Today's News - Wednesday, July 2, 2008

Let's get the bad news over first: The wings of Calatrava's WTC transit hub are being clipped (is anyone really surprised?).

Rogers takes English Heritage to task over Robin Hood Gardens decision.

Some happier notes: Kamin finds a once-threatened Saarinen gem "expertly recycled," and given new life through "enlightened vision and architectural modesty."

Things are looking up for Candela's "long-neglected but architecturally dazzling" Miami Marine Stadium.

A "second skin" will give RMIT Design Hub a "second skin" of shimmering glass cells to light up Melbourne.

A sprawling bank HQ is impressively green.

A young Philadelphia architect wins competition to transform a run-down neighborhood that will "add a zip of flair to the zing of responsible design in affordable housing."

A master of green design calls for the world to "consider more eco-tourism and less ego-tourism."

Let's hope a massive tourist development in Queensland is as environmentally responsible as it claims it will be.

USGBC to outsource LEED certification.

Cern leaves Glancey in awe: "this extreme expression of modern science may be the most spiritual structure of our time."

Gehry to get the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at this year's Venice Biennale.

Dyckhoff spends some serious time with Nouvel: "Even architecturally xenophobic Britain has belatedly fallen for his charms."

Kaplan on architectural education ("architecture is easy; being relevant is hard"), and the upbeat mood of LA developers.

Rogers takes English Heritage to task over Robin Hood Gardens: "questioned the "authority and objectivity" of the body which makes listing recommendations to the Government. "All the British winners of the Pritzker Prize...agree that [it] is one of the greatest modern buildings in the UK." -- Smithson; Foster; Hadid- The Times (UK)

Design school promises to shine light on city: "a building planned for RMIT will use a shimmering jacket of glass cells to join the elements with insensate bricks and mortar...plan for the $56 million Design Hub...has a "second skin"..."adapted according to movement of the sun, rain and clouds." -- Sean Godsell- The Age (Australia)

Bank Takes Environmental Step Into Rural Town: HSBC has moved its North American headquarters to a sprawling 560,000-square-foot facility that it bills as carbon neutral in a hamlet about 30 miles north of Chicago...seeking LEED Gold... -- Wright Heerema Architects (slide show)- New York Times

A mastermind of green design: "Eco-friendly Community" in Sanya city's Nanshan Culture Tourism Zone..."sustainable ruralism is the future of China...China and the world must consider more eco-tourism and less ego-tourism." -- David Greenberg- China Daily

Meridien invests $500m to realise 20 year vision: Port of Airlie is the first, and one of the largest tourism developments in Queensland to be approved under Australia's Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 1999. -- Gary Hunt/Hunt Design Group; Dr Hugh Lavery/Australian Environment International [images]- Marine Business News

Signs of market transformation? Starting in January 2009, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) plans to start outsourcing LEED certification to the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).- Sustainable Industries
A temple to mystery and imagination: The enormous constructions at Cern evoke great cathedrals and Egyptian pyramids. Paradoxically, this extreme expression of modern science may be the most spiritual structure of our time... laid out up to 100 metres below ground like some inverted, latter day Stonehenge... By Jonathan Glancey [links] - Guardian (UK)

Frank Gehry Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 11th Venice Biennale di Venezia in September - La Biennale di Venezia/Venice Biennial

Jean Nouvel - the architect as artist: Even architecturally xenophobic Britain has belatedly fallen for his charms... "I am proud of this variety in my work... When it works the architect has made anywhere somewhere." By Tom Dyckhoff - The Times (UK)

Opposite Ends of the Spectrum: Downtown Panel and UCLA Exposition Offer Differing Views of the Central City:... in academia, "Architecture is easy; being relevant is hard."... reality may be biting the real estate industry. But to hear it from developers... the tooth marks are temporary. By Sam Hall Kaplan - LA Downtown News

Toronto architects join Boettcher overhaul: Denver looked north of the border to find the right architect to oversee a $90 million overhaul of Boettcher Concert Hall, choosing Diamond + Schmitt Architects... which will team with Ox Architecture... By Kyle MacMillan - Denver Post

Herzog & de Meuron to Design New TriBeCa Tower:... will incorporate a monumental public sculpture at ground level by the artist Anish Kapoor... - New York Times

Frank Escher and Ravi GuneWardena -- John Lautner's architectural heirs: Take an eclectic collection of art, ideas and influences. Synthesize and refine. That's Escher-GuneWardena's formula for high-impact architecture... [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

Finalists unveiled in Urban Splash Walsall competition:... seven shortlisted schemes -- Flacq; moh Architects; Jacobs Architecture; Kirkland Fraser Moor; Woods Bagot; Piercy Conner Architects; Type_0 [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Winners Announced for Living Steel 3rd International Architecture Competition for Sustainable Housing -- Peter Stutchbury Architects; RVTR; Bligh Voller Nield (BVN) Architecture - Living Steel

Frame Sweet Frame: Oyler Wu Collaborative outfitting LA Forum's new home: Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Design announced that LA firm had won its LINER competition, to outfit the Forum's newly acquired headquarters... [image] - The Architect's Newspaper (Los Angeles)

-- Under construction: Asymptote: Strata Tower, Abu Dhabi, UAE -- JKMM Architects: Viikki Church, Helsinki, Finland