Today's News - September 20, 2006

Design and technology merge in Arizona State University's new Biodesign Institute. -- How bad leadership can ruin good planning. -- Signs that Buffalo's losing streak is coming to an end. -- A Welsh village built in 1926 (made famous by "The Prisoner") "holds the key for the future of successful urban design." -- Working in Scotland, Dunay says Britain's suburban sprawl is wrong but redeemable. -- Belfast seeing the "dawn of a new architectural era." -- But then there are those developers who are buying their way out of having to include social housing in their projects. - - Some may see facadism as an insult to history, but sometimes it's better than the alternative. -- In Johannesburg, 5 landmarks saved, 5 others to bite the dust. -- Scientists to the rescue of But redemption is not always possible. -- Belfast seeing the "dawn of a new architectural era." -- Five Johannesburg landmarks saved: But five others will bite the dust to make way for the Gauteng Government Precinct (GGP). - - San Francisco Chronicle

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How Bad Leadership Spoils Good Planning: A lot of planners don't see themselves as leaders, nor do they want to be... -- By Leonardo Vazquez AICP/PP- PLANetizen

After a Half-Century of Decline, Signs of Better Times for Buffalo: -- A sense that just maybe losing streak is coming to an end; tangible movement on long-awaited plans to reclaim the waterfront, along with dozens of private and public real-estate projects downtown. -- Frank Lloyd Wright, Ethnokratz Eckstut & Kuhn- New York Times

Portmeirion's big success in space travel: Welsh village has been held up as a template for new towns around the UK; holds the key for the future of successful urban design. -- Clough Williams-Ellis (1926)- icWales

Urban legend Andres Duany: The designer of Florida's much admired town Seaside...is now at work in Scotland... (says) Britain's suburban sprawl is wrong but redeemable-Guardian (UK)

Design? Belfast is no longer a fish out of water: the dawn of a new architectural era for Northern Ireland's capital. -- Michael Hopkins, Sunand Prasad, Trevor Leaker- Belfast Telegraph (Ireland)

Developers pay out €32m to avoid social housing deal: Government's blueprint for a social housing utopia now lies in tatters because developers have been able to exploit a loophole in the rules- Irish Independent

Classics preserved -- or are they? In a changing city, vintage buildings often must adapt or get out of the way. Gutting them while leaving the facades intact at least allows for partial preservation. By John King -- SMWM Architects; Page & Turnbull; MBH Architects (images)- San Francisco Chronicle

Five Johannesburg landmarks saved: But five others will bite the dust to make way for the Gauteng Government Precinct (GGP). - - The Star (South Africa)

An Inventive Solution to Save Home of Bell Labs: As soon as word got out that the 44-year-old building in Holmdel, N.J., would be demolished, scientists around the country — and the world — set the Internet humming with an enraged reaction...new plan has been greeted joyfully. -- Eero Saarinen- New York Times

Heritage buffs (in Canada and Britain) oppose razing of Parliament Buildings' British ancestor: Bulldozers in Bath are poised to raze the Newwork Works designed by British-born Thomas Fuller the leading 19th-century Canadian architect. -- Canada.com

VivoCity to revolutionize Singapore's shopping, lifestyle experience: Just as the name is a departure from the norm, so too is the architecture, based on a "surfing" theme...centerpiece of the entire HarbourFront precinct. -- Toyo Ito- SunStar (Philippines)

Waterfront tower "joyless and weak": Plans for Liverpool's tallest waterfront tower appeared in tatters after a government review condemned them...CABE has found little to be impressed with in the proposals for the land... -- REM (images)- icLiverpool (UK)

Rising Building Costs Send Gehry Grand Avenue Project in Downtown Los Angeles Over Budget... price of the first phase, budgeted three years ago at $750 million, has risen about 40%..."we are working with our architect to try and refine the design of the large tower."- New York Times

Cornell Unveils OMA Design for Milstein Hall: Koolhaas and Mostafavi reveal school's new facility for architecture school -- Office of Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) (images)- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Students Praise Milstein Design But Question Practicality -- Koolhaas/OMA- Cornell Daily Sun

Q&A with AAP Dean Mostafavi About Milstein Plans -- Koolhaas/OMA- Cornell Daily Sun

New Fields of Architecture: Hal Foster on Zaha Hadid...perhaps even more so than art today, architecture focuses urgent questions about new kinds of representations and media, materials and technologies. (images)- Artforum