EDITOR'S NOTE: Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Japan - and elsewhere - dealing with today's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

- Hume cheers Saftie's return to Toronto with a waterfront project - and the architect's grilling by the Toronto Waterfront Design Review Panel: "a welcome reminder that Torontonians are still engaged in their future."
- Hatherley cautions cheering too soon for U.K.'s housing minister's call for architectural localism as an "answer to identikit housing": demanding "the new look as much like the old as possible" could be "as sweepingly 'totalitarian' as any Le Corbusier could want to be."
- Saffron on the sad state - and potentially sadder fate - of hundreds of historic Philadelphia churches: the "battle for the soul of the city's religious buildings promises to be a long and difficult one. There will certainly be casualties."
- It's history vs. height as a battle brews between developers and preservationists over the future of Seattle's Pioneer Square.
- Presentation of Hoff's controversial Glasgow School of Art proposal before the Glasgow City Council is delayed (some tweaking in store, perhaps?).
- A long conversation with almost all of the 2011 Architectural League Emerging Voices uncovers miles of distance (along with years) between these firms and the New York 5: "you only need to look at their names" - and attitudes: "young architects want to look like rock bands, too."
- An eyeful of London's Bankside BikeShed competition finalists (definitely worth a look!).
- Decision on Steven Hofl's £50 million Glasgow School of Art delayed: ...revised date for consideration of the proposal is pencilled in for the 22 March... -- Charles Rennie Mackintosh; JM Architects - The Architects' Journal (UK)
- Is the next generation of architects really ready to build?: On the first night of lectures by...the 2011 Architectural League Emerging Voices...nobody was really talking about building new buildings...there is the chance to revise the profession...For some a sense of what's different about the Emerging Voices firms, compared to the New York 5, you only need to look at their names..."young architects want to be a bit like rock bands; too."
- City-bashers control City Hall, but city-builders rule waterfront: Debate over waterfront project a welcome reminder that Torontonians are still engaged in their future. The architect who nearly 25 years ago designed the best ballet/opera house this city never had has finally landed his first Toronto project...found himself having to answer some very pointed questions...queries were a welcome sign that waterfront revitalization is well underway. By Christopher Hume -- Moshe Safdie- Toronto Star
- Architectural localism is no answer to identikit housing: Some may identify with Grant Shapp's pledge to end "identikit" housing design, but it could usher in a new totalitarianism...what is his alternative? Merely making the new look as much like the old as possible, a demand as sweepingly "totalitarian" as any Le Corbusier could want to be. -- Owen Hatherley-Guardian (UK)
- Philadelphia's historic churches: Do they have a prayer for survival? The Church of the Assumption gets its final shot at redemption...As hopeless causes go, the Assumption's chances look better than most...The battle for the soul of the city's religious buildings promises to be a long and difficult one. There will certainly be casualties. But the first salvo will be fired Monday... By Inga Saffron -- Patrick Charles Keely (1848); Partners for Sacred Places; Preservation Alliance [slide show]- Philadelphia Inquirer
- Architecturalism is no answer to identikit housing: Some may identify with Grant Shapp's pledge to end "identikit" housing design, but it could usher in a new totalitarianism...what is his alternative? Merely making the new look as much like the old as possible, a demand as sweepingly "totalitarian" as any Le Corbusier could want to be. -- Owen Hatherley-Guardian (UK)
- Pennigram's new Designers & Books website clues us into what's sitting on notable designers' nightstands.
- Dunlop cheers "The Architecture of Drawing" on view in Miami: "shows us - quite definitively - what we are missing in a culture, a time, a world that has abandoned the sketchbook."-- Jake Brillhart; Errol Barron [slide show]
- A new exhibition honors architecture's sketchbook traditions: "The Architecture of Drawing" at ArtCenter/ South Florida [through April 3] shows us -- quite definitively -- what we are missing in a culture, a time, a world that has abandoned the sketchbook...it is anything but another glossy book.
- A great slide show essay of "The London Bus Story" by John Christopher.
- "The Collaborative Legacy of Merce Cunningham": Architect Beth Weinstein explores...collaborations between choreographers...and architects, including Frank Gehry, Tod Williams Billie Tsien, Dominique Perrault and Benedetta Tagliabue (exhibition at the University of Arizona in Tucson on view until March 22) [images, links]- Places Journal
- World turned upside down: "Leak" by Rosemary Laing...The upside-down house was constructed on the hill, and the artist had to organise a fair bit of carpentry, plus the co-operation of a farmer...When she transposes her house...to sit in the countryside that is doomed to become suburban sprawl, she creates a powerful symbol of environmental abuse (Tolarno)
How To Save Dying Cities: They don't need light rail, downtown stadiums, or flashy new museums. They need smart people... "Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier" by Edward Glaeser... is critical of thriving cities that impose arcane building regulations, complex zoning, and restrictive conservation rules to limit new construction... By Witold Rybczynski - Slate

"Aerotropolis: The Way We'll Live Next" by Greg Lindsay and John Kasarda - Will the urban centres of tomorrow be built around large, busy airports? Rowan Moore does not think so... The really interesting question is why the true aerotropolis... is taking so long to get off the ground... training too hard to be a smartypants bestseller... to explore this complexity. It is hectoring, breathless, over-persuading, a boring book with an interesting one struggling to get out. - Observer (UK)

Talking Urban: "The Language of Towns and Cities: A Visual Dictionary" by Dhiru A. Thadani - If one can get beyond the emphasis on... New Urbanist projects... one will find... a valuable resource. It is certainly a pleasure to read... [he] is also not a New Urbanist who categorically condemns Modernism. By Frank Gruber -- Le Corbusier; Léon Krier; Andrés Duany - Huffington Post

Port City: They that go down to the sea in ships: "Port City: The History and Transformation of the Port of San Francisco 1848-2010" by Michael Corbett... copiously illustrated [and] painstakingly researched... a large "coffee table" format, it is anything but another glossy book. By George Calys - San Francisco Examiner

"The London Bus Story" by John Christopher recounts the history of one of London's most famous icons. [slide show] - Telegraph (UK)

50 Famous Designers Share the Books That Inspire Them: Ever wondered what George Lois, Daniel Libeskind, and Margaret McCurry have on their nightstands? Wonder no more, thanks to Pentagram's new website... Designers & Books - Fast Company

Ryue Nishizawa: Teshima Art Museum, Teshima Island, Seto Inland Sea, Japan

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ArchExpo Website Redesign Press Release - The redesigned website features expanded content, more product images and new search facilities for a richer visitor experience.