We lose a master architect and educator. -- Architects and associations clamor to have a role in rebuilding the Gulf Coast. -- Honors for an Indonesian architect "who has always fought for the poor's right to decent housing." -- A somber look at what's in store for the British Pavilion in Venice: "The problem isn't that modern British architecture is worse beyond the M25, it's that it's the bloody same." -- A Tokyo neighborhood "laid waste by the construction of one of the cruelest pieces of architecture this city has seen." -- Time to stop calling Los Angeles the poster child for sprawl: New York and Boston much more suitable. -- Plans for a 2,000-foot-tall broadcast tower on Chicago's lakefront called "Duck Dodgers design, utterly daffy" (among other things). -- Miami Performing Arts Center: over budget and overdue - will it be worth it? -- A new National Design Centre for Australia set to open in Melbourne. -- Maya Lin's "plaza of possibility" at UC Irvine is "subtle to the point of invisibility..." -- Wal-Mart gets serious about its environmental performance (not all are convinced). -- Word for the day: Communication: Architecture as propaganda. -- Design forms understanding. -- The language of design; conveying information through puzzles; and more (from some interesting sources). -- ASLA calls for entries for 2006 awards. -- Ouroussoff visits Calatrava at the Met - and wishes he'd left his sculptures at home. -- Erickson splits: "They were going to ask me to resign, anyway, because I'm not taking any of their courses."

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Obituary: Robert H. Timme, 60; Dean of USC School of Architecture Aided Wright House Project- Los Angeles Times

Architecture Community Fights For Role In Rebuilding After Hurricanes: "Architects are not at the center of the decision-making process, as usual. On the other hand, they haven't been eliminated from the conversation entirely..." - Architectural Record

Fighting on behalf of the poor: Architect Johan Silas...confirmed the Habitat Scroll of Honor 2005 by United Natime Habitat. for his activities in providing the poor with decent housing... only two other architects in Indonesia who could be compared...Romo YE Mangunwijaya and Hasan Poerbo. - The Jakarta Post

Cities beyond London will star at next year's British Pavilion in Venice. If only they had more character. The problem isn't that modern British architecture is worse beyond the M25, it's that it's the bloody same...Future planning requires thought and consultation, not just splashy glass and steel. By Tom Dyckhoff - The Times (UK)

Mori and Ando scar Omotesando:...what used to be a pleasant walk has turned into one of increasing horror as Omotesando has been laid waste by the construction of one of the cruelest pieces of architecture this city has seen...By Mark Devlin - Japan Today

Op-Ed: L.A., the king of sprawl? Not at all...New York or Boston... each surrounded by a huge low-density penumbra, would make a better poster child for sprawl than the dispersed but relatively dense and compact Los Angeles. By Robert Bruegmann - Los Angeles Times

Name should be the Why Tower: Loony, daffy, thin and chunky: Not a pretty sight as viewed from pier or anywhere...proposed 2,000-foot-tall broadcast tower...isn't Buck Rogers architecture. It's Duck Dodgers design, utterly daffy, a cartoonish version of tomorrow. By Blair Kamin -- Cesar Pelli; Charles Thornton [image, links] - Chicago Tribune

Architects' vision taking shape in Miami Performing Arts Center...27 years after its conception and more than $100 million over its projected budget...Will all this time, money and effort yield a world-class facility and iconic building for Miami? Q&A with Cesar Pelli and Fred W. Clarke - Miami Herald

National design hub to open in Melbourne...new National Design Centre, at Federation Square. -- Kathy Demos - The Age (Australia)

Maya Lin creates a plaza of possibility: The elements of a new Arts Plaza at UC Irvine may be subtle, but they create areas that invite intimate contemplation. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Wal-Mart to Seek Savings in Energy...signals that the nation's largest retailer is joining the nation's largest manufacturer, General Electric, in pursuing policies that set specific goals for environmental performance. - New York Times

The Edifice Complex: What fancy corporate headquarters really mean: Deyan Sudjic's new book...makes a spirited argument that architecture is not merely an art but a form of communication — or, more pointedly, a kind of propaganda. By Witold Rybczynski - Slate

Information as if Understanding Mattered: Richard Saul Wurman and 12 information architects spent one year and $1 million to produce a book...The real lesson: Design forms understanding. -- Donovan and Green Information as if Understanding Mattered - Slate

Special Report: Communicating: Daniel Libeskind On The Language Of Design (+ Milton Glaser, Stan Lee, Studs Turkel, and many more) - Forbes

Call for Entries: ASLA Professional & Student Awards; registration deadlines: February 10, 2006 (professional); May 19, 2006 (student) - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Buildings Shown as Art, and Art as Buildings: The Met's new show, which attempts to reveal Santiago Calatrava's creative process, is a transparent effort to capitalize on the popularity of architecture. By Nicoal Ouroussoff [slide show] - New York Times

Architect Erickson splits from colleagues: ...has resigned his membership in the Architectural Institute of B.C. ..."They were going to ask me to resign, anyway, because I'm not taking any of their courses." - Archiseek (Canada)
the A/E/C Industry?

-- Exhibition: Aerospace Design, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York City
-- Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Casa da Musica, Porto, Portugal

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