Today's News - Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Russell might ruffle some feathers with: "It's time for timid trustees to give Renzo a rest." – Huxtable on "helicopter architecture" that could be dropped down anywhere, and "another kind of global architects transferring their ideas from one culture to another." – Speaking of SANAA, Litt likes what he sees, too. – Growing opposition to massive Penang Global City Complex - except for its centerpiece. – High hopes for a bold vision for midtown Baltimore. – Ryerson University's bold vision and the "methodical planning, the political gamesmanship, and the sheer dumb luck" that's getting it there. – Koolhaas's cool vision for Hamburg's HafenCity waterfront. – Preservationists are not so sweet on big plans for Domino Sugar refinery on Brooklyn's waterfront. – Five shortlisted in Houston green - and really, really affordable - home competition. – A Prince Edward Island federal building "blends a new structure into an old streetscape." – Redesign of Gehry's 1980 Santa Monica mall will retain a "perfect remnant of Frank's chain-link aesthetic." – Update on Rudolph's A&A Building renovation: the orange carpet is coming back. – Could a proposal for Springfield, MO, public square endanger the original Halprin design? – In Seattle, it's "Googie vs. Goliath." – Call for entries: 08 Skyscraper International Architectural Competition. – A magazine that covers architecture generally - and architecture as it pertains to race specifically. – Six world structures that are feng shui friendly (an interesting mix). – A new firm in India with an "indo-irish vastu-bio architecture" focus. – Travel + Leisure 4th Annual Design Award winners.

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Renzo Piano, Favored Museum Designer, Wears Out His Welcome: No architect has ever dominated the design of great civic institutions as Piano now does...lt's time for timid trustees to give Renzo a rest. By James S. Russell- Bloomberg News

Found — and Lost — in Translation: Does sheer size and superstar style override context and culture? ...There is another kind of global architecture with less impact on the skyline and more importance to the art of building — the international work of talented architects transferring their ideas from one culture to another. By Ada Louise Huxtable — Taniguchi; Nouvel; Sejima/Nishizawa/SANAA- Wall Street Journal

New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York is a fresh milestone in museum design: ...a thrilling piece of architecture that achieves enormous impact through the elaboration of simple, strong ideas, without the overwhelming heroics of [Gehry's Guggenheim]... By Steven Litt — Sejima + Nishizawa/SANAA- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Changes Requested as Opposition Grows Against Penang Global City Complex: ...the \$7 billion, 256-acre mixed-use project: some 36 towers...one element of the PGCC that does not appear to be in flux is the project's centerpiece, designed by...Asymptote. -Ateliers Seraji Architects & Associates [images]- Architectural Record

Hopes to craft a bold vision for Charles North: ...the 100-acre arts and entertainment district centered ...in midtown Baltimore...preliminary plans call for a mix of uses that could add at least 2 million square feet of residential and commercial space to the area. By Edward Gunts -- BTA+ (Benjamin Thompson Associates); Matrix Settles-Baltimore Sun

The visionary, the architects and Ryerson: Long derided as the little brother to Toronto's two larger universities...the methodical planning, the political gamesmanship and the sheer dumb luck that has given the school a 20-year roadmap to reinventing itself. — Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg (KPMB)- The Eyeopener (Ryerson University, Toronto)

OMA to Buoy Hamburg's Waterfront: Rem Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture has unveiled plans to cap the reinvention of a German waterfront with an aquarium and science center...in HafenCity district... [images]- Architectural Record

Sugar Coating Domino: New Domino Sugar refinery plans unveiled to preservationists' dismay ...designs are impressive and imposing, to say the least...11-acre site...nine new luxury towers, ranging in height from 40 to 20 stories...2,200 units...600 are designated as affordable -- Rafael Viñoly Architects; Beyer Blinder Belle [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

Architects put energy into green competition: Houses are designed to be environmentally and financially friendly: ...five designs — each with a \$99,000 price tag in mind...One will be chosen and then built on city-owned land... -- Murphy Mears Architects; Stephanie Eugster; Borden Partnership; Hybrid/ORA; Stoves and Cox-Houston Chronicle

An outstanding design that isn't: Charlottetown [Prince Edward Island] federal building embraces philosophy that blends a new structure into an old streetscape...Jean Canfield Government of Canada...a cutting-edge building in terms of green technology but also one that fits with the local architecture. — Bergmark Guimond Hammarlund Jones; HOK Canada- Globe and Mail (Canada)

A Plan to Open a 1980 Gehry Mall Design to the Air: Santa Monica Place mall...will be open-air and more closely tied to an adjacent pedestrian shopping strip...likely to retain one distinctive feature of the mall: a mesh sign...a "perfect remnant of Frank's chain-link aesthetic." -- Jerde Partnership; Pugh & Scarpa [images]- New York Times

A&A Building renovation to restore historic elements: Paul Rudolph's orange carpet is coming back to Yale....The Art & Architecture Building's quirky design made it a challenge to build and even more difficult to restore. — Charles Gwathmey/Gwathmey Siegel; Robert A.M. Stern- Yale Daily News

Square redesign proposal unveiled: ...architect recommended a design for Park Central Square ...asked whether the project was ruining a historic city landmark designed by landscape architect Lawrence Halprin..."may be the most significant architectural place we have in the city" -- Butler Rosenbury & Partners- Springfield News-Leader (Missouri)

"Googie versus Goliath": The campaign over a 1960s Ballard neighborhood diner heats up...The key, preservation consultants say, is whether there is enough of the original structure intact to "convey its significance"... [image]- Crosscut (Seattle)

Call for entries: 4th International Architectural Competition: 08 Skyscraper (no restriction on site, height, or shape; designs must be technologically feasible and environmentally responsible); cash prizes; registration deadline: February 19- eVolo Architecture

The emancipation of architecture: The subject matter of Appx is architecture generally...and architecture as it pertains to race specifically. -- Darell Fields- Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Six 'lucky' world structures in feng shui terms — Feng Shui Institute (FSI); Ellerbe Becket; Utzon; W.S. Atkins; Foster + Partners; Renzo Piano; Niels Torp/RHWL [link]-Philippine Daily Inquirer

Architect Mayank Barjatya & Michael Rice, launch India's first indo-irish vastu-bio architecture company. De Architectura...propounds an architectural style that incorporates the best of the ancient Indian treatise of vastu, as well as the trendy new mantra of bio architecture- India PRwire

Travel + Leisure 4th Annual Design Award winners -- Amanda Burden (Design Champion); Philippe Starck; Herzog & de Meuron; Zaha Hadid; Weiss/Manfredi; Jaya Ibrahim; Patrick Jouin; Sejima + Nishizawa/Sanaa; HBA/Hirsch Bedner; Ettore Mocchetti- Travel + Leisure

A Bridge Between: California Academy of Sciences and Steinhart Aquarium Transition Facility: So just where has Nemo been living while the new academy rises in Golden Gate Park? — Melander Architects- ArchNewsNow

-- Foster + Partners: Khanty Mansiysk, Siberia, Russia -- Manfredi Nicoletti: Arezzo Law Court, Arezzo, Italy

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