Today's News - August 21, 2006

ArcSpace brings us Libeskind in Copenhagen and more. -- Goldberger takes on Libeskind's mile-high adventures in Denver. -- Sutjic offers eloquent reflections on global architecture - and Britain's renaissance - in his last regular column (before heading to London's Design Museum). -- With climate change on the horizon, Glancey wonders why it's almost "always a lovely day in Architecture World." -- In Toronto, the problem isn't demolition, but the city tearing down the wrong buildings. -- Is re-enlisting Utzon to refine his opera house a good idea? -- Defying Wright: critics and scholars in heated debate about expanding iconic churches. -- Toronto's "Great Waterfront Experiment" was transformative (except for drivers who couldn't cope, "poor dears"). -- Pelli's grand public plaza for the O.C. Performing Arts Center (but will the public come, some wonder). -- Manila gets a new Chinatown ("more convenient" and "well organized" - should we really cheer?). -- Green gains steam in Wichita. -- Tufts opens green dorm doors. -- Spear takes on landscape mantle. - In Sydney, "the AAA will redeem you and put you on the path to architectural righteousness." -- A look at the winners of "A House for An Ecologist" competition. -- Move over, Chicago's "bean," Kapoor is polishing "Sky Mirror" for NYC debut.

Mile-High: After the World Trade Center furor, Daniel Libeskind moves on. In Denver, such success is a reminder of the fact that second-tier American cities have often proved more willing to take architectural risks than supposedly sophisticated cities like New York. -- By Paul Goldberger - New Yorker

Building a bolder future: After six years in the job, Devan Sudjic steps down this week. Here he reflects on the changing face of global design and argues that the UK has seen a truly remarkable renaissance, resulting in some of the most audacious and brilliant buildings of the post-war era. -- Marks Barfield; Pawson; Future Systems; Koohang; Speer; Eisenman; Herzog & de Meuron; Piano; Ito; Sajima; Foster; Rogers; Vinyo; Hadid; Chipperfield; Miralles; Libeskind; Calatrava; Alsop; Observer (UK)

Severe weather warning: Climate change is bringing more rain, more wind, more chaos. So why are architects planning for a future in which we bask in eternal sunshine? By Jonathan Glancey -- Gillian Lambert; Frank Lloyd Wright; C Anjalendran; Diller Scafidio; Snohetta/Speng; Chipperfield; Guardian (UK)

Join us at the wrecker's ball: The problem isn't that Toronto tears down so many buildings, but that it tears down the wrong buildings... Torontonians talk about wanting a city that ranks with the best, but we are unwilling to enact the tough measures required to achieve that status. By Christopher Hume -- Kuwabara; Behnisch Architects; architectAlliance - Toronto Star

Reconstructing the scene: With Joern Utzon re-enlisted for projects at the Sydney Opera House, Ken Woolley wonders if damage will be done to the Danish architect's great creation... his re-enlistment should be examined lest his masterpiece be ruined, along with the substantial contribution of Peter Hall, the architect who saw the Opera House through to completion. -- The Australian

Subtraction by addition? Critics say expansion plans of two iconic Unitarian churches undermine Wright's architecture... Wright scholars themselves disagree over how strictly such expansions should be judged. By Whitney Gould -- John Thorne; Matt Jarosz; William Wesley Peters (1966); Kubala Washatko - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Hallelujah, we’re capable of change: The Great Waterfront Experiment is over... just closing two lanes of Queens Quay and handing them over to cyclists and pedestrians was transformative. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

A new stage: The Orange County Performing Arts Center is creating a new public plaza. But will the people come? -- Cesar Pelli; Caudill Rowlett Scott/Blurock Partnership (1986) - Orange County Register (California)

The new face of Manila’s Chinatown: Neo Chinatown... to combine the old world charm of the original Chinatown, with the latest innovations in commercial development... -- Mark Steven Cring - The Manila Times

Green gains steam: Environmentally friendly architecture has moved way beyond the leaky solar water heater on the roof... building green now makes sense financially in the long run. -- Wilson Darrell Mann; Law/Kingdon - Wichita Eagle (Kansas)

Tufts University to Open First “Green” Dorm: Soojae Gordon Hall is expected to use 30 percent less energy and 30 percent less water than what would a conventionally designed building. -- William Rawn Associates - Newswise

Down to Earth: Arquitectonica’s Laurinda Spear is going from hardscape to landscape... has founded a new firm... called ArquitectonicaGEO -- Margarita Blanco; George Fogh - Miami Herald

Nine Selected in "A House for An Ecologist" Ideas Competition -- Bowen Architecture; Shepley Bulfinch Richardson Abbott; Mau Dwellings; substance; Jackson & McElhaney Architects; Reader + Swartz Architects; Michael Garrison; M3 Architectural Consulting; Kiel K, Moe Images, link - AAarchitect
Peek of success: An architecture appreciation tour has the added advantage of providing a glimpse into how the other half lives. -- Australian Architecture Association (AAA); William Smart; Andre Porebski; ChenchowLittle; Mark Cashman; Angelo Candalepas; Richard Leplastrier, Durbach Block - Sydney Morning Herald

A Most Public Artist Polishes a New York Image: This September, Anish Kapoor will be enshrined in the city's center stage for public art, Rockefeller Center. “Sky Mirror”...will be on view from Sept. 19 to Oct. 27. [images, slide show] - New York Times

Inflatable Architecture (and more!) On View in Anaheim August 19-27 [images] - ArchNewsNow

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