

## Today's News - December 31, 2004

While the American Institute of Architects is "developing a coordinated response to the tsunami disaster," it offers links to aid efforts already underway. -- The Israeli Association of Landscape Architects backs off from an important theme. -- Baltimore's Empowerment Zone program comes to a close surpassing some goals, falling short in others. -- Seattle takes a look at some of its land use decisions. -- Detroit launches a blight court. -- New thinking and new uses needed to save derelict churches. -- Impressive architectural standards applied to British almshouses. -- The new Shanghai Oriental Arts Center is a sparkling butterfly orchid. -- New Zealand landscape architects make British shortlists. -- A young Nepalese architect bags a big prize. -- Interest in modernistic prefabricated houses continues to grow. -- Sottsass exhibit "sucks the air out of a room."

Here's to a happy - and safe - New Year for us all...we'll see you again in 2005!

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[Tsunami-Victim Relief: How to Help Now - Architecture for Humanity; Doctors Without Borders; Habitat for Humanity International; etc.](#)- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

[From far enough up, you don't see the view: The title of the annual conference of the Israeli Association of Landscape Architects was supposed to be "Fences and Definitions"... By Esther Zandberg](#)- Ha`aretz (Israel)

[Goals met, but not hopes: As the city's Empowerment Zone program winds down, results are mixed...fell short of the high hopes some residents had for the transformation of their distressed neighborhoods.](#)- Baltimore Sun

[A Look Back: Decisions on land use and the environment will shape the region](#)- Seattle Post-Intelligencer

[Detroit gets new weapon against urban decay: blight court \(AP\)](#)- San Francisco Gate

[New thinking needed to save derelict churches: As many historic buildings fall into disuse, conservationists call for Britain's architectural treasures to be given imaginative new roles](#)- Guardian (UK)

[Alms and the restoration masterplan: ...annual awards to almshouses that are built or remodelled to impressive architectural standards.](#) - Alan Baker; Kevin Goodenough/G2 Architects- Financial Times (UK)

[An architectural symphony in Shanghai: At night the "orchid" will turn into a sparkling gem with a rainbow of lights changing colors according to the melodies being played.](#) - Paul Andreu [image]- China Daily

[New Zealand landscape architects contending in London...on the short list of designers for the Savill Garden project \[and\] NZ Memorial for Hyde Park Corner](#) - Sam Martin; Ralf Kruger; Katrina Simon- Scoop (New Zealand)

[Inspiring Recognition: A young Nepalese architect bags regional award for his unique design and creativity](#) - Sarosh Pradhan- Nepal News

[Missouri-based architect offers modernistic prefabricated houses](#) - Rocio Romero- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

[Exhibition Review: "Ettore Sottsass: A Master Returns": It is hard to know if these are classic Memphis or decadent Memphis, but they sure suck the air out of a room.](#)- New York Times

[Zaha Hadid: Topping Out Ceremony, Ordrupgaard Extension, Ordrup, Denmark](#)

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