Today's News - Friday, January 4, 2008

A look at some of the world's grandest plans. -- Survey shows people still think building green is expensive. -- Tornado-ravaged Greensburg, Kansas, to rebuild a la LEED Platinum. -- Duany talks about the changing American lifestyle. -- Several takes on sustainability - of services and cities. -- Gigantic plan for Brisbane riverfront causes not a little outrage. -- And yet more on Foster's Crystal Island in Moscow. -- Hong Kong begins to mull preservation issues. -- Sad news to us: Bucky Dome demolished in Baton Rouge. -- On-again/off-again Birmingham Library competition is on again. -- Pearman hopes the sweet smell of success will bloom in Shakespeare's new Rose theater. -- King offers some "snappy updates" to headline-grabbing San Francisco projects (will We the People ever have access to new federal building?). -- "A monastic, no-star" hotel for Dublin (could be the start of a trend?). -- FOA gets thumbs-up for huge London scheme. -- A spec house offers "subversive design" underground. -- Kamin profiles Ronan. -- An appreciation for Sottsass. -- Weekend diversions: "Berlin/New York Dialogues" in NYC offers lessons for each. -- "Sustainable Healthcare Architecture" is a must-read even if you don't design hospitals.

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A World Full of Grand Plans: Despite the Credit Crunch, Large Cities Across the Globe Have Huge Projects on Tap...Most of them reflect the growing popularity of downtowns as places to live, shop and work. By Alex Frances-Wall Street Journal

High Perceived Cost of Green Persists, Says Survey: In spite of persistent claims to the contrary from green advocates, 86% of respondents believe that it costs more to build a green building—and not just by a little. - Environmental Building News/BuildingGreen.com

Greensburg, Kansas Becomes First City to Commit to LEED Platinum Green Building Certification: Landmark Resolution Passes to Rebuild Tornado-damaged City Buildings...making it the first city in the U.S. to pass such a resolution. -- BNIM Architects [links]- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)

How Green is Your Neighborhood? Andrés Duany...America's leader of the New Urbanism design movement, talks...about the modern American lifestyle, and how it might be changing soon. -- Duany Plater-Zybek/DPZ-Time magazine

The Everyday as Locus of Sustainment: What is so Sustainable about Services?: Congestion & Movement: Cities, Crowds & Chandigarh: Sustainable Mobility Services in Kolkata; etc. - Design Philosophy Papers/Team D/E/S (Australia)

Planners pour cold water on $1.7 billion project: ...Multiplex's proposed North Bank development...will transform central Brisbane...condemned by architects and urban planners, who insist it is an outrage anyone is even contemplating building a high-rise project that juts out about a third of the way across the city's river. -- The Australian

Moscow rises to Foster's space-age vision: City planners approve world's largest building...likened by critics to an alien spacecraft and a "dahlia stuck in a string bag"....£2bn "city within a city", Crystal Island... -- Foster + Partners [image]- Guardian (UK)

Demolition of historic Bucky Dome a stain on KCS [Kansas City Southern Railway]: One of Fuller's earliest successes was the dome he helped build in 1958 for Union Tank Car Co, in Baton Rouge. At the time, it was the largest dome in the world... -- Buckminster Fuller [image]- Kansas City Star

U-turn for Birmingham Library as council seeks international architect: The long-running saga has taken yet another twist, with news that Birmingham City Council (BCC) is now to press ahead with an international design competition for the £193 million facility. - The Architects' Journal (UK)

In the name of the Rose: rebuilding Shakespeare's other theatre: Purists may purse their lips over the accuracy or otherwise of the Rose Kingston, but in theatre it's not geometry that counts - it's feel. And this, remarkably, is its strongest suit. By Hugh Pearman -- BTH Architects [images]- HughPearman.com (UK)

How's it going? Updates on Bay Area's big building projects: Snappy updates to big stories...especially the ones that grab the headlines and then disappear. By John King -- Cesar Pelli; Mayne/Morphosis; Hartman/Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM)- San Francisco Chronicle

"Monastic no star" hotel for Vicar Street [Dublin]: ...will be "a homage to Corbusier and Eileen Gray" -- Grafton Architects- Irish Times

Foreign Office Architects [FOA] gets go-ahead for Trinity EC3: Developer Beetham wins planning permission for £700m mixed-use London scheme [image]- Building (UK)

Underground Architecture: Commissioned for a spec house, Chile's Felipe Assadi and
Francisca Pulido deliver a subversive design. -- Assadi & Pulido Architects [images]-
Metropolis Magazine

Architect's dream unfolds in his work: ...John Ronan really did dream of being an
architect when he was growing up...Now people are stopping to admire [his]
architecture. ...By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Appreciation: Ettore Sottsass: Running Hot and Cold: Peter Lang's summary of
Sottsass' radical approach to design.- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Cities in Construction: Two cultural hubs—New York and Berlin—are examined in the
Center for Architecture's most recent exhibit. "Berlin/New York Dialogues: Building in
Context" offers a critical assessment as to why cultural is socially and economically
necessary. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

Book review: "Sustainable Healthcare Architecture" by Robin Guenther, FAIA, LEED
AP, and Gail Vittori, LEED AP...a thoughtful and engaging presentation of forward
thinking health-care design destined to change the way we practice.- AIArchitect