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

Pritzker Laureate Discussion

Equitable Design

Grand Palais Restoration

Renovation in Florence

Articles and Segments

This task is taken on by Alexandra Gordon [pictured below] through July 2024.

Alexandra assisted with the preparation of the June selections and is assuming responsibility for aiding with the selections for June and July 2024. Alexandra recently graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture from Syracuse’s 5-year program along with a minor in sociology and interest in geography. Alexandra has worked for Babara Opar at the King + King Architecture Library since Fall of 2023. In the Fall of 2024, Alexandra will be pursuing a Post-Professional Master of Science in Advanced Urban Design from Cornell University’s program in NYC. Alexandra’s goal for the Articles and Segments recommendations is to locate articles at the intersection of design, social/cultural, housing, and urban matters, from a variety of voices and locations around the globe.
Here are her suggested readings:

June Magazine Picks


“Based on an interdisciplinary approach to architectural history, drawing upon sound studies and anthropology, this article offers a case study of contemporary experiences of resonance by residents living in modernist blocks if flats in Oslo built in 1964. Drawing upon ethnography and archival research, I ask how these sonic experiences affect people’s relationships, both with other neighbours and the building itself. Moving from the outside and into the building, following architectural historian Katie Lloyd Thomas’ theoretical approach to materials and how these materials come into being, I discuss the way resonance creates a series of tensions, affecting the way individuals relate to social relations. Asking what it means to live in a modernist block of flats, I frame the residents’ own stories of resonance within a larger context of changing neoliberal housing reforms in Norway from the 1980s until today. I argue that the experience of resonance creates new spatial configurations and also can stand as a critique of neoliberal jousting politics, forming connections that are both social and material” (530).


“In the two decades I knew Reima Pietila (1923-1993), I went from being an intern, an employee, an assistant, a designer, a fellow traveler, a collaborator, a writer to a personal assistant friend and confidant. From a secretary who wrote out letters, to an amanuensis who began to draft the lectures and write the references requested from other Finnish architects. Pietila was nothing if not self-reflective. He was an inveterate letter writer in English, always situating himself in some – mostly international – discourse and dialogue. Over 20 years, this became a friendship. I would like to say this was a scarce friendship (in the poet and author Paavo Haavikko’s words) where poetry not architecture because the glue. For Pietila, architecture was 24-7; it was non-stop, no-destination thinking and drawing passing through language and being” (40).


“The complex of San Lorenzo in Florence is a world. The history of its shaping has left
masterpieces in its wake: Donatello, Bronzino, Rosso Fiorentino, Filippo Lippi, Verrocchio, Desiderio da Settignano. But what was constructed there by Brunelleschi and Michelangelo, separated by a century, forms one of the most dazzling episodes in the history of modern architecture. [...] This history is narrated, with varying emphasis depending on their nature and consistency, by the parts of the complex, overlaid and interconnected in a very eloquent way. The two Sacristies, the Old one by Brunelleschi (1419) and the New one by Michelangelo (1519), are the most brilliant result (2).


“Feminism, as a complete liberatory movement, cannot be divorced from efforts to decolonize land [...] Colonialism is always-already gendered. Numerous scholars have persuasively argued this observation other past few decades, as they analyzed the many ways women’s bodies become the battlegrounds of power, either as proof of conquest or as prime targets of the settler’s desire to eliminate the native. In addition to the violence of sexual assault, gendered violence takes on specific forms depending on the political, social and cultural context of the colonial assault. In colonial Algeria, for example, French colonizers would round up Muslim women and publicly strip them of their headdresses, in a demonstration of how the were; modernizing; Algerian society The veil, rather than imperialism, was viewed as oppressive – a trend that continues into modern-day Europe, where Muslim women are frequently barred from veiling in official and public spaces, in a gesture of cultural imposition that disrespects their piety, in order to ‘liberate’ them from the directives of their faith” (7).


“What is it like to renovate a hundred-year-old building? Ulla Engman writes about the Yrjonkatu Swimming Hall and a type of care work. [...] We are in the process of planning the renovation of the Yrjonkatu Wimming Hall in Helsinki. I am involved as the project architect. The refurbishment of an almost one-hundred-year-old public building feels important and right. In recent years, designing new buildings has, in general, started to give me an uneasy feeling. Of course new construction is still needed. Designing new buildings is also often really fun, particularly when it comes to spatial planning. Combined with massing – building design as a process of creative form-giving – it is the absolute best. I have always enjoyed it, just as I’m sure all architects have. But with the climate crisis becoming ever more acute, I keep coming back to the question whether we – and by “we” I mean all of humankind and not just architects as a profession – should give up some of our favorite pastimes. Should we simply stop marveling at and making shiny new things, cease this interminable fuss over novelties and concentrate on
taking care of what we already have?” (37, 38)


“If the reputation of Palm Springs as a bastion of Modern architecture can be blamed on anyone, it must be Albert Frey. That much is clear from a comprehensive exhibition – tagged with the subtitles Inventive Modernist and curated by designer Brad Dunning – Frey’s oeuvre now at the Palm Springs Art Museum’s architecture and design gallery through June 3. To accompany the show, on March 23, the museum unveiled the permanent installation of Frey’s Aluminaire House (1930-31) in a desert garden plot south of its main building” (27).


