

## Today's News - December 20, 2005

As the first anniversary nears, an international shortlist announced for tsunami memorial. – Other architects express concern about its environmental impact. – A shortlist of three for Cultural Center of the Philippines. – What went wrong with the BBC's grand architectural plans? (value engineering, anyone?) – Can a team of three work together on Orange County Great Park? A cautious yes. – Seattle's Koolhaas cool house may dazzle critics, but does it really work as a library? – Developers and starchitects descend on Manhattan's High Line (not mentioned are Diller, Scofidio + Renfro and Field Operations, who are actually designing the park). – Several notable takes on vision, optimism, and activism (or lack thereof). – Singapore's newest addition to skyline will be world's 10th tallest (residential tower, that is). – Another thumbs-up for new Royal Ontario Museum galleries. – A German (woman) architect researches architecture and women in Yemen. – Peter Hall finds a unicorn in the garden (and hits and misses in sustainable urbanism). – Calatrava exhibit at the Met both supports and undermines his celebrity. – A company that bends the rules so architects can bend their buildings. – Confessions of an FLW groupie. – Editor's note: Yes, Virginia, there is a grinch (or grinch) who can steal Christmas...our sympathy to colleagues and friends suffering a transit strike in NYC.

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[Five tsunami memorial designs shortlisted...from 379 entries received from 43 countries...\[winners\] from China, the United States, Finland, Spain and Australia -- Avanto Architects; VeeV Design; Ana Somoza Jimenez/Angel Martinez/Eva Sebastian Penin/Raquel Lozano; Liang Hou; Richard Weller/Gary Marinko](#)- The Nation (Thailand)

[Environmental impact sparks fears: Prominent foreign architects and designers have expressed concern about the environmental impact of the tsunami memorial project...](#)- Bangkok Post

[3 architect groups win Cultural Center of the Philippines \(CCP\) design contest -- Syndicated Architects; Manalang-Tayag-Illano Architects; JPA Buensalido Design Team- ABS-CBN \(Philippines\)](#)

[Did the Beeb bottle it? When the BBC commissioned three landmark new buildings it was praised as a patron of cutting edge architecture. But now the architects of two of the projects have been dropped and the third may not even happen. What went wrong? -- MacCormac Jamieson Prichard; David Chipperfield; Foreign Office Architects; Sheppard Robson; Norman Foster; Allies and Morrison-](#) Guardian (UK)

[Great Park's design will be a balancing act: A clash of egos and cultures could undermine board's vision of collaboration...can three big, experienced architectural firms work together on a big, signature project? ...all answered with a cautious yes. -- EMBT; Ken Smith; Royston Hanamoto-](#) Orange County Register (California)

[A cool house: Yes, but have you tried to use it as a library? Seattle's new signature building...still has the power to dazzle susceptible visitors, especially architecture critics....please, spare the "perfect city library" hype until you've actually tried to use it as a library. -- Rem Koolhaas-](#) Seattle Post-Intelligencer

[Turning the High Line Into ... the High Life: ...derelict but irresistibly charming dinosaur of an elevated railroad...Say hello to designer buildings, valet parking, concierges, meditation gardens and, oh yes, lines of limos... -- Gwathmey Siegel; Robert A. M. Stern; Frank Gehry; Annabelle Selldorf; Jean Nouvel; Tamarkin Architects \[images\]-](#) New York Times

[Visionaries: Visionary thinking requires optimism...These days genuine optimism is in short supply for a very good reason. Pliny Fisk III/Gail Vittori Architecture; Ada Louise Huxtable; John Thackara; etc.-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[Local Focus: A new twenty-first-century style of activism is thinking close to home. By Susan S. Szenasy-](#) Metropolis Magazine

[University of Kansas Architecture Prof Designs World's 10th Tallest Residential Complex: ...vision is going to change the skyline of Singapore. -- Peter Pran/NBBJ \[image\]-](#) Kansas City InfoZine

[Rebuilt ROM is wondrous: ...new galleries are a dramatic indication of the vision of enlightenment that lies at the heart of the massive rebuilding program. By Christopher Hume -- Daniel Libeskind-](#) Toronto Star

[Q&A with Prof. Gabriele Weck: "If you don't know enough about your own culture and architecture, you might land up losing it."-](#) Yemen Times

[Sir Peter Hall Spots the Unicorn in the Garden: Celebrated planner holds forth on sustainable urbanism at the National Building Museum: The European Model; Success in South America: A Challenge for New Urbanism; Hope for America-](#) LAND Online (ASLA)

[Body of work: Santiago Calatrava's biomorphic "blob" structures, communicating in easily grasped language, are the subject of a New York retrospective...The Met show manages both to support and undermine the case for Calatrava's celebrity. By Inga Saffron-](#) Philadelphia Inquirer

[How 3form Is Bending the Rules of Design: It makes an architectural plastic so revolutionary that at first, firms weren't sure what to do with it -- but they're catching on fast. By Andrew Blum -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Marnell Corrao Associates; SHoP Architects-](#) Business Week

[Confessions of a former Frank Lloyd Wright groupie. By Dave LeBlanc-](#) Globe and Mail (Canada)

[Dec. '05 Build Business: Why Hire a Marketing Staff? No longer considered unethical and tacky, marketing has morphed into an essential tool for savvy](#)

[A/E/C firms.](#)

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- [-- SANAA/Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa: Glass Pavilion, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio](#)
- [-- Under construction: Gehry & Partners: IAC Headquarters, New York City](#)

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