Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, December 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 In the news—timely information from the blogs
Frank Lloyd Wright’s Legacy
Yasmeen Lari and Pakistan Housing
Local Architectural Identity
The New Workplace
AI And Architecture
The Venice Biennale Reexamined
Vienna Through The Ages

Articles and Segments
This month’s selections have been chosen and annotated by Yun (Sally) Jiang, a B.ARCH student in the School of Architecture at Syracuse University. Yun(Sally) Jiang states “I started to work at the King and King Architecture Library in May 2022 and am now a junior architecture student at Syracuse University. I have been selecting the periodical articles since June 2022. I look forward to my fall semester and learning more about architecture and helping at the library. Hope you enjoy this month’s selections!”

Sally will be studying abroad for the next year. This task will be taken on by Qiying (Andrea)Ruan for the next semester. Andrea is pictured below.
Andrea assisted with the preparation of this month’s selections and will be assuming responsibility for all the selections beginning January 2024 until her May graduation. Andrea is currently a fifth student in the B.ARCH program with a special interest in new possibilities for the discipline. Since freshman year, Andrea has participated in the SOA Magazine Club as led by Dean Michael Speaks. Andrea’s goal for the Articles and Segments is to locate articles on new trends in the industry.

Articles and Segments

“On a typically muggy Florida summer day, a group of landscape architects, land planners, growers, developers, and builders gathered around a manicured garden of flourishing and flowering native plants to talk about ideas for a new community south of Orlando. A pair of monarch butterflies arrived, checked out the offerings, and landed a dozen or so times before flying off. It was a symbolic moment, a harbinger of a brighter future and not just for the monarchs” (59).


“As The Architect’s Newspaper turns 20, we’re reflecting on two decades of operations. But because architecture is about the future, we’re also thinking about what’s next. […] we invited a range of architects, writers, and scholars from around the world to speculate with us. They responded to two questions: What do you hope architecture will be like in 2043? And: What do you hope architectural media will be like in 2043? Their responses, filed with hope in mind, are cause for cautious optimism” (27).


“Our cities are full of living beings, even if they are not always the ones we would like to be surrounded by. During the pandemic, we saw both sides of this: a virus brought into our life through proximity with other species, which then made us see just how many animals and plants were living amongst us, from the fishes in the canals of Venice to the
wild boars in the streets of Rome. Proximity and distance with other animals is a negotiation, and we think that the most relevant project would be one that asks us, as citizens, to adapt and change [...]” (97).


“Defined by a gigantic timber frame, the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Business School embodies the elegance of Toyo Ito’s architecture as well as the know-how of a cutting-edge engineering school. This competition-winning scheme is the Tokyo architect and Pritzker Prize-winner’s latest addition to the Singapore campus, where he previously built student dormitories, a gymnasium, and a small restaurant. While the new building’s gently arching form embraces the school’s historic setting, its environmentally sensitive construction points the way to the future” (68).


“Immersed in nature, sunlight dappling through the trees, fresh breezes scenting the air, far removed from the bustling pace of life: There are few settings that inspire relaxation quite like a cabin in the woods. Deep in the heart of Ontario’s Muskoka region, the charming Bunkie on the Hill perfectly encapsulates this notion. Poised at the top of a steep slope with covetable views of the lake, it is a study in serenity” (77).


“At its simplest, a geo-exchange system consists of buried pipe loops, a heat pump, and distribution pipes. The buried pipes can be laid horizontally, in a shallow configuration, or, where more capacity is needed within a constrained footprint, vertically, hundreds of feet deep. [...] The heat pump circulates a fluid – often water, sometimes a refrigerant – through the buried pipes to stash or retrieve heat, amplifying the differentials. The distribution pipes deliver heating and cooling where they’re needed. Assuming clean electricity operates the pump, it’s a zero-carbon setup” (113-114).

“Tucked away on a Hollywood street lined with historic old movie stages, the prolific film and TV producer Ryan Murphy has quietly created a home for his extensive offices. An intentional canvas of calming neutrals that promote clarity and let creativity bubble to the fore, the interiors - for which Murphy enlisted the help of designer Jeremiah Brent to realize his vision - also took inspiration from the futuristic film set of the Netflix mini-series, Halston, on which Murphy acted as executive producer. He takes us on a tour inside...” (132).


“The dystopias that J.G. Ballard imagined could well have been set in the Shanghai where he was born. With its babelic chaos, vertiginous pace, and constant mutation, the economic capital of the Asian giant is one of the world’s new frontiers, a metropolis with eyes on the future but in which a rich history also palpitates. Lyndon Neri and Rosana Hu decided to establish their practice amid this reality, and learn from it to produce works that pursue order without ignoring their urban and cultural contexts, as shown by the six buildings featured in the following pages, thanks to which the spirit of their cosmopolitan city spreads to the rest of China” (21).


“In the grip of the viral contagion of the recent past and its attendant lockdowns, many of us started working from home for the first time and transitioning to various online communication methods such as Zoom or Teams. However, home working is not a new phenomenon; our domestic spaces have always had to embrace and adapt to multifunctional activities they may not have been designed for. The introduction of online spaces, though, adds a new layer to consider. Historian and writer Holly Nielsen explores our contemporary domestic condition, its histories and its interaction with electronic space” (58).


“Restoring and refurbishing the church’s (Trinity Church in New York City) stained-glass windows, some of which were installed in the 1960s, was integral to the project. In one
case, the team replaced yellow glass quarries that blocked much of the daylight and made it hard to see the architecture in the upper part of the church with replicas of the clear-glass originals. ‘We produced multiple mockups to find the right color and transparency,’ Murphy says” (50).


“At 600 square feet, the homes are modest, but architect Matthew Salenger, of COLAB studio, has incorporated thoughtful features: There are fully equipped kitchens, operable windows, and patios in each home. Most have sleeping lofts, while the accessible model has a semi-separate bedroom. Salenger brought unique details to the exteriors as well-adorning inset patches on the otherwise white stucco boxes with metal panels and attaching small awnings over each entrance. Modest square windows punch through the units, creating irregular patterns on their facades” (72).


“Installed in the former studio of Andre Alfaro in Valencia, Fran Silvestre works closely for interiors with the sculptor’s son Andrés Alfaro Hofmann. That was the case for Casa Sabater.

The unexpected combination of influences developed through contact with Andreu Alfaro and Álvaro Siza underlies the unexpected plan of Casa Sabater, which is formed by two overlapping "y" forms. In discussion with the author on June 23, 2023, Fran Silvestre explained, ‘We have been trying to build a house of this type for 20 years - this idea of a very thin house that increases the contact with the exterior, and we wanted to increase the perimeter for that reason. [...] This house has a relation to the work of Alfaro - there is a repetitive system of volumes and lines’” (86).

**Booklist**

**Topical—Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

The Subject is Architecture

Architects


Architecture, Ancient


Architecture, Mannerist


Architecture, Medieval


Architecture, Modern

**Architecture – Spain**


**Architecture - United States**


**Architectural Design**


**Architectural Education**

**Architectural Photography**


**Architectural Practice**


**Architecture and Society**


**Building Types**


**Historic Preservation**


**Masterworks**


**Sustainability**


**Reference Works**

**Urban Design**


**Women in Architecture**
