

Subject: re: ACS News and info

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From: Julio Bermudez

To: (Architecture, Culture & Spirituality Forum) ACSF

Dear ACSF members,

I hope you started the new year well. Below in green you will find a series of news and articles that appeared on diverse media over the past few weeks and that relate to our ACS interest. This material has been provided by ACSF members and/or myself. I know that some of it will be worth your consideration. Enjoy.

Thinking outside the bricks: Sensitive Washington Post piece reports fate of empty church buildings

Church rolls may drop, but the buildings don't always fall to the wrecking ball – some of them are converted to condos. That trend is the focus of a story in the *Washington Post* that is at once factual, thoughtful and sensitive.

<https://www.getreligion.org/getreligion/2016/9/26/thinking-outside-the-bricks-sensitive-washington-post-piece-reports-fate-of-empty-church-buildings>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/2016/09/22/5764cb6c-2cac-11e6-9b37-42985f6a265c_story.html

Book of Blackbirds: Honouring Sacred Spaces, Part Three – Saving Space

This is Part Three of a three part series contemplating the use of sacred spaces. Part One discusses whether non-indigenous people, pagans in particular, have any right to claim spiritual connection with traditional native sacred spaces such as Uluru in Australia and the Black Hills in the United States. Part Two talks about finding our own sacred spaces and why this is important

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/agora/2016/09/book-of-blackbirds-honouring-sacred-spaces-part-three-saving-space/>

What you see when you see: River of faith: Glimpses of the sacred in Ujjain

Two young photographers, Niranjan Hosmane and Sandeep TK from Bengaluru, were invited by the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur in May to part in an art camp at the Simhastha Kumb Mela. Their works have been selected by jury to be exhibited in the show "Tat Tvam Asi: An Expression of Immense Faith" curated by Alka Pande on October 15 at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. It will be an exhibition of traditional, contemporary, lens-based work created at the Ujjain.

<http://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/What-you-see-when-you-see-River-of-faith-Glimpses-of-the-sacred-in-Ujjain/articleshow/54768752.cms>

Inside Ottawa's converted churches: Bluesfest and Westboro United

They are beautiful works of architecture — public gathering places with soaring ceilings and stained-glass windows designed to inspire, tell a story or, at the very least, amuse an unenthusiastic churchgoer during a long sermon. But what happens when the congregations leave? How do you honour a church's illustrious history even as you give it a new, secular life?

<http://ottawamagazine.com/homes/design/converted-churches/>

Shanghai's sacred spaces. China's religious communities are starting to peek out from under the shroud of communism

China's ruling Communist Party sanctions only five religions. And although the constitution allows for freedom of religion, practicing anything other than Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestantism is technically breaking the law. But in Shanghai, the second most populous city in China, a myriad of religious communities are quietly thriving.

<http://theweek.com/captured/658866/shanghais-sacred-spaces>

World's oldest temple to be nominated for Heritage List

Turkey will nominate Göbeklitepe, branded the world's oldest temple, for the UNESCO World Heritage List. As a well-preserved site in southeastern Turkey, it will be the 16th inclusion from the country on the list, if admitted

<http://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/2016/11/18/worlds-oldest-temple-to-be-nominated-for-heritage-list>

Finnish architect demands Guggenheim Helsinki rethink

One of Finland's most acclaimed architects, Juhani Pallasmaa has demanded that plans for a Guggenheim Museum in Helsinki be abandoned amid calls to re-run its design competition on a different site

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/news/finnish-architect-demands-guggenheim-helsinki-rethink/10015089.article>

The Architect Behind Noah's Ark Shares How Faith Influences His Practice

This month, in line with Archinect's December theme, Faith, we're talking to architects of various faiths about how their spiritual practice figures into their architectural practice. In this iteration, we speak with LeRoy Troyer, the president and chair of Troyer Group. Troyer Group is probably best-known for their project "Ark Encounter", a full-scale replica of Noah's Ark, built according to plans interpreted from Genesis.

<http://archinect.com/features/article/149981536/the-architect-behind-noah-s-ark-shares-how-faith-influences-his-practice>

28 Sacred Spaces That Capture The Stunning Beauty Of Religious Architecture

These are the winners of the 2016 International Awards Program for Religious Art & Architecture

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/28-sacred-spaces-that-capture-the-stunning-beauty-of-religious-architecture_us_584ef789e4b04c8e2bb0ed58

Strapping on the Sacred: When Religion Enters Virtual Reality

A few months ago, I found myself a lone skeptic in a sea of believers at the VR L.A. Expo. I watched heads tilt toward the sky (then the ground, then side to side). I navigated long lines that snaked through a grid of cardboard booths, filled with eager believers awaiting communion not with God but with pixels. I heard the feverish whispers of the prophets of our 2D wilderness (they who consume Soylent instead of locusts and honey). A New World is coming, they said.

<http://archinect.com/features/article/149982444/strapping-on-the-sacred-when-religion-enters-virtual-reality>

Menis Arquitectos use local building techniques to create a sharp-edged sacred space

Some 100 kilometers off the coast of Morocco, the Canary Islands are an archipelago of islands and autonomous community of Spain. Tenerife, the largest island, has a population of just under 900,000 people—the vast majority of whom are Catholic. It's no surprise, therefore, that the island has a fair share of churches and cathedrals, including the historic La Laguna Cathedral, built at the beginning of the 20th century in a syncretic mix of styles including Neoclassical and Neo-Gothic. Not too far away (about 4km) sits the Holy Redeemer Church, built in 2012 by Menis Arquitectos—a wildly different approach to ecclesiastical architecture, but just as impressive.

<http://archinect.com/features/article/149982857/menis-arquitectos-use-local-building-techniques-to-create-a-sharp-edged-sacred-space>

Finding space for sacred silence . 'When doing a sacred space, you are trying to measure against the unmeasurable'

Prior to delving into the thick of Prof. England's works, *Sanctuaries of the Soul* includes contributions from leading architects like Daniel Libeskind who is the master planner for the Ground Zero redevelopment in New York, and Edwin Heathcote, a leading authority on contemporary church architecture. Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa and Chris Abel, a member of International Committee of Architectural Critics also offer their insights.

<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20161217/local/finding-space-for-sacred-silence.633895>

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