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 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 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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; Vesa Vehviläinen, Finland; [Architectural Firm]; Ana Somoza Jimenez/Angel Martines/Eva Sebastian Peñin/Raquel Lozano; Liang Hou; Richard Weller/Gary Marinke- 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-Taya-Baño Architects; JPA Buenaalido 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; Shepard 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 in Celebrated planner3 dots 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 - Metropolis Magazine

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

Sympathy to colleagues and friends suffering a transit strike in NYC.
A/E/C firms.

-- 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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