--- Skepticism lingers over plans for Toronto’s waterfront.
--- Hume says there’s never been a better time to visit the city.
--- Saffron hopes Philadelphia will finally take PennPraxis waterfront plan seriously.
--- Fears that U.K.’s eco-town plans might lead to eco-slums.
--- Zandberg finds debate over Calatrava’s bridge in Jerusalem has pushed more important issues about the project to the sidelines.
--- There’s no question that his projects in NYC and Jerusalem “are expressions of urban ambition” - but NYC is “in a better position to afford such hubristic follies,” yet it’s still struggling.
--- Prasad takes on Jenkins in defending Robin Hood Gardens.
--- Don’t lower the bridge, raise the city to its heights: It’s a sobering thought that New York City...is also struggling with the ambitious scope of a Calatrava project, even as the capital dedicated its own last night...There’s no question that both are expressions of urban ambition, although NYC is arguably in a better position to afford such hubristic follies than Jerusalem...[slide show]
--- Zandberg – Santiago Calatrava – Ha’arets – Haaretz (Israel)

--- Toronto’s City in the Sand: How big is 2,000 acres? Waterfront Toronto...has been planning the remediation and redevelopment of this vast stretch of industrial and (mostly) former industrial land as a mixed-use, green-oriented project – essentially a new city...there’s still lingering skepticism about whether any or all of such a large project is actually going to happen.- The Slatin Report

--- Heat over troubled bridge: In the heat of the dispute over the external appearance of the bridge...is the much more important issue which has been pushed to the sidelines: the question of the light rail line itself, and what it will, or will not, do to Jerusalem. By Esther Zandberg – Santiago Calatrava – Jerusalem Post

--- Don’t knock Brutalism: This stark architectural style became synonymous with 70s ugliness, but is it about to undergo a Renaissance? Perhaps Birmingham Central Library and Robin Hood Gardens are also just a makeover away from becoming national treasures. Maybe...we’ll realize that brutalism wasn’t so bad after all. Perhaps it just needs a new name. By Steve Rose – John Madin (1974); Alison and Peter Smithson (1972) [links]- Guardian (UK)

--- A Picasso Muse Wants to Protect Pei Towers: Some fans of Jane Jacobs’s philosophy of urban spaces find Silver Towers hideous. Others see the towers as national treasures. Maybe...we’ll realize that brutalism wasn’t so bad after all. Perhaps it just needs a new name. By Steve Rose – John Madin (1974); Alison and Peter Smithson (1972) [links]- Guardian (UK)

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--- Hip and sophisticated? Say hello to the new T.O.: In the past five years Toronto has added a number of visible gems to its landscape...There’s never been a better time to visit the city. By Christopher Hume – Alsop; Gehry; Libeskind - Toronto Star

--- Call to reform Penn’s Landing Corp.: PennPraxis’ plan for the Delaware waterfront is expected to turn on a major reconstitution of the faltering agency...Harris Steinberg stressed...would be only a vehicle for achieving other goals outlined in...10-point action plan...intended to deliver quick results before city residents lost heart again. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

--- Report warns of ‘eco-slums’: Local Government Association attacks the way eco-towns programme is bypassing the planning system..."the whole concept is just greenwash"...- Building (UK)

--- This estate wasn’t designed by cynics - it reinvented social housing: The architects of Robin Hood Gardene had people and their personal space in mind...Simon Jenkins’ condemnation...may entertain but contributes little to the debate about the re-use of historic buildings...By Sunand Prasad – Peter and Alison Smithson- Guardian (UK)

--- ECB’s new home on hold: European Central Bank says contractor estimates far exceeded budget...plans for a new 43-floor headquarters have hit a snag -- finding a contractor to build it. – Coop Himmelb(l)au - Wall Street Journal
Daniel Libeskind Opens A Jewish Museum for All: There is a lightness to this project that is rare in the architect’s work. Contemporary Jewish Museum...shifts in tone as the light changes and relieves the surrounding district’s glass and steel tourist-mall monotony. [slide show]- Wall Street Journal

City Unveils Final Plan on First Slice of the High Line: The park --- modeled loosely on the Promenade Plantée in Paris---stretches 22 blocks -- Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro [slide show]- New York Times

It’s good to recycle salvaged fixtures, but do they stand up to current codes? ...well-intentioned green builders caught in a classic Catch-22: many progressive cities encourage the recycling of building materials, yet as a matter of administrative practice they make their use either economically impractical or else outright illegal. By Arrol Gellner- San Francisco Chronicle

Call for entries: Design Exchange Awards, presented by Canadian Business; early bird deadline: July 31- DX/Design Exchange (Toronto)

Design competition due for University of Baltimore law center: ...to pay three finalists $50,000 each to take part in a competition ...enticements to bring in highly sought-after designers who might not pursue a project in Baltimore without that level of compensation. By Edward Gunts- Baltimore Sun

Foster designs a fleet of yachts - down to the teaspoons: ...has extended his brand still further by designing yachts for a new timeshare venture. [images]- The Architects’ Journal (UK)

INSIGHT: Bowling Alone in Urbanistaville: Is living in suburbia the social antidote? By Richard Carson- ArchNewsNow

--- Foster + Partners: Elephant House, Copenhagen Zoo, Copenhagen, Denmark
--- Zaha Hadid Architects: Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania

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