## Today's News - February 3, 2006

A positive take on eminent domain. — Modular homes catching on in the U.S. in a big way (try 16,000 square feet for a mere \$20 million). — It's less than a "pre-fabulous picture" for prefab in the U.K., though things are changing (with pictures to prove it). — Towering plans for west London do not please the neighborhood. — Mississauga, Canada, will never be the same no matter which shortlisted design wins (with pictures to prove it). — Rybczynski raves about new addition to Princeton's historic Burr Hall: an "architectural conversation between colleagues 100 years apart." — An industrial site will flourish as a bamboo grove in Milwaukee. — A visit with Christopher Alexander to discuss "The Nature of Order" (part 2). — A lecture by Brigitte Shim. — A new book examines how attackers use the tactical eradication of architecture. — An international housing design competition for students and recent grads. — Finalists named in Urban Voids competition. — A prize for Pritzker.

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Op-Ed: Condemnation power helps lowa's cities flower: ...people are returning downtown Des Moines to live, work and play for the first time in more than half a century...Many lowa cities use eminent domain for economic development that otherwise would not be possible. [images]- Des Moines Register

Modern modular: Ticky-tacky no more- Philadelphia Inquirer

Is the prefab revolution on hold? They've been heralded as the future of building and the solution to housing shortages, yet prefabs have failed to take off...ideas and investment being swallowed up by bureaucracy and conservatism...set to come in from the regulatory cold later this year... -- Proctor & Matthews; Make; Hakes Associates; Architect Quay2c; AHMM; PCKO; Martin Markrow Architects [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Two towers anger the Chelsea set: ...the second time in less than a year that [Prescott] has overruled the views of an inquiry inspector and a London borough in giving permission for tall buildings that will affect the city skyline. — Terry Farrell [image]- Telegraph (UK)

Mississauga aiming higher: Architecture is looking way up thanks to design contest for [Absolute] condo tower...this project could be the one that leads to the suburbs' new urban future. By Christopher Hume -- Quadrangle Architects; Zeidler Partnership; Boyarsky Murphy Architects; Studio MWM; MAD office; rojkind arquitectos [links to images]-Toronto Star

Something Old, Something New: [Princeton's] Burr Hall addition...a building that is, against all odds, neither a pastiche nor a facsimile. By Witold Rybczynski – Richard Morris Hunt (1890); Allan Greenberg [images]- Slate

Bamboo to rustle in Third Ward plaza: Nature to thrive in industrial setting...a bamboo grove. By Whitney Gould -- StoSS Landscape Urbanism; Vetter Denk Architects [images]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

To be a good builder, you need a feel for what surrounds you. Christopher Alexander knows...an interview with Alexander at home in England, talking at length about "The Nature of Order" - Part 2. By Kenneth Baker- San Francisco Chronicle

Brigitte Shim/Shim-Sutcliffe Architects AlASF/SFMOMA Public Lecture [audio/video]-Architecture Radio

Destruction as cultural cleansing: A new book examines how attackers use the tactical eradication of architecture: "The Destruction of Memory: Architecture at War" by Robert Bevan- BD/Building Design (UK)

In the Pursuit of Housing Student and Recent Graduates International Design Competition; registration deadline: February 17 [pdf]- Boston Society of Architects (BSA)

Finalists and Honorable Mention Awards for Urban Voids: Ground for Change international ideas competition for Philadelphia's vacant land — Ecosistema Urbano Architects; Jill Desimini/Danilo Martic; Front Studio; Matthew Langan; Charles Loomis Chariss McAfee Archects- Van Alen Institute

Honor for Pritzker family: 2006 Keystone Award, which honors leadership in architecture and design outside the architecture profession... By Blair Kamin -- American Architectural Foundation- Chicago Tribune

Good Neighbor: Hyde Park Miriam Matthews Branch Library: A new library adds to the revitalization of a once riot-torn Los Angeles community. -- Hodgetts + Fung Design and Architecture [images]- ArchNewsNow

-- Competition winner: UN Studio: Te Papa Museum, Wellington, New Zealand -- Shigeru Ban: The Nomadic Museum/Gregory Colbert "Ashes and Snow," Santa Monica, California

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