

Tourists

How Our Fastest Growing Industry Is Changing the World

By Larry Krotz

Faber and Faber, \$24.95

Mixing personal reminiscence, historical perspective, and sociological observation, Canadian author Krotz's brisk examination delivers a rounded portrayal of what tourism means to travelers and the places they visit. Looking at the relatively recent phenomenon of mass travel and at the nature of travel itself, he examines how tourism "infatuates" and "seduces" Third World countries and underpopulated states like North Dakota that hope to carve out a piece of this \$3.4 trillion-a-year business. Krotz balances a clear appreciation of travel with wry understanding of its downsides, from unique communities becoming McDonald's-riddled boardwalks to rich cultures being reduced to pretty tour stops.

Home From Nowhere

Remaking Our Everyday World For the 21st Century

By James Howard Kunstler

Simon & Schuster, \$24.00

For two centuries, the American dream has been premised on moving out of the city. But only since World War II has the ubiquitousness of cars created "the hugely expensive drive-in fantasy world that is the mature auto suburb." Kunstler, author of *The Geography of Nowhere*, has produced a colorful, brilliant manifesto attacking suburban life as a key reason for Americans' general unhappiness with their lives. "For all its apparent success, Suburban Sprawl sorely lacks many things that make life worth living, particularly civic amenities, which Main Street offered in spades," he writes. "Deep down, many Americans are dissatisfied with suburbia—though they have trouble understanding what's missing—

which explains their nostalgia for the earlier model." Prime targets in *Home From Nowhere*: ugly, function-over-form buildings, from homes and supermarkets to businesses and schools, that ignore the feelings of those walking or driving by; remote industrial parks that sap cities' vitality; and wrong-headed zoning that rewards landowners who leave inner-city lots empty, forbids developers to locate residences by or above businesses, and requires city planners to design pedestrian-unfriendly streets. Kunstler's solution is largely based on rebuilding cities—a solution requiring middle- and upper-income suburbanites to move back voluntarily. He concedes it's unlikely but not impossible: Americans must "recognize the benefits of a well-designed public realm, and the civic life that comes with it, over the uncivil, politically toxic, socially impoverished, hyper-privatized realm of suburbia, however magnificent the kitchen and bathrooms may be there."

Total Control

By David Baldacci

Warner, \$25.00

Baldacci is the corporate lawyer turned writer who last winter brought you *Absolute Power*, a by-the-numbers political thriller that your 747 seatmate's probably reading the pocketbook version of right now. *Total Control*, the efficient follow-up, drops us into a high-stakes world of high tech and high finance. There's a mysterious airplane crash, a terminally ill Fed chairman, a Microsoftesque corporation ravenous for new technology, a computer whiz with hush-hush info stored on a floppy disk, the whiz's on-the-run corporate-lawyer wife, and a ruthless killer, and if you can figure out the whole thing before the FBI guys do, you cheated. Baldacci keeps adding layers of complexity until the overstuffed plot seems ludicrous and the characters mere

pawns. Sure, you'll read to the end of *Total Control*—and possibly learn some scary stuff about corporate technology and security. But for a conventional genre thriller, it sure makes you work hard.

Restoring Prosperity

How Workers and Managers Are Forging A New Culture of Cooperation

By Wellford W. Wilms

Times Business, \$25.00

Since its inception, the American workplace has been governed by "a Horatio Alger-like philosophy . . . where luck, pluck, and personal responsibility define the winners," writes UCLA professor Wilms. "Unfortunately, this point of view is a formula for economic disaster." This essential, extraordinarily readable book uses hands-on research to explore what Wilms describes as a primary threat to the future of U.S. business—adversarial labor relations. "[C]ompanies that will have the advantage in the turbulent times ahead are those whose executives, union leaders, and workers recognize that they are bound at the hip in the race to survive and prosper." To drive home the point, he presents not shining success stories but examples of how a few companies with troubled labor histories are trying to make things work, with mixed results. After a brief chronicle of the decline of labor-management cooperation, describing how assembly-line automation led to separate agendas for workers and employers, Wilms looks at four examples: McDonnell Douglas subsidiary Douglas Aircraft; USS-POSCO, a USX-Korean joint venture; Hewlett-Packard; and GM-Toyota joint venture NUMMI. He explains corporate practices past and present in concrete, jargon-free terms, and his extensive interviews give a clear sense of what life is actually like for those on shop floors and in planning meetings.

—MATTHEW BUDMAN