Today's News - July 1, 2005

EDITORS NOTE: We will be observing July 4th Independence Day (U.S.) on Monday, and will return on Tuesday, July 5th. —— Redeveloping industrial brownfields in former steel towns requires more than money (and at least a touch of "civic psychology"). —— Colorado architects have grand master plan for Kigali, Rwanda. —— Toronto: a city of blandness with touches of architectural grandstanding. —— But there are high hopes for winning proposal to transform Regent Park. —— Not to seek landmark status for Chicago's Wrigley Building "takes us straight through the looking glass and into the realm of the ridiculous." —— Finnish architects win Warsaw's Jewish museum commission. —— Piano's Klee Museum is "striking and discreet." —— Why technology experts should be involved with campus construction projects from the get-go. —— It's a go for University of Toronto's new Varsity Center. —— An RFQ for University of Virginia arts center. —— Robin Day, still going strong at 90, doesn't design for obsolescence.

Rebirth of Steeltowns is in the Eye of the Beholder: while redeveloping brownfields is a key, officials are learning that finding new industries, shoring up their tax bases and even civic psychology can be just as important. (AP)

Into Africa: Boulder architects to design master plan for Kigali, Rwanda — OZ Architecture

A city of towering blandness: Adrian Sheppard looked down upon the city..."There are worse buildings in other cities — this is not a Toronto phenomenon — but what great parks are there, what great urban spaces?" - Toronto Star

Elegance comes to Regent Park: The winning proposal in the competition to remake the 50-year-old public housing community...is an elegant glass and brick tower that wouldn't look out of place in Toronto's most exclusive neighbourhoods. By Christopher Hume — architectsAlliance- Toronto Star

Wrigley Building clearly a landmark: Mayor Richard M. Daley's recent assertion that the city will not seek landmark status for the iconic Wrigley Building takes us straight through the looking glass and into the realm of the ridiculous. By Blair Kamin -- Graham, Anderson, Probst & White (1920s)- Chicago Tribune

Warsaw's Jewish heritage remembered: A design by Finnish architects Rainer Mahlamaki and Ilmari Lahdelma has been chosen for a new Jewish museum to be built in Warsaw. [images] - BBC News

A Curvy Klee Museum, Sprouting From the Swiss Hills:...results are both striking and discreet. -- Renzo Piano [image] - New York Times

If You Build It, We Should Come: When technology experts are involved from the get-go, 'smart classroom' construction projects are dramatically improved — and less costly. - Campus Technology magazine

University of Toronto's Varsity Centre finally receives go-ahead -- Diamond + Schmitt Architects; Ellerbe Becket- Canadian Architect

Request for Qualifications: University of Virginia Center for the Arts; RFQ deadline: July 29- University of Virginia

Bums on seats: Robin Day, the man whose low-cost, functional chairs have supported a nation: "One of the responsibilities of a designer is not to design for obsolescence. Conserving energy and materials - these are obvious points. Changing things for the sake of fashion I think is immoral." - Guardian (UK)

June '05 Build Business: Presentations Wanted: Alive, Not Dead. By Carol Doscher

-- Richard Meier & Partners: Ara Pacis Museum, Rome, Italy

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