Today's News - Friday, May 23, 2008

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Obituary: Jan Hird Pokorny, 83: ...well known among architects as a reasoned voice in the molding of old and new architectural ideas. As a designer his style was spare and modern, but it was married to an instinct for preservation. - New York Times

Dubai, Doha: End of the world? Or the beginning of a new one? Doha is Mies by way of Dallas...I alternate between being awed by the scale of the ambition...and depressed because the flamboyant futurism for which these cities are now famous seems weirdly passé. - By Karrie Jacobs -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Atkins [images] - Metropolis Magazine

City buildings by government fiat: The B.C. Premier’s recent announcements will alter the face of Vancouver and present the last best hope for a waterfront cultural complex. By Trevor Boddy - Globe and Mail (Canada)

Toronto’s immaturity bound up in the power of unelected OMB [Ontario Municipal Board]: Growing up isn’t easy, but sooner or later Toronto must be given responsibility for Toronto. By Christopher Hume - Toronto Star

Crack team rides in to save Olympic Village: Will the new line-up of heavy hitters brought in to run the 2012 Athletes’ Village help lift the project out of the doldrums? -- Ricky Burdett; Greg Deas; Lend Lease Australia; Denton Corker Marshall; DRMM; DSDHA; Eric Parry; Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands; Ian Ritchie; Caruso St John; AHMM; Patel Taylor; Fletcher Priest; Voit; Glenn Howells; Piercy & Company; Niall McLaughlin; CF Møller; Panter Hudspith; Penoyre & Prasad; Make; Ian Simpson - BD/Building Design (UK)

The trouble with Aussies: Australians may make good planners, but they don’t stick around to see a project through; Velodrome is an opportunity missed. By Amanda Baillieu - Hopkins Architects - BD/Building Design (UK)

Adjaye adds to New Orleans masterplan: ...appointed to draw-up plans for a chapel as part of a $300 million (£150 million) redevelopment on the banks of the Mississippi River -- Eskew Dumez Ripple; Chan Krieger Sieniewicz; Michael Maltzan Architecture; Hargreaves Associates [image] - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

To get library’s land, developer offers to build replica: Streets of Buckhead developer Ben Carter hasn’t given up on acquiring the architecturally adventurous library. His latest offer is to build a copy of the internationally acclaimed building...several blocks from its current site. -- Mack Scogin Merrill Elam (1989) - Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Building hope in with the bricks: For a relatively small charity, Maggie’s centres have garnered a lot of attention. This is mainly because Charles Jencks counts some of the leading architects of the post-modern age as friends... -- Hadid; Gehry; Rogers; Kurokawa; Libeskind; Koolhaas; Richard Murphy - The Herald (UK)


Ex heritage minister calls for Robin Hood Gardens listing: Alan Howarth...issued a passionate call for the estate to be listed, saying it was “a significant and admirable architectural design” -- Peter & Alison Smithson - BD/Building Design (UK)

EDITORS NOTE: We will be spending Memorial Day holiday Monday digging in our garden, and will return Tuesday, May 27.

-- V&A offers up “one of the more unusual individuals in the history of architecture and interior design.”
-- A telescope that will allow New Yorkers and Londoners to wave to one another.
-- Weekend diversions: Hume on Doors Open Toronto.
-- Q&A with curators of 100% Design Shanghai: their plans and impressions of the contemporary design scene in China.
-- Q&A with Tigerman, who sees red re: the state of architectural education and practice today (even friends aren’t spared).
-- Another voice joins the cry to save Robin Hood Gardens.
-- Jencks waxes metaphorically on tour of Maggie Centres.
-- One solution to Buckhead library debate: developer offers to build replica somewhere else (that’s gotta be one for the books!).
-- Adjaye joins New Orleans team.
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Tigerman Sees Red (and Topaz): ...calls it like he sees it: He is judgmental, thoughtful, optimistic, and politically incorrect. No one is immune: his peers, his friends, his professors, his interviewer. Eva Hagberg takes a walk on his educational wild side. [images]- Metropolis Magazine

China Bound: On June 26, 100% Design Shanghai will open: Q&A with New York design writer Arci Chen and artist-designer Tobias Wong, the exhibition’s creative directors...describe their plans for the show and their impressions of the contemporary design scene in China.- The Architect’s Newspaper (NYC)

Doors Open Toronto 2008: Sacred space: the final frontier: For one weekend, feel at ease stepping foot into one of the city's many holy places + video tours. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Telescope Takes a Long View, to London: A fanciful device born equally of history and imagination, the Telectroscope...will allow New Yorkers and Londoners to wave to one another.- Paul St George- New York Times

Taste acquired: James Fenton on the style of Thomas Hope: There was nobody at the exhibition when I dropped in at the Victoria & Albert Museum...a shame, since the subject was one of the more unusual individuals in the history of architecture and interior design.- Guardian (UK)

How about a truly juicy memoir? Jonathan Glancey laments the lack of revealing architectural autobiographies- BD/Building Design (UK)

Break, Pivot, Fuse: Conundrums of Shifting Space: The Daly Street Lofts by Joseph Giovannini: Live/work lofts take on a new life - temporarily - as experimental exhibition spaces open to the public for the next two weekends. [images]- ArchNewsNow

-- Moshe Safdie and Associates: Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
-- Installation & Exhibition: James Turrell Skyscape, Pomona College, Claremont, California
-- Rafael Viñoly Architects: UCLA NanoSystems Institute (CNSI), Los Angeles

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