Today's News - December 1, 2006

Gerkan's win against German railroad sets "a spectacular precedent" regarding architect's intellectual property rights. – Tampa selects Saitowitz for new museum. – Churning changes in New York's museum world. – Ikea launches affordable prefab homes in U.K. – King is (mostly) positive about restored piers on San Francisco's Embarcadaro, but "they also leave us wanting more." – Mayne responds to Kaplan critique of Comfield Park proposal (typos and all). – Libeskind in Israel. – Heatherwick's making magic in Britain (just check out the slide show!). – The double-edged sword that is China's building boom. – Corbu's final project (finally finished in Firminy. – Duke University's new healing environment. – The 7 characteristics of therapeutic landscapes. – Weekend diversions: Contemporary Japanese Architecture 1996-2006 and Toy Ito in Tokyo. – Green architecture in Germany goes on world tour. – Who could resist two Manhattan shows of Saul Steinberg's views of the world? – A movie about an architect starts off as a "potentially enlightening exploration of urban development" - but misses the mark.

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The bellyache of an architect: The Berlin District Court has ruled that Deutsche Bahn must rebuild whole sections of the new Hauptbahnhof according to the architect's plans, setting a spectacular precedent...about...the extent to which the architect's intellectual property rights hold up against the building owner. — Winkens Architects; Meinhard von Gerkan/Gerkan, Marg and Partners [images]- Sign and Sight (Germany)

Tampa Museum of Art trustees hire an architect: The choice is expected to bring a modernist approach and an "edgy and seminal" design...chose Stanley Saitowitz..."He'll provide a building that will make us forget about the Vinoly." -- Charles Rose Architects; Robert A.M. Stern- St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

Whitney Plans Village Branch; Dia Dithers; MoMA Grows: This churning has to do with three trends that are forcing museums to make extraordinary, difficult bets on the future... The Whitney has a credibility problem, however. By James S. Russell — Breuer (1966); Michael Graves (1985); Rem Koolhaas (2001); Renzo Piano; Yoshio Taniguchi-Bloomberg News

<u>Ikea launches flatpack homes in Britain: ...BoKloks...a solution to Britain's lack of affordable housing....will be developed here under licence by Live Smart @ Home, part of the affordable housing provider, Home Group. [image, link]- Guardian (UK)</u>

Restored piers pay tribute to past: Project fills in forlorn Embarcadero stretch...But the costs of transforming the forlorn patches that remain can be as daunting as the development restrictions that have been imposed over the years. By John King — Tom Eliot Fisch; Page & Turnbull [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

'Don't be afraid 2 think BIG, evolve': 'thOm' Mayne Responds to Critique of His Proposal to Move Dodger Stadium... You may disagree with use of capitalization or his team's submission in the Comfield competition, but you have to respect his passion and concern for L.A. By Sam Hall Kaplan -- Morphosis/Field Operations; Hargreaves Associates/Michael Maltzan/Katherine Spitz; Mia Lehrer + Associates- LA Downtown News

The designer of Ground Zero to build in Israel: Wohl Center is Daniel Libeskind's first project in Israel but will probably not be the last.- Jerusalem Post

The man who can't help making magic: Thomas Heatherwick's feverish imagination has made him Britain's most exciting designer...creations are certainly eccentric, but they never stray from his central belief that good design should be "readable rather than impenetrable" [slide show]- Telegraph (UK)

MIT architech says China cities hard to live in: The blistering speed of development and construction in China is a double-edged sword... -- Yung Ho Chang- Reuters

A Concrete Testament: Le Corbusier's Final Project: ...a spectacular concrete church in the small French town of Firminy, was never completed. Now, more than 40 years after his death, Sainte Pierre is finally being opened to the public. [images]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

<u>Duke University's Integrative Medicine Center joins 'healing environment' trend -- Duda/Paine Architects (AP)</u>- News & Observer (North Carolina)

Hospital gardens help patients heal: Well-planned spaces aid strength, mobility and mental skills...7 characteristics of therapeutic landscapes... By Mark Epstein/ESA Adolfson- Seattle Daily Journal

"Parallel NIPPON: Contemporary Japanese Architecture 1996-2006" at Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography...exhibition is contrast, the juxtaposition of thematic pairs: expanding metropolises and shrinking local communities... By Thomas Daniell -- Shin Takamatsu; Riken Yamamoto; SANAA; Yoshio Taniguchi; Jun Tamaki; Yoshio Taniguchi; Shigeru Ban; Jon Jerde; Tadao Ando; Atelier Bow-wow; Mikan; C+A [images]-Artscape (Japan)

"Toyo Ito: The 'New Real' in Architecture" at the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery...is a stunning show that has been executed with rigor and verve. [images]- Japan Times

The 'ICEAlity' of Sustainable Building is Natural for some Architects: "Made in Germany: Architecture & Ecology" just began a world tour... – Werner Sobek; Casa; International Center for Environmental Arts (ICEA)- openPR

The World, and the City, According to Steinberg: The shows at both the Morgan Library and the Museum of the City of New York confirm Saul Steinberg's status as the veritable Leonardo of graphic drollery. [slide show]- New York Times

Malaise in the Projects, and Elsewhere: ... "The Architect" deteriorates from a potentially

enlightening exploration of urban development and class conflicta successful architect
whose smug sense of civic virtue is challengedHis pride stung, he insists that the
problems of Eden Court can be solved through redesign New York Times

OMA/Rem Koolhaas: Seoul National University Museum, Seoul, South Korea

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