Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, July 2021

Recently published architectural books and related works, selected by Barbara Opar, architecture librarian, Syracuse University Library.

NOTE: Links to purchasing information generally taken from amazon.com. Amazon will donate .5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the Society of Architectural Historians whenever you shop on AmazonSmile using this link.

Reader’s Advisory
A new feature—diversity, inclusion and equity titles—will be added to the booklist. Here are this month’s suggestions.


Recommended Current Periodical Readings

For many of you it has been a long time since you have been able to easily access current periodical titles. We’d like to help you catch up with the selections below.

Selected and Annotated by Patrick Riley, Syr. Arch’22.


“What do we call collective housing? Is it a question of typology, density, height? Is it just an urban phenomenon? What role can collective housing play today facing the multiple crises we are confronted with? These are the questions we ask in this series of conversations with Juan Herreros, Josep Maria Montaner, Anne Lacaton and Manuel Gausa” (24).

“Portuguese post-revolution architectural historiography has run its course and needs to be historicised…Liberated from these constraints, the thinking and writing of twentieth-century architecture in Portugal can now attempt to be more inclusive, catholic, knowledgeable, and profound” (1109).


“The meaning of ‘model’ can range from the loftiest notions or paragons and ideals through to the practical operations of gluing cardboard into a 3D form, through to the most complex of digital reconstructions. This issue…does not attempt to clarify what an architectural model might be today; it aims to discuss a new shift that involves how the model sits in a world of its own making – as a ‘worldmodel’” (7).


“Our understanding of the domestic realm has been turned on its head...The ‘constituent elements’ of the house grow ever more complex, but its most valuable role remains unchanged: to nurture its residents, bring joy to their lives and allow for new narratives to unfold” (52-53).


“For critics like Guillen, Americanization was not merely superficial, ‘boring,’ and lacking personality – it was a promise of violence for the world’s people of color...Yet the expanse of Americanness - its appeal and its spread, its politics and its iconography – was in reality much more dynamic, in a constant process of becoming redefined and transformed, questioned and reframed, from both inside and out” (42-43).


“We all talk about architecture (everyone – legitimately – talks about architecture), but we don’t think about architectural projects (not even those who, professionally, have to do so)... Trapped in the impenetrable irreducibility of the subject, the project is thus only an intention. It is traceless” (157).


“‘How can we build an embassy that reflects the core values of democracy - transparency, openness, equality – and is welcoming, secure, and highly sustainable?’ The current building boom follows a long process of debate and adjustments in methodology as America experimented with its image abroad, with varying degrees of confidence” (17).

“As a profession, we need to advocate for policy and law changes that deter hostile architecture. We need to focus on transforming our reactive, security-minded cities into inviting and vibrant centers of life” (51).


“The work of my studio draws from research and history to intensify a sense of place, a concern developed during my time at Princeton, but we always seek to create the fundamental experience of being present in a deceptively simple place, which unfolds with secret depths, layers of understanding, and the sense of delight and discovery I felt at Great Zimbabwe” (8).


“Amid widespread interest in linking spatial design to more positive social and environmental outcomes, there remains a wide chasm. This is the result of the gap between hoping that a building or street plan performs some desirable function and actually understanding the articulation of how they do so and the nature and magnitude of attainable effects” (24).


“As our post-truth globe increasingly uses media to construct new realities, it is only our collective forms that can relate us to our physical world and each other, reminding us of what we hold in common” (50).


“Reusing buildings in a sensible way is a challenge, but from an ecological perspective there is no alternative. Even with outstanding architectural monuments, pragmatism is indispensable, as Wessel de Jonge explains” (23).


“Climate change affects us all, but doesn’t impact us all equally. This article is part of a new series, Building Equity, that explores how architects are working with communities and civic leaders to develop creative, innovative design solutions that fight climate change, systemic racism, and inequities in the built environment” (113).


“Heritage-conservation professionals have strong insights to contribute to the planning, testing, and implementation of mitigation and adaptation that will be needed to address climate-change disruption. Experience in community planning, rationale development and vetting, envisioning of creative alternatives, logic sequencing of potential outcomes, and other skills developed by conservation architects and other
professionals in their design and change-management practices for existing and historic properties – all will provide valuable foundational expertise for vulnerability assessment and adaptation solutions” (45).


