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Today's News - March 16, 2006

Wondering what flocks of construction cranes will leave behind in San Francisco. — Cranes still waiting to soar at Ground Zero. — Anacostia River renewal plans leave some anxious. — Post-Katrina FEMA trailers pose risk. — Good news on two fronts in Chicago. — A mini-exhibition shows off Toronto's new cultural provess. — Historic Baltimore cathedral almost ready for its close-up. — Architects with a sense of humor. — Bad design stands out more than good design. — "Green" competition extends registration deadline - to tomorrow.

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Where cranes flock, buildings sprout. It's not always pretty: Until they are gone, we'll have no way to tell whether they're leaving us with a rich new urban habitat, or a fowled civic nest. By John King- San Francisco Chronicle

Developer Told to Build 9/11 Site or Stand Clear: Pataki administration challenged Larry A. Silverstein to start building the \$2.3 billion Freedom Tower or "move out of the way."-New York Times

That'll Anacostia: A plan to spruce up D.C.'s Anacostia River has some residents anxious...Slated for a grand renewal project...the area stands at the juncture of poverty and opportunity.- Grist Magazine

Trailers, Vital After Hurricane Katrina, Now Pose Risks; Nearly 90,000 lightweight trailers built to be temporary are in an area prone to flooding, tornadoes and, of course, hurricanes.- New York Times

Death of tweezer tower offers new life to the Calatrava plan for the twisting hotel condominium tower; life for hospital...the longer old Cook County Hospital dodges the wrecking ball, the better its survival prospects look. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Just dancing on the head — of an issue: ...civic leadership is coming from the cultural sector...can't remake Toronto all by itself, but it can turn empty boosterism into civic confidence and transform the city. By Christopher Hume-Toronto Star

Basilica's message is alive: Restoration of 1st U.S. Catholic cathedral to be celebrated in November -- Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1821); John G. Waite Associates; Beyer Blinder Belle [images]- Baltimore Sun

Welcome to the house of fun: Heard the one about the architects with a sense of humour? Wit in architecture is tough to pull off...Fashion Architecture Taste (Fat) do wit, big time. By Tom Dyckhoff-The Times (UK)

It's bad design, not good design, that makes an impression: How can a product that doesn't work and offends the eye possibly be described as a 'design classic' says Germaine Greer- Guardian (UK)

A House for an Ecologist: A Design Ideas Competition: registration deadline extend to March 17- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

Second Look: Pavilion and Colonnade Apartments by Mies van der Rohe, 1960: Current news about "starchitects" designing high-rise housing in New York is at an all-time high, but Mies did it across the Hudson River 46 years ago. By Fred Bernstein [image]-ArchNewsNow

Competition winner: Toyo Ito: Taichung Metropolitan Opera House, Taichung City, Taiwan

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