Today's News - Wednesday, July 16, 2008

-- Glancey glowers about "bad-tempered, secretive and ill-mannered" treatment Hadid is getting re: her Olympics aquatic center.
-- Pearlman sits down with a " prickly" Gehry in Provence (quite amusing).
-- Nobel on a "daring" new building on the High Line "by one of our quietly great firms" (" Polshek? Polshek!").
-- Gardner gushes over a "daring" tower on NYC's Madison Square Park (and hopes Koolhaas's neighboring project ends up looking this good).
-- King offers guidelines for graceful garages, and looks at some that make him smile (and one that makes him wince).
-- In NYC, Schwartz offers a solution to St. Vinceint's Hospital for saving Ledner's O'Toole Building.
-- Bath, U.K.'s Heritage Site status in hot water with UNESCO for "something akin to a massive Soviet-era housing project."
-- Schumacher likes the idea of a makeover for Milwaukee's Cathedral Square, but warns "quiet metaphor will speak more potently than literalism."
-- wHY tapped for a green Tyler Museum Of Art in Texas.
-- Beha and Wheelock tapped for re-do of Volk's 1957 Royal Poinciana Plaza in Palm Beach.
-- A small(s)h Canadian firm gets a big slice of the Dubai pie.
-- Colleagues and admirers discuss the " Fuller Effect."
-- A Greenwich Village church strips off its "daringly modern facade" to expose its 19th-century precursor.
-- AIA's semi-annual Consensus Construction Forecast doesn't bode well for '09.
-- A Toronto church brings the sun indoors: "What we are looking at is stained glass on a cosmic scale."
-- AIA's semi-annual Consensus Construction Forecast doesn't bode well for '09.

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Don't blame Zaha Hadid for the soaring costs of the Olympics: The Aquatic Centre is the architectural saving grace of the bad-tempered, secretive and ill-mannered London 2012 Olympics project. By Jonathan Glancey - Guardian (UK)

Frank Gehry gets prickly: "It's not just plop". Exclusive interview...in an impossibly pretty sunlit town square in Arles, Provence. He's here to launch the plans for his "Parc des Ateliers" project, described as a cultural Utopia. By Hugh Pearman - HughPearman.com (UK)

Not Your Standard Polshek Project: A daring new building by one of our quietly great firms shouldn't really come as a surprise...When the thing started going up, I was indifferent. Another overscale incursion...begot by the promise of the repurposed High Line...André Balazs's Standard Hotel...deliberate, refined... By Philip Nobel - Metropolis Magazine

Dark Tower: A Daring Design Over Madison Square: ...if the Koolhaas project ends up looking this good, we will have much to be thankful for... As was the case with the High Line, the friends of Madison Park have been able to put their trust in a talented architect... By James Gardner -- Cetra/Ruddy - New York Sun

Dublin parking garage a hectic distraction: ...if the design would embarrass a miniature golf course, the BART garage has value as a cautionary tale...Fortunately for the Bay Area, other garages of recent vintage show that a container for parked cars can look sharp and fit in. By John King -- International Parking Design; Geneser; WRNS Studio [slide show] - San Francisco Chronicle

Actors Chime In on St. Vincent's Hospital New Plan: New York architect Frederic Schwartz offered the commissioners a new design for the proposed medical tower that, he said, had the imprimatur of Albert Ledner, the O'Toole Building's architect. By John King -- New York Times

Cathedral Square may get historic makeover: Replica courtyard, Joshua Glover memorial potential additions...I'd caution against leaning so far toward memorial that the park becomes a faux version of itself. Quiet metaphor will speak more potently than literalism. By Mary Louise
Tyler Museum Of Art Selects Architect: ...envision a marriage between the museum and its community, and to let the building emerge from its environment...plans to pursue LEED certification. -- WHY (Workshop Hakomori Yantrasast) - Tyler Morning Telegraph (Texas)

Ann Beha Architects, Morgan Wheelock hired for Royal Poinciana Plaza redevelopment: Town Council has said it will decide whether to landmark the 12-acre plaza. --- John Volk (1957) - Palm Beach Daily News

Even Small Firms Get a Slice of the Dubai Pie -- ZAS Architects [images] - Architectural Record

The Fuller Effect: Buckminster Fuller’s colleagues and admirers talk about his legacy as an inventor, a technocrat, and a sustainable pioneer. -- Peter Floyd; Shoji Sadao; Jonathan Marvel/Rogers Marvel Architects; Nicholas Grimshaw; Edwin Schlossberg/ESI Design; Michael Ben-Eli; Thomas Heatherwick, etc. [images] - Metropolis Magazine

Kabbalah and Architecture: ...a strong connection with the primal concepts of architecture: space, light, and geometry. The field remains wide open, with the excitement of the unearthing of a new mine of inspiration and new worlds to explore in space, form, and light. By Alexander Gorlin, FAIA --- Gehry; Holt-Libeskind; Kahn; Tigarman; Le Corbusier; Bruno Taut; Frank Lloyd Wright; Meier; Eisenman; Jencks [images] - Faith & Form Magazine

Church brings the sun indoors: Striving to express theology in concrete and glass, a church embraces a dramatic move to bring the sun indoors. "What we are looking at is stained glass on a cosmic scale" -- Roberto Chiotti/Larkin Architects [images] - Toronto Star

Uncovering the Past, a Church Shapes Its Future: The recent stripping of the daringly modern facade at the 10th Church of Christ Scientist, on Macdougal Street, to expose the decaying face of its 19th-century precursor seems almost evocative of Dorian Gray. -- Remwick, Aspinwall & Russell (1891); Victor Christ-Janer (1966); TRA Studio; Hanrahan Meyers Architects [images, links] - New York Times

Modest Decline in Nonresidential Construction Activity Anticipated in 2008 with More Dramatic Drop in 2009: Commercial projects likely to see largest declines, while institutional projects expected to remain stable. - American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Call for entries: Design Vanguard 2008: seeking 10 emerging architects/firms from around the world; deadline: August 11 - Architectural Record

Call for entries: A New Bus for London Competition: design a double-decker bus that may influence the 21st century Routemaster; 1st prize: £25,000; deadline: September 19 - Transport for London

-- Alsop Architects: The Public, West Bromwich, UK -- MAD: Erdos Museum, Kang Ba Shi City, Inner Mongolia, China