Today's News - July 6, 2006

Warsaw museum competition goes back to square one after jurors walk out when starchitects left out on "Kafka-esque" technicalities. — Another step closer to making energy self-sufficient buildings a reality - globally. — The Persian Gulf building boom is putting zeros on the earnings of international architects and engineers (but finding and keeping staff is another issue - not to mention sustainability). — A shortlist for a skyscraper in Bulgaria (not all are pleased). — A California project "shows that growth is no longer a dirty word." — de Botton as "enlightened developer": no "Turkey Twizzler" architecture for him. — Solid urban design "so rare in Dallas that it seems exotic." — McDonald's makeover speaks volumes: "It is no longer acceptable...to dumb down design." — Foster's "gee-whiz engineering" for Hearst Tower puts Lower Manhattan towers to shame. — The challenges of renovating Yale's Art and Architecture Building. — A conversation with Holl: Nelson-Atkins, architecture and his career. — Balmond rhapsodizes about the "cosmic egg" about to hatch at the Serpentine. — A New York architect catches a metal wave in Brooklyn. — An "elegantly simple piece of architecture" for a Norwegian fjord lookout. — A new tome on Wright "has the markings of a public-relations problem" for the FLW Foundation. — Industrial Design Excellence Awards (IDEAs): lots of winners, but disappointment in low number of "Ecodesign" entries.

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Warsaw dumps contest: ...has cancelled the competition to design a new gallery for contemporary art...following the exclusion of a host of star architects on technical grounds...a new competition with simpler requirements will be launched on July 10... -- Deyan Sudjic; Hadid; Chipperfield; Souto de Moura; Mecanoo; Diener & Diener; Eisemann-BD/Building Design (UK)

Global companies join the World Business Council for Sustainable Development to make energy self-sufficient buildings a reality- McMorrow Report

Gulf gold rush fires world's top engineers and architects: There is so much business that many foreign companies are turning smaller contracts away and struggling to find and keep qualified staff. — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; WS Atkins; Hirsch Bedner; Norman Foster; Zaha Hadid; Richard Meier- Financial Times (UK)

Skyscraper projects for Bulgaria's Bourgas: ...finalists, public favorite selected...The Chamber of Architects in Bulgaria (CAB) has publicly opposed the [150 m] skyscraper project. -- Atanas Panov/LP Consult Group; Georgi Stoilov/International Academy for Architecture; LagOS/Architecture+; Architechtonika studio/Dimitar Paskalev/Kalin Dikov [image]- Sofia Echo (Bulgaria)

A green look in the heart of Santa Rosa: Process will test the developers' engaging vision...New Railroad Square...shows that growth is no longer a dirty word...a holistic and nuanced approach to growth. By John King -- WRT/Solomon E.T.C. [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Alain de Botton aims to build on happiness: ...is set to express his beliefs in bricks and mortar...has denounced most house building in Britain as "the Turkey Twizzlers of architecture"...He is setting up a development company...intends to organise a competition to find a designer.- Guardian (UK)

The view from Victory: Will this high-end hotspot leave downtown down and out? The new plan...is very solid on urban design issues...so rare in Dallas that it seems exotic. By David Dillon — Elkus Manfredi; HKS; Kohn Pedersen Fox [image]- Dallas Morning News

McDonald's new look: Less aesthetic heartburn, but where's the spice? ...company's makeover...speak volumes about a broader cultural shift: It is no longer acceptable...to dumb down design. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Foster's Hearst Tower Puts WTC and Freedom Towers to Shame: ...gee-whiz engineering...makes him the most inventive office-building architect working today. By James S. Russell – Foster & Partners; James Carpenter; David Childs/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill- Bloomberg

Renovating a Master's Shrine: Yale's Art and Architecture Building...Architects who trained there say its resiliency is part of its charm. -- Paul Rudolph (1963); Gwathmey Siegel- New York Times

A conversation with Steven Holl: Nelson-Atkins new Bloch Building, architecture and his career.- Lincoln Journal Star (Nebraska)

How they laid a cosmic egg: The latest Serpentine pavilion is all hot air — quite literally—Rem Koolhaas; Cecil Balmond/Arup-The Times (UK)

On the Crest of a Metal Wave: David Ling...who has designed boutiques all over the world for Alberta Ferretti, redesigned a brownstone in Brooklyn. [images]- New York Times

Fjord-thinking design: For an elegantly simple piece of architecture, the Aurland Fjord Lookout provokes a lot of emotion...the winning entry of Canadian Todd Saunders and Norwegian Tommie Wilhelmsen for a 2002 design competition... [image, links]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

New Wright book worries foundation: "The Fellowship: The Untold Story of Frank Lloyd Wright & the Taliesin Fellowship" by Roger Friedland and architect Harold Zellman...has the markings of a public-relations problem...- Arizona Republic

2006 Industrial Design Excellence Awards (IDEAs): Design teams from Asia nabbed a quarter of this year's gold awards...IDSA presented awards in "Ecodesign." Jurors weren't happy with the low number of entries. -- Gensler/Shigeru Ban Architects/Officina Di Architettura; Pentagram; Marmol Radziner Prefab; Antenna Design; Tricycle; etc. [slide show]- BusinessWeek

Resort Hotels of the Future: Students' Winning Designs Shine [images]- ArchNewsNow

Reference This: Two views on trends in public and academic libraries -- Field Paoli; Chong Partners [images]- ArchNewsNow

-- Exhibition: Poul Kjærholm, Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk, Denmark -- Competition winner: Rem Koolhaas OMA, Brewery Site, Copenhagen -- Two Books: Peter Zumthor Thinking Architecture, and Atmospheres

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