“Seeping deep into the fabric of our work, life, relationships, and very identities, AI remaps what it means to be human. The show presents a cross-section of this reality, depicting how artificial intelligence is engineering forms that are perhaps even more us than we are” (92).


“3D Turntables is a field guide for designing from a place of disruption and defiance through disrupting the operation of digital tools and defying their suggested parameters of operation. It calls on architects to challenge their relationship to technology, to hack software and hardware protocols in the service of humanizing its processes and products, and to engender more empathetic modes of creating buildings and environments” (198).


“Recently completed in a dense and fast-growing district in the 20th arrondissement, [the Paul Meurice Home and Day Centre for Disabled Adults] serves young intellectually and physically challenged individuals who can function and work to some degree but require medical supervision…it’s a gracefully stepped building that prioritizes – and successfully achieves – transparency, domesticity, and a multiplicity of spaces” (69).


“‘[Christine Williamson is] a practicing forensic building scientist who investigates failures in enclosures, mechanical systems, and material...’ That’s the biggest misconception. We don’t design anything not to fail ever, we design it for the conditions we intend to use it for” (59).


“The ambition is to give a public face to the ancient community of pearl divers and their musical and cultural traditions. Both Dar (house) and the addition of a new Majilis (collective room), [are] to be used as a communal space for music performances” (48).


“This article evaluates the use of digital and analog documentation approaches to better understand their impact on the interpretive and recording processes” (47).

“For a discipline so concerned with cementing its greatest wonders in both stone and book, we will not find the names of these zany operators easily...They refuse to go about practice in the same way as their counterparts, thus remaining underrepresented, uncharted, undiagramed, and unchained from the great architectural lineage” (20).


“Material bodies focus on this interest in the human body, showing how material culture and environmental technologies have the capacity to generate atmospheres that have a clear influence on the perception and well-being of users inside a building” (87).


“Architecture, among other STEM fields, is inhibitive to women and people of color...We are told to cater to the client, who is seldom poor, young, or of color...The future of design and the built environment will be for those committed to all communities thriving” (18).


“Rather than prescribe what to do where, the performance section describes what fireblocking is meant to do...It’s up to builders and inspectors to understand the code’s intent, identify additional locations where fireblocking is needed, and install suitable materials in a way that meets the requirement of a fireblock” (45).


“History suggests that public health measures taken as a result of a pandemic will persist as part of a cultural, behavioral alignment and permanent physical infrastructure changes – ranging from healthcare buildings and plumbing to public parks and sidewalks...As cities make design and policy changes to protect their citizens from the invisible virus, they need to ask how these changes impact social equity and quality of life for all, not just those in power” (327).


“The system of subterranean well structures with rich spatial and sensory qualities was supplanted by an engineered network of hidden pipes, devoid of community involvement or craft practices. Such situated practices that engage with seasonality and materiality, and respond to the changing mosaic of localities through different types and sizes of interventions, can benefit from a range of efforts” (53).


“Architects and designers should not wait for a tragedy to happen to make a difference in
educational design; instead, these community leaders should understand the difference that can be made in the lives of children’s education, health, and safety if we recognize the commitment that needs to happen in evolving the standards in educational design” (65).

“LGBTQI+ infrastructures can be apprehended as the totality of social space, organisations, and services to fight trans- and homophobia as they intersect with misogyny, racism and xenophobia – the social and material ecologies as well as collective forms of labour that sustain these infrastructures and their specific community of users” (25).

“In the cinema, places of worship provide a backdrop, but they also serve as a selection device that suspends reality and allows a scene to reach its climax. On film, sacred architecture is most often otherworldly, from a religious space to a sacred enclosure dedicated to untamed nature” (40).

“Office S&M proposes a characterful, joyful, and colourful alternative to ‘austerity chic’. Each project is explored through reappropriation, juxtaposition, and assemblage of elements...The office sees reuse as an essential design tool in a world where resources are finite: this is not a sacrifice, it is a luxury – more with less” (47).

“...Fisher’s research focuses on different social histories and where architecture, museums, and art pedagogy intersect. AN contributor Adrian Madlener spoke to Fisher about her various endeavors and the state of design and curation in 2020” (88).

“The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the development of a more tangible, actualized Internet, in response to the need for safer places to interact and live...[Architects] should offer their competencies to support this postdigital spatial revolution, provide that their contribution does not disregard the role of memory, history, and architectural heritage” (48).

