EDITOR'S NOTE: We're still experiencing major Internet problems in (sweltering) Arizona - hence yesterday's missed newsletter. Hopefully, things are getting better...

- Siza seizes the Venice Biennale's Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement: "It is difficult to think of a contemporary architect who has maintained such a consistent presence within the profession...without the slightest hint of the overt professionalism and promotion that has become part of the contemporary architect's machinery...he always seems to be out in front, seemingly untainted and undaunted..." - Paolo Baratta; David Chipperfield [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

- Bomber Command Memorial: If it had to be built, you might hope for some nuance, some recognition of moral complexity, some regret, some invitation to reflection. Unfortunately it offers none of those things...its tone is defiant and triumphant...its style is amnesiac classical...a work of wishing away, of ignoring time, place and moral difficulty. By Rowan Moore - Liam O'Connor Architects [image] - Observer (UK)

- River Point and Wolf Point deserve great scrutiny. -- Pelli Clarke Pelli [images]

- Creating a sense of place in downtown Chicago...the time is ripe to reflect on what a new model for sustaining live/work communities downtown might look like. -- Charles Birnbaum/The Cultural Landscape Foundation [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

- Flawed Ritz-Carlton Residences, Magnificent Mile's first high-rise in more than a decade, delivers marketable but middling po-mo: ...is too competent to be bad but not inspired enough to be good...this architectural taxidermy has turned out better than expected. Yet... -- Blair Kamin - Lucien Lagrange - Chicago Tribune

- New SFO control tower will have a torch-like air: As the new control tower at San Francisco International Airport takes shape during the next two years, keep this simple phrase in mind: Flair follows function. By John King - HNTB [images] - San Francisco Chronicle
Warriors’ arena - Is Embarcadero the right place? It’s not enough to talk grandly of icons and legacies. The team must craft a detailed proposal that shines within the larger context...images released so far are as substantial as cotton candy...purely for show. The team hasn’t hired an architect. By John King [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Robert A.M. Stern’s Conservative Museum of the American Revolution Design Sniffs the Revolutionary Spirit: ...an attempt to “Imagineer” visitors back into history...Unless serious revisions are made, the “Spirit of ’76” will come packaged in a building that denounces the fundamental notion of revolution. By Kelly Chan [image]- Artinfo

DS+R Designs Columbia’s Medical and Graduate Education Building: Columbia University Medical Center 14-story tower will become a major landmark in the skyline of northern Manhattan...will house the four schools of CUMC along with the biomedical departments of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Gensler [images]- The Architect’s Newspaper

Ethiopian Stadium Takes Cultural Inspiration to New Levels: In order to be seen as culturally significant, the building must complement the country’s heritage and offer visual cues – symbolic or otherwise – that show these connections...LAVA and JDAW showed a strong understanding of this concept and maximised it to its full potential...for the ‘National Stadium + Sports Village’ in Addis Ababa... [images]- DesignBuild Source (Australia)

Dame Zaha should stand up for what she believes in: Zaha Hadid’s overbudget Aquatics Centre brought her a long overdue honour. Now both of them must prove their staying power...[she] is now very much part of the British Establishment — but how will she use her new prefix? By Amanda Baillieu- BD/Building Design (UK)

Zaha Hadid says austerity is not an excuse for low-quality housing: ...says use of the word austerity is a cliche to hide behind which would end up being disastrous for the public...the skyline of many of the UK’s cities were “made horrible” by developments in the 1960s because they government “wanted to be cheap”. - Guardian (UK)

Albert Barnes Offers Critical Response to Placement of New “Barnes”: He agrees to talk with fellow Central High School of Philadelphia alum after 61 years of silence, but only on the condition that his remarks remain unedited. This transcript respects his requirement. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

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