Today's News - February 7, 2006

Tracking post-Katrina rebuilding trends shows little progress. -- It's a chicken-and-egg problem in New Orleans. -- St. Petersburg, Russia, didn't like Moss (spelled "Moos"); might the city take kindly to Foster? -- He strikes out with a school design in the U.K. -- Ray Bradbury explains why a monorail system is the solution to transportation woes in Los Angeles. -- Real estate sales centers in Toronto are becoming more interesting than the buildings they're trying to sell. -- A Paris architect designs China's America's Cup base in Valencia - dragon tail included (with pix to prove it). -- A Malaysian architect's house is his very green castle. -- A New Zealand-based architect believes low-cost housing deserves good architecture. -- A country house in the U.K. is an eco-friendly dream house (but costly). -- A Dutch architect gives Milwaukee "the equivalent of electroshock treatment." -- Campbell's take on "trads" vs. "rads," and avant-gardism as the curse of the 20th century. -- Deadline looms for Historical District Renewal Area International Student Competition. -- Coming up in London: a day of debate about the future of communities (e.g. Ken Yeang takes on Density vs. sprawl).

Katrina Index: Tracking Variables of Post-Katrina Reconstruction: What key trends were available this month for the states suggest little progress in both Louisiana and Mississippi. - Brookings Institute

Will Middle-Class Blacks Return to Devastated New Orleans East? ...reflects the city's chicken-and-egg problem: People scattered widely across the nation may not return without assurances that their commitment will be protected. By James S. Russell -- Allen Eskew; Reed Kroloff - Bloomberg News

Building Taste For Modernity: Celebrity architects such as Norman Foster or Eric Van Egeraat could soon be working for St. Petersburg...proposed projects for a new commercial and recreational area on New Holland, an 8-hectare island in the center of the city. -- Engel & Zimmermann; Eric Owen Moss - St. Petersburg Times (Russia)

"You can't teach in a glass palace": Out go the grand designers and big dreams, and in come the education professionals..."The whole building side has been a nightmare..." -- Norman Foster; Guardian (UK)

Op-Ed: L.A.'s future is up in the air: ...we must lay plans for a series of transportation systems that would allow us to move freely, once more, within our city. The answer to all this is the monorail. By Ray Bradbury - Los Angeles Times

If you build it, they will buy: That seems to be the philosophy behind real-estate sales centres, at times more interesting than the buildings themselves...architects are starting to enjoy the possibilities rather than cringe at them. By Christopher Hume -- Will Alsop - Toronto Star

China Team presents new America's Cup base in Valencia, Spain...with a dragon-style theme... -- Loci Anima Architectures [image] - Yachting World

Airy, not fairy: The expression, "a man's home is his castle" is usually just that -- an expression. But it's a bit more literal for an award-winning Malaysian architect...a living breathing example of an environmentally-friendly and energy-saving house. -- Lok Wuii [images] - The Star (Malaysia)

The Fountainhead: Low-cost housing, building with landscape & lending an expression. New Zealand-based architect Gerald Melling works on rock-solid foundations..."Architecture has its place at the bottom too." -- Melling; Morse Architects - Indian Express (Chandigarh)

Eco-friendly home with a £400,000 price tag: Yarmouth borough council, which gave planning permission for it, recently described it as the region's "most innovative, eco-friendly house" -- Purcell Miller Tritton - Expat Telegraph (UK)

Marcus Prize-winning architect issues call for high-flying ideas: For a city known for its heavy Germanic buildings, Dutch architect Winy Maas could be the equivalent of electroshock treatment. By Whitney Gould -- MVRDV - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Two sides of the same coin: Those who love, hate new architecture are somewhat alike...Robert Campbell dubs them the "trads" and the "rads...both seek to substitute a utopia of a different time for the time we actually live in." -- South Bend Tribune (Indiana)

Historical District Renewal Area International Student Competition launched by UNESCO/UIA 2006/Carleton University; registration (free) deadline: February 15; entries due April 30 - Carleton University

March 4: The Future of Community festival: A Day of Debate in London; topics include: New Urbanism for Old; Unsustainable Communities?; Density versus Sprawl; etc. - Future Cities Project (U.K.)


Alsop Architects: Sharp Centre for Design, Toronto, Canada

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