Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, April 2023

Recently published architectural books and related works, selected by Barbara Opar, Librarian for Architecture, Syracuse University Libraries. Barbara can be reached at baopar@syr.edu.

Reader’s Advisory

Arquitectonica and Its Latin American Contribution to Modernism

Grace La appointed Harvard GSD’s Chair of Department of Architecture

Yasmeen Lari: Starchitect Turned Climate Activist

Index of Medieval Art

For nearly a century, the Index of Medieval Art has provided researchers at Princeton and beyond with both visual images and scholarly expertise. The print index and online database together make available approximately 350,000 images and data from the “Long Middle Ages,” from early apostolic times until the sixteenth century. Originally called the Index of Christian Art, reflecting its beginnings as a focused resource for the study of early Christian art, the Index now sets its parameters more broadly, including works from multiple medieval faith traditions as well as secular imagery. As of July 1, 2023, a paid subscription will no longer be required for access to the Index. This transition was made possible by a generous grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

The BAC Library is continuing to negotiate and digitize periodicals from their collection into the Internet Archive by completing the print run of Architecture Boston, now freely available to everyone.

The Internet Archive Loses on Controlled Digital Lending

Articles & Segments

This month’s selections have been chosen and annotated by Yun(Sally) Jiang, a sophomore in the School of Architecture at Syracuse University.
Yun(Sally) Jiang

“I started to work at King and King Architecture Library in May 2022 and will be a sophomore architecture student at Syracuse University in fall 2022. I will be selecting the periodical articles beginning June 2022. I look forward to my fall semester learning more about architecture and helping at the library. Hope you enjoy this month’s selections!”


“THE 12,000 SEAT Swiss Life Arena may look unapologetically boxy when approached by rail or road. Up close, however, it is enormously fun - not an adjective often associated with the London and Zurich-based practice Caruso St John Architects. Known for architecture that is as intellectually rigorous as it is aesthetically sensitive, the firm’s work often resolves in a commitment to context, be that in a topographical way as with the Nottingham Contemporary (2009), which superbly marries the engineering of an elevated tramway with the geology of a hill or in structural expression, as with the St. Jakob Foundation (2018), where balconies play visual games with the historic viaduct immediately adjacent” (97).


“Completed in 2021 in Sevran, Seine-Saint-Denis, just north of Paris, the Fabrique Cycle Terre is a production unit for compressed raw earth blocks (CEB) and stabilised compressed earth blocks (SCEB), mortars and plasters made with earth excavated from construction sites in the Paris region. The project draws on extensive research by Paul-Emmanuel Loire and Serge Joly - which in 2017 also featured in Terres de Paris, an outstanding exhibition at the Pavillon de l'Arsenal - and is one of several avenues now being explored by the bio-based construction sector. Nothing goes to waste, everything is transformed” (90).


“when adopting the Reggio Emilia approach for its new school in Madrid, Spain, Colegio Reggio turned to New York- and Madrid-based firm Office for Political Innovation (OFFPOLINN) to develop an appropriately inspiring environment. The radical building that the team came up with places equal emphasis on experiential learning and environmental sensitivity. ‘It avoids unification or homogenization,’ says Andrés Jaque, OFFPOLINN’s founder and the current dean of Columbia’s architecture school. ‘Instead, it’s a way for architecture to render the complexity of the environment perceptible. Parts of it operate as civic infrastructure, others as gardens, and some within the tradition of light cabin construction.’” (39).


“In 2022, a different sort of pedestrian passage way, a bridge, was completed along the east bank of the Huangpu River in Shanghai’s Pudong district. While the bridge more precisely, a 56,000-square-foot plaza with two irregularly shaped spans extending over a manmade waterway evokes the moon gate in both name and form, its concerns are more egalitarian in nature. Designed by Boston based architecture practice Höweler+Yoon (HYA), Moongate Bridge is a public gathering space and gateway to Shanghai Expo Park, coupling historical reference with contemporary reflection” (69).
“In designing the fire station, OPN sought to allay these concerns in some fairly standard ways—dividing the building into hot, warm, and cold zones, for example, to ensure that no contaminants enter the spaces where firefighters work and rest—and in other, biophilic ones. Terraces atop the first-floor roof and expansive window walls offer direct connections to nature that Sorg hopes will lower stress levels and provide a sense of tranquility. After all, the firefighters who occupy the station do not just work in it; for them, it is also something of a second home where, while on duty, they sleep, eat, and relax together” (105).

