Today's News - July 7, 2005

Two (more) thumbs-down for Freedom Tower redesign. – International competition for the Cultural Center of the Philippines raises issues of design guidelines and conformity vs. creativity. – A last-minute nail to Gehry-designed Brooklyn plan. – Another Modemist masterpiece threatened: Bunsfeld house to get shafted? – Seattle’s new City Hall strives for LEED silver, but it’s an “energy hog” (too many fridges in the closets?). – Piano disappoints Pearman: “My architectural hero has let me down badly.” – A new Toronto tower “an example of good architectural citizenship.” – Housing for the homeless in Ireland “is a delightful place to live.” – “Brand names” raise architectural tourism in Arkansas. – LA’s residential architecture heritage challenges the future. – A new master plan for University of New South Wales Asia. – Sky Office Competition results are in (with few surprises except the first thumbs-up we’ve seen for Freedom Tower). 

- Summer reading: a “history of urbanism, ineptly told.”

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New York’s Freedom Tower fails to live up to its lofty name: So this is what it comes down to: 20 stories of windowless fear. And a symbol of “freedom” that...is everything that freedom should not be. By John King – David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Daniel Libeskind- San Francisco Chronicle

The Freedom Tower: “An Alienating Monument to Surrender.” By Jeff B. Speck – Metropolis Magazine

Pride of Place: Guidelines for creativity. Architectural guidelines are simply that – guidelines...I am waiting for...the person who builds the rare example of modern architecture that, in spite of appearing to violate all rules, still fits perfectly within guidelines. By Augusto Villalon- Philippine Daily Inquirer

Pride of Place: Architectural icons must be respected. Conformity to guidelines can either limit or bring out our creativity. By Augusto Villalon- Philippine Daily Inquirer

Brooklyn Plan Draws a Rival, and It’s Smaller: ...first significant obstacle to...ambitious plan to create a dense urban hub at the eastern edge of Downtown Brooklyn. – Frank Gehry; Cetra/Ruddy- New York Times

Modernist Masterpiece, and Soon a Prime Building Site: Gordon Bunshaft...designed [Travertine House] to be his own home in 1962...may have met its final owner Donald Maharam... “We bought a great piece of property...We didn’t buy a house.” – John Pawson (1990): David Pill [images]- New York Times

Seattle’s new City Hall is an energy hog: Higher utility bills take the glow off its ‘green’ designation – Bassetti Architects/Bohlin Cywinski Jackson- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Form defeats function: Renzo Piano: What on earth is he up to at the new Paul Klee Centre outside Bern in Switzerland? By Hugh Pearman [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

Neo project offers more than good intentions: If this combination of low and high structures works out as intended, Neo could set an example of good architectural citizenship for future parts of CityPlace, and developments elsewhere in Toronto. By John Bentley Mays - Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg- Globe and Mail (Canada)

An award-winning scheme of sheltered housing in Gorey gives small community a heart...a delightful place to live. By Frank McDonald – Paul Keogh Architects- The Irish Times

Architectural tourism on rise as brand names build in state: while Arkansas understandably escapes the notice of skyscraper aficionados, architecture buffs can no longer ignore the presence here of brand names. – E. Fay Jones; Polshek; Safdie; Maurice Jennings; David McKee- Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

It’s all about the house: The great challenge for the city’s residential architects...will be making the old model of affordable charisma fresh and relevant again for a post-sprawl Los Angeles. By Christopher Hawthorne – Greene and Greene, Neutra, Schindler, Gehry; Mayne; Gill; Wright; Eames; Escher GuneWardena; etc. [links]- Los Angeles Times

Aussie architect to design University of New South Wales Asia campus at Changi. -- Kerry Hill Architects- The Star (Malaysia)

Sky Office Competition Results -- Piano; Nouvel; Childs; Smith; Foster; Wright [images]- New Italian Blood

Book Review: History of urbanism, ineptly told: “The City: A Global History” by Joel Kotkin...Instead of addressing how to make cities livable and affordable, the author levels vague, sneering attacks on gays, single people and “cultural elites,”...likely to please the conservatives to whom Kotkin seems to want to tender himself. By Alan G. Brake- Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)


July ‘05 Build Business: The Perfect Storm: Surviving through Succession Planning