Today's News - July 19, 2005

Swarthmore's green science center is a campus magnet. — Gehry and Grand Avenue: Norman Lear Center and LA Times (with unusual spot of humor) put out a call for ideas for 16-acre park. — At least the Serpentine Gallery offers an outlet for adventurous architecture in London. — Manhattan's Penn Station plan (finally) pulls a team together. — British team beats out the big names in arctic base competition. — Finalists selected for transformation of Charlottesville, VA, trailer court into a "green" - and affordable - community. — More on Meier's San Jose City Hall: a metaphor for government transparency (too bad it's just a metaphor). — Home runs too easy to hit in Philadelphia: whose fault is it anyway? — Time for Portland to consider exporting its "creative economy." — Hadid wins in Nicosia - but will it be built? — Call for entries for Seniors Housing Awards. — The man behind the design of "little houses made of ticky-tacky" - not as ticky-tacky as they were once considered.

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Rethinking Form and Function: Swarthmore College Unified Science Center becomes an intellectual and social magnet for an entire campus. — Einhorn Yaffee Prescott; Helfand Architecture [images]

Commentary: Grand Intervention: Pump genius into our park. Long before the sure-to-be iconic Gehry building was announced, the park-to-be had attracted a wish list of civic hopes...it's not too late to bust things open for an eruption of creative energy. By Martin Kaplan — Rockwell; Rybczynski; Moule; Polyzoides — Los Angeles Times

Think Again, Please: The Times Opinion Manufacturing Division has embraced [Martin Kaplan] essay's call for a new round of brainstorming about what to do with the 16-acre park that will be the Grand Avenue project's centerpiece. Norman Lear Center will shepherd submissions. [links] — Los Angeles Times

Editorial: Yes to more Gehry: The Grand Avenue project now anchors Gehry to Los Angeles and its architectural future. Having taken so long to embrace him, the city now can't imagine letting him go. — Los Angeles Times

...where [has] our spirit of adventure gone: Disgracefully, Britain can boast no buildings by most of the great modern architects....In this depressing context, one must applaud the Serpentine Gallery's determination to commission summer pavilions by a whole range of adventurous architects. — Alvaro Siza/Eduardo Souto de Moura; Hadid; Libeskind; Niemeyer — New Statesman (UK)

Penn Update: Moynihan Moves — Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum James Carpenter Design Associates; Skidmore, Owings & Merril [images] — The Slatin Report

Team Chosen for Project to Develop [$930 million] Transit Hub: Farley Post Office/Moynihan Station...project includes not only a train station but also a major block of space for retail, office or residential use. — Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum James Carpenter Design Associates — New York Times

Base on skis wins polar contract: The British Antarctic Survey's new base will be produced by an engineering and architecture consortium in the UK...RIBA is staging an exhibition featuring the leading entrants. — Faber Maunsell/Hugh Broughton Architects [images/video] — BBC (UK)

Urban Habitats Competition Jury Selects Finalists: ...realistic, innovative, universal models for multifamily housing that prevent gentrification and displacement. — Chris Center/Suzanne Schindler; Metropolitan Planning Collaborative; Anderson Anderson Architecture [images] — Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville/Charlottesville Community Design Center

San Jose City Hall: With light-infused design, Meier sought metaphor for government transparency — Mercury News (California)

Homer haven: The Philadelphia Phillies' park is taking hits for its dimensions. But is there a solution? — Ewing Cole/HOK Sport — Philadelphia Inquirer

Portland has design expertise; it must learn how to export it...the creative economy here is arguably one of our only major economic growth sectors. — By Randy Gragg — The Oregonian

A modern vision for Nicosia: first prize was given to...Zaha Hadid and her associates Christos Passas and Saffet Bekiroglu...With the proposed plans Nicosia and Eleftheria Square in particular will be a polar of attraction...Don't hold your breath though... — Cyprus Mail

Call for Entries: NAHB 2006 Best of Seniors Housing Awards Design and Marketing Competition; deadline: September 30 — National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)

The wizard of Westlake: The concept may be nearly extinct in the Bay Area, but Ed Hageman designed homes for people who never thought they could afford one [images] — San Francisco Chronicle

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

-- Under construction: Raimund Abraham: JingYa Ocean Entertainment Center, Beijing.