Today's News - August 2, 2006

Three experts discuss why construction projects fail. – Badly built buildings waste money: companies must "push energy efficiency up the business agenda." – A study of a small corner of British suburbia may help spark a suburban renaissance. – Hawthorne applauds prefab – but offers a much-needed reality check. – Two voices: for and against - Atlantic Yards mega-project in Brooklyn. – Bath Spa finally ready for its Bilbao moment (and a slide show we couldn't resist). – Is the new National Museum of the Marine Corps really all that it can be? – Good news for Sullivan house; and Chicago launches "Louis Sullivan at 150" website for citywide celebration. – Back from the brink: Paddington station span saved from demolition. – What's to be done with a "quirky" school in Canberra filled with quiet nooks and crannies? – Beijing's Forbidden City forbidden no more. – Also in China, a biomedical research institute will be a cell in 3-D. – IFDA Comparative Surveys reveal design industry professionals' radically changing views of their industry. – Berkeley Prize Essay Competition winners announced (and well worth a read).

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Why Do Construction Projects Fail? Inspections of Boston's Big Dig reveal hundreds of bolts that need to be reinforced... What keeps houses, bridges and tunnels from falling apart? - National Public Radio (NPR)

Badly-built offices 'costing companies millions' according to research released by Gensler. Spiralng energy costs have pushed energy efficiency up the business agenda... - 24dash.com (UK)

The street where happiness is three bedrooms, a steady job – and a shed: There's still a corner of suburbia where people just mow their laws and don't get divorced. – findings may provide some comfort for the Government, which aims to instigate a suburban renaissance and increase housing density... - The Times (UK)

Such a deal? Prefab can be pricey these days, as this Ocean Park home reveals... the last thing the fledgling prefab movement needs at this point is aggressive marketing or more hype. What it needs is a reality check. By Christopher Hawthorne - Ray Kappe [images] - Los Angeles Times

Supporting Atlantic Yards: "Simply not enough housing in Brooklyn": The executive director of NY ACORN [Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now] argues that the plan's superior affordable housing provisions require citizens "to take yes for an answer." - By Bertha Lewis - City Limits (NYC)

Five years late, £30m overspent, mired in legal rows. Finally, Bath Spa opens" Its backers hope it will boost Bath's dwindling tourism industry and bring the 'Bilbao effect' - the transformative effect of iconic architecture - to one of Britain's most historic cities. - Grimshaw - Observer (UK)

Restored, an Emperor's Lair Will Be Forbidden No More: The refurbishment of the Forbidden City is part of Beijing's selective preservation work in advance of the 2008 Olympics. - World Monuments Fund (slide show) - New York Times

Next Exit Marine Land: Along I-95, [National Museum of the Marine Corps] Goes Up – And Up: This may be the biggest challenge for today's museum architects: How do you make impressive buildings that must function like small amusement parks or a Halloween haunted house? By Philip Kennicott - Fentress Bradburn Architects - Washington Post

Opposing Atlantic Yards: "Fails to Accomplish a Delicate Balance": The president of the Municipal Art Society challenges residents to hold out for the high standards of planning, design, housing – and democratic public process – the city deserves. By Kent Barwick - City Limits (NYC)

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Chicago History Museum launches "Louis Sullivan at 150" website for citywide celebration from early September through October 15, 2006. - Chicago History Museum

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Doomed school deserves better, says architect: Giralang Primary School... quirky, open-plan design... courtyards, high ceilings, quiet nooks and crannies to work in and stepped seating in all classrooms...designed specifically to reinforce an educational idea... – Enrico Taglietti (1974) [image] - City News (Canberra City, Australia)

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IFDA Comparative Surveys reveal design industry professionals' radically changing views of the design industry and global marketing [pdf] - International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA)

Winners of the 8th Annual Berkeley Prize Essay Competition announced; "Children and the City" dedicated to UNESCO's Growing Up In Cities Programme - Berkeley Prize

Northwest Expansion: Portland Art Museum: Sensitive historic restoration combined with contemporary design expands a museum into a dynamic new art center. – Ann Baha Architects, SERA Architects [images] - Archinect
-- Competition winner: LAB architecture studio, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW Australia
-- Schwartz/Silver Architects: Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge, Louisiana