Today's News - December 13, 2005

Moscow water park tragedy: who's to blame? -- Brit's a bit schizophrenic over most loved/hated buildings (and lists of both). -- Some big guns invited to compete in (another) massive Dubai project. -- Art and condos possibly the future for Montreal grain silos. -- Scotland's Lighthouse a blueprint for U.K. "network of innovation centres." -- In Manhattan, Foster's Hearst tower "the most beautiful skyscraper to go up in New York since 1967" (that one by SOM). -- Universities everywhere taking on "green" mantles (but you have to dig to find out who the architects are). -- NYC library gem back on the map. -- A lament for the passing of London's double-deckers. -- Plans finally abandoned for Serpentine "green mountain." Calls for entries: manual for earthquake resistant housing in Kashmir, and Shelter in a Cart. -- Karim Rashid's futuristic prefab sure to wow them in Toronto. -- Foreigner's "swamp" competition to design tsunami memorial design in Thailand. -- A rather schizophrenic take of Sudjic's "The Edifice Complex."

Transvaal Study Says Plans Not Followed: ...Nodar Kancheli, the architect who designed the (water park) roof...has repeatedly denied responsibility for the collapse, saying that the tragedy may have been a terrorist attack. - Moscow Times (Russia)

Scots mall 'UK's worst eyesore': Cumbernauld 1960s shopping centre...has topped ["Demolition"] poll for the structure that people would most like to see razed to the ground...has inspired Gordon Murray...to draw up a blueprint which he believes, could transform the town. - The Sunday Times (UK)

Scottish parliament splits public opinion:...best-loved buildings according to a new poll out today...just a day after another survey found it was one of the most hated...Top of YouGov's popularity poll was the Eden Project,... -- Ernie Miralles; Grimshaw; Foster-Guardian (UK)

Business Bay Phase-1 to include 200 towers...a major real estate development in Dubai...Four firms have been invited to submit design proposals... -- Zaha Hadid; Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture; Reiser & Umemoto; Thom Mayne/Morphosis-- Gowalthy.com (Dubai)

Museum in a silo? Now that's a plan: Silo No. 5: Musée d'art moderne, imagines the revamping of three historic grain silos on the western edge of Old Montreal...a project that would include a luxury-condo complex... -- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Inside the beacon of excellence:...the Lighthouse, Scotland's innovative and unique National Centre for Architecture and Design...the only UK blueprint for..."network of innovation centres" to foster young design talent with an international hub in London... -- The Scotsman (UK)

Triangulation: Norman Foster's thrilling addition to midtown Manhattan...Hearst tower is the most beautiful skyscraper to go up in New York since 1967...By Paul Goldberger-New Yorker

Extreme Environmental Makeover: University of Michigan renovation shows high-tech environmental design...Across Michigan and the nation, many schools are opting for more energy-efficient structures...become highly visible models of green construction... -- William McDonough + Partners; Quinn Evans Architects -- Detroit Free Press


Final terminus for London's classic bus: Jonathan Glancey laments the passing of the Routemaster and the abandonment of a special form...of civil and civic design and engineering... -- Guardian (UK)

Serpentine Gallery axes plan for 'grass mountain': After a year of frustration and false starts...has been abandoned... -- MVRDV; Koolhaas -- Guardian (UK)

Interior Designer: An open call for earthquake resistant housing ideas for a manual for rebuilding in Kashmir...deadline: January 20, 2006... -- Architecture for Humanity

Call for entries: Shelter in a Cart...registration deadline: February 28, 2006... -- designboom

Rashid's wild democratic vision: The upcoming Interior Design Show will feature Karim Rashid's Jetsons-style Kit 24 prototype house... -- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Overseas entrants swamp contest...architecture firms from 49 countries are in the running for the tsunami memorial design...380 firms entered the competition...fewer than 10% were Thai architecture firms... -- Bangkok Post

Book Review: Leaders Who Build to Stroke Their Egos: "The Edifice Complex." by Deyan Sudjic...a fat, overstuffed jumble of the obvious and the fascinating, the tired and the intriguing... -- New York Times

Mayor widens vision to urban architecture: He doesn't want a 'dumbing down of quality' in design...Two things propel Newsom's budding interest in design...de Young Memorial Museum and the aggressive example set by Chicago Mayor Daley, who has made urban design a centerpiece of his administration... -- San Francisco Chronicle
--- SANAA/Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa: Glass Pavilion, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio
--- Under construction: Gehry & Partners: IAC Headquarters, New York City

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