Today's News - November 1, 2005

A call for old fashioned planning and discipline for Sydney's green belt: "They call it lifestyle, but sprawl is its proper name." — Can Gehry really pull off a Grand Avenue skyscraper in L.A. (or is he the "the Ethel Merman of architecture")? — Inspiring and energetic school designs on both coasts. — Prefab gets ever more fabulous - and mainstream. — Science, nature, and spirit: green roofs fit the bill. — Christopher Alexander's four-volume "The Nature of Order" does "for the 21st century what Roman author Vitruvius did for the first century B.C."; the architect explains why it took 30 years to complete. — Prince Charles, on his way to collect the Scully Prize, speaks out. — Public projects shine in Australia's National Architecture Awards. — Another Inventioneering Architecture lecture online. — A cold war underground city in U.K. can be yours for £5 (but there's a catch). — Dresden's reborn Frauenkirche shines (not much about the project architecturally, but great slide show).

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Idyll conversation: Old-fashioned planning and discipline are needed if Sydney's 'green belt' is to be anything more than wishful thinking. By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

Grand Gesture, Short Sighted: Frank Gehry is designing a skyscraper for Related's Grand Avenue project in downtown LA. Will it be a tall tale worth telling? [images]- The Slatin Report

School Designs That Inspire: ...savvy approach that [Long Island] districts have taken in upgrading schools. -- Spector Group; Gruzen Samton Architects; Burton Behrendt & Smith- New York Times

Energetic design celebrates youthful creativity: ...inspired concept for Menlo-Atherton High School Performing Arts Center... By Alan Hess -- Hodgetts + Fung- Mercury News (California)

Prefab Homes Get Fabulous: Thanks to style-conscious architects, today's manufactured houses prove you can combine low cost and high design — and they're selling well — Resolution: 4 Architecture; Lazor Office/FlatPak; Empyrean International/Joel Turkel; Rocio Romero; Alchemy Architects; Joseph Tanney/Robert Luntz; Ikea/Skansa [slide show]- Business Week

Nature Hits the Roof: An emerging trend for environmental, religious, and aesthetic reasons, green roofs can create an urban canopy sensitive to the intersection of architecture and landscape. — Olin Partnership; Center for Green Roof Research; Karin Payson [slide show]- Science & Spirit Magazine

"The Nature of Order: An Essay on the Art of Building and The Nature of the Universe" is wise but disorderly. Christopher Alexander's four-volume masterpiece packs a wallop, but did it have to be that long?- Science & Theology News

A glimpse of God in matter: An interview with architect Christopher Alexander on his new work The Nature of Order, which seeks to discover, using the vocabulary of architecture, the divine elements that unify all beautiful created matter.- Science & Theology News

Charles in Charge: Vincent Scully Prize-Winning Prince Insists on Looking Back, Speaking Out. By Linda Hales -- Leon Krier; Venturi Scott Brown; Duany Plater-Zyberk-Washington Post

Public projects dominate 2005 RAIA 25th National Architecture Awards: projects redefine architecture- Royal Australia Institute of Architects (RAIA)

Peer recognition thrills local architects: Victorian projects featured prominently in recent [RAIA] architecture national awards- The Age (Australia)

Inventioneering Architecture - Valerio Olgiati, Professor of Architecture, Academy of Architecture, Universita della Svizzera Italiana (USI): swissnex lecutre series at California College of the Arts [audio, video]- Architecture Radio

For sale: Britain's underground city: The subterranean complex that was built in the 1950s to house the Conservative prime minister Harold Macmillan's cabinet and 4,000 civil servants in the event of a Soviet nuclear attack is being thrown open to commercial use. The Sunday Times (UK)

'Dresden's miracle': The Baroque sandstone Frauenkirche dominates the Dresden skyline today as it did in the past. The cranes and scaffolding which covered the Church of Our Lady have been removed and the building dazzles in the sunshine. [slide show]- BBC

-- Toyo Ito & Associates: Tod's Omotesando, Tokyo -- Conference: Prefab Now: Jean Prouvé: Tropical House, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

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