Today's News - November 3, 2006

Griffith Observatory exhibits are designed to build an appetite for discovery. — Q&A with Piano: whether his Whitney is uptown or down, he's happy. — Farrelly has nine hypotheses on how/why Sydney "has Botoxed away much of its own character." — Hume fumes (twice) about Toronto's dysfunction. — But he applauds Ryerson University's choice of an A-list team. — Though it has many critics, International Style still offers lessons for modern builders of social housing. — Rybczynski explores what SOM has done for American architecture. — Vermont architects get serious about affordable, green housing. — Roche returns to Dublin. — A Manhattan skyline approved in Spain (no mention of architect(s), but image is really scary). — Call for entries: Berkeley Prize 2007 Essay Competition. — Dytham on Tokyo Design Week and what makes Japan's design scene so interesting abroad. — Weekend diversions: An "immersion weekend" of everything Wright in Buffalo. — A lost - and all but forgotten - Noguchi is full of unfortunate ironies in New York. — Ito in Tokyo. — Movie stars to channel Wright and Sullivan in Chicago.

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Found in Space: Griffith Observatory's New Exhibitions: Innovative exhibits for an iconic institution are designed to build an appetite for discovery. — C&G Partners; Pfeiffer Partners; Levin & Associates Architects [images]- ArchNewsNow

Uptown Downtown Runaround: Renzo Piano was hired to design an addition to New York's Whitney Museum — but scratch that, now he's drawing up plans for a satellite museum downtown. Either way, he's happy. By Cathleen McGuigan-Newsweek

How could Sydney get it so wrong? We can boast about our harbour and beaches, but Melbourne leaves Sydney high and dry when it comes to building a beautiful city...what's really disturbing about most recent Sydney development is not its ugliness but its extraordinary, heavy-handed, unnecessary dullness. By Elizabeth Farrelly- Sydney Morning Herald

City victim of dysfunction: Long before it collapsed yesterday at the eleventh hour, Toronto's World's Fair bid had turned into an exhibition of why Canada doesn't work. By Christopher Hume-Toronto Star

Why T.O. isn't on road to better future: If Toronto is on the road to a better future, it's not because of its streets...Though most would agree Toronto must move toward a more urban model, the fact is that we have become increasingly suburban. By Christopher Hume — Joe Lobko- Toronto Star

Boldness needed to redo Ryerson University: "...This is about community. And about design excellence." Certainly, if the professionals chosen for the job are any indication, Ryerson means business...an A-list team. By Christopher Hume -- Bruce Kuwabara and Marianne McKenna; Ken Greenberg; Renée Daoust; Randy Grimes-Toronto Star

International style chose reason over passion: A design trend born in the 1920s has many critics, but can still provide lessons for modern builders of social housing. By John Bentley Mays -- Weissenhofsiedlung/white house estate; Le Corbusier/Pierre Jeanneret; Mies van der Rohe; Walter Gropius; Peter Behrens; Hans Scharoun; Jacobus Johannes Pieter Oud- Globe and Mail (Canada)

The Firm: What Skidmore, Owings & Merrill did for American architecture. By Witold Rybczynski – McKim, Mead & White [slide show essay]- Slate

Vermont architects launch affordable housing study...to find ways to build affordable, green, and sustainable manufactured housing in the snow belt. -- Congress of Resident Architecture (CORA); John Connell; Ramsay Gourd-Vermont Guardian

National Conference Centre Architect Says Centre will be Landmark Building in Dublin: ...would be as iconic as the two major landmarks along the Liffey, The Four Courts and The Custom House. -- Kevin Roche- Finfacts (Ireland)

Spanish resort's 'Manhattan skyline' plan sparks uproar: "Cullera Manhattan"...includes the construction of 33 high-rise apartment blocks, two 40-storey hotels and a marina complex...approved by town planners despite claims that it was unsustainable and would overstretch local resources. [image]- Telegraph (UK)

Call for entries: 9th Annual International Berkeley Undergraduate Prize for Design Excellence: Stage One Essay Competition entries due December 10- Berkeley Prize

Love, Peace & Money? Tokyo Design Week...what makes Japan's design scene so interesting abroad? By Julian Worrall and Mark Dytham- Japan Times

Things Are 'All Wright' in Buffalo: ...an "immersion weekend" meant to showcase the city's architectural and cultural strengths — and prove they are not mutually exclusive.- New York Times

A View on a Forgotten Noguchi: "Shin Banraisha: A Cultural Memory"...an attempt to revive interest in a visionary, but destroyed fusion of art and architecture...the story...is one full of unfortunate ironies. More troubling, however, is the issue of protecting modernist spaces...- New York Sun

"Toyo Ito: The New "Real" in Architecture" at the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery through December 24. By Thomas Daniell [images]- Artscape (Japan)

Robocop channels Frank Lloyd Wright: Peter Weller to star as Frank Lloyd Wright, with Harris Yulin as Louis Sullivan, in Frank's Home, a new play by Richard Nelson, directed by Robert Falls, that has its premiere at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in December. By Lynn Becker- Repeat (Chicago)

-- Design Hotels: Park Hotel Tokyo, Shiodome Media Tower, Tokyo, Japan -- René van Zuuk Architekten: Art Pavilion, The Imagination, Zeewolde, The Netherlands

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