Today's News - September 5, 2006

ArcSpace travels to Toledo to bring us a wonderful pictorial of the Glass Pavilion. -- Thursday will surely be a buzz about new buildings at Ground Zero. -- Terror threat fails to stem high-rise boom; King wonders if security measures on the ground make for less appealing downtowns and offering of San Francisco's "security chic" (are there lessons for Ground Zero?). -- Global Green/Brad Pitt sustainable design competition winners announced (news reports are all about "Branjelina" watching New Orleans rebuild - we skipped those). -- It's raining concert halls across the U.S., but are they as good as they sound? -- Washington, DC's Massachusetts Avenue is turning into "mediocre mile" where building fast trumps building beautiful. -- A Lebanese architect is an outspoken critic of urban development in her region. -- Pearman is enthralled with Foster's Pyramid of Peace in Kazakhstan: "a folly on a grand scale. But it is a place to wonder at." -- A California architect puts forth his urban planning model dubbed "matripolis." -- A regional airport in the U.K. sets a new standard (too bad it's a preserve of the super-rich). -- The architect is an outspoken critic of the way the region's cities are being built...-- Arab Concept Development

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-- Inauguration: SANAA / Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa: Glass Pavilion, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio
-- Book: Fornasetti: Conversation with Philippe Starck By Brigitte Fivussi

Developer, Architects Set To Unveil Ground Zero Designs...for the east side of the former World Trade Center site...would end five years of anticipation regarding the final look of ground zero. -- Norman Foster; Richard Rogers; Fumihiko Maki; Daniel Libeskind - New York Sun

Terror threat fails to stem high-rise boom: Defensive measures focus on fortifying buildings' bases against possible attack. But less attractive targets can create a less attractive pedestrian realm -- and, by extension, a less appealing downtown. By John King [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

San Francisco's "security chic": Take a trip through downtown San Francisco to see and hear how some of San Francisco's tallest buildings are protected from terrorist attacks -- not from the air, but on the ground...John King provides a few insights in this audio tour. [podcast] - San Francisco Chronicle

Global Green and Brad Pitt Announce Winner of Sustainable Design Competition for New Orleans: GREEN.O.LA designed by Andrew Kotchen and Matthew Berman/Workshop/APD -- Schwartz Architects; Eskew+Dumez+Ripple [link to images] - Global Green USA

In Cities Across the United States, It's Raining Concert Halls: As concert halls have evolved into multifaceted destinations...local officials and business leaders have come to view them as a chance to revive a downtown or add luster to their city. -- Pelli; Calatrava; David M. Schwarz [images] - New York Times

The Mediocre Mile: Residential Projects Are Rising Rapidly Along Massachusetts Avenue. Design Review Hasn't Kept Pace...building fast has generally trumped building beautiful. By Philip Kennicott - Washington Post

Urban Dreams: Zena Malek is already being hailed as one of the world's most influential female Arabs. The innovative Lebanese architect...outspoken critic of the way the region's cities are being built... -- Arab Concept Development - ITP (Dubai)

One Steppe Beyond: Norman Foster's Pyramid of Peace in Kazakhstan. Oh, and it has an opera house in it, too. By Hugh Pearman -- Tabanlioglu Architecture; Kisho Kurokawa [images] - HughPearman.com (UK)

Architect believes time for futuristic cities is now. In "The End of the Street: Sustainable Growth Within Natural Limits," David Dobereiner outlines a vision for replacing blighted inner cities with high-density developments...an urban planning model he has dubbed "matripolis." - Contra Costa Times (California)

Flights of fancy: Farnborough Airport's new control tower...terminal and hangar...back to the golden age of aviation. What a shame they are the preserve of the super-rich...sets a new standard for regional airports. By Jonathan Glancey -- Reid Architecture [image] - Guardian (UK)

Clever brick! If only your average Berkeley home could manage it: In his first column, our new architecture and design critic hails the Brick House in Notting Hill - a surprise Sliding Prize contender - as a brilliant use of cramped urban space. Could this be the death knell for swaggering celebrity architecture? By Stephen Bayley -- Caruso St John - Observer (UK)

Alen designs: Indian architects talk about their most unusual design solutions. -- Sohrab Dalal/Spazio Architecture Design; Guddar Doongerwala/Ecoc; Vidur Bhardwaj/Design & Development; Deb Gupta/Arcop Associates; Prem Chandavarkar/Chandavarkar and Thacker Architects; Halfar Contractor - Business Standard (India)

Nod to founding godfathers: Las Vegas' mayor gained fame and fortune defending mob titans. Now he wants a museum celebrating their role in building Sin City...wants to take a National Historic Landmark...and turn it into a mob museum--and there's no alleged about...
Multicultural Modernism: The lessons of indigenous building were instrumental in forming Steven Ehrlich's approach to design and continue to influence the firm's work today.

Betsky sees art as part of everyday life: "Cincinnati Art Museum's new director launches into a string of things he hopes to accomplish." - Cincinnati Enquirer

At Wright's Taliesin, maybe the walls can talk: A new Frank Lloyd Wright book ("The Fellowship" by Roger Friedland and Harold Zellman) discusses the architect's "moist dream space." By Christopher Hawthorne [images] - Los Angeles Times