Today’s News - February 16, 2007

Seattle mayor is hopeful as "more than 400 US mayors are committed to curbing emissions - something the White House has so far refused to do." -- Unused oil equipment on the Gulf Coast is set to be recycled into the first U.S. offshore wind farm. -- The Russian "paper architect" gets his first building on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi. -- Young Scottish firm wins in Ireland. -- Saffron is mostly pleased with "dignified design" for new museum bordering Philadelphia's Independence Mall -- except that it's lacking a door facing the mall. -- A new tower for a "dismal little parking lot" in the heart of Toronto; too bad city fathers still suffer fear of heights and shadows. -- As Canada's Heritage Day approaches, Boddy bemoans a disconnect between sustainability experts and preservationists. -- Foster + Partners massive expansion plan: what will it mean for the man and the firm? -- Call for entries: London 2012 launches competition for cycling venue. -- Goldhagen finds "the sprawling, glittering disaster that is "Skin + Bones" is an important exhibition waiting to be curated." "Skin + Bones" is an important exhibition waiting to be curated" (though she also says it's "a lovely show").

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Viewpoint: Climate of hope: US cities lead the way. By Seattle mayor Greg Nickels - BBC News

Inherit the Wind: The Gulf Coast is littered with the carcasses of unused oil equipment. Now those structures are being repurposed to build the first offshore wind farm in the United States. Think of it as recycling on a grand scale. - Wired

Dream in the Desert: Yury Avvakumov, leader of the so-called "paper architects," is finally commissioned to design a real building...for Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi... -- Andrei Savin/Art-Blya studios [images] - Moscow Times (Russia)

Scottish firm NORD Architecture wins New Headquarters for Wexford County Council Architectural Competition -- Northern Office for Research and Design [images] - Archiseek (Ireland)

Museum design not welcoming: National Museum of American Jewish History...has, thankfully, adopted a dignified modernist style that avoids the colonial cliches that plague the historic area...So I am sorry to report that there is a big "But" coming...By Inga Saffron -- Polshek Partnership [images] - Philadelphia Inquirer

Will 66 Temperance Street finally get its jewel? ...new Sapphire Tower will rise 62 storeys...official Toronto must get over its fear of heights. But just as urgently, it should get past its anxiety about shadows. By John Bentley Mays -- Turner Fleischer Architects - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Heritage Day: A day to celebrate, or commiserate: ...our sustainability experts need to realize -- as preservationists have long known...it will be support for cultural sustainability that saves historic places -- measured more in emotional energy than conserved kilowatts. By Trevor Boddy - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Is Foster on the eve of dominance or decline: Britain's greatest architectural practice is planning a massive expansion. But what does it mean for the man who founded the business, the global brand and, of course, the buildings? -- Foster + Partners - Building (UK)

Cycle venue design set in motion: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has opened the competition to design an innovative VeloPark for London 2012 Cycling events. - London 2012

Project Runway: "Skin + Bones: Parallel Practices in Fashion and Architecture" too often conflates the good with the bad and the ill-advised. Flashes of superb buildings...are side by side with projects that are just plain silly or bad. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen -- Tsao & McKown [images] - The New Republic

In Their Own Words: Abu Dhabi Cultural District: How Gehry, Hadid, Nouvel, and Ando envision their cultural venues on Saadiyat Island [images] - ArchNewsNow