As expected, critiques of the World Trade Center memorial finalists began posting shortly after their unveiling yesterday; more are sure to come. The memorial competition site, www.wtcsitememorial.org, has everything: designers' statements, illustrations and models, biographies and credits, animations, and original submission boards.

Other news: We lose a visionary engineer. -- Urban/suburban sprawl and smart growth: of politics and school funding. -- Manhattan stadium: planning by bulldozer. -- China not quite ready to sign on the $400 million dotted line for Guggenheim. -- Piano’s “shard of glass” gets the go-ahead to jeers and cheers. -- Big plans for soda pop and fish in Atlanta. -- Historic venue for Parramatta’s inaugural Design Awards. -- Koolhaas show a hit in Berlin. -- Another rave review for “My Architect.”

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8 Designs Confront Many Agendas at Ground Zero: ...chorus of conflicting voices... - New York Times

WTC Memorial: Newsday Critic Weighs In: Designs More Suited For Smaller Space. By Justin Davidson - NY Newsday

Slow Glow: The WTC design finalists need staying power over flash. By Christopher Newbold - Slate

Make It Simple and Eloquent: The graphics...are so confusing that it’s hard to tell where one scheme ends and the next begins. By Steve Cuozzo - New York Post

WTC Memorial: The Designers: From Around the World, Artists and Architects Who Rose to a Challenge - New York Times

New York New Visions Supports Imagine New York’s WTC Memorial Outreach: ...applauds the release of eight thought-provoking memorial schemes - NYNV


Time to Recognize the Politics of Suburban Sprawl: The odds of...finding a home in a place designed on the basis of New Urbanism, smart growth, or traditional neighborhood design principles are over 500 to 1 against... By Joel Hirschhorn - CommonDreams.org

Op-Ed: Smart Growth and Schools: Urban sprawl's impact on school funding is more of a smart growth issue than is commonly realized. By Jonathan D. Weiss - PLANetizen

The West Side Stadium: No Arena for Good Planning: ...reflects a sensitivity to the critique of the Moses legacy of planning by bulldozer. By Tom Angotti - Gotham Gazette

Taichung can't sign [$400 million] Guggenheim museum contract without money - Zaha Hadid - China Post

Prescott approves disputed 'shard of glass' tower: government ignored the advice of its own heritage agency - Renzo Piano [image] - Guardian (UK)

Go-ahead for Shard of Glass: decision to grant planning consent for Renzo Piano's London Bridge Tower...warmly welcomed by Southwark Council... [images & links] - London SE1

Calif. firm to design World of Coca-Cola: master plan includes the Georgia Aquarium. - Jerde Partnership; Jack Rouse Associates - Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Historic venue for Parramatta’s inaugural Design Awards: St Patrick’s Cathedral has risen from the ashes... - Romaldo Giurgola/MGT Architects - Infolink (Australia)

A Dutch Treat: Rem Koolhaas in Berlin: A new exhibition looks at the work of the top architect [images/video] - Deutsche Welle (Germany)

Rebuilding My Father’s House: An Architect’s Son Pays Respects: ...the most insightful and informative nonfiction film that I’ve seen... - Louis Kahn - New York Observer

INSIGHT: The Might-Have-Been Memorial. By Fred Bernstein - ArchNewsNow

-- Competition winner: Zaha Hadid: High Speed Station, Napoli Afragola, Italy
-- Competition winner: NACO/Foster and Partners/Arup: Beijing Capital Airport, China
-- Book: "The Architecture of Fumihiko Maki: Space, City, Order and Making" By Jennifer Tavier
-- Book: "Prefab" By Allison Arieff & Bryan Burkhart