“The unrealized memorials to the victims of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and the cosmic gravestone, which was perhaps a memorial for all of humankind, symbolized the deepest fear of Isamu Noguchi: that we were losing our fundamental bond with nature. [...] As well, this work, given its cosmic perspective, would be the kind of sculpture that would be ceremonial for humankind, a marker of humanity honest about its accomplishments, foibles and possible existential condition. Maybe Sculpture To Be Seen From Mars can also be looked at as a king of personal ceremony for Noguchi of the destruction and rebirth of one’s own ideas” (21).

Raspiengeas, Jean-Claude. “Looking Back – Nancy Thermal”. L’Architecture d’Aujourd’hui (A’A’). (Issue 460, April / May 2024). p.20-25.DD“In 1912, Louis Lanternier launched the construction of an immense neo-classical spa, featuring a monumental dome, a circular pool with mosaic balustrades and imposing changing rooms (at a time when modesty was a righteous virtue), a 50-metre-long Olympic swimming pool, the world’s largest indoor mineral water pool, a series of individual basins and long heated galleries, all designed to accommodate the businesses associated with the rush for purifying water. [...] In 2018, an architectural competition was launched and won by Anne Demians, in association with Chabanne Architecte and Chabanne Ingenierie, to complete the project that Louis Lanternier had to abandon, forced by circumstances” (21,23).


“Lebbeus Wood’s Reputation as an architect is based largely on his extraordinary drawings,
which capture so masterfully a conception of built form attuned to the social and physical flux, abstracted renderings of fractures and shards precariously poised as if frozen in a moment of cosmic explosion. While these works may appear to express an impersonal ontological vision, when seen in a continuum with his early figurative drawings from the 1970s, it becomes clear that Woods’s architectural practice was in service, at least in part, of a personal, esoteric, meaning. Indeed, Woods himself described ‘the whole saga of modern art’ as a ‘public exposition of private myth’” (76).


“Either led by state, market or civil society, ‘ethnic revival’ – a process associated with multiculturalism – helped countries respond to last century’s challenges of immigration and identity formation. In postcolonial states, politics of multiculturalism negotiated colonial policies and their expressions in the built environment. In postcolonial Singapore, ethnic revival informed design and planning of its public park system. What aesthetic was used in postcolonial Singapore? How precisely does it reveal political ideas?Were these ideas and aesthetics, general or specific to Singapore? How did local history influence that aesthetics? The paper situates Singapore’s postcolonial parks design, with its use of ‘multiethnic’ popular symbolism, within the discourse around the aesthetics of fast-growing urban environments of the mid-nineteen hundreds. It examines its contradictions and merits, casting a light on the consequences of postmodern culture for socio-political and economic gain: a state’s negotiation of local history and culture versus globalized trends; and the commodification of landscapes for tourism purposes and consequent ephemerality of urban imagery” (225).


“Social housing helps to make Vienna one of the most livable and affordable capitals in Europe and beyond, The city council draws on the legacy of the interwar years, when a Socialist government sponsored such ambitious projects as the Karl-Marx-Hof, which was recently restored and is still a desirable place to live. In contrast to the bleak estates of the Soviet bloc and the much-derided housing projects of Britian and the U.S., the best social housing in Vienna compares favorable with Onkel-Toms-Hutte, Hufeisensiedlung and other 1920s estates in Berlin. They realize the vision of the garden city movement and Le Corbusier’s Ville Radieuse on a human scale” (14).

“The cemetery near the Tunisian town of Zarzis, designed by artist Rachid Koraichi, offers a respectful final resting place for migrants lost on their journey to Europe [...] Working in collaboration with the Tunisian Red Crescent (TRC), which provided support in the management and execution of the graveyard, the goal was to provide a dignified burial site for frowned migrants regardless of age, gender, nationality or religion. In addition to the 600 graves, the 2,500 m² complex comprises a morgue, prayer hall, caretaker’s residence and doctor’s office, which facilitate the identification of the deceased, the practice of funerary rites, the receiving of visitors, and maintenance of the landscaped grounds” (17,18).

**Booklist**

**The Topic is Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility**


**The Subject is Architecture**

**Architects**


**Architecture, Ancient**

*Architecture- United States*


*Architectural Design*


*Architecture & Society*


**Building Types**

**Landscape Architecture**

**Sustainability**


Urban Design