Today's News - August 31, 2004

A handful of Canadian entrepreneurs are developing innovative environmental technologies - but not without struggle. – Bold designs for Beijing Olympics - and bold plans to send seeds into space for mutant plantings around the city (perhaps bold is not the right word). – Universal design (finally) catching on with builders. – Two urban projects in Portland that could use a little more daring. – A new home for London Stock Exchange. – Prouve's 1947 prefab rescued from the jungle. – New NASA science center ready for take-off. – Holywood (again), positive words from Miralles's widow, the project architect, and the landscape architect. – Bitter words (no, actually nasty words) from a journalist who sees the building from his office window. – A double take on Disney Hall. – “Potty parity” has arrived (or will arrive soon) to a stadium near you. – Plasma screens to make an Edinburgh cemetery an “illuminating experience.” – Muschamp writes again: why Art Nouveau is in vogue (again).

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The joy of filth: Under-the-radar Canadian entrepreneurs are cleaning up a polluted planet with innovative technology. Will they clean up financially too? - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Do urban trees really help reduce pollution and clean the air? - Olmsted...proclaimed that trees were the "lungs of the city"...trees are the ultimate urban multi-taskers. - Environmental News Network

Let 5 million flowers bloom: Heat is still coming off the Athens Olympics, but already eyes are turning to Beijing where architects are experimenting with bold new design. - Herzog & de Meuron; PTW; Paul Andreu; Norman Foster. - Sydney Morning Herald

Easy Access: Young, old benefit from home features aimed at Baby Boomers. - What works well for a 4-year old works well for a 90-year old...builders are beginning to incorporate more universal design features into more new homes... - Chicago Tribune

What's the scale of our ambition? In the developing city [Portland], two new projects could raise standards with a little more daring. By Randy Graaq - SERA Architects/Mayan/Reed landscape architects; Soren Rasmussen Architects/Clark. - The Oregonian

London Stock Exchange New Building Aims to Project Fresh Image: ...hasn't ditched all its old corporate symbols. - Eric Parry, Genserle - Bloomberg News

Bullet holes extra: A classic of modern design has been saved from squatters, snipers and the Congolese jungle...highly innovative modernist prefab [La Maison Tropicale] is one of the most important remnants of French colonial architecture. - Jean Prouvé (1947); Christian Enjolras; Alain Banet. - Guardian (UK)

INFINITY at NASA Stennis Space Center moves from concept to detail design - ESI Design; Stantec Architecture; Studio South. - SpaceRef

‘Now it’s time for me to move on’: The death of Enric Miralles forced his widow to put her grief on hold while she helped make his vision a reality. As the parliament nears completion, Benedetta Tagliabue tells how she is finally laying his ghost to rest. - The Herald (Scotland)

The project architect: Holyrood Lives - John Kinsley/RMJM. - The Herald (Scotland)

The landscape architect: Holyrood Lives - Kenny Fraser. - The Herald (Scotland)

Dewar's Camelot is my carbuncle: I loathe the building [Holyrood]...where some see visionary lines and inspired angles I see the geometry of a madman...massively experimental, clever-clever, tricky, fussy, risky, risky - and I bet it dates quickly and badly. - The Scotsman (UK)

The Son Shines: Disney Hall Makes a Believer Out of the Father, Not the Critic. By Sam Hall Kaplan. - LA Downtown News

Hi-tech plan to shed light on graves: futuristic information screens installed to let visitors know about the great and good who are laid to rest [in Greyfriars Kirkyard in Edinburgh]...a valuable "educational resource" and a more illuminating experience for tourists. - The Scotsman (UK)


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