Today's News - November 2, 2006

Study shows arts + civic engagement = healthy communities. -- Hadid waxes poetic about her Maggie's Centre (and is tired of being called a diva). -- L.A.'s Griffith Observatory is ready for its close-up, and thumbs are (mostly) up. -- A sky dome in Oklahoma to help architects design more energy-efficient buildings. -- Gough has no small plans to transform a small post-pastoral center in the UK. -- Brussat is brutal to so-called modernists. -- Oourousoff on the Whitney's identity crisis. -- A "stunning" addition to a Seattle branch library deserves better than what it's attached to. -- Did the government short-change architects on Brisbane's new Gallery of Modern Art - and some other projects? -- Don't bug Eisensman about architecture when he's watching a Cardinals game in their new stadium. -- A Central Park in store for Hollywood Freeway? -- Some of Tucson's bruised buildings with great bones are healed, others lost. -- "Massive Change" in

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NEA Releases Study on The Arts and Civic Engagement: Large population survey is first to find links between arts participation and community health [link to full report]- National Endowment for the Arts (U.S.)

Design for life: Zaha Hadid is the most famous woman in her profession - and thus the most scrutinised. We may not have caught up with Hadid so far, but - with two new buildings in Scotland - at least we'll have the chance to meet her on her way.- The Scotsman (UK)

In black and light: The latest [Maggie's Centre] is this little oem of a pavilion, as intricate as an origami paper cut made in cement. -- Zaha Hadid- The Scotsman (UK)

Griffith Observatory's restoration is out of sight... new underground spaces are for the most part more serviceable than inspiring, never matching the expansive spirit and compact elegance of the original building. By Christopher Hawthorne -- John C. Austin/Frederick M. Ashley (1935); Pfeiffer Partners; Levin & Associates Architects; C&G Partners [slide show, links]- Los Angeles Times

The heavens open up to L.A. again: After five years and $93 million, the renovated Griffith Observatory is ready to take its visitors to the stars -- and far beyond. "the hood ornament of Los Angeles." By Christopher Reynolds -- John C. Austin/Frederick M. Ashley (1935); Pfeiffer Partners; Levin & Associates Architects; C&G Partners [slide show, links]- Los Angeles Times

A Human-Centered Cosmos in Domes to the Stars: ...Griffith Observatory...reconstruction is most remarkable not for what has changed, but for what has stayed the same. And that is a radical approach in the world of science exhibitions... -- Pfeiffer Partners; Levin & Associates Architects; C&G Partners [images]- New York Times

Professors develop sky dome: ...gives architects the ability to design more energy-efficient buildings because they are able to more precisely predict illumination levels inside buildings before these buildings are built- The Daily O'Collegian (Oklahoma State University)

Leading architect sets out his aims: Flamboyant Piers Gough says he is "not interested in a question of symmetry: Douglass-Truth branch library expansion...is so alien to the mood and language of its mate that it belongs to a different universe...By itself, the addition is striking. -- By Lawrence W. Cheek -- W. Marbury Somervell and Harlan Thomas (1914); Schacht Aslani Architects- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Architects allege $1m fee shortfall: The opening of Brisbane's new Gallery of Modern Art could be overshadowed by a legal challenge from the architects, who say the State Government short-changed them... -- Architectus; Conrad Gargett Architecture; Donovan Hill/Peddle Thorpe- The Courier-Mail (Australia)

Prof. designed Cardinals' nest: "I'm a football fan. I don't want my football being buggered around with architecture." -- Peter Eisenman HOK Sport- Yale Daily News

Hollywood plots freeway coverup: Leaders push a plan to enclose half a mile of the roadway in a tunnel and place a greenbelt on top...Hollywood Central Park- Los Angeles Times

My Tucson: Though bruised, buildings with great bones can heal: Thanks to Modern Architecture Preservation Project (MAPP) advocacy - and enlightened decisions by both the city and county - two great buildings are being not only preserved, but also saved... -- William Englehart (1966); Blanton & Cole (1959)- Tucson Citizen

Waking up to Massive Change: An inspiring, if not sobering, look at the transformative power of design...exhibit at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art...exalts the visionary vanguard rethinking our world...mission is to make designers, or responsible change-agents, out of us all. -- Bruce Mau; William McDonough; Jaime Lerner- Conscious Choice
Chicago

-- Design Hotels: Park Hotel Tokyo, Shiodome Media Tower, Tokyo, Japan
-- René van Zuuk Architekten: Art Pavilion, The Imagination, Zeewolde, The Netherlands

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