Today's News - October 16, 2006

ArcSpace brings us Denmark's contribution to the Biennale now on view in Copenhagen, and Foster's Hearst Tower in Manhattan. -- Rogers sees Stirling for Madrid airport. -- A new book will take a look at the truth behind Stirling icons: "the roofs leak, they're dingy and too hot." -- A public health advocate has much to say about our built environments (and it's time we listened). -- Boddy reviews a "sprawling documentary" about suburban sprawl. -- New study shows moving for affordable housing can end up costing more. -- Big plans in Beirut move forward. -- An expert's viewpoint on designing - and building - in a war zone. -- Campbell says non-non to Nouvel's museum in Paris and calls on the media to get off the starchitect bandwagon and admit when "the emperor has no clothes." -- New Denver museum is dramatic on the outside but tough to hang art on the inside. -- Litt has two thumbs-up for reworking of Cleveland's Breuer museum and much to say about what he's been able to contribute so far. By Christopher Hawthorne -- TEN Arquitectos; Mia Lehrer; Mary Miss; Stephen Handel [images]

Building and the Built Environment: City of Culture: -- Sanctions...US$ 600 million project...an integrated commercial and residential sea view project in the Beirut Central District, commonly known as Solidere. -- Christian de Potempark; Arquitectonica; Nabil Gholam; Erga Group [images]- Mena Report (Jordan)

Representing the U.S. and Staying Secure: Suman Sorg has designed official facilities in Sri Lanka, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. She talks about building in a war zone and other challenges...Q&A with Andrew Blum- BusinessWeek

Paris museum is no work of art: At the new Branly, Jean Nouvel's concept obscures contents...makes you question the whole concept of starchitects...All that is human is boiled out of this museum... By Robert Campbell- Boston Globe

Better out than in: With its dramatic angles, Daniel Libeskind's new art gallery is lighting up Denver. There's just one problem: you can't hang much on those walls. By Dan Glaister- Globe and Mail (Canada)

New Study: Working Families Pay More for Transportation Than They Save on Affordable Housing - Center for Housing Policy

Construction to begin on Beirut Gate: ...US$ 600 million project...an integrated commercial and residential sea view project in the Beirut Central District, commonly known as Solidere. -- Christian de Potempark; Arquitectonica; Nabil Gholam; Erga Group [images]- Mena Report (Jordan)

Our Ailing Communities: Public-health advocate Richard Jackson argues that the way we build cities and neighborhoods is the source of many chronic diseases...Jeff Speck...caught him at his desk at the University of California Berkeley to discuss our built environment - Metropolis Magazine

A sprawling documentary of our times: "Radiant City", 86 minute feature that takes on, suburban sprawl...this suburban show-and-tell is stolen by two grade school kids, sardonic vet wise commentators on the phenomenon that shape their lives... By Trevor Boddy -- William Howard Kunstler; Marc Boutin; Mark Kingwell; Andres Duany; Globe and Mail (Canada)

-- Exhibition: CO-EVOLUTION, Danish Architecture Center, Copenhagen, Denmark

-- Foster and Partners: Hearst Tower, New York, NY

RIBA Stirling Prize 2006: Barajas Airport in Madrid -- Richard Rogers Partnership; Estudio Lamela [images]- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

The truth about those iconic buildings; the roofs leak, they're dingy and too hot. Criticism of the Stirling prizewinners was uncovered in research for a book by Irena Bauman, to be published next year, entitled How to be a Happy Architect.- Guardian (UK)

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Art museum values style that county wants to junk: ...commissioners - and anyone else who cares about Cleveland's recent architectural heritage - ought to visit the museum's restored Breuer addition. It offers a lesson worth learning about preserving a 20th-century treasure whose style, temporarily, is out of fashion. By Steven Litt -- Marcel Breuer (1971); Kohn Pedersen Fox/Robert P. Madison International; Rafael Vidory; Davis Brody Bond- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Controversial architect says only the Scots truly appreciate her fresh angle on design: Zaha Hadid...has never had a design completed in Britain, but two of her designs are about to come to fruition in Scotland...Maggie's Centre [and] the Glasgow Transport Museum.- The Scotsman (UK)

Vast Orange County project no walk in the park: Great Park expectations cause problems...In the moments before a group led by Ken Smith presented its preliminary master plan, Enrique Norteon, was hardly taking pains to hide a sense of sharp pessimism about what he's been able to contribute so far. By Christopher Hawthorne -- TEN Arquitectos: Mia Lehrer; Mary Miss; Stephen Handel [images]- Los Angeles Times

Great Park to be 'A living laboratory':...far more than a mix of wilderness areas, sports fields, museums, schools, shops, farms and houses, going to be a great social and cultural experiment. -- Ken Smith; Steven N. Handel; Mia Lehrer + Associates: Mary Miss; Enrique Norteon/TEN Arquitectos [images], links- Orange County Register (California)

Fielding dreams: Competing bids for a 32-acre park near downtown [Los Angeles] are all over the map. But perhaps even more important than the proposals...the event Saturday
offered a reminder of how dramatically a single design competition, if well organized, can elevate the level of discussion about planning and urbanism in Los Angeles. By Christopher Hawthorne – Mia Lehrer+Associates; Hargreaves Associates; Field Operations/Thom Mayne [images] Los Angeles Times

Park Design Finalists Draw Cornfield With Bold Strokes: One calls for moving Dodger Stadium and others include theaters and bridges...it's fair to say that none of the designs could be classified as meek. -- Mia Lehrer+Associates; Hargreaves Associates; Field Operations/Thom Mayne [images] Los Angeles Times

Design/Build in the Dominican Republic: intensive 17 day class will lead architecture students through a dynamic, collaborative design/build process for an innovative community project in a unique tropical environment (January 3-20, 2007); registration deadline: November 15 Yestermorrow Design/Build School

North Carolina Museum of Art Expansion: Skylights and garden galleries create a firmly grounded museum expansion that sits softly on the land. -- homas Phifer and Partners; Peter Walker and Partners [images] ArchNewsNow