Today's News - September 8, 2006

We lose a master and champion of historic preservation. -- The buzz is (mostly) good about Freedom Tower's little brothers. -- Coming home to Canada form Sweden, Hume feels like he's returned to the dark ages. -- Saffron finds finalists' designs for "Thing That Is to Be Built at Sixth and Market" on Philadelphia's Independence Mall are neither memorials nor museums... The national contribution to the 10th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale is a unique partnership between Danish studios and Chinese universities -- Cerba/Tsinghua University; Adest Consulting; Alpha Studio; Chapman Taylor; RMJM; CF Moller Architects

Boddy brings us Canada's fluffy Sweaterlodge, and Denmark designs a new China. -- Foster on view in Toronto. -- At Yale's concrete Art & Architecture Building, “a small exhibit shows that struggles to manage chaotic development; even smart plans stymied by lack of interest. -- Rybczynski explores how small details make great architects. -- Weekend diversions: In Venice, despite great acoustics and beautiful materials, Nashville's new concert hall “suffers from a bit of kitsch.” -- In China's Commune by the Great Wall, a computer giant offers “rather lame vision returned to the dark ages. -- Saffron finds finalists' designs for new “Thing That Is to Be Built at Sixth and Market” on Philadelphia's Independence Mall are neither memorials nor museums.

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Celebrity Architects Unveil Designs for Three WTC Office Towers: Those who hoped these singular architectural talents would salvage the emotion and drama that has drained from Daniel Libeskind's master plan will be largely disappointed. By James S. Russell -- Norman Foster; Richard Rogers; and Fumihiko Maki- Bloomberg News

A First Look at Freedom Tower's Neighbors: The three skyscrapers would serve as steppingstones to the Freedom Tower and with it remake the New York skyline. -- Libeskind; Foster;Maki; Rogers; Calatrava; Childs; Gehry (slide show)- New York Times

'A Certain Grace' Starts To Come Into Focus: ...none of the buildings...is outstanding or even self-consciously "iconic"...And yet...each demonstrates a certain grace and distinction...allow us to understand and admire the intelligence of Daniel Libeskind's master plan...that downward spiral...By James Gardner -- David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Norman Foster; Richard Rodgers; Fumihiko Maki- New York Sun

Canada, it's time to grow up: Coming back to Canada after a couple of weeks in Sweden is like returning to the dark ages...fallen so far behind the civilized world that it's no longer simply embarrassing, it's alarming. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

A historic site that has defied designers: President's House memorial. None of the designs manages to strike the perfect balance between the site's colliding themes: the birth of our democracy and the congenital taint of slavery. By Inga Saffron -- Kelly/Maiello; Amaze Design; Davis Buckley; Ewing Cole; Howard + Revis (slide show)- Philadelphia Inquirer

From Prussia With Love: Despite its roundly hailed acoustics and beautiful materials, the Schermerhorn suffers from a bit of kitsch -- David M. Schwarz Architectural Services; Earl Swensson Associates- Nashville Scene

Communing with the future: Commune by the Great Wall...The result is 12 monuments to architects' egos...Hewlett-Packard has entered this modern architecture museum to showcase the next frontier - the digital home...rather lame vision of the digital future...At least the architecture is interesting.- New Zealand Herald

From Ruins to Ruined: Myanmar's regime is obliterating a cultural treasure as it `rebuilds' ancient temples to bring in tourists. Experts are aghast -- and uninvited...Bagan is now in danger of becoming a temple theme park..."blitzkrieg archeology..." -- Pierre Pichard- Los Angeles Times

Bucharest - the city where anything goes: Will it be possible to manage the chaos of development in the capital?...the city's aesthetics are now best described as 'eclectic' and at worst 'chaotic' -- Radu-Petre Nastase; Edmond Deslui; Adrian Bold- The Diplomat (Romania)

"We could not realise one single project": After winning a prestigious award to redesign the urban zone of Bucharest, Meinhard von Gerkan found the lack of interest... -- GM; Adest Consulting; Alpha Studio; Chapman Taylor; RMJM; CF Moller Architects- The Diplomat (Romania)

Upstairs, Downstairs: How small details make great architects. By Witold Rybczynski -- Mies van der Rohe; Le Corbusier; Richard Meier; Robert A.M. Stern; Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; I.M. Pei; Tadao Ando; Renzo Piano; Alvar Aalto; Jeremiah Eck (slide show)- Slate

Fuzzy, fluffy architecture that wears well: An enormous orange sweater by Vancouver architects Pechet + Robb hangs in Canada's Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, challenging our notions of shelter. By Trevor Boddy- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Denmark's architects design a new China: The nation's contribution to the 10th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale is a unique partnership between Danish studios and Chinese universities -- Carba/Tsinghua University; Effekt/Tongji University; Cobe/Chongqing University; Transform/Xaust University- Denmark.dk

"Norman Foster: Gliding Through Space": Details of Leslie Dan Pharmacy Building design on display [image, link]- University of Toronto

"Team 10: A Utopia of the Present": On the first floor of the imposing, concrete Art & Architecture Building...a small exhibit shows that concrete needn't be misused so sorely.- Yale Daily News
INSIGHT: Sounding Good: Inspired by the classics: Nashville’s new Schermerhorn Symphony Center. By Paul Scarbrough – David M. Schwarz; Akustiks; Fisher Dachs - ArchNewsNow

Please Walk on the Grass: Recreation and Play in the Contemporary City: An exhibition explores the reinvention of urban public spaces to meet the demands of 21st century recreation and leisure. By Zoë Ryan – Ábalos & Herreros; Acconci Studio; Adjaye/Associates; Stan Allen Architects; ATOPIA; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; FAT; Thomas Heatherwick; Walter Hood; Martha Schwartz; SHoP Architects; Ken Smith; Weiss/Marckedi; West 8 [images] - ArchNewsNow

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

Yesterday’s News

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