Today's News - May 12, 2005

Rather contentious news today... Are Ground Zero plans finally heading towards the last chapter? (Probably not...) -- Working out the kinks in WTC memorial in an Ontario backyard. -- It's modern vs. classical (with a bit of "galumphing" for historic U.K. hospital. -- San Francisco called a theme park for "the nomadic rich and restless leeches living off them." -- No, it's not. -- French billionaire; cancels museum plans, taking his dream to Venice instead. -- Big urban regeneration in Angeles City, Philippines with hopes for a Bilbao effect. -- Former mining town in France finally builds Corbu's third church (40 years later) - with hopes for a Bilbao effect. -- Alberta museum heading for a major makeover. -- A "remarkable" auto design studio we'll never get to see. -- College of New Rochelle building green for holistic wellness center. -- Go Goff! -- Great design doesn't happen in a day. -- We couldn't resist: draftsman caught using his deceased boss's stamp (good news: the buildings won't fall down).

To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here

Childs Told To Straighten Out The Zero Mess: ...will do so without the direct participation of Daniel Libeskind...But can this be the last chapter? -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill- New York Observer

A Backyard Fountain Like None Before: A family in Ontario has the first full-scale model of what the World Trade Center memorial will look like in their backyard. -- Dan Euser Waterarchitecture; Michael Arad/Handel Architects; Peter Walker; Davis Brody Bond [images/slide show]- New York Times

Architects clash on £20m update for Wren's historic hospital: On one side stands Lord Rogers of Riverside, acclaimed for his adventurous modernist buildings. On the other is Quinlan Terry, a contemporary classicist who is the Prince of Wales's favourite architect. [image]- Guardian (UK)

Sprawling, galumphing design lacks deference to brilliant predecessors: Quinlan Terry should find a way of doffing his imaginary three-cornered hat in the direction of Wren's serene masterpiece, and Soane's gallant deference to it. By Jonathan Glancey- Guardian (UK)

The ephemeral city: San Francisco has lost its middle class, become a 'theme park for restaurants,' and is the playground of the nomadic rich and restless leeches living off them. By Joel Kotkin- San Francisco Chronicle

The city isn't Disneyland -- that's just goofy: ...after reading Joel Kotkin's snifflish dismissal of San Francisco as an "ephemeral city"...He's absolutely right, and he totally misses the point. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle


I had a dream: Pinault has renounced his plans to build a great museum of modern art...in south-west Paris. Here he explains why he is taking his collection to Venice instead. -- Tadao Ando; Michel Macary- Guardian (UK)

Top architect to design Fields Avenue: ...geared towards a program to bring about urban regeneration in [Angeles City] to make it more attractive to tourists and foreign investors. - - Felino "Jun" Palafox- SunStar (Philippines)

Le Corbusier, by design: the church of Saint-Pierre de Firminy, celebrated its topping out ceremony late last month, more than 40 years after its conception...former mining town hoping for a bit of that rare "Bilbao effect." -- José Oubrerie- International Herald Tribune

Alberta museum to get $150M revamp, new name -- Cohos Evamy Architecture; Lundholm Associates Architects- CBC (Canada)

Automake Design Structure: Out of sight: Nissan's new studio is remarkable, but the public will never see it. -- Luce et Studio; Albert Kahn Associates- Detroit Free Press

College of New Rochelle to Build $25 Million Interdisciplinary Center Dedicated to Wellness Education: ...will be a "Green" building, eligible for a silver LEED. -- Ikon.5 Architects [link to image]- Yahoo News

Goff walls: Triangles! Octagons! Circles! Public can finally see architect's vision inside three area homes (all in great shape) [link to slide show]- Kansas City Star

Rome (or your bathroom) wasn't designed in a day: To begin with, architects don't pull lovely, fully formed designs out of nowhere, fairy tales about Frank Lloyd Wright notwithstanding. By Arrol Gellner- San Francisco Chronicle

The case of the busy, deceased architect: Draftsman fined for designing 28 buildings while allegedly pretending to be his dead former boss- Chicago Tribune

Build Business: Client Loyalty – What You Don’t Know Could Hurt You. By Stephanie Craft, CPSM

-- Inauguration: Gehry Partners; MARTa Herford, Herford, Germany; Photos: Thomas Mayer
-- Construction start: UN Studio; LeLystad Theater, LeLystad, The Netherlands