Today's News - February 26, 2007

ArcSpace brings us Swiss stars doing triangles in Barcelona. -- An environmental report card for American cities (some surprises, too). -- Nobel takes on the global "lust for height." -- Gazprom's "corncob or carbuncle" is nouveau riche "in the worst way possible." -- King finds Mayne's San Francisco federal building "bravado with an imaginative social conscience." (lots of pix, too). -- A colorful Alsop to adorn Salford skyline. -- Foster teams up with GGLO for a much needed civic plaza for Seattle. -- A Manchester housing estate "has taken to a new level the attention-seeking architecture and rhetoric and branding of modern urban regeneration." -- "Beautifully designed," affordable housing in Minneapolis a step in reclaiming a neighborhood. -- Recyclable cardboard tents for festivals and other uses. -- Saffron on architecture moving into the branding business. -- Glancey on supercasinos: bring on the kitsch instead of pretending they're "decent, worthy elements in the regeneration of our cities." -- Foster does green luxury in Italy for those who "want to be environmentally conscious without too much sacrifice." -- St. Louis airport getting a much needed makeover. -- A riverfront resort in the Ozarks. -- New ways to park cars (inspired by bakery trays). -- Awards for Top 10 Indonesian firms.


Lust for Height: The terrorist attacks of 9/11 seem to have whetted the global appetite to build taller and taller. Coming soon: the fulfillment of Frank Lloyd Wright's dream of a mile-high building. By Philip Nobel -- Council on Tall Buildings; Norman Foster; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture; Kohn Pedersen Fox; Renzo Piano -- The American magazine

Towering Expectations: S.F.'s new federal building challenges ideas of what a government high-rise should look like -- its humane design is green, dazzling...Like it or not, this is architecture at its provocative best. By John King -- Thom Mayne/Morphosis; Smith Group -- San Francisco Chronicle

Bravo to 'Bravissimo': Salford's skyline will soon be brightened by a huge £40 million tower block...will feature a multi-coloured facade. -- Will Alsop [image] - Salford Advertiser (UK)

Tower, public plaza planned near City Hall: "The new Civic Plaza will bring new homes, new jobs and a much needed public gathering place to our downtown." -- Foster + Partners; GGLO; Atelier Dreiseitl -- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

The estate we're in: When a crime-ridden area of Manchester was rebranded 'New Islington', everybody laughed...has taken to a new level the attention-seeking architecture and rhetoric and branding of modern urban regeneration. -- Urban Splash; Will Alsop [links] - Guardian (UK)

An elegant new residence: Beautifully designed, inside and out, the Jourdain is helping transform an inner-city neighborhood...takes reclamation one step further. In addition to the 24 units of affordable housing, it has 17 units renting for market rates. By Linda Mack - Cuningham Group; UrbanWorks Architecture - Minneapolis Star Tribune

Cardboard tents: a triumph of green entrepreneurship: The first Myhabs should be seen in trials at festivals this summer...could have other uses, such as for disaster relief and housing for the London Olympics. -- James Dunlop-- Independent (UK)

Realty company's new digs befit builder of Cira Centre: ...advertising and marketing might have been the means of choice to express that corporate identity. But increasingly we're seeing architecture moving into the communications and branding business. By Inga Saffron -- Cesar Pelli; Kling Stubbins -- Philadelphia Inquirer

Putting on the kitsch: Manchester's proposed supercasino is polite, tasteful and worthy. Give it a rest. What it needs is glitter, gold, waxworks and robotic fish. By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

Green Living: A new luxury apartment complex [Santa Giulia] in Milan is aimed at buyers who want to be environmentally conscious without too much sacrifice. -- Norman Foster [image] - Newsweek

Face-lift for Lambert Field: The biggest renovation in the airport's history...will overhaul just about everything at the Main Terminal, from road signs to window panes. -- David Mason and Associates, HOK -- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Riva D'Lago launches luxury resort plan: ...a multi-million dollar world-class resort and residential complex...on a 19-acre parcel of land at the 19-mile marker on Shawnee Bend. -- Loebl Schlossman and Hackt [image] - Lake Sun Leader (Missouri)

Parking as a Destination: Innovative approaches to parking that operate like automotive warehouses are gaining popularity in space-starved cities around the world. -- Moskow Architects; Annabelle Selldorf; Smart Cities/Media Lab [slide show] -- New York Times

BCI Asia Bestows Awards to the 10 Most Active Architectural Firms in Indonesia --