Today's News - July 19, 2004

Lots of wind about the Windy City: Chicago's Millennium Park (finally) opened this weekend, and there's no end to the hyperbole (Bob Fitzpatrick, Director Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art says on NPR of Gehry's pedestrian bridge: "Moses was great when he parted the Red Sea, Frank Gehry was even better when he crossed that freeway."). — Tall buildings - and lots of them - in our future. — Dueling towers in Philadelphia: not much chance of the streetscape winning. — Wanted: Land to develop 9 and where/how to find it). — Small, inexpensive projects can transform a city one step at a time. — A Modernist "beauty" in Toronto with lessons for a new generation. — New life for a World's Fair relic. — A new school in southeast London kids will want to hang out in. — Big bucks give the go-ahead for Gehry's Corcoran Gallery expansion. — Is Manhattan's African Burial Ground really back on track? — Sparks were flying at last week's RIBA conference: is Britain is heading for a "hellish world" of poor-quality buildings. — Mass transit comes to Las Vegas. — A rebuilt bridge in Bosnia spans cultures.

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Chicago Dedicates Millennium Park: It is the most exciting architecture in Chicago since the Hancock and Sears Tower. By Edward Lifson [audio: with comments by designers, officials - pro and con]- National Public Radio

Millennium Park is so filled with ingredients that deliver entertainment and enlightenment that we thought a handy guide, rating how each piece works, would be appropriate and fun. By Blair Kamin-Chicago Tribune

A no place transformed into a grand space: ...a joyful park that's sprinkled with smile-inducing sculpture and mind-bending "wow-chitecture." By Blair Kamin [images & links]- Chicago Tribune

Big Shoulders, Big Donors, Big Art: Chicago's 24.5-acre Millennium Park, opening this week, is a sculpture garden on steroids... By Fred A. Bernstein [slide show]- New York Times

The Opening of Millennium Park (a week's worth of coverage & lots of images)-Chicago Sun-Times

Millennium Park: A irreverent photo essay: Frank Gehry's dazzling Pritzker bandshell; Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate Sculpture; Jaume Plensa's Crown Fountain. By Lynn Becker- Repeat

Skyscraping Around the Urban World: "Tall Buildings" at MoMA/QNS: Tall buildings transport us to the far side of dread. By Herbert Muschamp [images/slide show]- New York Times

Tall Orders: How architects are blending security and technology into big, beautiful buildings. By Richard Lacayo - David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Daniel Libeskind; Renzo Piano; Norman Foster; Santiago Calatrava-Time Magazine

Changing Skyline: Dueling developers in shadow of City Hall: ...the designs...promise a terror zone for anyone foolish enough to walk near them. By Inga Saffron - Handel Architects; Cope Linder Architects [image]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Where's the Land? Wanted: Land to Develop. Dealing with the realities... By Frederick D. Jarvis, FASLA/EDSA [images]- Land Development Today

Let a thousand projects bloom: Transforming our city one step at a time...small, manageable, relatively inexpensive schemes that don't require excessive political, economic or bureaucratic input. By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

A standard by which to judge a city's beauty: The TD Centre should instruct a new generation of architects and urban dwellers - Mies van der Rohe- Globe and Mail (Canada)

New Life and New Mission for a 1964 World's Fair Relic. By Fred A. Bernstein-Caples Jefferson; Philip Johnson [images]- New York Times

Please miss, can I have a detention? The new, improved Kingsdale comprehensive [school] is such fun the pupils won't want to leave. By Jonathan Glancey - de Rijke Marsh Morgan (dRMM) architects- Guardian (UK)

DC Council Approves \$40 Million for Corcoran Gallery of Art Expansion and Restoration Project - Frank Gehry- Yahoo News

Invisible Memorial: After 7 years of fits and starts, the U.S. General Services Administration's project to memorialize downtown's African Burial Ground is taking off again. But does the latest series of public forums really mean the process is back on track? By Deborah Grossberg [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Public sector on road to hell: Resentment over the government's handling of public building boiled over at the RIBA conference in Dublin last weekend with dire warnings that Britain is heading for a "hellish world" of poor-quality buildings.-BD/Building Design (UK)

We can save design from PFI darkness: The sight of architects using the annual RIBA conference to bleat about their dwindling status in public procurement projects is as predictable as the British summer is rainy.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Mono a Monorail in Las Vegas: mass-transit advocates have seemed rather like

Jamaican bobsledders: crazy dreamers committed to an enterprise that many didn't think was doable. - Gensler; Carter & Burgess [images]- The Slatin Report

Wrecked by war, bridge again spans cultures: A 16th-century arch, symbol of prewar diversity, soars again, aided by two Philadelphia professors and a Bosnian architect. By Inga Saffron - Brooke Harrington; Judy Bing; Amir Pasic-Philadelphia Inquirer

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