

Subject: Re- 2020-05-09 ACSF newsletter
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From: Julio Bermudez
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ACSF Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum

ACSF NEWSLETTER MAY 9, 2020

Dear ACSF members

First, we would like to send you our best and wish you all of you and your loved ones are safe and well in this time of worldwide pandemic. We are all united in our humanity and struggle. As we witness so much suffering we find strength and hope in seeing so many people doing remarkable things to help anyone in need. Many of the articles below have to do with the situation we are inescapably experiencing.

Before we get to it, we would like to spend a minute acknowledging with great sadness the passing of our friend, mentor, influential scholar, and remarkable human being **Lindsay Jones**. He was a long-standing member of ACSF and attended many of our symposia. In fact, he was the keynote at ACSF 4 in Mexico (where he led us through an unforgettable expedition --and it was an expedition-- of Chichen Itza) and ACSF 9 in Haystack.

In Memoriam

Lindsay Jones, Emeritus Professor, History of Religions, The Ohio State University, dies in Columbus, OH, on March 28 at age 65.

Author of the seminal book *The Hermeneutics of Sacred Architecture: Experience, Interpretation, Comparison* (Harvard University Press, 2000); editor-in-chief of Mircea Eliade's 15-volume *Encyclopedia of Religion* (Macmillan Reference, 2005) designated "best reference source in any category" for 2005 by Booklist magazine, and the unpublished trilogy of books titled: *Narrating Monte Alban: Seven True Stories of the Great Zapotec Capital of Southern Mexico*. He was a long-time, active member of ACSF and gave the keynote address at the Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Symposium in Maine on May 14, 2017, his final academic presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7Chr8PZdq4>

He wrote about himself: "Always good at making friends and deeply appreciative of lots of many-decade friendships, even occasionally in love, he learned early in life that solitude was, for him, a productive and prized condition. For him bachelorhood and the eremitical "life of the mind" were always the winning options." Following is a link to the obituary that he wrote himself. Those that knew him will hear his unique voice coming through and probably learn of some new episodes in an amazing life. <https://www.shaw-davis.com/obituary/Lindsay-Jones>

Those friends and colleagues who wish to leave a memory of appreciation of Lindsay, please send them to me at nader.ardalan@gmail.com by May 31, 2020 and they will be placed on the ACSF

website.

Following, you will find in **GREEN** articles, design topics, conferences and more related to our areas of interest. This material is prepared by Mike Crosbie and myself but also includes suggestions by members like you. We hope you find it useful.

GENERAL ARTICLES

How Did Modern Life Get So Lonely?

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/04/06/the-history-of-loneliness>

Jill Lepore contemplates the history of loneliness.

The Loneliness Pandemic

<https://religionnews.com/2020/04/20/the-loneliness-pandemic-quarantined-youth-grapple-solitude-and-faith/>

How do people in quarantine grapple with faith in solitude?

The Art of Solitude, a 2020 Book by Stephen Batchelor

<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300250930/art-solitude>

In a time of social distancing and isolation, a meditation on the beauty of solitude from renowned Buddhist writer Stephen Batchelor

Ramadan in the Midst of Pandemic

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/muslim-americans-get-creative-with-ramadan-plans-amid-covid-outbreak_n_5e9de3f1c5b63c5b5872d6cf?guccounter=1

Muslims must get creative with Ramadan observance amid closed mosques

The Gospel in the Time of Social Distancing

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/on-religion/the-gospel-in-a-time-of-social-distancing>

How do we remain faithful to religious belief when we cannot share those beliefs with each other firsthand?

Scientists know where aliens might be but humans will never see them

<https://apple.news/AZDPmGnClRx-z7qppBkMijQ>

Beyond the impenetrable cosmological horizon is the unobservable universe: vast, possibly infinite, and maybe the likeliest location of alien life.

The scholar's vocation

<https://aeon.co/essays/weber-diagnosed-the-ills-of-the-modern-university-and-prescribed-the-cure>

A century ago, Weber both diagnosed the ills of the corporatized, modern university, and pointed out the path beyond it

What Do the Humanities Do in a Crisis?

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/annals-of-inquiry/what-do-the-humanities-do-in-a-crisis>

The author asks if the study of the humanities has a relevance in the midst of a global crisis.

What Would Julian of Norwich Do?

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlmccolman/2020/04/twelve-mystics-who-lived-through-epidemics-and-pandemics/>

The thoughts of twelve mystics who lived through pandemics

Forgetting to Take Refuge

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/notesfromthetemple/2017/12/forgetting-take-refuge/>

The benefits of deciding to just unplug.