“Today rivers are signifiers of human history, shapers of urban morphology, activators of urban public spaces and landscapes, connectors of nature and culture, and lead to the engagement of place with people and communities; they are therefore a vital catalyst as an urban regenerator for urban development, tourism, and more important major blue (drainage) and green (ecological) infrastructure supporting urban systems and providing sustainable, livable, and high-quality places for people” (113).
Murphy, Michael and Ricks, Alan. “Architecture is Everywhere and Nowhere”. *Domus*, Issue 1050 (Oct. 2020) p.41-43

“The built world gets built whether or not architects have a say, access, or control...It is instead to see the built world as part of our everyday empowerment and to distribute access to that power more thoroughly” (42).


“I think that at the highest level, it’s exceptionally difficult, because the most intimate things in your life are happening within the home: You’re eating, sleeping, bathing, breaking bread with loved ones. It is an experiment in infinite care. All of that happens within a hospital. And so, why shouldn’t we, in our most vulnerable moment, when we’re in a hospital environment, not be obsessed with how we’re going to lift the spirit?” (84).


“The article is an attempt at identifying the positive and negative effects the decisions to reconstruct monuments made immediately follow the end of World War II...Moreover, the question is asked how it is possible that in the 21st century people are attracted to the idea of reconstructing monuments which were not destroyed in the course of World War II, but significantly earlier” (47).


“[F]ood is perhaps the most significant element of the intrinsic relationship that exists between the home and the street, on which, in a certain way, the opposite also happens: the meaning, and above all the table habits learned at home, also are spread out into the streets via what we eat” (31).


“The practice of preserving various parts of urban landscapes for historical purposes raises a variety of normative, metaphysical, and conceptual questions that invite philosophical analysis. Why should we preserve historical sites? What sites are worth reserving?” (47).


“Therefore, we argue that the contributions of design activism to the socio-spatial dynamics of place making can be articulated around the two main findings of our research: first, design activism identifies, draws out, and nurtures everyday social practices that co-exist as bundled practices. Second, we claim that design activism forges communities of practice: mutually supportive and self-sustaining groups emerging out of the personal relations sustained and organised around a practice” (114).

“Hunter’s Park South Waterfront Park Phase II re-establishes the site’s former marshland identity and introduces a resilient multi-layered recreational and cultural destination, bringing the city to the park and the park to the waterfront” (46).

Per, Aurora Fernandez. “Stabilizing Communities with Affordable Housing”. *A+T: Is This Rural? Architecture Markers in the Countryside*, Issue 53 (2020) p.80-85

“Completed in 2015, Puukuokka One was the first eight-story high wooden apartment building in Finland. It explores the potential of modular prefabricated CLT (Cross Laminated Timber) construction to meet the goal of providing high quality, environmentally-responsible and affordable housing. It is an energy efficient ecological trio of wood-framed apartment buildings in the Jyvaskyla suburb of Kuokkala” (80).


“The demands of poverty alleviation, climate change, and sustainable growth will put developing cities to the test: more than ever, policies and actions able to create liveable, safe, and more equitable cities will be fundamental, turning challenges into opportunities for a better urban future for all around the world” (106).


“In one of his talks to the Fellowship in the 1950’s, Wright referred to democracy as ‘the highest form of aristocracy,’ which is strange given that he had spent a lifetime reminding Americans of their role as heirs to a nation founded on struggles against political and religious hierarchy...[h]is aristocrat would be different” (23).


“Unlike the slick retrofits found all over Detroit, the Love Building will measure design success differently. ‘It’s not about this beautiful end product,’ said Van Buren. ‘Engaging the community in your design process is really, actually [to] benefit everybody. It expands your thinking and your strategies when you engage more people and make it a diverse, cocreative process” (12).


“Jeff Kaplon and Kristin Korven, the meticulous design duo behind the architecture and interiors firm Part Office... elevate inexpensive materials through detail and subtle handiwork” to design a range of residential projects, yet “never at the expense of [their] attention to detail and love of craftsmanship” (27,30).


Architectural design methodology is revaluated under the context of modern technology and ‘automation’, critiquing modern designs that lack precedential context and sensitivity.

“Whiting encourages students to think about their contributions within two contexts: what she calls their intellectual project and their future selves. For a student standing on the dais and on the precipice of an internship, a decade hence can seem like a lifetime. For RAND’S Kathryn Edwards, it is not so much about the promise of 10 years, but the career inches women need to guard, as well as the potentials pitfalls women need to guard against” (50).


