Today's News - December 18, 2006

ArcSpace brings us SANAA in Japan, a detailed exhibition of the New York Times HQ in NYC, and TEN Arquitectos on home ground in Mexico City. -- Toronto issues another RFQ for another portion of its waterfront. -- It looks like London will launch design competitions for 2012 Olympics after all. -- Citizens in Moscow and Shenzhen push back when pushed to get out. -- A Toronto exhibition offers a concise and compelling display of China's urban revolution. -- If Brighton rejects Gehry, other cities will question our sanity. -- Those who reject RMJM in St. Petersburg "are living in the past." -- A Houston artist creates a bold experiment in community building (literally and figuratively). -- Glancey calls for new buildings to be "part of a much wider, wilder world." -- King explores 3 libraries "shaped by the aspirations of each city." -- Rudolph's Michelesse house in Connecticut faces the wrecking ball. -- Campbell cheers home team design winners. -- Two Boston architects are "an odd choice" to create a 9/11 memorial. -- Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial takes AIA 25 Year Award. -- Kamin, Hawthorne, and BusinessWeek tally up the best of 2006.

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-- Exhibition: New York Times Building (Renzo Piano Building Workshop/FXFowle Architects), Center for Architecture, New York City
-- TEN Arquitectos: Taller de Enrique Norten Arquitectos: National School of Theater, Mexico City

Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Innovative Design Competition for Toronto's Lower Don Lands; deadline: January 24, 2007 - Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation

Jowell rejects architects' fears...that the London 2012 Olympics will be the "Tarmac and plasterboard" games...Olympic Delivery Authority has been asked to come up with design competitions that will open up the games to national and international talent. - Guardian (UK)

Engels Would Gasp, and Locals Gripe, at a Golden Mile: ...protesting its transformation into a hotbed of luxury housing... "Khilkov 3 is "The Cherry Orchard 2"...Chekhov's play about — what else — money, real estate and one class squeezing out another. - New York Times

In Chinese Boomtown, Middle Class Pushes Back: The city of Shenzhen looks like a preview of the limitations of the kind of growth-above-all approach that has gripped China. -- Interhouse - New York Times

Lessons on city-building from China: "Detours: Tactical Approaches to Urbanization in China" displays urban revolution...a concise but compelling glimpse into what's happening now in that remarkable nation. By Christopher Hume -- Adrian Blackwell; Pei Zhao; Ma Qinjun/Mada; Urbanus; Atelier 3 - Toronto Star

Why shouldn't Gehry be allowed to Brighton up the neighbourhood? The trendy love it, but many Hove locals feel a renowned architect's new scheme for its Regency seafront is too big and bold. - Guardian (UK)

"Critics of RMJM are living in the past": In terms of controversy [Gazprom Tower in St Petersburg] is a mighty project that could come to exceed even the Scottish Parliament project...Tony Kettle says that all that negative energy can be turned to the benefit of the project, inspiring him to seek improvements. - The Scotsman (UK)

In Houston, Art Is Where the Home Is: The nation's most impressive public art project is also a bold experiment in how to build communities...Rick Lowe decided to think afresh what it meant to be a truly political artist, and to make predominantly black Third Ward his canvas... "You don't have to make houses the way people always have." - New York Times

Bats in the belfry: Modern buildings - even 'green' ones - are built to keep wildlife out. It's time we opened our doors to animals. By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

3 New Icons of Community Pride: Libraries designed to reflect civic priorities in Belmont, Hercules and San Mateo...seem seem shaped by the aspirations of each city... By John King -- Will Bruder/HGA; EHDD Architecture; Field Paoli [slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle

Plan to Raze Home Prompts Belated Outcry: In this stylish town where residents are waging what seems to be an all-out campaign to bolster its colonial image...many people are horrified that a Modernist home designed by a renowned architect is about to be razed. -- Paul Rudolph [images] - New York Times

Boston's talent scores a triple: Three local designers win major awards. Architecture is healthy in Boston. By Robert Campbell -- Leers Weinzapfel; Edward Larrabee Barnes; Mack Scogin Merrill Elam - Boston Globe

Reaching for the Sky: Architect Keith Moskov loves fanciful ideas and playful concepts. That may make him seem an odd choice to create, with partner Robert Link, a most solemn work: the 9/11 memorial at Logan. But their design says otherwise. -- Moscow Architects - Boston Globe

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Receives AIA Twenty-five Year Award. -- Maya Lin [images] - AIArchitect
The Best of 2006: Show and tall: Green design, modernism soared: Local events, talents enhance city's global cache. By Blair Kamin -- Norman Foster; Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Sejima/Nishizawa/SANAA; Joe Valerio/Valerio Dewalt Train; Jeanne Gang; John Ronan; Bruce Mau; T. Gunny Harboe/Austin AECOM; HOK Sport/John Vinci; Jane Jacobs - Chicago Tribune

Best of 2006: ...a year for stunning stand-alone buildings...a number of developments...kept cropping up to remind us that architects have a long way to go. landscape architecture held onto its position as the most vital of the design disciplines. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Ken Smith/Enrique Norten; Nouvel; SANAA; Hitoshi Abe; Qingyun Ma; Richard Burdett; Thom Mayne/Field Operations; Hargreaves/Maltzan; Pfeiffer Partners/Brenda Levin; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Polshek Partnership - Los Angeles Times

Wonders of the World: The Buildings of 2006: The major trend of the year, seen in everything from houses to skyscrapers: Environmentally benign design. --William McDonough; Paolo Soleri; Wilkinson Eyre; Foster & Partners; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Ray Kappe; Richard Rogers; Mayne/Morphosis; Single Speed Design; HOK Sport; Rafael Vinoly [slide show] - BusinessWeek

Design Team Selected for Rutgers Grand Redesign Plans: Green spaces and connecting the campus to the river will create places as much for the community as the campus -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos; Wallace, Roberts & Todd Design [images] - ArchNewsNow

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