

Today's News - February 14, 2006

This month, SMPS lets us in on what it's like to sit on the other side of the table at a presentation. -- An international ideas competition to re-imagine a post-industrial neighborhood in Somerville, Massachusetts. -- Toronto's last chance to do its waterfront right. -- New York's latest "suburban creep": a water park under the Triborough Bridge. -- Low buzz for a new Chicago tower that deserves attention but lacks the "celebrity factor." -- What happens after the celebrity buzz wears off? -- Las Vegas to get a Gehry - its first architectural icon that doesn't have slot machines - with high hopes it will turn the tide of being a city "scomed as an architectural circus." -- "On-Site: New Architecture in Spain" at MoMA: "a uniquely authoritative moment for Spanish architecture" or its elegy? -- Q&A with Hadid: indeed, the Pritzker Prize did take her by surprise. -- The "first Saudi lady architect" elected to Saudi Engineers Council has big plans. -- Cooper-Hewitt's plans to move some of its archives concern not just a few. -- Book reviews in search of Canadian architecture.

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[Feb. '06 Build Business: The Other Side of the Table: An Inside View of the Selection Process. By Stephanie Craft, CPSM](#)

[Call for entries: EDGE as CENTER: envisioning the post-industrial landscape" International Urban Design Ideas Competition for Somerville, Massachusetts; registration deadline: March 31](#)- Boston Society of Architects (BSA)

[Last chance to do it right: The waterfront — and the vast swaths of abandoned land it includes — represents Toronto's last chance to build new downtown neighbourhoods that are intelligent, sustainable and mixed.](#) By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

[Get out the water wings, NY — a theme park is coming: In the latest bit of suburban creep into the nation's largest city, a \[\\$168 million\] family-themed water park...will boast water slides rising 80 feet into the skyline.](#)- USA Today

[Waterview Tower: High-rise, low buzz: Is it because the design is good but kind of tame or because Chicagoans have become totally blasé about great height?...The answer, I suspect, is both, along with the celebrity factor -- well, actually, the lack of it.](#) By Blair Kamin -- Tom Hoepf/Teng & Associates- Chicago Tribune

[After the buzz disappears, so do the crowds: ...\[Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Center\] was touted as...a civic savior and an architectural milestone...But when we're asked to judge architecture on the basis of sensation rather than structure, the result is bound to ring hollow once the crowds move on.](#) By John King -- Zaha Hadid; KZF Design- San Francisco Chronicle

[Gehry unveils design for Las Vegas medical center \[Lou Ruvo Alzheimer's Institute\]: Backers are hoping the building also will become the city's first architectural icon that doesn't house slot machines.](#)- Las Vegas Sun

[How Frank Gehry's design for a medical research facility elevates Las Vegas to a new stage in the eyes of a public that has long considered the town the center of architectural knockoffs...brings the highest level of credibility to a city scomed as an architectural circus.](#)- Las Vegas Sun

[Spanish Architecture at MoMA: Sensual Market, Severe Housing... By juxtaposing the foreign work and the domestic, Riley may be showing us a regrettably homogenized Spanish future.](#) By James S. Russell -- Miralles/Tagliabue/EMBT; Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos; Gehry; GPY Arquitectos; Alberto Campo Baeza; Rafael Moneo; Richard Rogers/Estudio Lamela; Herzog & de Meuron; Enric Ruiz-Geli/Vito Acconci- Bloomberg News

[Q&A with Zaha Hadid: discussing women in architecture, the Pritzker Prize surprise, art, and Iraq.](#) By Eva Hagberg- CITY magazine

[Saudi woman architect wins praise: ...the first Saudi lady architect elected to the newly-formed 10-member board of Saudi Engineers Council \(SEC\).](#) -- Nadia Hassan Bakhurji/Riwaq- TradeArabia News Service

[\[Cooper-Hewitt\] Design Museum's Archival Shifts Prompt Concern: Several design professionals pointed out that a reallocation of museum space generally means a rethinking of the institution's mission....transfers would "be a significant loss for not only the design community and design historians, but for New York City."](#)- New York Times

[In Search of Canadian Architecture: 'Deceptively modest?' We need a loud argument..."Up North: Where Canada's Architecture Meets the Land" by Lisa Rochon and "Substance Over Spectacle" by Andrew Gruft...](#)- The Tyee (Vancouver)

[The city that architecture forgot? A new book on building styles leaves Toronto out of the picture: "...isms" by Jeremy Melvin](#)- Toronto Star

[NOX: D-Tower, Doetinchem, The Netherlands](#)

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