Today's News - May 16, 2006

An in-depth look at the "war of wills" (and words) swirling around 9/11 memorial at Ground Zero (or, how to - or not to - pick your battles... it would be funny if it weren't so sad). -- High energy prices are "the tipping point for a great redirection away from sprawl." -- Duany to bring new urbanism to Scotland. -- Perhaps he should visit Poundbury to help appease the PROD's. -- Finalists in Toronto waterfront competition an "eclectic" bunch (including a "gaggle of New York firms."). -- Rybczynski "opines" on suburbia, Wal-Mart, and starchitecture. -- A conversation with urbanist Sir Peter Hall and "Biomimicry" author Janine Benyus. -- Beauty and a park will grow amidst those old Orange County bunkers. -- Landscape architecture finally getting deserved attention. -- Hadid's Spiralling Tower on Barcelona's waterfront "like a pile of Liquorice Allsorts on top of one another" (is that a good thing?). -- Three Texas towns share an arts center. -- Colorado town wants to save its night sky. -- Architecture for Humanity finally starts to see results. -- Discretion as an architectural art form in a sculpture park. -- Remember plans for a glass skywalk over Grand Canyon? It's really happening. -- "The Architecture of Happiness" like "rubbernecking at a literary car-crash" (that's one of the more polite criticisms in the review). -- On view: Bucky and Noguchi in New York. -- Italy's grand designs in Montreal.

The 9/11 Memorial Fiasco: A furious architect, opportunistic politicians, betrayed loyalites, and a price reaching a billion dollars. How a soaring vision went disastrously wrong. -- Michael Arad/Handel Architects; Peter Walker; Davis Brody Bond, Liebkind Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. New York Magazine

Op-Ed: Connecting The Dots On High Gas Prices: Pundits may not be facing up to the ultimate answer to rising energy costs -- our physical environment -- but the American consumer is already deep into the calculus... Now energy prices... are clearly becoming the tipping point for a great redirection away from sprawl. By Anthony Flint. PLANetizen

World-class expert to design new town for the Highlands: Andres Duany will help draw up the blueprint for a community between Inverness and Nairn... about 5,000 houses, schools, shops and other services on a 350-acre site... -- Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ). The Scotsman (UK)

Prince Charles' model village could become "carbuncle": Poundbury Residents Opposed to Density (Prod) to battle phase two of the development which they say is out of scale and character with the rest of Poundbury. - 24dash.com (UK)

Harbour of our dreams: The eclectic finalists in a $20 million international design competition took refuge in no safe harbours fronts... Though the entries vary in quality, there's no shortage of great ideas. By Christopher Hume. Foster and Partners/Atelier Dreiseitl; Stan Allen Architects/Sarah Witting and Ron Witte Architects; Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects/Martinez Lapena-Torres Architects; West 8/du Toit Allsopp Hillier; Snohetta/Sasaki Associates/ARChITeCTS/Weiss + Yoos Architecture/H3/Balmori Associates/Halcrow Yolles HPA. Toronto Star

"Live" with Witold Rybczynski; prominent commentator on architecture and urbanism opines on suburbia, Wal-Mart, differences between designers and economists, celebrity buildings, do-it-yourself, and other aspects of how we live. - The American Enterprise

Urbanist Sir Peter Hall and "Biomimicry" author Janine Benyus in conversation with Richard Fidler. - ABC (Australia)

"We're not building a park, we're growing a park": Work has begun at old Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro on a massive project that could profoundly alter Orange County. Leave it to Ken Smith to find beauty in an old ammunition bunker. - Daily Breeze (California)

A view of varied work by a landscape designer: Michael Van Valkenburgh gets showcase at Harvard... demonstrates that landscape architects do a lot more than plant a tulip bed in your backyard. Landscape architecture is a too-little-known profession. By Robert Campbell. - Boston Globe

British-Iraqi architect's Barcelona coup: Described by one commentator as "like a pile of Liquorice Allsorts on top of one another", [Spiralling Tower] block in contrasting colours... will overlook a terraced meadow leading to a creek flowing through the 124-acre site. -- Boora Architects. - Guardian (UK)

Arts of Collin County gradually shaping vision... the performance art building... will blend into the environment... will overlook a terraced meadow leading to a creek flowing through the 124-acre site. -- Boora Architects. - Plano Star Courier (Texas)

Night lights scrutinized in Breckenridge:... light pollution is an environmental stewardship issue, on par with preserving wetlands and wildlife habitat... impacts on a worldwide scale are affecting not only scientific observations, but the general public's right to enjoy the night sky. -- Summit Daily (Colorado)

It Takes a Village: The nonprofit Architecture for Humanity finally starts to get results. -- Cameron Sinclair/Kate Stohr; Purnima McCutcheon. - Metropolis Magazine

Can't see the wood for the trees: What do you do if your brief is to design a structure to blend into the background? Steve Rose visits the discreet new centre at Goodwood sculpture park. If it's possible to make a statement of disreton, then Craig Downie has done it here. - Guardian (UK)

A Cliff-Hanger: Want a more thrilling view of the Grand Canyon? Take a stroll over the all-glass Skywalk, and you can hover above it... -- David Jin. Lochea Engineering. - Popular Science

Intellectual property: Between the silky mats covers, The Architecture of Happiness [by Alain de Botton] is as confused and crammed with kitschy knick-knacks as any Victorian parlor, the effect is one of rubbernecking at a literary car-crash. - New Statesman (UK)
"Best of Friends: R. Buckminster Fuller and Isamu Noguchi" On view at The Noguchi Museum (NY) May 19 – October 15 - The Noguchi Museum

Touring 20th-century Italy's grand designs: "Il Modo Italiano" at Montreal Museum of Fine Arts tracks the country's changing moods, from angst to cutting-edge whimsy – Ponti; Castiglioni; Pesce; Sottsass; etc. - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Under construction: Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects: Renée & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall/Samueli Theatre, Orange County Performing Arts Center, Costa Mesa, California

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