Today’s News - Tuesday, November 6, 2007

In 25 years, will current museum building binge seem brilliant or foolish? -- Harvard opts for museum renovation instead of new building. -- Chipperfield tapped by another U.S. museum. -- New Uris Center at the Met Museum makes one “happy to be there.” -- The stars turned out for Yale conference to debate modern vs. traditional in religious design. -- New Orleans post-Katrina styles: Strom, Defensive, Defiant, and Do Good. -- U.K. university to investigate how architecture can bring divided cities together. -- In Russia, a new center for autistic children is “an oasis of individuality and exuberance” and a “turning point for post-Soviet Russian architecture” (and pix to prove it!). -- Green roof atop Academy of Sciences “transcends the division between nature and culture.” -- MIT’s Stata Center causing Gehry static. -- New Yorkers have some game ideas to tame traffic. -- Portland’s decades-old bike culture is building a cycling economy. -- A humble ranch raised to new architectural heights. -- Campbell on America’s first starchitect. Calls for entries (and big cash prizes): a new Estonian Academy of Arts, and Bicentennial Towers for Mexico City.

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If You Build It, Will They Come? A decade of museum expansions around the world, from the Midwest to the Middle East, from Chicago to China, calls into question the “Bilbao Effect”. In 25 years, will this construction binge seem brilliant or foolish? -- Gehry; Piano, Herzog & de Meuron; Turrecht; Nouvel; Libeskind; Calatrava; Foster; Pelli; Graves - New York Sun

Harvard opts to renovate museums as Allston waits:...focusing instead on a complicated and expensive renovation of the existing Fogg and Busch-Reisinger museums in Cambridge. -- Renzo Piano - Boston Globe

St. Louis Art Museum unveils $125 million expansion plan: he boldest touch of the expansion is its modern style... -- Cass Gilbert (1904); David Chipperfield [image] - St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Making Something Out of Nothing: Uris Center...at the Metropolitan Museum of Art...deserves what may be the highest praise that one can pay to any architectural act: Quite simply, one is happy to be there. By John Gardner -- Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates - New York Sun

How We Design Houses Of Worship: Architects Debate The Traditional Vs. More Modern Approaches...three-day conference, "Architecture for Worship in the 21st Century." -- Robert A.M. Stern; Rafael Moneo; Zaha Hadid; Peter Eisenman; Duncan Stroik; Doo Dickinson; Michael J. Crobsie [slide show] - Hartford Courant (Connecticut)

Rebuilding New Orleans, Post-Katrina Style: Now emerging is what could be called a posthurricane vernacular, wide-ranging architectural responses to what everyone here refers to simply as the Storm. There is also the Defiant style...And then there is the Do Good style... -- Edward J. Blakely; Steven Bingler; Eskew & Dumer & Ripple [slide show] - New York Times

Can architecture bring divided cities together? An investigation into how the design of buildings and neighbourhoods can steer cities away from violent division, will look at a range of issues affecting Belfast, Beirut, Berlin and Amsterdam, including how they can improve their potential for "friendly environments". - University of Manchester (UK)

A Space of their Own: Autistic Children in Moscow Benefit from a Unique Facility...an oasis of individuality and exuberance...one of the turning points for post-Soviet Russian architecture. -- Andrei Chernikhov [images] - Russia Profile

Turf roof is a main attraction:...a place designed by intelligent creatures who have transcended the division between nature and culture...new Academy of Sciences...natural landscapes and the design imagination need not live apart...introduces the turf roof to San Franciscans as an architectural choice. By Carol Lloyd -- Renzo Piano; SWA Group; Rana Creek Living Architecture - San Francisco Chronicle

MIT sues Gehry, citing leaks in $300m complex: Blames famed architect for flaws at Stata Center - Boston Globe

Grrridlock: As Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg promotes congestion pricing to tame traffic, New Yorkers offer their own ideas for unangling the snarl. Plus, experts weigh in on the proposed solutions. - New York Times

In Portland, Cultivating a Culture of Two Wheels:...its bicycle-friendly culture and infrastructure, including the network of bike lanes that the city began planning in the early 1970s. Now, riders are helping the city build a cycling economy. [images] - New York Times

Lifting a High Ranch to New Heights: 34 years ago, the house was a typical high ranch. Now it reaches real architectural heights. By Fred A. Bernstein -- Matt Bremer/Architecture In Formation [images] - New York Times

Carving out a name for a master designer: Samuel McIntire was a man with an eye for the latest vogue...helped make him a star architect and interior designer, one of America’s first...Peabody Essex Museum show of the master designer’s work not as an
Call for entries: International competition to design new building for the Estonian Academy of Arts in Tallinn city centre; cash prizes total 2,450,000 Estonian kroons; deadline: February 28th, 2008- Estonian Academy of Arts

Call for entries: 10th Arquine International Architecture Competition: The Bicentennial Towers: two 100-story skyscrapers in Mexico City; cash prizes; registration deadline: December 31- Arquine magazine

Gehry Partners: Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park, Chicago