Today's News - August 8, 2006

A new Utah University performance hall bridges the town/gown divide. -- New Urbanists and pro-property rights advocates have become masters of storytelling to get their messages across. -- America knows how to build successful mixed-use communities, but is there the political will? -- Ourossoff takes on new planning strategy in New Orleans. It's now up to the residents to master plan their future - despite lack of comprehensive guidelines. -- Chicago's mayor is getting public housing right. -- To get things right in Mumbai, Correa says people should elect mayor and use planners and architects as experts, not just executioners. -- ...a "giant silver-frosted cupcake" or a "coiled rattlesnake" or a barrel cactus? -- The National Park Seminary outside of Washington, DC, is ready for its fantasy makeover. -- Did you ever feel you were being watched? With surveillance technology so quietly undermining the proper maintaining and development of a city...lack of planners and the public. By Leonardo Vazquez, AICP/PP, PLANetizen

Fine Tuning: Utah State University Performance Hall: Inspired by the surrounding mountains, a new building establishes a campus arts precinct that bridges the town/gown divide. -- Sasaki Associates [images]- ArchNewsNow

Op-Ed: Urban Fables: The Role Of Storytelling And Imagery In Successful Planning Movements: New Urbanists and pro-property rights advocates have made good use of both allegory and myth to capture the attention of planners and the public. By Leonardo Vazquez, AICP/PP, PLANetizen

Concentrated Poverty in New Orleans and Other American Cities: The challenges...are complicated by the sluggish nature of the rebuilding effort...America knows how to promote housing choice and build mixed-income communities that work economically and socially. The only question is whether we have the political will...By Bruce Katz (from The Chronicle of Higher Education)- Brookings Institute

In New Orleans, Each Resident Is Master of Plan to Rebuild: Rebuilding a city, it seems, is too important a task to be left to professional planners...one of the most daunting urban reconstruction projects in American history in the hands of local residents. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Wayne Troyer; Robert Tannen; Andrés Duany; Frederic Schwartz; Reed Kootoff, Ray Manning [slide show]- New York Times

Charles Correa: Mayor should be elected by people rather than state: ...To save Mumbai city from the brink of disaster vis-a-vis crumbling infrastructure...lack of planners and the role of architects as experts, rather than executioners in policy and decision making also undermines the proper maintaining and development of a city... -- The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Housing That Means Freedom: ...mixed-income townhouse and apartment developments...have replaced those 16-story monuments to drugs, despair and degradation that were the landmarks of Chicago's public housing for 50 years. - Washington Post

Trying to Build the Perfect Park: Finalists Ready Plans for the Future of the Cornfield Site:...each boast a prominent local architect...finalists discussed their visions... -- Field Operations/Thom Mayne; Hargreaves and Associates/Michael Maltzan; Mia and Michael Lehrer-LA Downtown News

Cardinals Stadium: There is a giant silver-frosted cupcake that dominates the horizon in Glendale...two parentage is apparent...The outside belongs to Eisenman, the inside to HOK, and the two components couldn't be more different. [video link]- Arizona Republic

Preserving History and a "Fantasy Feeling": A long-neglected sanctuary outside Washington with 12 architecturally distinct building is undergoing a renovation estimated at $111,000,000. -- Alexander Company [images]- New York Times

Preservationists Score a Coup in Rescuing L.A. Office Designed by John Lautner:...design will be reinstalled — in form and function — at LACMA West...the only such space ever designed by the architect.-- Los Angeles Times

Uniquely Malaysian, but not kitsch: In their quest to create buildings with a Malaysian identity, some architects just stick a traditional roof atop a concrete box...one architect...with a more holistic approach... -- Chris Wong/C'arch Architecture + Design- The Star (Malaysia)

Diapers: Johnson Fain looks to pull back the curtain in its public art... -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Johnson Fain [images]- Los Angeles Times

2006 Prime Minister's Better Public Building Award Finalists -- Hopkins Architects; John McAslan and Partners; Richard Rogers Partnership; Studio E; Wilson Mason & Partners; Snell Associates; DSDHA; David Morley Architects; etc. [images]- CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, UK)

Thanks for finishing the job: Opera House creator salutes successors: "Building a masterpiece; the Sydney Opera House" -- Joern Utzon; Peter Hall- Sydney Morning Herald

Greatness eludes Canada's top designer: Show reduces Arthur Erickson to 12 buildings: ...[the] remains strangely disengaged from architecture as anything more than an exercise in aesthetics...Of course Erickson deserves a show, but this isn't it. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

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Exhibition review: Shuhei Endo and Sou Fujimoto: "New Geometry Architecture: Toward an Alternative Modernism": the use of unadorned shapes made from a single material has distilled the show into a lucid and interesting spatial experience... at Kirin Plaza Osaka through September 3. By Thomas Daniell [images] - Artscape (Japan)

Northwest Expansion: Portland Art Museum: Sensitive historic restoration combined with contemporary design expands a museum into a dynamic new art center. -- Ann Beha Architects; SERA Architects [images] - ArchNewsNow

-- Inauguration: SANAA/Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa: Zollverein School, Essen, Germany
-- Under construction: Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Coal Washing Plant, Zollverein Mining Complex, Essen, Germany
-- Master Plan: Rem Koolhaas/OMA: Zollverein Mining Complex, Essen, Germany