Today's News - April 21, 2005

The roots of community-based "advocacy planning" - and a call for the press to pay more attention. -- Ontario finally gets its Heritage Act together. -- Robin Hood Foundation's band of architects "an example of pro bono design at its best." -- An American architect goes down under to talk about the cost of poor indoor air. -- A new (and disappointing) hotel proves that "what San Francisco needs is a return to a civic culture where good design is a priority, not an afterthought." -- Artist studio is "a masterpiece of earth and light." -- In Prague, industrial loft living catches on with "hipsters and young professionals roaming the Czech urban landscape." -- A new museum for everything from art to moonshine. -- Exploring the trends at the Milan Furniture Fair (it's low; it's ethnic; it's orange). -- An American architect goes down under to talk about the cost of poor indoor air. -- "Architecture Between Spectacle and Use." A web site that highlights some of the planet's more extreme backyard makeovers. -- DesignShare/School Construction News design competition extends deadlines.

The Anti-Moses And The First Community-Based Plan: Walter Thabit's influence in the planning profession throughout the U.S. was substantial. He was one of the first in a generation of "advocacy planners"... By Tom Angotti - Gotham Gazette

New muscle for Heritage Act: ...after decades of futility finally gives the Ontario Heritage Act the teeth it needs to be effective...credit the enormous success of Doors Open with raising the consciousness of both the population and politicians.- Toronto Star

The Adventures of Robin Hood: The cutting-edge nonprofit Robin Hood Foundation has recruited a band of architects to give to the poor by designing libraries in some of New York City's neediest public schools...an example of pro bono design at its best. -- Marpillero Pollak; Gluckman Mayner; Tsao & McKown; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Richard H. Lewis; Rockwell Group; 1100 Architects; Weiss/Manfredi; Rogers Manelli; Pentagram; etc.- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Sick Buildings and Chemicals of Concern: if we ignore the potential cost of poor indoor air quality we will do so at the expense of our health and hip pocket. Q&A with Anthony Berheim, SMWM Architecture -- ABC Radio (Australia)

Hotel Vitale failed by ordinary design at special location: Approval process contributes to dull architecture...when business-as-usual meets a one-of-a-kind location, the result shows how barren this approach can be. By John King -- Heller-Manus Architects; Colum McCartan [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Art grounded: AIA award-winning artists' studios a masterpiece of earth and light -- Jim Jennings [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

Open spaces: Loft living belatedly arrives on the Prague cityscape...airy homes in converted industrial spaces...finally available to hipsters and young professionals roaming the Czech urban landscape.-- Jakub Masak; Baumschlager & Eberle - The Prague Post

Life in the Shenandoah Valley: Museum looks at history from art to moonshine -- Michael Graves [image] - CNN

Which Way Design? At the Milan furniture fair, headlong pursuits of individual design statements made for splashy displays...this year's trends: it's low; it's ethnic; it's orange. By Julie Iovine [images/slide show] - New York Times

French touch: "French Visions: city, architecture, sustainable development" at the Beijing City Planning Exhibition Hall until April 23 -- Paul Andreu, Alain Sarfati; AFEX (Architectes Français A l'export) - China View


Harvard Design Magazine on the Road: Miami Beach, May 13: Aqua new urbanist/modernist residential development, with Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Alison Spear, Alex Krieger.

New York City, May 20: Jazz at Lincoln Center, with Rafael Viñoly, Philip Nobel - Harvard Design Magazine

April 29-30: Clark Conference: "Architecture Between Spectacle and Use:" is architecture creating a "society of the spectacle," or a creative response to the fundamental social, cultural, and economic needs of a wider public? - Clark Art Institute (Massachusetts)

A jumbled corner of heaven on Earth...50-foot whirligigs, a few hundred sculptures made from concrete and ground glass, or a three-storey high adobe mountain...Off The Map features some of the planet's more extreme backyard makeovers. - Christian Science Monitor

DesignShare/School Construction News Awards for Innovative Learning Environments Registration Deadline Extended to April 26; submittal deadline extended to May 13- DesignShare

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