Today's News - Wednesday, December 17, 2008

- Karrie Jacobs wonders what Jane Jacobs would have thought about cities where there is no Jane.
- Extreme makeover for Tysons Corner could be a model to battle sprawl across the country.
- A case study in how a big-box retailer can make friends with a neighborhood (without crimping sales).
- Prague scraps "octopus" library design (until the next election?). Kaplický will bide his time: "The library will stand in Leitná.
- Calys on Fisher's new plans for Presidio museum - apparently, they don't include Gluckman.
- Gehry recommits to his Ohr-O'Keefe museum in Biloxi, which "languished along with his interest in it while the museum dealt with hurricane issues."
- Berlin's rebuilt Prussian palace will be a blend of baroque and modern (or will it be Disneyland?).
- Contemporary art gets new home in Mexico City.
- Another battle brews: preservationists vs. church again, this time in Chicago.
- Better news for FLW's Unity Temple in Oak Park.
- Lots of links to reports on how the global economic downturn is affecting architects (AIA just released November's Architecture Billings Index: "drops to all time low...ooofffaaa).
- L.A.'s planning czar resigns (let's hope her "Do Real Planning" plans and "Mapping Elegant Density" proposal survive).
- An ode to California's Sea Ranch and great slide show of its "style forged by A-list architects" (though "impending transformation of the lodge is causing some fear and loathing").
- Rawsthorn's high hopes for the comeback of London's double-decker bus.
- The jury for DawnTown 2008 competition to remake a sewage pump house in downtown Miami liked the "orange blob."
remake a sewage pump house in downtown Miami is a proposal to cap it with a web of rubber tentacles reminiscent of a writhing sea creature. -- Helen Pierce/PierceWorkshop; Mikkel Thisted; Bryan Astheimer/Sarah Weidner Astheimer [image, link] - Miami Herald

-- Competition winner: MVRDV: Gwanggyo Power Centre, Seoul, South Korea