We offer two articles as guides to those of you who would like to help in the tsunami disaster. – Architecture students help the disabled. – Two more year-in-reviews. – Alaska looks forward to its own Bilbao effect. – The one architect takes on threeFlorida museums. – L.A. likes its newest library. – Cheaper may be better for Bay Bridge design. – Whatever happened to “awesome grandeur” in church design in Australia? – One little church in California gets it right. – San Antonio unsure if new hotel will be eye-catching or an eyesore. – An award-winning architect in India bemoans popular fads, imitations of traditions, and the lack of serious writing about architecture in the media. – Reading list: thumbs up (mostly) for books about the WTC and FLW. – Gehry exhibition lacks explanation, unfortunately.

Architects Offer Help After Tsunami - Architects Without Borders; Architecture for Humanity; Shelter for Life - New York Times

Want to Help Aid Victims of the Tsunami? Here’s a list of to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. - RIS Media

Student team of architects help disabled: Freedom by Design - Arizona Republic

While some throw curves, a light motif stands out: Free-form shapes and bright, open spaces are significant trends. – My picks for best of the year... By Robert Campbell - Behnisch, Behnisch & Partner; Gehry; Rawn; Taniguchi; Ken Greenberg; Hudtale; Goldberger; "My Architect"/Nathaniel Kahn - Boston Globe

As museums rise, culture wins at polls. But the face of Denver changed in other ways, too, including two amazing disappearing/reappearing acts that proved this is not yet an architectural mecca. By Mary Voelz-Chandler - Libeskind; Adjaye; Fentress Bradburn; Thomas Batlle; Lawrence Halprin - Rocky Mountain News (Denver)

Alaska’s Bilbao: University museum addition meant to be an experience - GDM/Hammel, Green and Abrahamson [images/link] - Anchorage Daily News

Yann Weymouth has the distinction of designing expansions for the three largest museums in west-central Florida, the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, and the Salvador Dali Museum and Museum of Fine Arts, both in St. Petersburg. - Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum (HOK) - St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

Library Gets a Warm Welcome: Hundreds crowd the opening of the Hyde Park branch, the latest product of the city’s $278-million improvement plan. - Hodgetts+Fung - Los Angeles Times

Cheaper version of Bay Bridge is a cleaner vision: The fact is that San Francisco Bay does not need another eye-grabbing, neck-snapping wonder. By Alan Hess - Mercury News (California)

How great thou aren't: Whatever happened to inspiring spirituality via awesome grandeur? ...the New Church and the McMansion: both revolve around home entertainment technology. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

New church building demonstrates how an addition can really add to community... this little local project... makes a universal point: Sometimes the best way to show respect is to be different. By John King - Ernest Winkler (1955) - Goring & Straja Architects [images] - San Francisco Chronicle

The apple of San Antonio's eye or an eyesore? Some are calling [proposed Convention Center hotel] bold, while others fear it could be too much... - Arquitectonica - San Antonio Express-News

Exploring a new geometry of design: B. Sashi Bhooshan... feels there is too much of imitation taking place in architecture - The Hindu (India)

Book Casts WTC Redevelopment as Modern-Day Epic: Philip Nobes's "Sixteen Acres: Architecture and the Outrageous Struggle for the Future of Ground Zero"... both a smart piece of critical writing and a good read. By Martin C. Pedersen - Metropolis Magazine

The word on ground zero: Three radically different books explore the rebuilding of the World Trade Center. By John King - Paul Goldberger; Daniel Libeskind; Suzanne Stephens/Ian Luna/Ron Broadhurst - San Francisco Chronicle

Book Review: "Breaking Ground: Adventures in Life and Architecture": Libeskind should stick to building - Globe and Mail (Canada)


Exhibition Review: "Frank Gehry, Architect: Designs for Museums": As a result of its superficiality this [Corcoran Museum of Art] exhibit unintentionally reinforces the stereotype of Mr. Gehry as a capricious collage-maker. By Deborah K. Deitsch - Washington Times

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