Today's News - May 17, 2004

Today's must-read is about Toronto - but could be anywhere: "The deplorable thing about the current star system in architecture isn't, finally, that there are stars...it is, rather, that the result is uninspired buildings" (and a rush on napkin art). — In the U.K., a look back at "the beginning of a rather damp and foggy venture into the world of royal patronage." — Making brownfields beautiful in Ottawa. — Exploring the 21st century landscape: lots of stories...take your pick. — Jane Jacobs has her say. — Koolhaas in Seattle: Muschamp is honored to review (and has a few choice words for some other Seattle icons); Goldberger is thrilled; the city is proud (this won't be the last we'll hear, we're sure). — A library re-do in St. Louis is a desecration. — A Washington, DC, "gateway" that could have been better. — Wayne is back in the mainstream. — Malaysian architect making waves. — FutureShack at home in Manhattan. — Deadline looms for smart growth awards. — Boston's Bunker Hill bridge wins big.

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The $195-Million Scribble and Other Tales of Seduction from Our Romance with Celebrity Architects: can Toronto, the ugly duckling of North America, finally become the gorgeous metropolis it deserves to be? - Frank Gehry; Daniel Libeskind; Will Alsop; Jane Jacobs - Toronto Life

Life after carbuncles: Twenty years ago today, Prince Charles denounced modern architecture. Did he make any difference? Yes, says Jonathan Glancey, but not in a way anyone expected. - Guardian (UK)

It's all about the Plan: Development plans attempt to turn brown fields into a place of beauty. LeBreton Flats -- 65 hectares of riverfront real estate -- is about to be revived. Shortlist: Le Groupe Cardinal Hardy/Le Tremblay; Dan Hanganu/Daniel Lestage; Barry Hokin & Associates/Konelon Bakker Architects/Les Architectes Boutros & Pratte - Ottawa Citizen (Canada)

unNatural Beauty: The Making of a 21st Century Landscape - Martha Schwartz; Jacques Wirtz; Ken Smith; James Corner/Field Operations; West 8; D.I.R.T. Studio; Peter Latz; Jens Jensen, etc. - New York Times Magazine

The Greening of the City: As offices move to the suburbs, nature takes up residence downtown. - By Jane Jacobs - New York Times Magazine

Pioneering Revitalization: Urbanist Jane Jacobs' Quest Takes Root in Downtown. - By Sam Hall Kaplan - Los Angeles Downtown News

The Library That Puts on Fishnets and Hits the Disco: Seattle gets a rock-candy masterpiece, wrapped in glittering crystal and folded like origami. - By Herbert Muschamp - Rem Koolhaas/OMA; LMN Architects - New York Times

High-Tech Bibliophilia: Rem Koolhaas's new library in Seattle is an ennobling public space...thrilling from top to bottom. - By Paul Goldberger - Joshua Ramus/Office for Metropolitan Architecture; LMN Architects - New Yorker

Avant-garde architect reinvents Seattle's new library - Rem Koolhaas/OMA; LMN Architects - Seattle Times

Seattle's LMN architects part of library team - Rem Koolhaas/OMA - Seattle Times

Washington University tarnishes its former architectural jewel (John M. Olin Library): Kallmann, McKinnell & Wood. - Boston, were architects of what can be described only as desecration. - By Robert W. Duffy - Murphy & Mackey - St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Mandarin Hotel Steps Into the Past: Like it or not -- and for me it's mostly not -- Washington has a new architectural gateway. - By Benjamin Forgey - Brennan Beer Gorman Monk Architects - Washington Post

An Iconoclastic Architect Torna Theory Into Practice: Having slipped from view after the architecture boom of the 1980's, the designer Thom Mayne [of Morphosis] is back on the A-list for prestigious commissions. - New York Times

Playing with light and shadows: This lakeside ville in Qingpu, Shanghai, exemplifies Malaysian architect's forte in combining structure and material to suit the surroundings and climate of an area. - Chan Soo Khian/SCDA Architects - The Star (Malaysia)


June 15 Deadline Approaching for Smart Growth Alliance Recognition Programs - Smart Growth Alliance (SGA)

Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge (Boston) Named 2004 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award - American Society of Civil Engineers

- Winning team: Inside Outside Group/Michael Maltzan Architects/Mirko Zardini; Biblioteca degli Alberi; Giardini di Porta Nuova, Milan
- Ville Harla: HUT Wood Studio Workshop, Korkeasaari Lookout Tower, Helsinki