Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, March 2024
Recently published architectural books and related works, selected by Barbara Opar, Librarian for Architecture, Syracuse University Libraries. Barbara can be reached baopar@syr.edu

Reader’s Advisory

Yamamoto Wins 2024 Pritzker Prize
Death Of Antoine Predock
Sustainable Architecture

Articles and Segments

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

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:


“We rarely discuss ornaments as a regulated set of codes and techniques, but we often discuss them as a way to achieve certain qualities. ‘Stripes here will blur the distinction of the apartments.’ ‘A dot there will balance the neighbor’s door.’ ‘Placing the joints in this manner will make it seem potentially endless.’ ‘Centering this window will make the whole insanely cute.’ And so forth” (95).


“To a large extent, Singapore’s public housing policy most clearly demonstrates the state’s unique welfare model, in which policies are carefully calibrated to achieve housing provision as well as ethnic integration and a shared sense of national identity. [...] With over 80 per cent of its citizen population living in public housing, and around 90 per cent of these residents owning their apartments, this ‘public housing home ownership’ model has been the cornerstone of Singapore’s nation-building efforts since its independence in 1965” (87).


“[H]e asked himself a more important question when it came to his dream house: Do I want to die here? ‘And so when I’m buying things, I’m like, this is my death bed,’ John says. ‘My death couch. My death kitchen. I mean, who knows?’ The touch of morbidity adds significance to his plans, not only for the house but for the people who have supported him and whom he continually works to empower. The home may no longer serve a particular religious doctrine, but it remains a spiritual place. ‘We want this to be useful to the community,’ John says. ‘It’s going to be the queer art church’” (70).


“The long-term research project Posthuman Architectural Speculations is a collaboration between Alberto Fernández González and Mark Garcia, both of whom are lecturers at the
Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, and PhD candidates on the Architecture and Digital Theory programme there. Here they investigate how well artificial intelligence can help develop posthuman architectures and the symbiotic relationship between language and AI as a way of speculating about spatial futures” (24).


“The site works as a linear narrative experience, and it does, in scale, material, and level of detail, mirror other memorials that share the National Mall. Based upon how you remember [Martin Luther King Jr.], or how you want to remember King, the memorial can inspire or frustrate you. The King Memorial symbolizes the challenges that come from the decision to either be a part of a whole symbolic landscape fabric or to be apart from it. Should a memorial to a civil rights leader blend in with memorials to people that in some cases represent the opposite of their interests and values?” (93).


“This notion of light revealing spatial depth underlies all of my work. I refer to this as ‘volumetric light’ and I tie this principle back to how we perceive the world around us. As an example, when we are in nature and looking out into the landscape, our eye is seeing millions if not billions of illuminated surfaces. The eye simplifies this complexity as it is constantly focusing and refocusing at different depths of field and thus activating and recording a cognitive experience. In our work, allowing multiple surfaces to be illuminated by different angles of sunlight creates a complexly dense, activated field, enticing the eye to observe, to record, to rest” (42).


“In our increasingly interconnected world, solving complex societal challenges requires design solutions that transcend geopolitical, language, natural and cultural boundaries. The binational region of San Diego (United States) and Tijuana (Mexico) of over 7 million residents was awarded the 2024 World Design Capital in large part because of a long history of successful design innovations that have eclipsed geopolitical barriers and fostered creative multicultural collaborations” (30).

“Words matter. Scientists often call the people they study ‘subjects’. Businesses call them ‘consumers’. These words dehumanize people, treating them as objects rather than as human beings. In this article I summarize the history of three words, user, human, and humanity, explaining how they also define three different ages of practice. The history is brief and therefore oversimplified, but accurate enough for the purpose” (39).


“For us, the relationship between daylight and space is fundamental to the way we inhabit and experience a building. In a way, you could say that light is as much a material for us as any physical element of architecture, except that it is dynamic, it changes over time, with the weather and the seasons. Without light, we don't understand space and depth, which might seem kind of obvious, but it goes beyond that. Light animates space. It gives the space richness but also emotion. We feel it very immediately when we enter a space, even if sometimes we may not be able to name it. Light can help to focus or also open spaces. It gives the physical space a sense of quietness or a sense of loftiness. That atmosphere is a very visceral but palpable one” (71).


“The gradual expansion of intellectual property regimes - initially limited to products of the entertainment industries with a certain sales potential - to encompass virtually any output of the cultural and creative industries, has today become an important pillar of the emerging data economy. This data economy, also known as surveillance capitalism, employs over-appropriation in two directions: property as imagination, and images as property. The intersection of these two axes is what I call ‘imaginary property’, a recursive paradox that is intrinsic to the concept of property and now also dominates every form of image-making” (111).

“City and architectural planning attempt to regulate the size and design of signage, but property owners and businesses do not always adhere to these plans. Perhaps these regulations are ineffective due to their elitist and idealistic nature? Beyond signage, façades now serve as interactive spaces and media platforms in and upon which diverse forms of communication take place and will continue to evolve. People no longer rely on physical maps for navigation, and shopping no longer involves browsing the windows of a high street. Mobile phones have transcended the physical limitations of a space, seamlessly bridging the gap between a physical location and the digital realm” (55).


“Queering Architecture comes at an important juncture, attempting to synthesize multiple approaches to ‘practising’ queerness by architects and architectural researchers. The editors, Marko Jobst and Naomi Stead, who themselves practise in this area, explain in the introduction that they approach queer as ‘a methodological orientation’ turning it ‘from an adjective or noun into a verb’. They acknowledge that queer as a category of social identity remains ‘too cozily sidled up to academia’ and endeavour to avoid ‘rarefied academic discourse’ in favour of identifying queering processes in everyday life within built environments” (495).

Booklist

The Topic is Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility


The Subject is Architecture

Architects


Architecture, Buddhist


Architecture, Medieval


Architecture - China


Architecture - France


Architecture - Iceland


Architecture - Iran


Architecture - Morocco


Architecture - Russian Federation

Architecture - United Kingdom


Architecture - United States


Architectural Design


Architectural Education


Architectural Exhibitions


Architectural Theory


Architecture & Society


Building Types


**Design & Decoration**


**Landscape Architecture**


**Masterworks**


**Sustainability**


**Urban Design**


