Booklist and Reader’s Advisory, September 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

Democratization of Design

The Future of Architecture: Imagining a World Where Buildings are Constructed from Living Materials

One of the Most Significant Memorials on the Planet

Digital Cicognara Library

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!”


“Think if Frank Lloyd Wright were still alive, he would embrace wholeheartedly the emerging vision of biophilic cities: the theory and practice of planning and designing nature-imbued urban areas. His ideas and practice align well, though not perfectly with this agenda, and I believe he would support the moniker of biophilic urbanism” (12).

“Climate Positive Design is an initiative dedicated not only to understanding the potential that site, infrastructure design, and urban planning have to reduce emissions and sequester carbon, but also to igniting a powerful set of co-benefits, such as resilience, improved water quality, biodiversity, and human health” (24).


“A tool for propaganda and political affirmation, architecture has efficiently represented the values promoted by power. If ward is the continuation of politics through other means, so is architecture the continuation of politics through material and power over bodies is interwoven with its spiritual power over minds. Architecture is also the symbolic means. And because its physical continuation of religion through other means” (18-19).


“The ruggedness of disorder and the aesthetics steeped in the romance of decay entice many people to explore interstitial spaces. There, they can experience a controlled sense of suspense and observe the wonderfully terrible landscape of ruin, only to return to the safety and order of the organized urban structure” (39).


“Surging populations and concerns about housing affordability are prompting many North American cities to explore fresh approaches to urban density. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) – secondary structures that share the same lots as existing homes – are one solution” (34).


“The London-based French architect uses digital design and fabrication techniques to create temples of spirituality. His best-known building to date lasted just more than a week, before going up in flames. This would have been the kiss of death for any other architect. But for Mamou-Mani, it was a career-making moment: the building in question, called Galaxia. Despite its brief lifespan, Galaxia left a deep impression in the hearts of many, and propelled its creator to the forefront of digitally designed and fabricated architecture” (128-129).


“For the past three decades, China has been furiously turning farmland into instant cities, transforming a heavily agrarian society into one with nearly 64 percent of its population now urbanized. In recent years, though, affluent Chinese have started to rediscover their culture’s deep roots in the countryside and the lure of the nation’s often dramatic landscapes. Architects like Ma Yansong, who founded MAD Architects in Beijing in 2004, are now busy exploring new ways of connecting the
constructed environment to the natural one” (71).


“The architect Francis Kere is pioneering a revolutionary and critical shift for Africa’s built environment. His cross-cultural practice focuses on resetting industry perception and standards to stimulate the creation of enduring architectural identities that are conceived as African, yet situated within a shared global context” (156).


“Height, floor space, and the number of units are the usual key figures in investor-financed high-rise construction. But 800 trees, 4,500 shrubs, and 15,000 other plants are the key figures Stefano Boeri cites for his Bosco Verticale (vertical forest) in Porta Garibaldi, Milan” (31).


“At ThinkLab, we believe the timing of this generation’s entrance into the workforce, coupled with its relationship to digital tools, will likely affect how Gen-Zers communicate at work, what they look for in an employer, and how they specify” (76).


“Feilden Fowles is an award-winning practice with an enviable reputation for delivering exemplary social and environmental projects, often in sensitive and challenging historic settings. Ingrid Petit and Ben Higham in this article discuss how the practice’s approach to materiality is driven by context, craft, sustainability and technical innovation” (90&92).


“David Kohn Architects worked with developer Knight Dragon on two new-build creative studio buildings as part of a new quarter for small creative businesses on the Greenwich peninsula. The architecture is Classically inspired but makes playful reference to other periods, from the palazzi of the Venetian guild houses to the American mid-west architecture beloved of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown” (33).

**Booklist:**

**Special Selections**
Topical—Diversity and Inclusion


Topical – The Subject is Architecture

Architects


**Architecture, Modern**


**Architecture – China**


**Architecture – India**


**Architecture – The Middle East**


**Architecture – United Kingdom**


**Architecture – United States**


**Architectural Design**


Architectural Photography


Architectural Practice


Architectural Theory


Architecture and Society


Building Types


**Landscape Architecture**


**Masterworks**


**Urban Design**


