Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, January 2024

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

US Modernist Digital Archive: Modernist Architects and Houses

Best Articles of 2023: Dismantling Ideas, Personal Narratives and the Emergence of New Realities

The 21 Most Anticipated Projects of 2024

10 Interior Design Trends of 2023

Articles and Segments

This task is taken on by Qiying (Andrea) Ruan for the next semester.

Andrea assisted with the preparation of the December selections and is 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.

Here are her suggested readings:


“The qualities of the image-substance, as every artist knows, are not altogether separate from the qualities of the represented objects. A thicker outline makes the figure look more massive; a thin line can add to its delicacy and grace; a broken line opens the form to the
play of light and shadow with all their expressive implications for the concept of things.... Both poles of substance, the ancient and the modern, enter into the visual manifestation of the whole and convey peculiarities of outlook and feeling as well as subtle meanings of the signs” (52).


“In our society, the current situation of mid-size cities is often characterized by keywords such as ‘declining population’ and disappearance of provinces’, but few people talk about the details of how the urban structure is changing. I think this discourse shouldn’t be led by just sociologists and statisticians, but it is an important time for architects to investigate mid-size cities. [...] Understanding the world is what drives us to redefined architecture and present alternative visions” (124).


“For his part, Mattiazzi adds his love of wood and pursuit of perfection. [...] [H]e works with his hands, his head and his heart. Sandpaper alternates with numerical control machines and the chairs are not considered finished until they have been checked with real eyes and touched with real hands. ‘Production is centred around people,’ Paolo says, ‘and we have established a good balance between automation and craftsmanship. It is an effective way of ensuring high quality.[...]'” (127).


“Monkey House was inspired by the verticality of the forest, in the possibility of approaching the crests of the trees, in a gentle and subtle way, connecting with its countless inhabitants of the kingdom of flora and fauna. [...] The Monkey House is an observatory. A place of encounter and reunion with yourself and other species, to observe Nature outside and inside us, where everything is in everything” (43).


“In the uncertain flux of the contemporary city, the regeneration of industrial brownfield sites remains a central and unavoidable issue for urban planning practice. After the season of discovery and experimentation, industrial neglect has become nowadays a familiar, if not ordinary, ‘object’. The many redevelopment experiences conducted so far in medium and large European urban centres, as well as the regional restructuring programs, projects
and strategies at the territorial and landscape scale, have contributed to forming a solid base of knowledge, methods and practices to continue to innovate” (100).


“What is the difference between the natural and the artificial? Where does the boundary between the two lie? The exposed sand and gravel in the cracks of concrete walls is no different to the exposed plane of rough stones. Is this natural or artificial? Grasses probe and gentle breezes blow through crevices in the concrete. When contemplating how nature and the artificial are related, the fundamentals of architecture are called into question” (69).


“The fundamental premisses [...] are that urban planning must (should) continue to play an essential role, despite the difficulties, in contemporary and future society. In this sense, it cannot be intended as a mere ‘art of presuppositions’ (Palermo 2019): a strategic vision or design of ideal forms and regulations are not enough; what is at play is the capacity to affect, here, now and for the time to come, real processes of urban and territorial transformation” (121).


“Deep-learning models introduce new ways of connecting images to other images, images to texts, texts to images, and, ultimately, people to people through the mediation of images and texts. Techniques of image generation, processing, and editing [...] are being quickly transformed and in some cases entirely replaced by new forms of so-called prompt engineering. All the research fields that deal, from different perspectives, with the study of images and visual media are suddenly faced with the possibility opened up by algorithms capable of analyzing and classifying images within vast image databases, but also with the questions raised by the limits and the biases of these algorithms, as well as by an entire new array of AI-generated images and image operations” (75-76).


“Allford Hall Monaghan Morris has transformed the former Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel into Tower Hamlets Town Hall. Chris Dyson admires a project that combines conservation, retrofit and new build to create a complex, vibrant building that plays a vital role in civic life” (68).

“Graffiti taught me the importance of spontaneity, adaptability and contact with a wide public. Today designing spaces on a large scale allows me to immerse viewers physically in my works. It’s an opportunity to blur the boundaries between art and architecture, turning the urban landscape into a vibrant and dynamic experience” (52).

**Booklist**

**Topical—Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**


**The Subject is Architecture**

**Architects**


**Architecture, Ancient**


Armstrong, Jeremy, Rhodes-Schroder, Aaron. *Adoption, Adaption, and


Architecture - Switzerland


Architectural Design


Architectural Drawing


Architectural Theory

Pickersgill, Sean. The Architec’ts Dream: Form and Philosophy in Architectural


Building Materials


Building Types


Historic Preservation

Landscape Architecture


Masterworks


Outer Space


Sustainability


Women in Architecture
