Today's News - January 24, 2006

London picks team for 2012 Olympic Park. -- Orange County Park picks its design team, but Hawthorne wonders if it will be inspired. -- L.A. has master plan for Griffith Park. -- There's a promising new player looking to change the "blocks of Identikit apartments" in UK's city centers. -- Manufactured housing heading for a green transformation, and Yale students take note. -- A Marshall Plan for NYC's Javits Center expansion. -- San Francisco's Museum of the African Diaspora fits perfectly with its neighbors. -- A stroll through the Getty Villa. -- Architecture firms in India facing a paucity of "fresher" talent. -- A house at one with nature. -- New book explores how presidents have used architecture to commemorate themselves. -- Miami exhibition explores the glamour of Jazz Age hotels.

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Top Team Chosen to Design Olympic Park: ...will play a key role in turning London's Olympic vision into reality, as well as setting the framework for the regeneration of the Lower Lee Valley in East London. -- EDAW; Arup; Akins; Buro Happold; Foreign Office Architects; HOK Sport; Allies & Morrison - Sports Features Communications

N.Y. Design Team Chosen to Create a Showpiece Orange County Park: $401 million project...will be one of the nation's largest urban parks, carved from runways of the closed El Toro Marine base. -- Ken Smith Landscape Architect; Enrique Norten; Mary Miss; Mia Lehrer - Los Angeles Times

It Can Be Done, but Will It Be Inspired? Ken Smith's ambitious urban park plan needs a way to knit together its populist elements...He will need to coax memorable contributions from architect Enrique Norten and the other designers on his team. By Christopher Hawthorne - Los Angeles Times

Melendez Group Creates Comprehensive Master Plan for Managing & Maintaining Griffith Park [Los Angeles]: ...has more than 4,200 acres making it the largest municipally owned urban park in the United States... - The Planning Report

Britain's new apartment boom: can't we do more than just add water? By Hugh Pearman – Broadway Malyan; Bovis; Kinetic AIU architects - HughPearman.com (UK)

Manufactured Housing: Blessing or Curse For Katrina Survivors? The pieces may be falling into place for a green transformation of the manufactured housing market. - Healthy Building Network

Energy-Smart Home Construction: With energy costs literally through the roof, builders are energizing tighter, more efficient homes -- Gray Organschi; Yale Building Project - Business New Haven (Connecticut)

Convention Center [$1.7 billion] Marshall Plan: After years of false starts, a plan is unveiled to expand New York's Jacob Javits Convention Center. -- Richard Rogers; FXFowle Architects; A. Epstein & Sons - The Slatin Report

All Things African: ...Museum of the African Diaspora...has an urban look that fits perfectly with neighbors that include the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art... -- Freelon Group - San Francisco Chronicle

Under the California sun: The Getty Villa is reopening this week after a 12-year, $275m renovation...a tour with architect Jorge Silvetti. -- Machado and Silvetti - Guardian (UK)

Architectural outsourcing - drawing a new design: ...today freshers have the option of making close to five figures if they choose to go into offshoring companies...As a result, mainstream architectural companies are being deprived of their share of an already decreasing pool of talent. - The Hindu Business Line (India)

In this spacious house, you're always at one with nature: Even inside, it seems as if you're outside... It reminds you how much a good architect can add to the quality of life. By Robert Campbell -- Maryann Thompson Architects; Julie Meserve - Boston Globe

Exploring "Presidential Temples": Benjamin Hufbauer's book takes anthropological look at U.S. leaders' libraries...explores how presidents have used architecture -- and flattering museum displays -- to commemorate themselves. - Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

Grandeur and fantasy of Jazz Age hotels: "In Pursuit of Pleasure: Schultze & Weaver and the American Hotel" at the Wolfsonian-FIU through May 28 ... By Beth Dunlop -- Carrere and Hastings; Henry J. Hardenbergh; Morris Lapidus - Miami Herald

Call for entries: Concrete Thinking for a Sustainable World: A 2005-06 Student Design Competition; registration deadline: Feb. 8; submissions due May 3 - Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture

Under construction: Eisenman Architects: City of Culture of Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain