Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, March 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

ArchDaily Building of the Year

Copyrights for Architectural Imagery in the AI Era

Design Education Needs a Dose of Radical Imagination

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!”


“As you approach from land, the visitor centre itself is quite confronting - a tectonic cousin to Villa Malaparte on the island of Capri. Elephant steps square up to you; blank bleachers, like open arms, incite the visitor to action. I feel a little self-conscious. Neither Cunningham nor I can resist tracing the veins of the salvaged cladding. It’s ageing beautifully, fully silvered out with emerging contrasts between the concave parts, which trap water and offer shelter to lichen, and the convex junctions that are salt encrusted and defiant in the wind” (47-49).


“The 50 Story Quay Quarter Tower (QQT) overlooking Sydney's world-famous harbor is clearly
contemporary. With its twisting geometry, its cantilevering blocks that appear to reach toward the water, and its jazzy gridded facade, the 676-foot-tall office building stands out as distinctly recent addition to the city's quickly changing skyline" (60).


“The site occupies part of a much larger former homestead that once belonged to the Virgin family, an agricultural property that was gradually dismantled over the years. Traces of this era are still visible in the countryside where grand houses built by the United Empire Loyalists (who settled here after the American Revolution) still stand, and the beauty of the landscape - with nearby Lake Massawippi and the Adirondack Mountains in the distance - remains unchanged” (65).


“As a first measure, the architects from Josep Ferrando Architecture and Gallego Arquitectura replaced the hermetically closed prison wall that faced onto the street with a light, red-painted steel structure. The aim was to open the building to the town while also making a reference to its earlier function. All that remains of the old street front is a monumental entrance doorway. Behind it is a H-shaped building arranged around two small internal courtyards” (43-44).


“Even if you didn't know the backstory, the gaunt steel hulk of Building 12 at San Francisco's Pier 70 would resonate as a triumph of historic preservation- one that forges an enticing amalgam of new makerspaces and offices from a vast monolith built to fabricate ship hulls during World War II. The triumph is even more compelling when you grasp the most startling aspect of all: this three-story behemoth with 1.5-acre floor plates was lifted 10 feet into the air before its recent renovation began” (77).


“Hugging the ground, even burying into it, the stadium seems a huge land art installation. Both from the ground and air, the building resembles a giant artificial unabil. It prompts the thought that man would be best advised to take the example of ingenious animal structures like the beehive or anthill, and build not to conquer, but to be part of nature” (16).

“It has a pleasant view of the opposite peninsula across the water and also serves as a kayak launch. Because it is not above the landfill cap, the spot can support construction. It's paved in gravel, furnished with tables and umbrellas, and has planting beds elevated on naturalistically shaped piles of large rocks, which can handle intermittent inundation. These also create a sense of enclosure, which might occasionally be a relief in the context of the park’s immensity. The other lovely gesture, at a high elevation, is called the Skybowl, an amphitheater-like section of circular mowed lawn” (71).


“Designed by Norm Architects, the backyard house is as artful as it is efficient. ‘Natural materials bring texture and depth, and we always strive for richness in our detailing,’ says Norm partner Sofie Thorning. ‘The different scales of the cedar cladding align, creating a thoughtful rhythm that gives the house a calm appearance. The presentation is never flat, but it blends in wherever it goes’ ” (33).


“Conservatories, which originated in the 16th century, illuminate traditional architecture, gracing public spaces and private residences alike. Today they are more viable thenever, thanks to technological advances in glass that make them more energy-efficient and easier to clean. Whether attached to a structure or freestanding, these glorious glass houses conservatories, orangeries, and greenhouses add timeless appeal, as the companies that are designing and building them can attest” (35).


“In preserving the building's essential character, perhaps the most important decision was to resist adding new support spaces-a coatroom, restrooms, storage, and mechanical equipment-to the original building. Instead, the team collected them in a connected annex dubbed the Pavilion. The 2,300-square-foot addition adjoins the Orangerie along its long south-facing wall, a position that presented several advantages, Smith says. In contrast with the highly designed east, west, and north elevations, the south facade had no openings and little detailing beyond the base and entablature that ring the building” (24).


“This design explores the latest elements to help landscape designs come out on top. Millboard as one example; the molds for the surface of Millboard's polyurethane decking boards are made from wood for a natural appearance, and the surfaces are hand-colored to match real timbers. A durable layer of fiberglass-reinforced polymer resin supports the nonslip surface. The system requires low maintenance and resists warp-ing, rotting, infestation, and algae” (44).

“The design approach of Mino Caggiula and his studio embraces art, photography, architecture and landscape to blend the complexity of the city with areas of contemporary natural vegetation. The idea behind Blade Residence in Canobbio on Lake Lugano was prompted by the work of the American land artist Richard Serra, but also by Caggiula’s own interior design concept of living shielded by a series of metal sheets set at different inclinations. In fact, as well as a new landmark on the slopes above the lake, these upright metal blades create a linear series of intriguing living spaces” (90).

Booklist:

**Topical—Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**


**The Subject is Architecture**

**Architects**


**Architecture, Contemporary**


**Architecture, Islamic**


**Architecture, Medieval**


**Architecture-Germany**


**Architecture-Japan**


**Architecture-United States**


**Architectural Design**


**Architectural Drawing**


**Architectural Exhibitions**


**Architectural Journalism**


**Architectural Photography**


**Architectural Practice**


**Architectural Theory**


**Architecture and Society**


**Building Materials**


**Building Types**


**Landscape Architecture**


**Masterworks**


**Sustainability**


**Urban Design**


**Women in Architecture**
