Today's News - August 30, 2005

U.K. streets to get more “women friendly” (we like the idea of a safe place to “have a cry if they were having a bad day”). -- Beijing's quest to become a livable city. -- Green architecture and climate change: "We have to act now. Time is running out." -- Modern Damascus turning Old Damascus into a Disneyland for tourists. -- Once restored Old City of Hebron falling back into ruins. -- Debating the fate of Gaza synagogues. -- A new urbanist neighborhood is "really old urbanism without the crumbling plaster and leaky pipes." -- Architects as "part surgeons, part beauticians" in redo of a Melbourne shopping center "which has not stood the test of time." -- New Orleans may be in rough shape after Katrina, but there are high hopes for a new Trump tower (once again, the architect is not named). -- Call for entries for NAHB Green Building Awards. -- A new book examines Kahn.

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Prescott to make streets ‘women friendly’... has backed a three-year pilot project run by the Women’s Design Service (WDS), a charity set up by women architects and town planners. - The Sunday Times (UK)

Beijing’s Quest for 2008: To Become Simply Livable: Critics...attribute current predicament to previous failed planning policies and...rampant development that has destroyed much of the historic old city while making a mess of the emerging new one.- New York Times

Climate change and green architecture: We have to act now. Time is running out.- Philippine Daily Inquirer

Modern Damascus Violates Old Damascus: Who said that the foreign tourist expects the old Damascus to be a sort of meaningless Eastern “Disney Land” or a caricature distortion of the present Islamic city? By Hikmat Shatta, architect- Dar Al-Hayat (Lebanon)

These fading facades: The Old City of Hebron, which just seven years ago was restored to its former glory, now stands neglected and vandalized. Hopefully, the Aga Khan prize judges will...launch a call to disengage from Hebron. This would add relevance to the prize and restore a bit of its traditional mission to architecture: to make the world a better place. By Esther Zandberg- Ha’aretz (Israel)

Officials-rabbis spar over Gaza synagogues- United Press International (UPI)

An old-neighborhood feel is not a thing of the past: Grandview Commons...mixed-use development is called New Urbanism, but it's really old urbanism without the crumbling plaster and leaky pipes. By Whitney Gould -- Vandewalle & Associates- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Living on their own, but far from alone: Apartments cater to deaf, hard of hearing,..designed by AG Architecture Inc. and John Dickinson, a special-needs architect who is deaf, of Winter & Co.-- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Dubai Festival City unveils AED 1.4 billion signature Hillside Community development: 36 hectare village of Gulf Arabian-style homes on a man-made hill -- Atelier Xavier Boy (image)- AME Info (United Arab Emirates)

Valley's greenest campus: University of California, Merced... aims to attain LEED silver (for) every major building at the university. -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill- Merced Sun-Star (California)

New football arenas push bounds of stadium engineering (Wall Street Journal) -- Walter P. Moore; Peter Eisenman; HKS; Kohn, Pedersen, Fox; Thornton-Tomasetti- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Melbourne Central renovation: ...renovation aims to restore life and logic to the shopping centre,... new architects...have assumed the status of plastic surgeons - well, perhaps part surgeon, part beautician. By Norman Day -- Kisho Kurokawa, Bates Smart + McCutcheon and Hassell (1988); Ashton Raggatt MacDougall - The Age (Australia)

The Donald signing on to Poydras project: 70-story Trump Tower to bring glitz to city's real estate market..."It's an architectural marvel"...- The Times-Picayune (New Orleans)

Call for Entries: 2006 National Green Building Awards; deadline: December 23- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)

"Louis I. Kahn: Building Art, Building Science" by Thomas Leslie: Iowa State Architecture Professor's Book Examines Influential Buildings by Kahn- AAScribe

INSIGHT: Downtown Vancouver's Last Resort: How Did "Living First" Become "Condos Only"? By Trevor Boddie- ArchNewsNow

August '05 Build Business: PR Tips from Two Pros

– Latest News: The Øresund Region -- Zaha Hadid, Denmark; Santiago Calatrava, Sweden
– Exhibition: “Dream of Tower” at the Danish Architecture Centre, Copenhagen
– Competition winner: Steven Holl Architects: Sail Hybrid/Albert Place Casino, Knokke-Heist, Belgium