Today's News - January 20, 2006

High hopes - then cold feet and second thoughts - about Orange County Great Park design. -- Too many design review boards tend to have cold feet and fall back on a false sense of contextualism. -- Wexner Center back in the game and in top form. -- Rome's quandary: a museum of intolerance or one dedicated solely to the Holocaust (not hard to guess which won). -- Estonian National Museum names design competition winner and runners-up. -- German architects making living in a box stylish. -- Toronto losing treasures by a master at an alarming rate. -- Decision made to keep waters flowing through winter at Ground Zero memorial. -- Nouvel uses same design approach, whether for a building or a chair. -- ASID Announces 2005 Design Award Honorees.

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A Great Park chill brings on cold feet: After appearing to settle on a designer, board members in Orange County seem to be reconsidering. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Ken Smith/Mary Miss/Enrique Norten/Mia Lehrer; Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey; EMBT [images]- Los Angeles Times

Architecture succumbs to ’safe’ design: Design review boards do industry disservice...so-called serious architecture isn't all that suffers under this make-it-match brand of contextualism. By Arrol Gellner -- Sullivan; Wright; Venturi; Gehry- Inman News

Lament Battle Over Downtown Parcel: MerueloMaddux encounters opposition from LAUSD in its efforts to build a mixed-use development near the Los Angeles River. By Sam Hall Kaplan -- RTKL; Quatro Design Group; Deborah Murphy Urban Design + Planning- The Planning Report

Back in the game: Reopened Ohio State University museum still on cutting edge: The renovated Wexner is an architectural flashback to the 1980s made richer and more relevant by the passage of time. By Steven Litt -- Peter Eisenman; Ove Arup & Partners- Cleveland Plain Dealer

How To Define Intolerance? A Roman Quandary: At a time when every European city seems to want a Holocaust museum, perhaps it should not be surprising that Luca Zevi is in the minority in Rome's debate. - Forward

Winners of the new Estonian National Museum building architectural competition announced: “Memory Field” by an international group of architects based in Paris and London -- Dan Dorell, Lina Ghotmeh and Tsuyoshi Tane... [links to images]- Union of Estonian Architects

Living in a Box: For city dwellers, the word “loft” generally evokes sprawling, spartan space and individual yet fiercely voguish style. But in Stuttgart, a pair of bright young things have created a loft with a difference. -- Sven Becker/Michael Sauter; Werner Aisslinger; Lydia Haack + John Höpfner Architekten [images]- Deutsche Welle (Germany)

A fast-shrinking Garden of Eden: Many of the Forest Hill [Toronto] homes designed by Eden Smith have disappeared...logic would suggest that when large heritage homes go up for sale...there should be buyer lineups rather than a flurry of demolition permits. By Dave LeBlanc- Globe and Mail (Canada)

WTC Foundation To Keep Fountain Flowing Year-Round- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Design without frontiers: For Jean Nouvel, the only difference between architecture and design is scale, not approach- Financial Times (UK)

ASID Announces 2005 Design Award Honorees -- Barbara Barry; Patricia Moore; The Rural Studio; Edward A. Feiner; Humanscale; Christopher Alexander- Interior Design Newswire

On View: “Santiago Calatrava: The Architect's Studio” at Santa Barbara University Art Museum: Buildings take wing and bulls stampede in an exhibit exploring the architect’s design process [images]- ArchNewsNow

Zaha Hadid Architects: BMW Plant Central Building, Leipzig, Germany