Today's News - March 21, 2007

The green line between Chicago and San Francisco a model for other cities (if it gets beyond demonstration projects). – A look at the future of L.A.'s new urbanist community that was new urbanism long before it was an "ism." – Japanese architects lead the way in small spaces for urban density. – Hawthorne finds Mayne's federal building a "measuring stick" that dramatizes the "clash between architectural creativity and the basics of sustainable design." – A call to "one of the great errors in the history of American city planning: the post-war binge of urban freeway building" (and where they're doing it). – Grand Canyon Skywalk opens - but will it really help an impoverished tribe and stand (literally) the test of time? – An impressive team for 2007 Serpentine Gallery Pavilion. – An enlightening Q&A with Martha Schwartz (remember her Harvard too-woo?). – Seidler still making his mark. – Call for papers: Nexus 2008 conference for architecture and mathematics. – New books: a penetrating study of Kahn; and NorCalMod finally gets its due.

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The green line: It's Chicago to San Francisco: ...unlikely collaboration can be an outstanding model for other major U.S. cities if [Mayors] Newsom and Daley challenge each other to push beyond visible demonstration projects toward deeper systemic change, - Chicago Tribune

A Glimpse of a More Vertical Los Angeles: Long before "the new urbanism" became a tired phrase, Playa Vista...was envisioned as a place where people could live, work, shop and play without leaving their neighborhood. - New York Times

Shrinking to Fit the Interstices: Urban density makes sustainable cities possible...The Japanese lead the way in proving the benefits of small spaces. -- Satoshi Kurosaki/Apollo Architects; Atelier Bow Wow; Commdesign [images, links] - WorldChanging

Green clashes with design in San Francisco tower: ...most fascinating, by far, as a measuring stick for green architecture. It shows what happens when a celebrated American architect is compelled...to embrace sustainability. And it dramatizes a clash between the prerogatives of architectural creativity and the basics of sustainable design... By Christopher Hawthorne – Mayne/Morphosis- Los Angeles Times

Op-Ed: Removing Urban Freeways: As part of our effort to slow global warming, we should be correcting one of the great errors in the history of American city planning: the post-war binge of urban freeway building. By Charles Siegel - PLANetizen

Tribe pins economic future on Grand Canyon attraction:... Tuesday's VIP opening of the highly anticipated Skywalk...The goal: to attract more tourists to boost the economy of the impoverished Hualapai tribe. – Mark Johnson/ MRJ Architects [slide show] - Arizona Republic

Tourist Skywalk not so grand: ...being touted as an engineering marvel, but we're among those who are suspicious that the contraption will stand the test of time. -- Mark Johnson/ MRJ Architects - Denver Post

Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007 Design by Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil ThorsnSnæhetta, with Arup - Londonlaunch (UK)

Martha Schwartz: Landscapes of Awareness - Archinect

Seidler keeps making his mark: ...has spawned a local stylistic genre bigger than the man. - The Australian

Call for papers: Nexus 2008 conference for architecture and mathematics, San Diego June '08; deadline for abstracts: March 30. - Nexus Network Journal

Book review: Behind the Intensity Of Louis Kahn: "Louis I. Kahn" by Carter Wiseman...a balanced and penetrating study of Kahn both as an architect and as a man. By James Ganttce - New York Sun

Book review: More than merely 'regional'; "NorCalMod"by Pierluigi Serraino seeks to give the Bay Area's modern architects their rightful place in the movement's pantheon -- Donald Olsen; Beverly "David" Thomp, Mario Corbett; Harwell Hamilton Harris - San Francisco Chronicle

Sacred Simplicity: Park East Synagogue, Pepper Pike, Ohio: Age-old materials and a straightforward design fulfill a growing congregation's vision of a sacred place. -- Centerbrook Architects and Planners [images] - ArchNewsNow

-- Mecanoo architects: La Llotja Theatre and Congress Center, Lleida, Spain
-- Michael Maltzan Architecture: Rainbow Apartments, Skid Row Housing, Los Angeles

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