Today's News - February 15, 2006

A new Baltimore museum celebrates African American history and culture. — Some cheer, some are appalled at U.K. architects' call to boycott Israeli construction industry. — Meanwhile, Brits in "bitter debate" over design priorities in the 21st century. — A look at the unique challenges of restoring Modernist masterpieces. — Gehry on Gretzky, Toronto's missed opportunity to be an architectural hot spot, and his tendency to get a bit "schizy." — St. Petersburg, Russia, passed up Moes for a "low-key and subtle" plan by Foster. — After 30 years, National Cartoon Museum may finally have found a permanent home. — Considering "the conservative Israeli building landscape," one architect's attempt to design outside the box is refreshing. — Eight U.S. communities selected to receive assistance in planning long-term sustainability. — Semifinalists for Great American Main Street Awards, and long list for U.K.'s Gulbenkian Prize announced. — ASLA’s National Landscape Architecture Month timed for Olmsted's birthday, Earth Day (and spring - we hope!).

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Symbol and Celebration: Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture: Modern design, vibrant colors, and symbolic interior elements help create a new cultural destination in Baltimore's Inner Harbor and museum district. — The Freelon Group/RTKL [images]- ArchNewsNow

British architects plan barrier boycott: "We hold all design and construction professionals involved in projects that appropriate land and natural resources from Palestinian territory to be complicit in social, political and economic oppression." By Esther Zandberg -- Architects and Planners for Justice in Palestine (APJP); Charles Jencks; Michael Sorkin; Richard Rogers; Abie Hayeem; Eyal Weizman; Raff Segal; Moshe Safdie; Yizhak Lil' - Ha`aretz (Israel)

Is British design on the right road? Should design be about engineering or beauty? After the surprise departure of the Design Museum's Alice Rawsthorn...long-simmering row about the priorities and cultural status of design in the 21st century is about to boil over. - Telegraph (UK)


Gehry says Toronto missed its chance with architecture: ...can't transform itself into an architectural hot spot with just a few high profile building projects..."There's very little social planning; it seems to be more a world of opportunism and entertainment." - CBC (Canada)

Gehry on Gretzky: At the Art Gallery of Ontario for a preview of his upcoming exhibition, the Great One of architecture defends the Great One of sport...the AGO project now seems to be well on its way...is not cause for exultation. - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Foster to lead £184m project to transform the ancient heart of St Petersburg: ...development promises to be low-key and subtle. By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

Drawing on a landmark's lure: It's wandered from Connecticut to Westchester County to Florida over the last three decades, but now, it seems, the National Cartoon Museum will finally have a permanent home...in New York's Empire State Building. -- Ralph Appelbaum Associates - Los Angeles Times

Designing outside the box: The development of computer software programs has produced a new architectural language...that creates buildings with amorphous forms...Haim Dotan...is trying to nurture this field and to study it in the context of construction in Israel.- Ha`aretz (Israel)

AIA Selects Eight Communities for Community Assistance Program to Promote Long-term Sustainability - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Eleven Semifinalists Selected for 2006 Great American Main Street Awards: ...will be presented at National Main Streets Conference in New Orleans on June 5 - National Trust for Historic Preservation

2006 Gulbenkian Prize long list of 10 projects announced: £100,000 award given annually to one museum or gallery anywhere in the UK [links to details]- Gulbenkian Prize

ASLA has declared April 2006 as National Landscape Architecture Month: This year's theme will be "Discover Landscape Architecture." - American Society of Landscape Architect (ASLA)

Feb. ’06 Build Business: The Other Side of the Table; An Inside View of the Selection Process. By Stephanie Craft, CPSM

NOX: D-Tower, Doetinchem, The Netherlands

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