Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, July 2022

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.

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

Historic Importance of Black Architects in the U.S.

Important role of Libraries

Moody Nolan and Preservation of Communities

Native American Housing Solution

Obama and Pullman Monument

Topaz Medallion to Deborah Berke

Whitney Young Award Winners

Articles & Segments

This month’s selection has been chosen and annotated by Yun(Sally) Jiang, a rising 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 taking care of the selection starting from June 2022. I look forward to my fall semester learning more about architecture and helping at the library. Hope you enjoy this month’s selection!”

“Great claims have emerged from the field of 3-D-printed architecture, including reports of entire houses, costing barely a few thousand dollars, built robotically, within a day or two, from digital instructions delivered via cellphone app. But is this technology really on the cusp of revolutionizing home-building, putting environmentally sensitive, customizable, high-quality yet swiftly produced houses within reach across the entire economic spectrum, even to underserved populations?” (100).


“The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically exposed the vulnerabilities of the American public school system. In a recent graduate architecture studio at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, students considered the proposition of the pandemic-resilient school by proposing retrofits to increase fresh air ventilation to existing school buildings and add outdoor classrooms” (60).


“I (the author) still wonder what qualifies something as being Swiss. Is it synonymous with precision and craftsmanship? A byword for wealth and exclusivity? Is it an affect? The impenetrability, neutrality, even aloofness that is evoked by the work of Swiss superstars like Peter Zumthor and Valerio Olgiati?” (22).


“It’s important because it allows us to tell the whole American story - it’s an amazing opportunity to have difficult conversations and honestly present a history that includes the good, the bad, and the ugly. - Samuel J. Redman” (24).


“A trope, whether in literature, television, film, or other media is a commonly recurring motif. Often architecture tropes appear when the architecture is actively playing a role in the plot. This frequently skews toward either horror or comedy, with more noticeable tropes of malevolent architecture in horror (The Shining) and bizarrarchitecture in comedy (Mononcle)” (17).


“The slow deconstruction of Kisho Kurokawa’s Nakagin Capsule Tower in Tokyo began on April 12 and
will continue through the end of the year. A curious public has been able to watch this process in near real time: local crowds gather to pay their respects, and visitors from around the world snap farewell shots, with everyone sharing images on social media” (35).


“San Salvatore is nestled amongst a grove of cypresses on top of a hill in rural Umbria. Pierre d’Avoine Architects’ renovation of a chapel into a home has integrated itself with the existing structures on this plot in much the same way - noticeably different, but containing a common understanding with its context” (60).


“Yeahka’s Shenzhen Headquarters, by JSPA design, has “floating” meeting rooms and a “flying” staircase that connects workspaces with public engagement zones” (66).


“Double-height ceilings and walls of glass bring dramatic openness to a home in Colombia designed by Medellín architecture firm Câpâ for graphic designer Luisa Alzate, tech executive Serge Kruppa, and their son, Santiago. An inflection point in the plan connects four modules---one for each family member plus one for the common areas---in zigzag fashion down a sloping site” (74).


“New digital algorithms support architects by partially automating the generation and analysis of design variants in multi-storey residential building construction” (16).


“Located on the southern edge of the North Downs, Folkestone is a rather grand Victorian and Edwardian seaside resort, which also had successful harbours and shipping trade. But the decline of these industries and the loss of its ferry to Boulogne in 2000 - prompted by the opening of the Eurotunnel - presented the town with economic difficulties” (17).


“An on-the-ground account of building a work by Pritzker Prize winner Francis Kéré in West Africa connects architecture to larger geopolitical rumblings” (cover).


“A plaque on a street corner signpost features the portrait of a bespectacled Black man dressed in Victorian-era clothes, alongside detailed mechanical drawings. The Plaque’s tight biography describes the man’s importance as an American inventor and draftsman. The place is now preserved as Lewis Latimer House Museum” (29).

“Built in a public-public partnership between the university and the city, the $24 million upgrade was seen as a way to improve pedestrian safety while delivering on the city’s commitment to building streets that are safe for all users” (54).


“Located on Carla Ridge, in the Trousdale Estates neighborhood of Beverly Hills, the house offers stunning views of the Satan Monica Mountains; instead of a large garden, the clients went for an infinity pool that goes right up to the living room window” (214, 222).


“Often, proponents claim, a green building is cheaper to operate, less financially risky, and defending on the sector - more attractive to prospective tenants. Advances in technology are also expanding the boundaries for what is economically feasible for asset managers” (54-55).


“The author Matthew Beaumont shows wayfaring as an immersive and connective practice and proposes that cities can only truly be known through the practice of walking; however, the thing that concerns the walkers in Marseille, France, and London is rather the collective experience of walking in groups and the way in which these forms not only common wisdom, but the possibility of dynamic transformation of the urban landscape through collaboration and activism” (42).


“The house would be a demonstration home showing how to build with more sustainable, healthful materials; how to reduce waste; and how to maximize space in a modest footprint. It would be affordable and replicable” (48).


“Seeking to restore the virtuous circle that once existed between officials, designers, and citizens, local architect Carlos Zedillo Velasco has devoted much of his professional life to helming projects that unite the three in a collaborative process” (100).
**Booklist:**

**Special Selections**

**Topical—Diversity**


**Topical – The Subject is Architecture**

**Architects**


**Architecture: Islamic**


**Architecture – India**


**Architecture – Netherlands**

**Architecture – Philippines**


**Architectural Design**


**Architectural Education**


**Architectural Practice**


**Architectural Theory**


**Architecture & Society**


Mason, Elliot C. *Building Black: Towards Antiracist Architecture*. Santa Barbara: Punctum Books,
Building Types


Landscape Architecture


Masterworks


Sustainability
