)

Homage to Catalonia: Costs have spiralled and critics have condemned it, but Enric Miralles’s Scottish parliament will be a masterpiece, says Jonathan Glancey [image] - Guardian (UK)

In a former factory, space meets art in superb convergence: Dia:Beacon is an architectural masterpiece. By Robert Campbell - OpenOffice; Robert Irwin - Boston Globe

Green project wins on its own terms: Going natural saves money and resources in Colorado Court housing complex in Santa Monica. - Pugh Scoopa Kodama - Los Angeles Times

For San Jose’s new library it’s what’s inside that counts: Unimpressive exterior is redeemed by innovative interior. By John King - Gunnar Birkerts; Carrier Johnson; Anderson Brule Architects [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Some question cost of new $33 million African American Cultural Center - Allison G. Williams [link to images] - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A Mighty Monument to Music: Frank Gehry’s swooping, soaring Walt Disney Concert Hall is the architect’s Masterwork—and the mirror of his own restless energies [images] - Newsweek

Designed by Gehry, a new arts center is a performance in itself: Bard College complex marks a new stage for the luminary. By Robert Campbell - Boston Globe

Merchandise Mart taking it public, but still likes it haute: attempt to live down its reputation as a building closed to the public, and to latch onto the home improvement boom. - Crain's Chicago Business

Clubs dancing into Chelsea: 6 establishments on same W. 27th St. block in delayed reaction to sex zoning law changes - Crain's New York

Housing the Machine: Industrial facilities don't have to be unattractive. - Hillier [images] - ArchNewsNow