As promised, lots more Venice Biennale punditry: ArcSpace brings us Q&As with the talents behind the Danish Pavilion.

Moore says that while the Biennale’s “good intentions don’t always translate into good ideas - they are nonetheless engaging, enriching and sometimes enlightening.”

Wainwright finds the Biennale pavilions to be “the architectural equivalent of a UN summit,” and “as kooky and curious as ever,” with “a few stand-out gems amid the cacophony.”

Hawthorne x 2: he takes in Govan and Zumthor’s LACMA dog-and-pony show in Venice: the architect’s “attitude toward supporters and detractors of the controversial design is the same: ‘There it is: Take it or leave it, love it or hate it.’”

He calls out the “sparse U.S. showing” that “leaves the American pavilion to shoulder a heavier weight,” but its focus on Detroit is “more a playground for American architecture’s digitally savvy but politically illiterate parametric wing.”

Menking also makes mention of the lack of U.S. architects in the main exhibition: “there are seemingly no ‘new points of view’ from America - are the solutions offered so corporate in nature that they cannot have applications outside the developed world?”

Biennale Golden Lions go to the Spanish Pavilion and Paraguay’s Gabinete de Arquitectura, and a Silver Lion for Kunié Adayemi and his studio NLÉ.

King gives thumbs-up to Foster’s San Francisco Apple Store for its “deceptively effortless architectural pyrotechnics,” but says a bit more attention is due for Asawa’s “sparse U.S. showing leaves the American pavilion...to shoulder a heavier weight...Detroit’s long decline is recast as an irresistible tabula rasa.”

Suich offers a great take on three of Silicon Valley’s new Versailles: “Apple’s is the grandest”; Facebook wants “to capture a scrappy, start-up vibe”; and “Google’s plans are the most audacious.”

Grabar cheers Saarinen’s “futuristic 60-year-old” GM Technical Center in Michigan that “remains as relevant as ever” with a “sleek, renovated interior” by SmithGroupJJR — the original architect-of-record, no less — “it hardly looks dated.”

Napier, New Zealand, was devastated by an earthquake 1931 - now it is “home to one of the largest - and most beautiful - collections of Art Deco buildings in the world.”

A grassroots, handmade Venice Architecture Biennale from Alejandro Aravena: Reporting From the Front...An equally good title would be “The Borrowers.” The stars of this biennale...are those in debt, in many senses of that word...as he gestured toward the model. “There it is: Take it or leave it, love it or hate it.” By Christopher Hawthorne -- Peter Zumthor; Robert Irwin; Spurlock [images] - Los Angeles Times

A few calls for entries: Iceland Trekking Cabins International Architecture Competition (earlybird registration due tomorrow!).

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Venice architecture biennale 2016 - ideas for real world problems: A sense of social purpose drives this year’s biennale, and while good intentions don’t always translate into good ideas, the best combine usefulness, economy and beauty: If [it] offers no more than suggestions, they are nonetheless engaging, enriching and sometimes enlightening...[his] attitude toward supporters and detractors of the controversial design is the same...as he gestured toward the model. “There it is: Take it or leave it, love it or hate it.” By Christopher Hawthorne -- Peter Zumthor; Robert Irwin; Spurlock [images] - Los Angeles Times

Why are there (almost) no American architects at the 2016 Venice Biennale? Alejandro Aravena...claims that this...exhibition wants to “offer a new point of view”...Yet except for several young Americans, there are seemingly no “new points of view” from America...are the solutions offered so corporate in nature that they cannot have applications outside the developed world? A partial answer to this question might be hinted at in the 2016 U.S. pavilion...By William Menking - The Architect's Newspaper

Venice Biennale awards Golden Lions to Spanish Pavilion and Gabinete de Arquitectura: A Silver Lion was awarded to Nigerian architect Kunié Adayemi and his studio NLÉ...[images] - Dezeen

In Union Square, Apple Store is spiffy but plaza needs work: It would be hard to imagine two structures more different than the triumphant Apple Store...and the idiosyncratic fountain by Ruth Asawa from 1972 nestled into the steps of the plaza behind it...the newcomer is all about contemporary sheen...The deceptively effortless architectural pyrotechnics continue inside...
Versailles in the valley: The world's mightiest tech companies are building monuments to their success. What do their new HQs say about them? ... Apple’s is the grandest and -- although it might not initially look it -- the most traditional. By Alexandra Suiich -- Norman Foster/Foster + Partners; Frank Gehry; Thomas Heatherwick/BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group [images]- The Economist / 1843 (UK)

Resurrecting Eero Saarinen's Design Dome at GM: The futuristic 60-year-old GM Technical Center [in Warren, Michigan] remains as relevant as ever: With its sleek, renovated interior, it hardly looks dated. The suburban, self-contained, car-centric headquarters and campuses now being planned for today's companies of the future...make clear that it is still where today meets tomorrow. And tomorrow, and tomorrow. By Henry Grabar -- Richard Kelly; SmithGroupJJR [images]- Architect Magazine

Domes weren't built in a day: Modern mosques tend to be gaudy or bulky. But...one female Turkish designer is letting in the light: Zeynep Fadillioglu...first Turkish woman to build a mosque, has struck out in a different direction with the Sakirin Mosque in Istanbul...Challenging the conformism of mosque architecture has not, however, proved easy. By Anne McElvoy -- Husrev Tayfa [images]- The Economist / 1843 (UK)

Wroclaw: Rediscovered avant garde: Over 100 years ago...broke new ground in modern design...Now, Wroclaw's year as European Capital of Culture has at last brought its Modernist architecture back into the international spotlight. Once before...it played a role almost as important to the development of the Modernist Movement as that of Berlin or Frankfurt. -- Hans Scharoun; Theo Effenberger; Hans Poelzig; Erich Mendelsohn; Max Berg [images]- Deutsche Welle (Germany)

Help wanted: Chief Architect, Public Buildings Service: to provide effective, mobile, sustainable workplace solutions for Federal agencies; serves as senior executive and advisor...on all matters concerning Federal architecture and design. Deadline to apply: June 13 - U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)

Call for entries: Iceland Trekking Cabins International Architecture Competition: create clever and inventive designs for the trekking cabin that can be duplicated in all sorts of terrain; cash prizes; earlybird registration (save money!): June 1; final registration: July 27; submissions due August 17 - Bee Breeders (formerly HMMD/Homemade Dessert)