Today's News - December 29, 2004

After 8 days away, we have much to catch up with. — Architecture for Humanity launches a Tsunami Reconstruction Appeal (please do what you can). — We lose a Midwestern master. — Conference focuses on tall buildings and our feathered friends. — Warnings that Freedom Tower could be deadly for birds. — Sexy civic architecture not an oxymoron. — Sometimes not being flashy can be very sexy. — One civic building may be sexy and green, but not very user-friendly. — Another civic building turns green into platinum. — Re-reviewing the year's best/most reviewed buildings. — Big bucks paid to live in Seidler-designed waterfront tower. — The High Line inspires while it crosses the "dream-to-reality threshold." — Chicago taking good (and bad) steps in promoting good design for parking garages. — Buildings smothered in signs not such a bad thing. — Exploring the "subversive relationship between architecture and preservation" in Charleston. — No question about the value of preserving Milwaukee's City Hall. — Will Viñoly find Britain too much talk and not enough walk? — Jean Gang the Chicagoan of the Year in architecture. — NYC City Planning Director raises the bar for new architecture. — New Year reading: "A Field Guide to Sprawl."

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Architecture for Humanity Tsunami Reconstruction Appeal: Make a Donation- Architecture for Humanity

Obituary: Joe Flad/Flad & Associates, 82, helped shape Madison's skyline and moved his family business onto the national scene- The Capital Times (Wisconsin)

Birds & Buildings: Creating a Safer Environment: A one-day conference for architects, landscape designers, building owners and managers interested in bird-friendly design solutions; Chicago, March 11, 2005- Birds & Buildings

Freedom Tower could be deadly for birds...Audubon Society and New York New Visions have warned...- Scripps Howard News Service

Civic Boosterism Never Looked So Sexy: Architecture is no longer just a toy for the cultural elite. By Nicolai Ouroussoff - Rem Koolhaas; Morphosis; Santiago Calatrava- New York Times

No one likes a show-off: The success of New York's new Museum of Modern Art proves that you no longer have to design flashy buildings to get noticed. By Deyan Sudjic - Taniguchi; Foster; Piano; Caruso St John- Observer (UK)

Building Puts Form Over Bodily Function: "Clearly, the intent here was to make [Caltrans] building as environmentally friendly as possible. But it's not employee-friendly..." - Thom Mayne/Morphosis- Los Angeles Times

"It's Good to Be Green:" Joe Sema Jr.-Cal/EPA Headquarters Building First Highrise Platinum Certification from USGBC and Governor Schwarzenegger's Environmental Leadership Award - AC Martin Partners; IA Corporation-Business Wire

Inside the Year's Best-Reviewed Buildings: Do the architects' head-turning flourishes hinder or further day-to-day business? What are the unforeseen miscalculations and the fortuitous benefits? - Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Rafael Viñoly; Frank Gehry [images] - New York Times

Towering achievement attracts a who's who [Brisbane]...for the privilege of living in the Harry Seidler-designed waterfront tower [image]- The Courier-Mail (Australia)

The Little Abandoned Train Line That Could, Did: In the midst of all the corporate redevelopment projects, the High Line crossed the dream-to-reality threshold—and became the most exciting one of all. - Field Operations/Diller Scofidio + Renfro [image]-New York Magazine

Parking places: What should a parking garage look like? In Chicago, the issue is anything but academic. By Blair Kamin - Stanley Tigerman; Lucien Lagrange; Jim Goettsch; Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Loewenberg + Associates - Chicago Tribune

The Futures of Architecture: Why buildings smothered in signs are actually good for the profession. By Philip Nobel - Diller+Scofidio; LOT/EK; Greg Lynn/FORM; Shigeru Ban; Architecture Research Office- Metropolis Magazine

Should the Mendel Rivers building be saved? Sometimes I find a subversive relationship between architecture and preservation... By Robert Behre - John Califf (1964)- Charleston Post and Courier

Milwaukee's City Hall shines as a beacon for design: Solid materials, genuine features pass test of time. ...upcoming \$44 million restoration invites us to ponder...what it can teach us about the underpinnings of enduring design. By Whitney Gould - H.C. Koch (1895)- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Rafael Viñoly breaks into Britain and finds we're all talk. By Hugh Pearman [images]-HughPearman.com (UK)

Chicagoan of the Year/Architecture: Jeanne Gang: Revival of the fittest. By Blair Kamin-Chicago Tribune

An Aesthetic Watchdog in the City Planning Office: For Amanda M. Burden, the director of the City Planning Department, raising the bar for new architecture in New York is a balancing act.- New York Times

Book Review: "A Field Guide to Sprawl": Taking a look at sprawl from the top down. By Alan G. Brake- Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)

Zaha Hadid: Topping Out Ceremony, Ordrupgaard Extension, Ordrup, Denmark

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