Today’s News - Thursday, June 21, 2007

We lose a master structural engineer. – Modern architecture: a “new endangered species.” – Hume on Toronto’s cultural renaissance: “creativity has yet to be fully understood at the civic level.” – Gehry’s AGO for reasons you wouldn’t expect. – British developers face squeeze over green standards. – Kaplicky’s Czech library wins U.K. award, while IUA rules design won competition fair and square. – Young Prague firm shares the secret to its success. – Q&A with David Rockwell. – All is now right with Wright school. – Impressive shortlist for Prime Minister’s Better Public Building Award. – Pearman not at all impressed with “How we built Britain.” – Coming up: Podcast explores how a New Orleans neighborhood plans to become the nation’s first zero carbon community. – Coastal symposium in Barcelona. – Archidex in Kuala Lumpur. – How could we resist: Badgers win their 5th “America’s Cup of civil engineering.” – Editor’s note: we’re happy to hear our favorite critic at Newsday, Justin Davidson, is moving to New York magazine as architecture and music critic.

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Obituary: William LeMessurier, 81, Structural Engineer... who became a hero to other structural engineers when he detected and repaired a potentially catastrophic flaw in the Citicorp building in Manhattan... - New York Times

A new endangered species: Modern architecture. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library is at the center of a debate on whether such buildings are worth saving... costly to maintain and... more costly to retrofit with green technology. – Mies van der Rohe; Paul Rudolph; Marcel Breuer; Kallman, McKinnell and Knowles- Christian Science Monitor

The impressive new buildings are only a beginning: Toronto’s Cultural Renaissance is well underway... will it lead to a second wave of cultural works that will bring new depth to the arts in Toronto? By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Gehry’s AGO will dazzle for the right reasons:... return to Toronto also marks his return to architecture. ...Though he has made no secret of his exasperation with Toronto conservatism, perhaps it turned out a blessing in disguise. ...Its subtlety and quiet perfection mark it as a minor masterpiece. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Developers face squeeze over green standards... may have to accord lower margins, as they will probably be unable to pass on the higher cost of meeting environmental construction standards- Building (UK)

Kaplicky’s library design wins award at A. J. Bovis Award British Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition... Czech architecture studios complained... about an alleged failure... to meet the library’s competition conditions... IUA [International Union of Architects] said the competition was correct and confirmed Kaplicky as the winner. – Future Systems- Prague Daily Monitor

From drinking buddies to architecture partners: Prague’s 4a architekti shares the secret to its success- The Prague Post

Q&A: David Rockwell: “I think I’m in the post-tomato phase of my life.”- Express (Washington, DC)

Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture in Scottsdale regains full accreditation for its bachelor’s and master’s degree programs- Arizona Republic

Shortlist for the 2007 Prime Minister’s Better Public Buildings Award Announced: What these 18 outstanding projects show is that the best public building is now at the cutting edge of sustainable design. – DSDHA; White Design; Feilden Clegg Bradley; Penoyre & Prasad; WHAT architecture; Pringle Richards Sharratt; Allies and Morrison; RyderHKS; etc. [images] – CABE [Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, UK]

Book review: Smooth drivetime architecture: what’s wrong with “How we built Britain” by David Dimbleby... He writes fluently, if a little stiffly... if you seek insight, look elsewhere. By Hugh Pearman- HughPearman.com (UK)

A Perfect Storm: How one New Orleans neighborhood [Holy Cross] is struggling to rebuild – and become the nation’s first zero carbon community... first North American webcast to focus on sustainable rebuilding efforts: Thursday, June 28, 2 to 4 pm (CST) – Bob Berkebile/BNIM Architects; Charles Allen III/Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research; Dave Macaulay-zerocarbonNOLA.org

Intelligent Coast International Symposium: "Tourism XXL. The European Megalopolis"; CCCB /Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona July 19-21- Intelligent Coast

Archidex 07: 8th Malaysia Architecture, Interior Design and Building Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur July 5-8- Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM)

Engineering Students from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Win 20th Annual National Concrete Canoe Competition in Seattle... the “America’s Cup of Civil Engineering”- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
Stopover in Beijing: The "egg," the "twisted doughnut," the "watercube," the "bird's nest," and many other construction sites are buzzing with workers to be ready for the 2008 Olympics. — Pei, Scheeren/OMA; PTW, Herzog & de Meuron; Holl; Lab Architecture Studio; Andreu