Today's News - Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Study shows design and density are "key to maximizing affordable housing production." -- But what might it look like after the flood? -- A very interesting and insightful take on "suburbia's midlife crisis." -- Seemingly no crisis for Modernist sub-divisions seeking the "Sagaponac Effect." -- Eames' 1949 prototype home could hold some lessons. -- Safety-by-design strategy taking hold in L.A. -- Gehl's "grand project and a grand vision" for Sydney lacks some vital details (like who's going to pay for it?). -- Meanwhile, Farrelly fumes about the whittling away of the city's heritage system to where it's now considered an obstacle. -- A piece of L.A. heritage that was supposed to be temporary in 1969 is finally heading to the recycle bin. -- Dyckhoff on Dubai's architecture turning from tart to tasteful. -- CABE posts praise - and concerns re: some 2012 Olympic designs. -- Heathcote on this year's Serpentine Pavilion: "a carefully articulated mess" that will bring the "expressive theatricality of Gehry himself to London's poshest park." -- Guadalajara Guggenheim still on the ropes. -- Transportation everywhere: In the U.K., government halts public transport, but not putting enough effort into it. -- High-speed rail system could be on track for Southern California. -- Some big names being bandied about for LAX expansion. -- Guats gives thumbs-up to D.C.'s new Nationals stadium (but for those parking garages!). -- Call for entries: One Good Chair Design Competition. -- Stamp of approval for Back of the Envelope Bush public transport, but not putting enough effort into it.

The Effects of Inclusionary Zoning on Local Housing Markets: Lessons from the San Francisco, Washington DC and Suburban Boston Areas...study also suggests that flexible program design – in particular density bonuses – is key to maximizing affordable housing production. -- Center for Housing Policy / NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy

Water World: What will cities be like after the flood? By Lance Hosey -- Guy Nordenson; Front Architects; Jensen & Skodvin; Yarinsky/Architecture Research Office (ARO); Corner/Field Operations; Architect Magazine

On Borrowed Time: Urban decline moves to the suburbs: Suburbia's midlife crisis may be part of America's midlife crisis as well. New kinds of money, from new sources, used in creative ways, will be required if cities, counties and regions are to revive. By Michaelpecan -- Boston Review

The Sagaponac Effect: Modernist Subdivisions Multiply. Even in regions not normally associated with a Modernist residential tradition developers are creating subdivisions that offer smorgasbords of contemporary architecture. By David Sokol -- Hammers + Partners; Architecture; Clifford Welch; Tod Williams Billie Tsien; Hannah/Meyer; Max Lewy; KieranTimberlake; Guy Peterson; Lorrain O'Herity; Morrison Seifert Murphy (slide show) -- Architectural Record

A Backdrop for Life: An iconic Home's Lesson in Architectural Humility: the home of Charles and Ray Eames...created a sensation when it was built in 1949...not well known outside the design professions. Although the house was intended to be a prototype, it was never replicated. By Katherine Salant -- images -- Washington Post

Bulletproof public design in L.A.: A growing movement in crime-ridden parts of L.A. incorporates safety into parks and residential architecture. Safety-by-design strategy to deal with increasingly crowded neighborhoods...with some surprising results. -- Los Angeles Times

New Sydney 'all about sustainability': A "grand project and a grand vision" but lacks some vital details. No-one appears to know how much it will cost or who will foot the bill. -- Jan Gehl -- Sydney Morning Herald

The Archangel Gabrielle chainsaw massacre: Our heritage system has never, frankly, been one to write home about. The last 18 months' depredations, however, have whittled these small virtues to almost nothing...treats the whole of planning as the process of lubricating development, and heritage as a mere "obstacle" (official word)... By Elizabeth Farrelly -- Sydney Morning Herald

Built not to last -- yet still standing: In a city known for the fleeting, downtown's Erector set parking lot lasted for years. But its time is near. 1969 structure's saving grace was that it was temporary. As planners originally promised, it will be replaced by...a Frank Gehry-designed condo and shopping complex. -- Charles Bentley/Samuel Wacht (1969); Rios Clementi Hale -- Los Angeles Times

Dubai architecture: the tart turns tasteful: Once ridiculed for its design bling, the Emirates city is getting an avant-garde makeover from the world's top architects. By Tom Dyckhoff -- Nouvel; Snohetta; Hadid; Foster; Koolhaas -- The Times (UK)

CABE reveals its verdict on Olympic designs...released design-review comments on five of the most important projects for London's 2012 Olympic Games...has grave concerns about the procurement of the stadium bridges and Aquatic Centre bridges...[links to reviews] -- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Gehry pavilion to grace London: Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens...appears as a jumble of collapsing structures, a carefully articulated mess...pavilion will bring the low-cost architecture of Californian backlots and the expressive theatricality of Mr Gehry himself to London's poshest park. -- Edwin Heathcote -- Financial Times (UK)

Guggenheim resignation could spell ruin for costly city project...the beleaguered...To subscribe to the free daily newsletter click here
Guadalajara Guggenheim project has moved in costly fits and starts over the last six years. Some observers have commented that a simple lack of funds is more of a problem than Krens’ resignation. -- Enrique Norten/TEN Arquitectos

We need to give the public a better choice of transport. Heathrow’s Terminal 5 is something to celebrate, but it is just one piece in our complex and deficient transport puzzle...the public is told about the merits of train travel, public transport, walking and cycling yet the amount of public investment going into schemes remains low. By Antony Oliver - New Civil Engineer (UK)

Gaining Speed: Major steps toward new Hi-speed rail in LA...designed to link a necklace of Southern California airports and ports...the elephant in the room is cost. -- IBI Group [images] - The Architect’s Newspaper (NYC)

Getting Pumped: LAX Building Major New Terminal: Los Angeles International Airport is about to get a lot bigger...officials have not disclosed which architecture firms applied for the project...city approved the building permit for restoration of the airport’s iconic white-arched Theme Building. -- DMJM Aviation; Leo Daly Architects; Paul R. Williams (1961); Gin Wong Associates - The Architect’s Newspaper (Los Angeles)

Nationals’ new ballpark is a D.C. showpiece: Washington, D.C. has joined the list of cities that can boast they have a new, baseball-only stadium in a prime urban setting...on the Anacostia riverfront...this is not a "retro" park. By Edward Guns - HOK Sport; Devrouax + Purnell [slide show] - Baltimore Sun

Call for entries: One Good Chair Design Competition: simple objects to aid the body in the act of sitting; cash prizes; registration deadline: May 16 - Sustainable Furniture Council

Illustrator Who Was Inspired by Molly Ivins and Ann Richards Wins Bush Library Contest: ...beautifully drawn and carefully thought-out "Hole in the Ground" design. -- Lewis E. Calver [image, links] - The Chronicle of Higher Education

-- Lundgaard & Tranberg: The Royal Theater, Copenhagen, Denmark
-- Book: Verb Natures

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