Today's News - March 16, 2006

Wondering what flocks of construction cranes will leave behind in San Francisco. – Cranes still waiting to soar at Ground Zero. – Anacostia River renewal plans leave some anxious. – Post-Katrina FEMA trailers pose risk. – Good news on two fronts in Chicago. – A mini-exhibition shows off Toronto's new cultural prowess. – Historic Baltimore cathedral almost ready for its close-up. – Architects with a sense of humor. – Bad design stands out more than good design. – "Green" competition extends registration deadline to tomorrow.

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Where cranes flock, buildings sprout. It's not always pretty. Until they are gone, we'll have no way to tell whether they're leaving us with a rich new urban habitat, or a fowled civic nest. By John King - San Francisco Chronicle

Developer Told to Build 9/11 Site or Stand Clear: Pataki administration challenged Larry A. Silverstein to start building the $2.3 billion Freedom Tower or "move out of the way." - New York Times

That'll Anacostia: A plan to spruce up D.C.'s Anacostia River has some residents anxious. Slated for a grand renewal project, the area stands at the juncture of poverty and opportunity. - Grist Magazine

Trailers, Vital After Hurricane Katrina, Now Pose Risks: Nearly 90,000 lightweight trailers built to be temporary are in an area prone to flooding, tornadoes and, of course, hurricanes. - New York Times

Death of tweezer tower offers new life to the Calatrava plan for the twisting hotel condominium tower, life for hospital, the longer old Cook County Hospital dodges the wrecking ball, the better its survival prospects look. By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune

Just dancing on the head --- of an issue: ...civic leadership is coming from the cultural sector...can't remake Toronto all by itself, but it can turn empty boosterism into civic confidence and transform the city. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Basilica’s message is alive: Restoration of 1st U.S. Catholic cathedral to be celebrated in November – Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1821); John G. Waite Associates; Beyer Blinder Belle (images) - Baltimore Sun

Welcome to the house of fun: Heard the one about the architects with a sense of humour? Wit in architecture is tough to pull off...Fashion Architecture Taste (Fat) do it, big time. By Tom Dyckhoff - The Times (UK)

It's bad design, not good design, that makes an impression: How can a product that doesn't work and offends the eye possibly be described as a 'design classic' says Germaine Greer - Guardian (UK)

A House for an Ecologist: A Design Ideas Competition: registration deadline extend to March 17 - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Second Look: Pavilion and Colonnade Apartments by Mies van der Rohe, 1960: Current news about "starchitects" designing high-rise housing in New York is at an all-time high, but Mies did it across the Hudson River 46 years ago. By Fred Bernstein (image) - ArchNewsNow

Competition winner: Toyo Ito: Taichung Metropolitan Opera House, Taichung City, Taiwan

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