Today's News - December 20, 2006

We lose a member of a global triumvirate. -- Ideas for making urban housing more affordable (we hope not only for New Urbanists). -- Canary Warf goes carbon-conscious. -- Canadian study shows more roads don't necessarily mean more traffic. -- An American planning expert reviews London's congestion pricing. -- London office buildings transformed for living (and still a way around providing required affordable units). -- Hockenberry finds a miracle in troubled Chicago neighborhood. -- Pearman plays in the "Victorian-ness" of the V&A's Museum of Childhood. -- Guyana gets its very first escalators in a mall (where else?). -- L.A.'s Persian Palaces: the architecture the city "currently loves to hate." -- Four architects discuss "America's architect." -- Call for entries: 2007 Next Generation Award (UK only).

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Obituary: Sheldon Fox, 76, part of the founding triumvirate of Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF) - New York Times

How to make urban housing more affordable: Here are ideas new urbanists can use to offset high housing prices and economic segregation. By Stephen Mouzon - New Urban News

Boston ready to go green: Private developers face 1st-in-nation rules for buildings...50,000 square feet or more...standards pointedly do not require the buildings be certified under the green building rating system...will be almost the same as the LEED list - Boston Globe

Green homes at Canary Wharf: If you want to get a massive housing development past the planners these days, you've got to ensure your scheme is carbon-conscious. -- Squire and Partners [links] - The Times (UK)

Do more roads mean more traffic? Not necessarily: The Conference Board research shows that building roads and highways at a rate that matches the growth in the driving-age population does not significantly increase road usage by motorists. - Canada NewsWire (CNW)

A First-Hand Report On London's Congestion Pricing: John Landis, Chair of the City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, provides a fascinating review of London's congestion charging program [link to full report] - PLANetizen

Good day at the office: Demand is so high in central London that workplaces are being converted into upmarket homes...There is just one small hitch...if a site consists of more than 10 units...then Ken Livingstone...will expect up to 50% of them to be given over to "affordable housing". -- Richard Rogers Partnership; Candy & Candy - The Times (UK)

Miracle on 72nd Street: Gary Comer and John Ronan create a stunning citadel of hope on Chicago’s troubled South Side. By John Hockenberry [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Ornament revived: Caruso St. John's Museum of Childhood: It is a story of Victorian technical ingenuity, and it is still being played out, because now the building has acquired a new front extension which plays with the whole idea of Victorian-ness, as done by some of the smartest architects in the business...By Hugh Pearman [images, links] - HughPearman.com (UK)

City Mall formally opened: ...long awaited mall...described as marvellous in structure and crowned with a skylight ceiling...features the very first pair of escalator stairs, something Guyana has been waiting for..."if we are going to talk about eco-tourism we have to start with our architecture" - Stabroek News (Guyana)

In Defense of the Persian Palace: They're ostentatious and ridiculous and blot out their neighbors' sun. They're also open to light and the street, and expressive of an inviting, sociable culture...the architecture that Los Angeles, the city that loves and hates architecture, currently loves to hate. -- Hamid Gabbay; Hamid Omrani [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

America's architect: Even today, Frank Lloyd Wright stirs debate among designers about his style and vision...four architects...talk about individual objects; Wright's philosophy, personality and impact... -- Mary Beth Branham/S3P Associates; Tom Savory/Watson Tate and Savory Architects; Trudie Siebels and Doug Quackenbush - The State (South Carolina)

Call for entries: 2007 Next Generation Award; deadline: January 17, 2007 (UK only) - The Architecture Foundation (UK)

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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