Today's News - May 18, 2004

[Editor's note: ANN will not post on Wednesday, May 19...we'll be back on Thursday.] 2012 Olympics shortlist announced (and each city gets to pay $500,000 for the privilege). -- There's more than just politics and conflicts going on in Israel. -- High-rise fever in the U.K. (and high praise for Skyhouse). -- High hopes (and fingers crossed) for Toronto's waterfront. -- A tug-of-war in an historic neighborhood yields winners and losers. -- Pixar plans offer "textbook examples of tokenism" for the neighborhood. -- Chicago's Millennium Park is only four years late. -- Uffizi Gallery expansion on a fast track? Not if the new Party of Beauty has a say. -- MIT geeks like Gehry (so do their robots). -- Student designs will actually be built. -- A quest to finally win tribute for "a titan of 19th-century urban planning." -- Canadian Governor General's Medals in Architecture announced (in a pay-per-view report on Canada.com, the awards "raise some troubling questions. Either the state of Canadian architecture is characterized by a very thin veneer of strong design talent; or there are some very serious shortcomings in how the awards are selected."). -- High Thai style a big hit.

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Five cities make list for 2012 host city race: New York and four European capitals
-- London, Madrid and Moscow and Paris... (AP)- SF Gate

Israel Beyond Politics: UNESCO declares White City of Tel Aviv World Heritage Site for Bauhaus Architecture; Groundbreaking ceremony of Center for Human Dignity - Museum of Tolerance in heart of Jerusalem; Israel Museum to reopen the home of Dead Sea Scrolls following major restoration - Frank O. Gehry; Frederick Kiesler and Armand Bartos- Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The only way is up: high-rise hits Britain, and this time they mean it. By Hugh Pearman - Foster; Rogers; Grimshaw; Piano; Gehry; Glenn Howells; Erno Goldfinger; Richard Seifert; KPF; Marks/Barfield [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

Fingers crossed on the waterfront: They say redevelopment work will start very soon -- but they've said that before - Urban Design Associates- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Historic Third Ward needs to fight for its character: A quiet tug of war is under way for the architectural soul... Some architects are ahead of the game...Some newcomers are not nearly as inspired. By Whitney Gould - Jim Shields/Hammel Green and Abrahamson (HGA); T.J. Morley/Eppstein Uhen Architects; TDI Associates; Peter Renner, Third Coast Design Concepts- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Pixar's plan closes doors to community: Is Steve Jobs man enough to realize that with a little ingenuity he can make his corporate home in Emeryville a whole lot better? By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Chicago finally gets its Millennium Park: Four years behind schedule, the $475 million park is set to officially open in July - Frank Gehry; Arish Kapoor; Jaume Plensa (AP)- USA Today

Berlusconi’s very own Grand Projet: A project to double the exhibition space at the Uffizi, under discussion for 50 years, has now been fast-tracked by the Italian government - Giorgio Vasari (1560); Arata Isozaki [image]- The Art Newspaper

Beauty gets its own political party in Italy: "Aesthetics first, ethics second"... The Party of Beauty’s manifesto is simple: stop destroying Italy’s landscape with uncontrolled development and stop inappropriate new building in the cities. - The Art Newspaper

Inside MIT's New Geek Lair: Befitting its techie residents, Stata Center was built using digital replacements for tape measures. - Frank Gehry; Gehry Technologies- TechNewsWorld.com

Texas A&M University's College of Architecture student designs chosen for construction in Georgia: Units chosen for environmentally friendly Serenbe community - Jason Herber; Jeff Chapman- The Battalion (Texas A&M Univ.)

Andrew Haswell Green? You Could Sit on It: ...for Michael Miscione... has made it his mission for half a dozen years to win proper civic recognition for... a titan of 19th-century urban planning whose name rings precious few bells today- New York Times

2004 Governor Generals Medals in Architecture - Busby + Associates Architects; Héctor Mendoza Architects; Park Architects; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects; Ian MacDonald Architect; Shim Sutcliffe Architects [link to projects/images]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

Big on Thai Style: how Thailand is carving a niche for itself on the design front [images]- Business Times (Singapore)

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-- Winning team: Inside Outside Group/Michael Maltzan Architects/Mirko Zardini: Biblioteca degli Alberi, Giardini di Porta Nuove, Milan
-- Ville Hara: HUT Wood Studio Workshop, Korkeasaari Lookout Tower, Helsinki Zoo, Finland
Some sites may expire after a few days.