“Designed by architects Richard Unterthiner and Geoffrey Turnbull, the all-season residence swaps a furnace or boiler for a Zehnder heat recovery ventilation system with an electric post-heater attached to it. "It's essentially a hair dryer hooked up to a ventilator," explains Turnbull. Working in tandem with hefty insulation, ultra-tight sealing and strategic window placements, the set-up promises to keep the home's annual thermal energy demand around nine kilowatt hours per square meter - well below the Passive House threshold of 15” (77).

“Past the surprise of a pastoral remove in New York City was a landscape that was repetitive, overpopulated with underused playgrounds, and suffering from a distinct lack of programming diversity. To counter this, Grain Collective's preliminary sketches of Berry call for an axial entry procession leading to the central lawn, through a farmers’ market and event space, gateway plaza, and outdoor stage, flanked by urban farming areas, adventure fitness programs, and children's playgrounds. At the perimeter, destination multigenerational playgrounds would attract people from across the neighborhood” (57).

“For Premthada, insisting on a return to brick also means forgetting that brick is not just an eco-friendly material but is also one of the universal building blocks of architecture, and that, in Thailand, it has been used to build not only houses, but also palaces and temples. For Premthada, "short supply chain" does not translate to "short architecture". In 2018, we asked him where the aesthetic of the Kantana Institute, with its waves of flat bricks, had come from, and whether, for example, he had drawn on Western antecedents (from Louis Kahn to Laurie Baker)? He replied, with his usual simplicity: "I grew up in a shanty town and had no choice but to study in Thailand” (53).

“After two decades of influx into large cities, recently the opposite trend towards suburbanization has started. Near Venray, the architect Björn Martenson from AMUNT designed with Luc Merx a new country home in timber-frame construction. A section of a field was turned into a place of contrasts between technology and idyll and communication between a living- and a garden landscape” (101).

“I’m very grateful for my little house. It’s comfy. I came with my boyfriend. We got two separate pods in case we ever broke up, so neither one of us would have to go back on the streets. We put our two beds together [in one of the pods], so it’s like I have a big king-size bed. It’s wonderful! And then I have my TV on top of the dresser. We use the other pod for storage. Speaking from Renee Dorie who is a resident currently living in the Menlo Park Safe Rest Village in southeast Portland” (89).


“The restaurant was in a converted mill building from the 1760s with its original timber-frame structure and wide pine flooring. Surveying the interior of the building, the client said, "This is what I want the inside of the carriage house to feel like." The carriage house is a multifunctional structure with an large open living space. To create the historical character, we decided to install antique heart pine flooring and wood wainscot milled from reclaimed lumber. But the focal point of the cottage is a grid of reclaimed beams on the great-room ceiling" (48).


“Danielle and her family, including husband Darren Hochberg, toddler Oliver, puppy Melrose, and newborn Julian (who was still in the works when Dwell photographed the family in January). The recently completed home is distinguished by its light palette, unique blend of forms, and inventive use of materials, stucco and asphalt shingles among them. The unconventional blend reflects the clients’ confidence in the architects' flair for experimentation” (78).

**Booklist:**

**Topical—Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**


**The Subject is Architecture**

**Architects**


**Architecture, Ancient**


**Architecture, Nineteenth Century**


**Architecture – Italy**


**Architecture – Singapore**

Architecture – Sweden


Architecture – Turkey


Architecture – United Kingdom


Architectural Education


Architectural Photography


Architectural Practice


Architectural Theory


Architecture and Society


Building Materials


Building Types


Landscape Architecture


Masterworks


Sustainability


Urban Design

