A bleak news day from Britain: starchitects’ plans lose their luster; architecture students fail miserably; RIBA gets radical; “Restoration” TV show ignores the private sector. — Michigan towns get Celebration fever. — Baby steps towards making Montreal pedestrian-friendly. — Low-income housing resides in historic splendor in San Francisco. — Affordable shelter in Virginia suburb faces some unneighborly NIMBY-ism. — A children’s learning center ups the ante for good design in Charlotte. — Maya Lin pays tribute to Lewis and Clark. — Kansas City firms merge. — A towering exhibition in Manhattan. — High design with mass appeal.

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End of the iconic age? Black week for star architects as public funding bodies turn against "Golden Banana," "Spiral," and "Cloud" - Will Alsop; Daniel Libeskind; Rafael Viñoly - BD/Building Design (UK)

Hunt is on for Fourth Grace designer as Alsop is axed: After throwing out winning scheme, Liverpool is set to tender for replacement in September... look for an architect and a commercial developer who could follow architect EDAW’s existing masterplan - Building (UK)

RIBA’s new boss shocked by 93% failure rate at university: University of Central England closes BA architecture course to new students until investigation is complete - Building (UK)

RIBA calls for radical planning experiment: Sustainable Communities: Quality Not Quantity report: Developers would bid for a licence under proposals put to government - BD/Building Design (UK)

Don’t privately owned buildings deserve love, too? The TV series Restoration has done a grand job - but Giles Worsley is worried by its focus on public ownership - Telegraph (UK)

Disney town sets urban trend: Celebration creates neighborly feel from scratch; Michigan cities follow on smaller scale [images] - Detroit News

Baby Steps on the Road to Pedestrian-Friendly Streets: Copenhagen’s gradual prioritization of pedestrians and cyclists is what Avenue Verte seeks for Montreal - Maisonneuve (Canada)

Restoring grandeur to hotel: Nonprofit group provides seniors an oasis from Tenderloin’s blight - Reuben Schwartz and Jessica Rothschild - San Francisco Chronicle

Affordable Shelter for A Church, And People: Plan to Build Housing Atop Chapel Faces Opposition - MTFA Architecture Image - Washington Post

ImaginOn ups the ante for good design in Charlotte: children’s learning center...enlarging our sense of what architecture can mean and can do - Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates; Gantt Huberman Architects - Charlotte Observer

Cape Disappointment project designs unveiled: Vietnam memorial designer Maya Lin suggests pieces to symbolize Lewis and Clark’s encounters with tribes - The Oregonian

Architecture companies join forces: CDFM² and Heinlein Schrock Steams are merging to become 360 Architecture - Kansas City Star

Tower power: The new downtown Skyscraper Museum celebrates Manhattan’s towering achievements, all on one floor. By Justin Davidson [images/slide show] - NY Newsday

High Design with Mass Appeal: From potato peelers to trash cans, the ordinary becomes extraordinary. By Justin Davidson - NY Newsday

-- Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates: Leon Levy Visitor Center, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

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