Collaboration in rebuilding tsunami-stricken village in Sri Lanka. -- Someone doesn’t love Richard Florida? -- Shiny new homes in Houston not all they’re cracked up to be (but they are cracking). -- San Francisco projects making a mockery of historic presentation. -- Part 2 of Kamin’s look at McBanks - a few are getting it right (click “Yesterday’s News” if you missed Part 1). -- Scotland’s new architecture tsar doesn’t think town deserves demolition in prime time. -- Scottish architect says small group of elite “design guardians” should make room for everyone to have a say. -- Winnipeg airport will be like “no other in the world.” -- In Melbourne, an office block displays “radical rethink of the workplace environment” (a sustainable “habitat” - what a concept). -- Trump wants to go higher in Chicago. -- What is the future of GSA’s Design Excellence program now that chief architect is gone? -- MoMA’s exhibition of reboiled urban landscapes inspires. -- Maltzan models on view in Pittsburg. -- Ponti treasures on the auction block in Milan.

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American, Sri Lankan architects join forces to rebuild tsunami-stricken village - Samir Shah, Architecture for Humanity; Pradip Kodikara; Shigeru Ban; Collier Group - China Post

Why I Don’t Love Richard Florida: In classifying a whole host of occupations as “creative,” our leading pop economist overstates the influence of urban professionals. By Karrie Jacobs - Metropolis Magazine

The Dead Zone: Houston buries its Inner Loop past under bright new shiny Perry Homes town houses: “The problem...is not that they’re all the same, the issue is that they’re the same miserable, low-quality design...”. - Houston Press

Insulting historic preservation: Bad enough the new building...has crude proportions and a ruddy veneer of thin bricks that looks like cheap wallpaper...This isn’t preservation, it’s mockery. And it happens too often. By John King [image]- San Francisco Chronicle

Part 2: The new McBanks: Devaluing design: The mini-banks threaten the existence of large historic banks that serve as visual anchors for their communities. By Blair Kamin - Florian Architects; Perkins & Will; Gensler - Chicago Tribune

Architecture tsar starts new job by defending Cumbernauld: Sebastian Tombs...defended the notorious new town as having “some of the best modern housing of its era...” town nominated to be razed. - The Scotsman (UK)

Opinion: Let’s all say which buildings can stay...a small elite have for too long positioned themselves as the key guardians of good design...By Peter Bruce/Atkins - The Scotsman (UK)

‘No other airport like it’: Design of new [$350 million] Winnipeg terminal unveiled - Cesar Pelli and Associates; Stantec Architecture - Winnipeg Sun (Canada)

James Grose’s working environment rethink: You’d be forgiven for thinking that creating a ground-breaking, sustainable new office block for 3500 people is a deeply complex business...National@Docklands...“It’s just a big house” - Bligh Voller Nield - The Australian

Trump aspires to new heights: With a taller spire, tycoon’s skyscraper could overtake Sears Tower to become tallest in North America - Skidmore, Owings & Merrill [link to images]- Chicago Tribune

Resigned to old designs? The retirement of the General Services Administration’s chief architect last month is creating speculation about how the architectural style of government buildings would change. - Edward Feiner; Michael Graves; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Hugh Hardy - Washington Times

Review: “Groundswell: Constructing the Contemporary Landscape”: Confronting Blight With Hope:...landscape designers are advancing some of the most potent visions of how blighted cities can be revived. By Nicolai Ouroussoff - Enric Miralles; Gustafson Porter; West 8; Foreign Office Architects; Field Operations; Will Alsop; Peter Walker William Johnson & Partners [images]- New York Times

From Ruin and Artifice, Landscapes Reborn: No longer the handmaidens of architects, landscape architects are building huge parks, some on a 19th-century scale, on polluted industrial spaces... - James Corner/Field Operations; Peter Latz; Richard Haag; Adrian Gueze/West 8; Weiss/Manfredi [images]- New York Times

“Michael Maltzan: Alternate Ground”: Maltzan's models have an exhibition of their own...at the Carnegie Museum of Art through March 20 [images]- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Gio Ponti: a private Collection at Sotheby's Milan on April 18 - Art Daily

Wild about Saffron: New York City. A February Tuesday in Central Park; 55 degrees and sunny...By Kristen Richards [images]- ArchNewsNow

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