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 Vitullo 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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