Today's News - February 23, 2006

Norway issues an international call for entries for tsunami memorial. -- A UK. firm called upon to reshape Najaf, Iraq (though who knows after yesterday’s sad news from that city). -- A $1 billion mini-city for Melbourne. -- A county in Ireland contends with tall buildings, density, and affordable housing. -- NYC’s Governors Island in search of an inspired plan, but could it end up a white elephant? -- "The Koolhaas Kids Come of Age": a revealing (one might almost say snippy) Q&A with Joshua Prince-Ramus. -- Tenacity and optimism keeps Architecture for Humanity’s Sinclair going (and going and going). -- In Toronto, one of the city’s “finest examples of contemporary architecture” is a “reminder of the sheer power of design to make the world a better place.” -- This summer, two “refugee camps” in NYC parks to “help New Yorkers understand what it is like to live in one.” -- "Soft" and "fuzzy" are two of the new design buzz words floating around the International Design Indaba conference in South Africa. -- Legorreta's South Texas museum expansion gets "a few minor changes." -- A California school going for LEED Platinum: “Everybody not doing this in five or 10 years will be a dinosaur.” -- Thomas Jefferson the founding father of sprawl? -- Wineries - and their architects - create "a publishing phenomenon."

Open, International Competition for Project Ideas: Memorial site for the victims of the tsunami disaster; deadline: April 18 [in English & Norwegian]- National Foundation for Art in Public Buildings, Norway

From the people who brought you Milton Keynes...: The planning agency which designed Milton Keynes has been handed the job of reshaping a city which is no stranger to adversity: Najaf, in Iraq. -- Llewelyn Davies Yeang - BBC (UK)

$1bn mini-city along the Yarra: ...described as the biggest urban renewal project on a single site ever undertaken in Victoria. -- Multiplex - The Age (Australia)

Tall buildings study for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County...in the wake of having so many of its decisions to grant planning permission for high-density housing schemes overturned... By Frank McDonald - Irish Times

New York Wonders: An Island Fit for What?...city and state officials clearly are at a loss about what to do with Governors Island. In asking developers to take the lead, risk quashing creativity at the outset. By Nicolai Ouroussoff (inside slide) - New York Times

The Koolhaas Kids Come of Age: Joshin Prince-Ramus explains why disciples of Rem Koolhaas are moving beyond the iconic Dutch architect's ideas, with a more collaborative style. By Andrew Blum -- Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) - BusinessWeek

His design is to meet human needs: To architect Cameron Sinclair, the bigger the problem, the more ways there must be to solve it. His goal is to find low-cost solutions that inspire. -- Architecture for Humanity - Christian Science Monitor

Making a difference through design: In an age obsessed with celebrity architects, it's worth remembering that the best aren't always the most famous...new Bloorview Kids Rehab...a deeply moving reminder of the sheer power of design to make the world a better place. By Christopher Hume -- Montgomery Sisam; Stantec - Toronto Star

'Refugee Camp' To Be Put Up In Central Park and Prospect Park this September;...designed to help New Yorkers understand what it is like to live in one. -- Doctors Without Borders - New York Sun

Design's soft sell. Soft is the new hard. Weak is the new strong. Fuzzy is the new sharp. -- Shigero Uchido; David Adjaye- Bizcommunity.com (South Africa)

Art Museum of South Texas expansion: Building addition opening will be later than planned...Since construction began in January 2005, the building's design has undergone a few minor changes. -- Legorreta + Legorreta; Dykama Architects - Corpus Christi Caller-Times (Texas)

School of the Future: Chartwell's new campus aims for top honors in green building... "Everybody not doing this in five or 10 years will be a dinosaur. The writing is on the wall." - EHDD; Ausonio - Monterey County Weekly (California)

Op-Ed: Thomas Jefferson: The Founding Father Of Sprawl?...espoused a far-ranging anti-urban philosophy, with policies setting the stage for two centuries of sprawling development and political biases against cities. By Leonardo Vazquez, AICP/IPP- PLANetizen

The incredible new architecture of wine: a publishing phenomenon. Seldom has a single building type received so much attention all at once. By Hugh Pearman -- Michael Graves; Francisco Jose Mangado Beloqui; Dillon and de Gastines; Desso Eker; Herzog & de Meuron; Moneo; Calatrava; Gilles Perraudin; José Cruz Ovalle; Botla; Gehry; Gehry; Rogers; Holl; etc. - HughPearman.com (UK)

Symbol and Celebration: Reznard 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 Freeman Group/RTKL - ArchNewsNow

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

Unveiling: Frank O. Gehry: Lou Ruvo Alzheimer's Institute, Las Vegas