“It challenges the discipline and calls into conversation the institutional role of the museum itself. Simultaneously, the contemporary multimedia works highlight the possibilities and realities of designed space as a vehicle for resistance and liberation” (11).


“The article then reviews three areas of sociological research pertinent to the scholarship on socially engage design. These focus on institutional change within the profession, the ‘logics’ that guide architectural work, and the relationship between the profession and the academy. This article explores these institutional perspectives for their potential to complement frameworks for analyzing dissent in design” (69).


“Vapor drive isn’t as obvious as air or water leaks, but the potential for mold and rot is just as real” (48).


“Will the appeal of skyscrapers endure, even as pundits again predict the end of the office version – thanks to remote work? Record spoke with Carol Willis, the founding director of the Skyscraper Museum in Manhattan, to take the temperature of commercial construction’s hothouse flower – the supertall” (22).


“A considerable portion of students’ education in architecture is based on ‘experience,’ ‘making’, and ‘active engagement.’ However, underlying these approaches are hidden assumptions about the built environment and the people associated with it. It is in this grey area, in this vague and often inchoate relationship wherein lies the ‘lesson’ to be earnt” (39).

“The proposal took advantage of the existing space by understanding it not as an obstacle, but as an opportunity to generate spaces of diverse material and typological qualities capable of housing the activities allowed in the 22nd district” (100).

“The recognition that products, environments, and technologies can enable as well as disable users is at the heart of universal design, an approach that moves beyond ‘accessibility,’ which tends to narrowly focus on accommodating specific disabilities, to consider the needs of everyone – regardless of age, size, or ability” (51-52).

“Since 1992, [Walter Hood’s] firm, Hood Designs Studio, has focused on improving areas alongside polluted water, under freeways, and in flood zones, all places where the poorest populations often live...we spoke about what matters most to him now: bolstering redlined, ecologically marginalized, yet resilient Black communities” (38).

“After a one-year delay, the Venice Architecture Biennale is scheduled to open next spring. We sat down with the curatorial team of the Finnish pavilion, Laura Berger, Kristo Vesikansa, and Philip Tidwell. Their project New Standards looks into the multifaceted history and legacy of Puutalo Oy, a reconstruction-era industrial enterprise that briefly became a worldwide leader in the export of prefabricated wooden houses” (16).

“Abrupt destruction by point impacts may not negate value at all at least not for private capital, and gradual degradation by non-point impacts may effectively disappear into the background noise of business as usual. The aggregate picture is patently absurd from a use value perspective, not to mention unethical” (46).

“Visualizing the spaces of these exchanges – of social capital, self-preservation, and power – illustrates how bodily ideals are operationalized within otherwise abstract registers: among the economic, regulatory, social, and familial structures that govern proper relationships between bodies, often a relationship that serve men’s desires at the expense of women’s needs” (63).

“That this copy of Palmyra’s architecture could travel the Western world, even as the British state strengthened its stance against refugees, speaks to the paradox at the heart of this international response: as a World Heritage Site, Palmyra is seen as in need of a stewardship, funding, and attention; present-day
Palmyrenes or Syrians, however, are discounted from this degree of care, belonging less to the world at large than to the tattered ruins of the Middle East” (62).


“Once again, conceptions of the future in outer space are deployed as weapons in a battle to inflect or control the path capitalism might take and to shift the global socioeconomic, political, and environmental apparatus in a manner facilitating certain dispositions or tendencies” (29).


“Like BOUNDLESS, many architects from this era seem to be standing at this crossroads...Regardless of whether it is big data, new technology, or perhaps even the traditional architectural method that provide the lens through which the architect looks – as long as the goal is to expand the values architects will not only gain a greater stake in society but also have their working opportunities expanded to demonstrate their professional skills and to effect real social change” (63).


“Planetary resource extraction has concentrate control over resources and energy not only in the hands of transnational private companies, but also in state hands, which has extended cross-regional and transnational infrastructure integration on a vast scale, outside the control of local democratic governance and political transparency” (113).


“It is no longer possible to evade this subject: we have met architects, artists, and researchers of commemorative practices to try and find out what spaces for grieving should be like today for the generation of postmemory, a generation that has never witnessed or had a dramatic experience” (256).

