Today's News - April 7, 2005

A new research center makes science a part of everyday campus life. -- The mallin of America re-christened "lifestyle centers": visions of Main Street(s), USA. -- Traditionalists maul Mayne over his Alaska Capitol design. -- An architect defends his fees (at approx. $71/hour...sounds pretty reasonable to us). -- Stararchitect as pop star. "Gehry in all his animated glory" on "The Simpsons." -- An open (and irreverent) letter to Philip Johnson. -- Lautner's Chemosphere house returned to all its glory (Koolhaas is designing the guesthouse). -- French and Chinese architects discussing Chinese architecture. (Recommendation? Follow the French, not American "pattern"). -- No roads and no conservatives (but lots of conservation) at Arcosanti. -- For Japanese architect Hitoshi Abe early success is a mixed blessing. -- In the hands of architects, industrial metal mesh takes an artful turn.

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The Mall Goes Undercover...rechristening themselves "lifestyle centers." This new look may remind you of something; a vibrant urban street. [images]- Slate

Capitol intrigue: 'Traditional' architects challenge Capitol design - Thom Mayne/Morphosis; mmenseArchitects; Marianne Cusato [images, links]- Anchorage Daily News (Alaska)

Comment: San José bus shelter architects picking up unfair criticism: Recent articles...emphasize a lack of understanding about who architects are and what their fees include....It is easy to belittle professionals and criticize their cost. By Lewis S. Fisher/Fisher Heck Inc. Architects - San Antonio Express-News

Culture of celebrity embraces pop-star architects; I know. I saw one on "The Simpsons." ...Frank Gehry in all his animated glory, designing a right-angles-be-darned concert hall for Springfield, hometown of Bart et al. By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

An Open Letter to the Dean: Our irrepressible columnist takes an irreverent look at the legacy of architecture's most famous (and irrepressible) gadfly. By Philip Nobel - Philip Johnson- Metropolis Magazine

Eight sides to this story: Perched high above the city, publisher Benedikt Taschen inhabits the John Lautner house Chemosphere, an octagonal design that's part Jetsons, part Bond and vintage L.A. Modern. - Escher GuneWardena Architecture [images]- Los Angeles Times

Chinese, French architects talk about Chinese cities: city development has been following an "American pattern"...recommended the French pattern... - Zhang Yu; Liu Kajii; Paul Andreu; Bertrand Lemoine- People's Daily (China)

In your own backyard: No roads, no conservatives: Experimental community strives to become self-sustaining - Arcosanti/Paolo Soleri- ASU Web Devil

Hitoshi Abe comes to terms with the burden of success: Winning the contract to design a 50,000-seat stadium would be a major coup for any 30-year-old architect...really a mixed blessing: "Hitoshi Abe: Body" runs until May 14 at Gallery Ma, Tokyo- Daily Yomiuri (Japan)

Industry and Art Unite in Metal Mesh: ...objects made primarily of stainless steel wire mesh, an industrial material more likely to be seen in parking garage gates... - Shaw/Jelveh Design; Tod Williams & Billie Tsien; Jeanne Gang; Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen; Lorcan O'Herlihy- Washington Post

Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem: A new museum tells a dark story, and then bursts through to the light. - Moshe Safdie and Associates [images]- ArchNewsNow

April '05 Build Business: Generating the Most Profitable Fees. By Eric P. Mott

-- Morphosis: Cooper Union, New York City
-- Erik Møllers Tegnestue: Hotel Skt. Petri, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Letter from the Editor: Exploring Copenhagen and environs

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