EDITOR'S NOTE: Tomorrow and Monday will be no-newsletter days. We’ll be back Tuesday, August 2.

- Kamin et al. report on the pros and cons of Obama’s pick of Chicago’s Jackson Park for the presidential library: the site “is cloaked in a more powerful collection of assets” than Washington Park.
- How could we resist a report on the “surprises and staggering prices” at the Four Seasons auction, where most items sold “for several times their estimated value” (and one for nearly 20 times its estimate!).
- Hawthorne parses the Democratic Convention’s stage set: “Homespun, blunt and direct. Not quite blue-collar, but stripped of airs” (unlike the Republicans’).
- Litt mimes no words about what he thinks of the site - and design - for an outlet mall in Cleveland: not on the lakeside near the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
- Eyefuls of Stanton Williams and Asif Khan’s winning design for the new Museum of London at Smithfield market (spiraling escalators and a sunken garden included).
- Menking’s Q&A with MoMA curator Stierli re: the future of the museum’s architecture and design galleries: “abolishing” them “is not and never has been an issue under consideration” (they’ll find a home somewhere in the new building).
- Ban proposed a museum for architectural models, et voilà! Tokyo now hosts a warehouse museum called Archi-Depot.
- A “guide to how architects charge for their services - it’s a system that mystifies architects, too.”
- New Federal rules re: overtime pay could “rattle” the architectural industry (no more exemptions for so-called “creative professionals”).
- Efforts by the Australian Institute of Architects to counter gender inequality are “not going unnoticed.”
- Weekend diversions:
  - “Small is Beautiful” is a new “moving feature-length documentary” that explores the tiny house movement.
  - “Occupied,” on view in Melbourne, “focuses on better housing with architect-designed projects.”
  - In “Wayward Eye” at the Venice Biennale, Denise Scott Brown’s photos capture “the beauty and banality of cities” - “My view is urbanistic even if it’s a teaspoon.”
  - Chan finds “Roberto Burle Marx: Brazilian Modernist” at NYC’s Jewish Museum to be “a somewhat unprecedented tribute.”
  - Moore isn’t much moved by Howard’s “Architecture’s Odd Couple: Frank Lloyd Wright and Philip Johnson”: “the two never had a really fruitful interaction. Both might be called odd, but they weren’t a couple.”
  - Rybczynski’s “How Architecture Works” is a “combination of his experience, knowledge and insight without exaggeration and self-indulgence.”
- In “The Anatomy of the Architectural Book,” Tavares’s “correlations and observations are stimulating and impactful.”
- Two new tomes explore William Krisel and Midcentury Modernism in Palm Springs and environs.
Green Thumb: Roberto Burle Marx was more than the peerless landscape architect who revolutionized the garden aesthetic. He was also a consummate artist..."Roberto Burle Marx: Brazilian Modernist" at the Jewish Museum in New York...a somewhat unprecedented tribute. By Kelly Chan [Images]- Metropolis Magazine

"Architecture's Odd Couple: Frank Lloyd Wright and Philip Johnson" by Hugh Howard: They were rivals who shaped American architecture, but to call them an 'odd couple' overstates their relationship...the two never had a really fruitful interaction...Both might be called odd, but they weren't a couple...there are other accounts of each that tell them better. By Rowan Moore-Observer (UK)

Award-winning buildings are not necessarily good architecture: "How Architecture Works: A Humanist's Toolkit" by Witold Rybczynski...The writing...is simple and succinct...combination of his experience, knowledge and insight without exaggeration and self-indulgence....- Dong-A Ilbo (South Korea)

André Tavares delves into the anatomy of the architectural book: Superficially, "The Anatomy of the Architectural Book" is a book about books. Its uniqueness lies in its exploration of how architects utilize their design skills in bookmaking...[his] correlations and observations...are stimulating and impactful from such perspectives. - The Architect's Newspaper

"William Krisel's Palm Springs": a stunning book focusing on the designer's Midcentury Modern desert architecture; Q&A with authors Heidi Creighton and Chris Menrad: What drew you to putting together a book about him in particular? "I wanted it published while he was still alive...we had the opportunity to consult with him and get the details correct." - New York Spaces

Q&A: Photographer Dan Chavkin’s "Unseen Midcentury Desert Modern" captures some incredible architectural gems: What made you want to document modernist design hidden away in Palm Springs and through Coachella Valley? "I wanted to give a voice to the myriad examples of midcentury modern architecture in the desert not seen in other books on the subject." - New York Spaces