Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, February 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: From the Blogs and Listservs

Black History Month – Honoring Arturo Schomburg and his Legacy: 4 Occasions Arturo Schomburg Inspired American & African Diasporic Culture

Doshi’s Philosophy: Architecture as Celebration: The Philosophies of B.V. Doshi

Monument to Post Modernism: Cosmic Comforts: The Home of Charles Jencks and Maggie Keswick

Jencks Is a Museum of Postmodernism

The Office: A Nostalgic Look at When Architects Tried To Make the Office Better

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 complex built in 1923 by Jules Pascal Ledoux was originally composed of a ring circus and a series of service buildings embedded in the urban fabric. Its owner from 1947 onwards, a car dealer and passionate collector, Ghislain Mahy, added numerous and disparate extensions. ‘The whole complex became a kind of Merzbau, at first sight a disordered and simultaneously phantasmatic collage, evoking the work of the German Dada artist Kurt Schwitters in the 1920s,’ the architects point out’ (109).

“In 1946, Frank Lloyd Wright began work on a hotel project for a Texas oilman, Rogers E. Lacy, who was eager to leave his footprint on his native Dallas. The proposed 47-story building with a cantilevered tower that combined hotel rooms and residences would have been among the tallest buildings Wright ever designed, and he was eager to produce what he ultimately called a concept ‘evolved with success beyond expectation.’ The glass exterior’s fish-scale pattern was intended to sparkle in the Texas sunlight; the interior 12-story atrium was audacious for its time, a pioneering concept in hotel architecture” (19).


“At any rate, the way this late-Modernist cliché has been made to feel radical again demonstrates how, in keeping with OFFPOLINN’s name, building the Colegio Reggio was a fundamentally political act. ‘Education in Spain has traditionally been the preserve of the Catholic Church, explains Jaque,’ which used it as a means for social control. The Spanish Civil War was partly about that. With democracy, he says, nothing changed: rather than constructing a public education system, the government funded private schools, leaving the Catholic hegemony intact” (64).


“It’s odd to think of the woods in this context. In the United States and Europe, the image of a forest is one of the wild unknowable, of deep, dark pines and oaks. But the woods at Al Fay are also mysterious- and vehemently local even if intensely planned and maintained. There's simply something to be said for the magic of dense foliage. During the heat of the summer, when temperatures average around 110°F with humidity above 8 percent, the park is active in the early mornings and evenings, following the larger rhythms of the city and region” (50).


“Those who were there cannot have forgotten it. In May 2018, the Encore Heureux collective had organised, on the sidelines of the Venice Architecture Biennale 10th edition, a party within the former Guglielmo Pepe barracks, on the Lido. Festivities were only the visible part of a temporary occupation of the premises where, for six months, guests followed one another in debating, experimenting, feasting again - in short, remaking the world” (50).


“For the daylong launch party at Franconia, visitors were invited to participate in planting a grove of trees using the Miyawaki Afforestation method. This was the organization’s second Miyawaki forest. The first was created in 2016 through a collaboration between the fellowship artist Lu Xu, based in Guizhou, China, and Ethan Bryson of Natural Urban Forests. Lu's sculpture, Liang’s Tears, made of welded steel rebar, commemorates an ancient tower and walls near the Forbidden City that were demolished by Mao Ze-dong to make way for the new Beijing city. Bryson planted the forest within a fence that follows the outline of the old Beijing city, and after just six years, the forest has grown
vigorously and overtaken the sculpture” (74-75).


“Now, half a century since the completion of Utzon’s building, Sydney has an architectural landmark with an entirely different character--the expansion of the Art Gallery of New South Wales designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, principals of Tokyo-based SANAA. Said to be the state’s largest cultural investment since the Opera House, the museum's new stand-alone building seems barely there at least when viewed from some angles from the west, at the edge of the Domain, the city’s expansive public park adjoining its Royal Botanic Garden” (43).


“Though I understand the urge to be off in the woods by yourself, there are alternatives that allow you to feel secure and embedded in the natural world around you. With the proper screening, you can have your own peaceful outdoor retreat in the middle of a very dense neighborhood. In fact, the contrast can intensify your feeling of home- your garden oasis feels more special when you retreat into it within a dense context” (42).


“Lake and Wolcheski emphasize what they see as key to City Ridge's success fitting into the surrounding city: "When you live here, it's important you know you live in the broader city,' Lake says. The towers of the nearby Washington National Cathedral are visible from the roofs of all the buildings. The property is about half a mile (0.8 km) from a Metro subway station, numerous bus lines run past on Wisconsin Avenue, and there is a 24-dock bike-sharing station” (67).


“The Illinois would be 528 stories and stand a mile high, four times as tall as the world’s tallest building at the time, midtown Manhattan's Empire State Building. At more than 18 million square feet, three times the floor space of the Pentagon, The Illinois would contain space for more than 100,000 people, for which reason Wright dubbed it ‘a city in the sky.’ Four major highways would provide access to the building, so would rail lines and a heliport, with docking space for more than 100 aircraft, and parking space for more than 15,000 cars. Getting people to the top of the building would be the task of 76 elevators, each with five-story-high cabs delivering passengers to five floors at a time” (12).


“Fresh takes on classic Athenian moments, mixed with entirely new offerings, represent an ever-evolving Greek identity that is much less about looking back, and more about a positive future for the Mediterranean country. There is a reimagining of some of the city’s finest modernist architecture; a boom in the hospitality industry; a move towards sustainability; and a wave of new cultural destinations. Creativity is running high, and Athens is on an upward trajectory, following a ten-year period of
economic woes, political changes and, of course, the troubles brought by the worldwide pandemic, all of which hit the city hard. Yet here we are, and the Greek capital seems to be heading towards sunnier times” (148).


“Since 1970, wildlife populations have declined by 68 percent. Between 1992 and 2014, economic capital rose by 13 percent per person even as the stock of natural capital fell by 40 percent. Both trends coincided with rapid growth of urban areas, which have more than doubled in size in the past 30 years. Although the real estate sector played a major role in creating this environmental crisis, the ULI Green-print Center for Building Performance and the Jacobs Engineering Group argue in a new joint report that advances in technology and environmental science mean that the industry now has an opportunity to be part of the solution” (56).

**Booklist:**

**Special Selections**

**Topical—Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**


**The Subject is Architecture**

**Architects**


Lucchi, Michele De. *Michele De Lucchi & AMDL Circle: Earth Stations: Future Sharing*


Architecture, Modern


Architecture – China


Architecture – France


Architecture – Germany


Architecture – Italy


Architecture – United States


Architecture – Wales

Architectural Design


Architectural Practice


Architectural Research


Architectural Theory


Architecture and Society


Charlesworth, Esther. *Design for Fragility: 13 Stories of Humanitarian Architects*. Oxfordshire:


**Building Types**


Historic Preservation


Landscape Architecture


Masterworks


Sustainability


Women in Architecture