Today’s News - December 14, 2005

Gulf Coast recovery: whose backyards should all those trailers be parked in? — Casinos promise to rebuild, but is it all good news for the locals? — U.S. report says affordable housing is unsupportable. — Culture and commerce still at odds at Ground Zero. — Now for some good news: architects from Boston, Perth, and London win competitions in Korea, Pakistan, and Northumberland. — Liverpool loves its new “Bling Bling” building. — In Charlotte, kids are having too much fun to worry if they’re in a library, a museum, or a theater. — Soho lofts taking root in suburbia. — Mid-20th-century suburbs gain stature and preservationists praise. — Why Rockefeller Center works as a mega-urban space. — AIA’s 82nd President takes office (editor’s note: We welcome a goodly number of AIAS members; we hope you find ANN interesting, informative - and even inspiring).

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Amid Recovery Efforts, a Rift Threatens to Grow: The issue of where to place trailer parks in New Orleans seems to have stirred tensions and rubbed people like little else. — New York Times

Bright Spot on Gulf as Casinos Rush to Rebuild: …not so sure it will be good for Biloxi and other ravaged communities along the Gulf Coast. — New York Times

Unsupportable Affordable Housing: National Low-Income Housing Coalition came out with its aptly named index, Out of Reach 2005. — The Slavin Report

Controversy Still Clouds Prospects at 9/11 Site: The prospects for cultural activity at ground zero were met with mixed reactions at a panel discussion on the issue. — New York Times

Lots of Tension, Few Tenants: As 7 WTC’s Opening Nears, Political Pressure Mounts On Trade Center Developer… Trouble is, if Silverstein can’t rent the space in 7 World Trade Center, how, critics ask, can he expect to fill almost six times that much? — Wall Street Journal

Kyu Sung Woo Architects (Boston) awarded first prize design for the design of the Asian Culture Center, in Gwangju, South Korea [links to images, secondary winners] — Asian Culture Center

Woodhead International’s $A600m win: …an international paid design competition for a mixed-use development in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Cox Group also recently beat international competitors to win a major university project planned for the oil-rich United Arab Emirates. — WA Business News (Australia)

Kielder Observatory Competition: Charles Barclay Architects… saw off nearly 230 worldwide entries… winning design has been likened to the ‘deck of a ship sailing above the Kielder landscape’. — Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

Hairdresser’s building is first completed in Paradise project: …new ‘Bling Bling’ building… first to be completed in the Paradise Street redevelopment area. — Piers Gough — icLiverpool (UK)

Imagine This: Charlotte’s ImaginOn takes a radical leap into the unknown: Are we in a library, a museum, a theater? The kids are too engaged in playing, learning, and, yes, imagining, to care. — Holzman Moss Architecture; Gantt Huberman Architects; ESI Design — School Library Journal

The Year in Ideas: The Suburban Loft… A cross between SoHo and Pleasantville… has since proliferated across the Sun Belt and Midwest… By Clay Risen [images] — New York Magazine

Phoenix suburbs discover value of historical restoration: …experts are urging the preservation of what often is less than monumental or famous, and sometimes far from even a century old. — Arizona Daily Sun

Allowing nature to be part of their ‘personal oasis’: Homes built by renowned architect are designated as historic places — Charles Goodman [images] — The Gazette (Maryland)

Flags Snap, Heels Tap: The holiday glory of Rockefeller Center… Why has it succeeded where so many other urban mega-projects have not? By Witold Rybczynski — Raymond Hood (1930s) [images] — Slate

Katherine Lee Schwennsen, FAIA, Takes Office as 2006 President of The American Institute of Architects: 82nd President Details National Agenda Focused on Collaboration, Diversity and Environmental Stewardship — American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Dec. ’05 Build Business: Why Hire a Marketing Staff? No longer considered unethical and tacky, marketing has morphed into an essential tool for savvy A/E/C firms.

— SANAA/Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa: Glass Pavilion, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio
— Under construction: Gehry & Partners: IAC Headquarters, New York City