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Today's News - February 20, 2004

ArcSpace takes us to Norway and Chicago. -- Urban rail systems not all they're cracked up to be? -- Architecture takes on the human brain. -- Reconciling aesthetics and security. -- U.K. retailers called on to work with planners to improve town center growth; and a procurement model to entice private sector developers to large-scale regeneration projects. -- A shortlist of great American Main Streets. -- Concert halls as civic trophies (and "architectural bauble du jour"). -- Public art projects: big ticket items that can "expect vast media coverage, public outrage and hissy fits..." -- All 5,201 WTC memorial design entries debut on the Web. -- Frank Lloyd Wright inspires new complex. -- Treasuring the old houses of Dhaka. -- Is Foster the most influential European of the last 25 years? Cast your vote. -- Ceremony for Driehaus Prize for Classical Architecture March 20.

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-- Competition winner: Medplan AS Arkitekter: I Boks Stavanger Concert House, Stavanger, Norway
-- Rem Koolhaas: McCormick Tribune Campus Center, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago

Report finds little benefit in urban rail: Toll roads and express bus services would work better to relieve traffic congestion [link to report] - San Diego Union-Tribune

Learning About the Brain Could Put Method Into Architecture's Madness: Architects are finally hooking up with neuroscientists to explore how the human brain experiences architecture, and why. By Roger K. Lewis- Washington Post

Designs to keep the enemies at the gate: U.N....the struggle to reconcile security features with aesthetics and openness. - Fumihiko Maki; Moshe Safdie; Einhorn Yaffee Prescott; etc. - Financial Times (UK)

Planning Minister Hill asks for retailer's support to improve town centre growth: Planners need retailers' help in determining the best way to develop town centres and in identifying sites... - Retail Week (UK)

LIFT procurement model planned for Thames Gateway: The government is hoping that this will mobilise private sector resources behind flagship policies such as the Sustainable Communities Plan... - Building (UK)

Semifinalists Selected for 2004 Great American Main Street Awards - National Trust for Historic Preservation

Concert Halls as Civic Trophies: Cities often want to build the architectural bauble du jour in their unending search for the grail of world classness. By James S. Russell - Gehry; Pelli; Foster; Grimshaw; Calatrava; Safdie; Schwarz - ArtsJournal

Space invaders: Millions are spent on bringing sculptures and installations to Britain's towns and cities. Why are they there? Are they any good? No one seems to know. By Jay Merrick - Independent (UK)

5,201 Ideas for 9/11 Memorial, From the Sublime to the Less So: ...a kaleidoscopic perspective on ground zero... By David W. Dunlap - New York Times

Virtual Exhibit of all 5,201 [WTC memorial] Submissions from Around the World Opens - Lower Manhattan Development Corporation

Edwardsville [Illinois] panel backs hotel, architectural museum complex...would have a Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired design... - Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation; Louis Sullivan [image] - Belleville News-Democrat (Illinois)

The transformation of the old houses of Dhaka - The Daily Star (Bangladesh)

Vote Foster: poll to find the most influential European of the past 25 years, architecture writer Edwin Heathcote presents the case for Norman Foster, the region's pre-eminent architect - Financial Times (UK)

Demetri Porphyrios to Receive Richard H. Driehaus Prize for Classical Architecture: $100,000...and a ceremony March 20 at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. [links to images] - University of Notre Dame School of Architecture

And the Winners Are: New Housing New York Competition Winners: Exhibition of inspiring designs for affordable, sustainable housing opens tomorrow - ArchNewsNow

Habitat 825: An apartment building draws inspiration from its neighbor - Schindler's Kings Road House. - Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects [images] - ArchNewsNow

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