Today's News - August 9, 2004

SOQs sought for Children's Museum in Washington State. -- Researchers study how urban design can keep us active. -- Architects' dilemma: security, aesthetics, and accessibility. -- A cost

guide for building green. -- Foreign architects not too happy with American construction talent. -- Warning: monster malls ripping the hearts out of city centers. -- Ottawa wants an urban design

review board; will it help or hinder? -- Shipping containers as homes, schools, and offices in Africa. -- Polystyrene homes planned for Afghans. -- Douglas Cardinal calls his museum "a forgery,"

and others admit he was mistreated. -- On the Gehry front: redesigned Art Gallery of Ontario unveiled, "but the task is still not worthy of his talents." -- Kansas City stadium has political under-

and overtones. -- Plans for Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto hit a sour note. -- Architectural inspiration solves Scottish National Gallery's space dilemma. -- U.K. picks its Venice

Architecture Biennale team. -- Treasures of a Colorado visionary.

Coming tomorrow: reams of views from Holyrood.


Shaping the City of Tomorrow: What Gets Us Moving: Researchers are studying what features in a city's design encourage us to be physically active. - Newswise

Balancing security, accessibility: The architects' dilemma is how to encourage people to enter while keeping danger at bay. By Justin Davidson - Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Fox & Fowle; RTKL - NY Newsday

New Data on the Cost of Building Green: "Costing Green: A Comprehensive Cost Database and Budgeting Methodology" - BuildingGreen

Building a Bad Reputation: Sloppy American Construction: As more high-profile buildings by foreign architects rise...a gathering rumble can be heard across the profession about the way America builds. - Ando; Piano; Koolhaas; Calatrava; Herzog & de Meuron; Taniguchi; A. Zahner - New York Times

Beware the monster mall's curse: Neon shopping sprawls are ripping the heart out of our cities - Guardian (UK)

Urban design controls: Enhancement or encumbrance? In the hopes of improving architecture and urban design in the downtown core, Ottawa plans to add a design review to the development approval process for new buildings - Ottawa Citizen (Canada)

Africans Find a Refuge in Cast-Off "Big Boxes": Shipping containers have found a place in the lives of Africa's poor, who have converted the "big boxes" into schools, community centers and homes. [slide show] - New York Times

Polystyrene homes planned for Afghans: some American scientists, engineers and architects think they have a better way to rebuild ... - Shelter for Life International; Federation of American Scientists [images] - BBC News

Douglas Cardinal disowns his masterpiece: calls National Museum of the American Indian "a forgery". Today everyone seems to regret Cardinal's mistreatment. - GBQC Architects; Polshek Partnership - Toronto Star

Art Gallery of Ontario's final design unveiled: Gehry adds exterior, swirling staircase in compromise with the neighbours - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Celebrity rules in Toronto's hot pursuit of Gehry: Hometown loves him for his fame, By Christopher Hume [image] - Toronto Star

Arena vote puts architect choice at center court: Snubbing the city's large sports architecture industry may be politically impossible. - Frank Gehry; 360 Architecture/HOK Sport/Ellerbe Becket; A. Zahner; Kansas City Business Journal

Let our guys design our arena: I can't for the life of me understand the fascination with Frank Gehry...Kansas City, meanwhile, has the best sports architects on earth. - Ellerbe Becket; HOK Sport+Venue+Event; 360 Architecture - Kansas City Star

Royal Conservatory of Music plans hit a sour note: Heritage advocates want to save one of the few remaining examples of high Victorian architecture in Toronto... - Kuwabara, Payne McKenna, Blumberg - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Digging deep for inspiration: With the Scottish National Gallery bursting at its seams, only a flash of architectural inspiration could solve the gallery's space dilemma - William Playfair (1822); John Miller and Partners [image] - Telegraph (UK)

UK names Biennale team: Peter Cook to curate Architecture Biennale in Venice - Ian Ritchie; Kathryn Findlay; Future Systems; Ron Arad; Caruso St. John; CJ Lim; Richard Murphy; John Pawson; Peter Cook/Gavin Robotham - British Council

A visionary's legacy: 39 Charles Haertling houses dot the Boulder landscape...brain tumor suddenly cut life and career short...once predicted to be the next Frank Lloyd Wright [slide show] - The Daily Camera (Colorado)

A Flexible Future: UCSF Genentech Hall: Flexible laboratories, informal gathering spaces, and a soaring atrium emphasize collaboration among researchers. - ArchDaily [images]