Today's News - August 4, 2006

A survey of experts "with the modest ambition of challenging the downbeat spirit of the age." – In Canada, ore developers see gold in jumping on the green (and smart growth) bandwagon. – Utopia(?) is under construction in British suburbs. – Mini wind turbines approved for Alsop tower in London (not all are convinced). – A look at dorms of the future. – "Artistically adventuresome" Absolute tower (a.k.a. Marilyn) in Mississauga adopts a sister. – Artistically adventuresome design in South Carolina struggles to find a place next to authentically historic and "plastic pseudo-historical" architecture. – "We are not a bull-in-china-shop developer"; does that mean there's hope for Saarinen's Bell Labs? – Saffron wonders if Hadid can thrive in the "brave new world" she's helped create. – Can Schnabel out-do Starck for new Schrager hotel? "...this is something that really isn't that hard to do." – It's worth shuffling off to Buffalo for a dose of the Wright stuff. – A Wright exhibition in Boise could teach us a lot.

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Enlgihtening the Future 2024: Key Challenges for the Next Generation: A survey...with the modest ambition of challenging the downbeat spirit of the age...suggests that things do not have to be this way. — Nick Hubble/Centre for Suburban Studies, Kingston University; Austin Williams/Future Cities Project; Ian Abley/audacity; etc. [links]- Spiked (UK)

Going green turns to gold for developers: Forward-thinking projects benefiting from sharp demand for environmentally sound office space...\$3-billion Downtown Markham, all 243 acres of it will be the largest LEED-certified project to date in Canada. -- Quadrangle Architects; Young + Wright Architects- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Field of dreams: Something exciting is happening in Britain's suburbs: ...Utopia is under construction... What the government wants (and is prepared to enforce through planning guidelines) is for people to live close together rather than sprawling over the countryside... — English Partnerships; Prince's Foundation-The Economist (UK)

Palestra wind turbines gain planning permission: Photovoltaic panels have already been installed on the roof of the building, which is to be home to the London Development Agency and the London Climate Change Agency. -- Will Alsop [image]- London SE1

Dorms of the future: For years, undergrads have griped about cinder block dorm rooms and a lack of space. That may be changing soon - very soon. -- William Rawn; Duke University SmartHouse; Solomon Cordwell Buenz [images]- CNN

Absolute development still evolving: This addition of a second, 50-storey tower...indicates the readiness of the buying public to take a chance on a skyscraper design that is unusual and artistically adventuresome. By John Bentley Mays -- Yansong Ma/MAD [image]-Globe and Mail (Canada)

Contemporary architecture struggles to a find place in the Beaufort area: ...architects are galled that so many new structures are imitations of the past... "At what point can we start being creative again?" — Christian Trask; Jim Thomas; Liollio Architecture; Rob Montgomery; Allison Ramsey Architects; Schmitt Walker Architects- Beaufort Gazette (South Carolina)

End of the Line for Bell Labs, Birthplace of the Cellphone? ...[developer] says it isn't committed to demolition..."We are not a bull-in-china-shop developer..." -- Eero Saarinen (1962)- Preservation magazine

An artist among architects: A major show of Zaha Hadid's work shows her thrilling vision-one that often didn't translate to the street...Her ability to imagine the future helped move architecture into the future. You just can't help wondering whether she'll thrive in that brave new world. By Inga Saffron- Philadelphia Inquirer

Julian Schnabel, Reluctant Decorator: On Gramercy Park, a painter upends Starck style..."Basically I'm a painter, and this is something that really isn't that hard to do." By Philip Nobel [slide show]- New York Times

The city of Buffalo shows it has the Wright stuff: Depending on where you look while at the Darwin D. Martin house complex, you get impressions of three completely different things: an archaeological ruin, a 1904 construction site, or a well-preserved historic home. By Dave LeBlanc- Globe and Mail (Canada)

You Can Own An American Home: A Frank Lloyd Wright exhibition makes us ask: What can we learn from Wright's ideas, and are we paying attention?- Boise Weekly (Idaho)

Northwest Expansion: Portland Art Museum: Sensitive historic restoration combined with contemporary design expands a museum into a dynamic new art center. -- Ann Beha Architects; SERA Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

— Competition winner: LAB architecture studio, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW Australia

-- Schwartz/Silver Architects: Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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