Shulman, Ken. “Sustainable: Order in the Court”. *Metropolis* (Mar-April 2021) p.52-58

“In a Massachusetts gateway city, a courthouse pursues the lofty goal of community sensitivity and energy efficiency” (52).


“This article thus highlights the need for a new perspective, one that engages with urban reality beyond binaries and standardized narratives, and one that better recognizes the variegated n-dimensions that shape the neoliberal urban world of today” (20).


“The movement toward electrified buildings and renewable power generation is as much about
cutting costs and instituting local control and resilience as it is about notions of sustainability and stewardship” (46).


“The way COVID-19 has played out in various countries has exposed a socio-economic divide between those that could minimize the risk of exposure through working from home...not having to send their children to school...using private rather than public transport...living in single houses as opposed public housing blocks and estates, and being able to afford home delivery rather than having to shop. The same socio-economic divide will affect the ability to afford custom-built houses or to afford the retrofitting of existing buildings” (209-210).


“What we could be doing at this critical juncture in New York City is to begin fundamentally rethinking the organization of public space and land use within the five boroughs. We could be looking for opportunities to multiply the value of our capital investments by layering transit, water management, flood protection, and civic amenities within the same corridors and the same infrastructure projects” (102).


“In several disciplines, a concurrently emerging body of studies was dedicate to the meanings of landscapes as expressions of the identity, values, memories, stories, and practices of communities in the territories they occupy and develop...I want to show not only that the relationship between the meaning intended by the designers and the meaning potentially constructed by the users is problematic, but that the interpretation devised by the former sometimes completely escapes the latter” (239).


“If these are the spaces of dreams, then their designers are the lucid dreamers. The scenes encourage viewers to reexamine the emotional role of interior design and provide a glimpse into how the built environment affects the psyche” (96).


“The real tragedy of WELL may be the distraction it has provided for those of us in the business of architecture from the more challenging issues facing humanity – social equity, environmental justice, and climate change, just to scratch the surface” (37).


“Surrounded by cherry trees, the circular structure called Amayadori designed by Tadao Ando is located in Jingu-Dori Park. The architect tried to move beyond the conventional bounds of public toilets to create a comfortable and relaxing facility that is also safe for local inhabitants” (93).
“Students feel a very urgent need to do something like this with their peers on their campuses because they feel that what exists right now isn’t suiting their need,’ Abed says. ‘They want something that uplifts them and benefits people that look like them’ (60).

“In an era of black-and-white photography, the architect’s stark material palette made for eye-catchingly high-contrast images every time...For all of Seagram’s objective merits, the most important thing to recall in summoning the subjectivity of 1958 may well be this: it was a world in which everyone, from poets to scholars to socialites, instantly proclaimed the building’s genius and that of its architect” (13).

“At the same time, she has completed a series of three larger residences that she designed and built from scratch. Create to maximize efficiency on urban lots, they’re named Modernist 1, 2, and 3. Hylton-Daniel may have built them on spec, but her first priority, she says, was to enhance their neighborhoods rather than to maximize profits” (42).

“The project, in Hackney, east London, involved the recovery and reworking of two dilapidated and interconnected buildings, a Victorian workshop, and a more recent warehouse structure backing onto a terrace of townhouses on Hackney Road. The existing collection of buildings comprised overlaid alterations and adaptations constructed over decades...” (28).

“Lambeth Palace Library is a significant new addition to London’s civic architecture, providing state-of-the-art facilities to conserve the Church of England’s archive and promote these to a much wider audience” (43).

“Practiced contemporaneously, at the intersection of actuality and intent, landscape architecture photography can critically contribute to our understanding of design innovation, particularly when the project’s import resides in its challenge to morphological conventions” (30).
are conducted simultaneously that a conception of reality can be articulated into built architecture” (18).


“The new Imperial Kiln Museum celebrates the pottery of Jingdezhen with its ample unplastered brick vaults designed to react to the light and the landscape” (63).

**Booklist:**

**Architects**


**Architecture, Ancient**


**Architecture, Medieval**


**Architecture – China**


**Architecture – Japan**


**Architecture – New Zealand**


**Architecture – United Kingdom**


**Architectural Drawings**


**Architectural Practice**


**Architectural Reconstruction**

Architectural Theory


Building Materials


Building Types


History of Preservation


Masterworks


Transatlantic Studies


Sustainability


Urban Design


