Today's News - June 29, 2006

Yet another version of Freedom Tower, some think for the better. -- A long time coming, Camden, NJ, waterfront finally getting attention. -- The "Vancouver-ization" of Chicago's South Michigan Ave., including another "facade-ectomy." -- Dublin's version of Piazza Navona - not. -- $7 billion Las Vegas project counting on starchitect-studded design to draw international travelers. -- "Neo-eclectic" architect has vision for a Vegas cultural palace. -- Montreal promised a symphony hall - architect not yet included. -- RIP: Old AICP Code (1978-2005) and its "its greater capacity to inspire America's planners." -- The English garden pavilion gets a rethink. -- LA's great, but mostly unknown, architect. -- U.K. firm takeover. -- RAIA awards a split decision. -- In praise of St. Florian.

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Freedom Tower Sheds the Look of Bulky Armor: The new design is an attempt to avoid creating a fortress that overshadows the World Trade Center memorial. would clad its 187-foot-high, bomb-resistant concrete base in a screen of glass prisms rather than metal panels. -- David M. Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merril; Peter Walker [slide show] - New York Times

At Ground Zero, Another Change for the Better: emphatically reasserts its fealty to the conceptual grid. By James Gardner – David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merril; Peter Walker - New York Sun

Private developers tackle Camden waterfront near Philly: After 22 years, revitalization plans are finally gaining momentum... $500 million in commercial and residential projects to Cooper's Crossing. -- Steiner & Associates, Bower Lewis Thrower Architects - National Real Estate Investor (NREI)

'Vancouver-ization' moving along South Michigan Avenue: but not without questions from preservationists about how it will affect the city's famed cliff of historic buildings. By Blair Kamin – Pappageorge/Haymes Ltd.- Chicago Tribune

Smithfield: gargantuan design, no culture: Colossal buildings on Smithfield's west side upset the design balance of the area... was meant to be Dublin's version of Piazza Navona in Rome. But that's not how it is turning out. By Frank McDonald – Horan Keoghan Ryan (HKR); Mitchell and Associates; McGarry NI/Eaithneh Architects - Irish Times

The [$7 billion] CityCenter of Attention: With a multitude of renowned designers including Studio Daniel Libeskind, Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, Murphy/Jahn Architects, the Rockwell Group, Foster and Partners, Rafael Viñoly Architects, Gensler and Kohn Pedersen Fox, the property will have a sophistication that appeals to international travelers-- Casino City Times

The Vision: David M. Schwarz has been tapped to design Las Vegas' cultural palace. What will he do with the centerpiece of 61 acres? Forget slick modernism. Neo-eclectic hits the mark...[he] about the project, modern architecture and working in Las Vegas. - Las Vegas Sun

Wait for it: Montreal Symphony Orchestra promised by 2011: First cultural private-public partnership in Quebec unveiled as a long-range plan... -- Steiner & Associates; Bower Lewis Thrower Architects -- Peterborough Today (UK)

The Ethics Of Urban Planning: Remembering The Old AICP Code (1978-2005): As the American Institute of Certified Planners institutes its new Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, Sarah Jo Peterson...remembers the old code and its greater capacity to inspire America's planners. - PLANetizen

Editorial: Art? Or entertainment? Maybe the answer is a little of both: Yes, there is a potential conflict between being an icon and an art museum. But the conflict is a manageable one... partly because we are happy to debate it openly. By David Gordon, director, Milwaukee Art Museum -- Calatrava- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Arcadian idyll or suburban tearoom? The English garden pavilion gets a rethink... some of the best buildings to emerge from the English psyche. By Hugh Pearman – Glenn Howells; Buro Happold [images, links] - HughPearman.com (UK)

LA's great unknown: Designer Edward H. Fickett pushed postwar California toward indoor-outdoor living. Tens of thousands of homes bear his signature flow, yet few people know his name. - Los Angeles Times

Architect taken over by largest practice in UK: Ruddle Wilkinson is now part of... Capita Symonds; - Peterborough Today (UK)

Split decision: Modern farmhouse or experimental shack? Judges struggled to pick a winner of the Wilkinson award. -- Royal Australian Institute of Architects; Luigi Rosselli; Robin Edmiston & Associates/SYSTE/Marchitects; Stuchbury & Page; Casey Brown Architecture; Sam Crawford Architects; Stanisic Associates; Mackenzie Pronk/Shack Design & Kieran McInerney; Hassell; etc.-- Sydney Morning Herald

St. Florian: A retrospective --braved the scorn of his field's professional and academic elites to help bring beauty and, indeed, reality back to architecture, locally and nationally. - Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Reference This: Two views on trends in public and academic libraries -- Field Paoli; Chong Partners [images] - ArchNewsNow
-- Exhibition: Poul Kjaerholm, Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk, Denmark
-- Competition winner: Rem Koolhaas OMA, Brewery Site, Copenhagen
-- Two Books: Peter Zumthor Thinking Architecture, and Atmospheres

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