Today's News - August 3, 2006

"Environmental morality" vs. speed: both sides trapped in "mental pillboxes." — With "a larger, more educated pool of designers, developers and contractors," green building is coming of age. — LEED takes wing at Boston airport. — Home of recycled Big Dig leftovers might be over-budget, "but at least it doesn't leak." — Toronto needs a Department of Fun: too hostile to big plans (but why blame it on Jane Jacobs, we wonder?). — The city needs to put its civic money where its mouth is. — New urbanism in Kansas City: part Hollywood, part Disney World, and loving living in a shopping center. — Security barriers: safe, not scary. — Plans for University of Virginia South Lawn project a bit too neo-Jeffersonian? — Ken Smith conquers Orange County (spectacles and all). — Meanwhile, Great Park may grow by another 400 acres (as long as developer can build 9,500 homes around it). — A Creation Museum set to open because "Americans just aren't gullible enough to believe that they came from a fish" (tried as we might, we could find no mention of architect). — A few "fantastic curveball questions" from Koolhaas added some spark to Serpentine marathon.

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Op-Ed: Transit Advocates, Highway Planners Share The Blame For Transportation Stagnation: In the useless war of highways versus transit, both...are guilty of ignoring the problems with their respective solutions, writes Patrick H. Hare, a housing and transportation planner.- PLANetizen

The New Math of Green Buildings: Sustainable development grows affordable: The narrowing gap between the costs of green and traditional building is a sign that green construction is coming of age.- National Real Estate Investor (NREI)

Logan's Terminal A goes green: First such facility in US to be [LEED] certified as environmentally friendly -- Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (HOK)- Boston Globe

Mass. home made from scraps from Big Dig: It's over budget, Paul Pedini says of his Big Dig house, but at least "it doesn't leak." — John Hong/Jinhee Park/Single Speed Design (AP) [slide show]- Yahoo News

T.O. needs a Department of Fun: Small Minds Big City: Why is Toronto so hostile to the dramatic, bold decisions that could transform the city? We have worshipped at the altar of Jane Jacobs too long, convinced that every flirtation with the spectacular bears the seeds of our civic ruin.- Toronto Star

Why can't Toronto put its civic money where its mouth is? The argument for culture as a means of civic renewal has been heard around the world...it will take more than a few museum additions and a nondescript opera house to put Toronto on the international map. By Christopher Hume-Toronto Star

New Urbanism: Home is where the mart is: Living in the Zona...[Zona Rosa] is Hollywood. It's Disney World. But these apartment dwellers buy into life in a shopping center. — Steiner + Associates; Development Design Group- Kansas City Star

Redesigns mask security barriers throughout USA: The goal now is to make public places safe but not scary -- Michael Sorkin; Rogers Marvel Architects; American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA); Rios Clemeti Hale- USA Today

University of Virginia South Lawn project faces criticism...Critics claim the BOV was hasty in their approval of South Lawn design, do not feel architect took enough risks with plan – James Polshek; John Ruble- Cavalier Daily (U. VA)

Designer has land to conquer: Ken Smith will create the Great Park out of a giant tract of urban space...Nowhere in America is a swath of land this massive available in an urban setting...- Orange County Register (California)

Orange County Great Park Plan Would Add Thousands of Homes: Businesses would be cut back, and the developer would add 400 acres to the park site.- Los Angeles Times

[\$25 million] Creation Museum taking shape in Northern Kentucky: It offers Bible view of natural history... "Americans just aren't gullible enough to believe that they came from a fish" (AP) [images]- Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

Speech Bubble: report from Serpentine Gallery's twenty-four-hour interview marathon...Koolhaas was sporadically capable of fantastic curveball questions.- Artforum

Northwest Expansion: Portland Art Museum: Sensitive historic restoration combined with contemporary design expands a museum into a dynamic new art center. -- Ann Beha Architects; SERA Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

-- Competition winner: LAB architecture studio, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, Newcastle, NSW Australia

-- Schwartz/Silver Architects: Shaw Center for the Arts, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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