Does the Pandemic Have a Purpose?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/16/opinion/covid-philosophy.html>

Reflections on the ways this global event might have meaning.

The World is Empty Now

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/11/opinion/coronavirus-Easter-sermon.html?auth=login-email&login=email>

The void created by the pandemic might hold an unexpected gift.

Is the End Near?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/11/opinion/coronavirus-Easter-sermon.html?auth=login-email&login=email>

Maybe it just feels that way...what religion can teach us about the “end times.”

Enneagram Has its Moment

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-04-22/the-enneagram-9-types-mindfulness-self-awareness>

A personality test focuses on mindfulness and self-awareness.

OTHER ARTICLES

COVID-19 NeuroArts Field Guide

In response to the many questions we’ve received about the ways art can help us during the pandemic, the IAM (international Arts+Mind) Lab has launched the COVID-19 NeuroArts Field Guide. It offers easy-to-do art activities and simple explanations about the science behind them. They will be updating the guide weekly with new ideas and information.

<https://www.artsandmindlab.org/covid-19-neuro-arts-field-guide/>

Rubin Museum NYC, Stream the Tibetan Buddhist Shrine Room and More!

<https://rubinmuseum.org/landing/rubin-care-package-art-and-practices-for-navigating-your-world>

In this time of great instability, our global community is experiencing growing fear, loss, isolation, and stress. When faced with uncertainty and turmoil, Buddhists rely on traditional practices developed over two thousand years to harness the mind and help change perspectives, manage emotions, and cultivate compassion.

Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), Articles, Videos etc.

<https://www.moma.org/magazine/articles/255>

Learning Curve: Art Resources for Teaching and Learning from Home

Greater Good’s Guide to Well-Being During Coronavirus (From the Greater Good Magazine, science-based insights for a meaningful life)

https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/greater_good_guide_to_well_being_during_coronavirus

Brené Brown: The 60 Minutes Interview

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/brene-brown-cope-coronavirus-pandemic-covid-19-60-minutes-2020-03-29/>

The Covid Pandemic: Seven Lessons to be Learned for a Future

<https://medium.com/@premckar/the-covid-pandemic-seven-lessons-to-be-learned-for-a-future-81792f7f175>

Reflecting on the experience thus far of the Covid-19 pandemic, Prem Chandavarkar proposes seven lessons we must learn from it for the world we need to build after it is over.

SPECIFIC ARTICLES

Israeli Archaeologists Find Hidden Pattern at ‘World’s Oldest Temple’ Göbekli Tepe

<https://www.haaretz.com/archaeology/.premium-israeli-archaeologists-find-hidden-pattern-at-gobekli-tepe-1.8799837>

Neolithic hunter-gatherers who erected massive monoliths in central Turkey 11,500 years ago had command of geometry and a much more complex society than previously thought, archaeologists say/

College choice: Reopen and risk virus spread or face financial ruin (Politico)

<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/02/colleges-reopen-decision-coronavirus-229609>

Public colleges and universities face intense pressure to throw open classroom doors even as health officials warn of potential spikes in coronavirus cases come the fall.

In Praise of Cemeteries

<https://commonedge.org/in-praise-of-cemeteries/>

The author notes the role cemeteries have to play in a time of social distancing.

Honk Twice for Hallelujah!

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/honk-twice-for-hallelujah-what-church-looks-like-in-the-parking-lot>

How a megachurch adapted to social distancing

Listening to Sacred Stillness

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/strategicmonk/2020/04/21/listening-to-sacred-stillness-in-these-uncertain-times/>

How we might live through uncertain times.

Michael Sorkin, RIP

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/arts/michael-sorkin-dead.html>

<https://archinect.com/news/article/150191096/michael-sorkin-visionary-and-incisive-architect-educator-critic-has-passed-away-from-covid-19>

We lose an architect who saw architecture as a vehicle for social change.

Keith Critchlow RIP

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keith_Critchlow (1933-2020) Veteran readers will surely be aware of Summerhill School graduate Critchlow’s work in sacred geometry and architecture, and particularly his work *Earth Mysteries: A study in patterns* (1978) and on Neolithic carved stone balls in *Time Stands Still* (1979). More recently, he co-founded and was president of London’s Temenos Academy (www.temenosacademy.org).

DESIGN

On Earth Day, We Reflect on Architecture's Relationship with the Planet

<https://www.archdaily.com/938116/on-world-earth-day-we-reflect-on-architectures-relationship-with-the-planet>

As we recognize the 50th Earth Day, it is difficult to think of a time where our relationship with the

Earth has been so different from normal. As we grapple with the worst health crisis in one hundred years, attention turns to the future of how we will live with each other, how global systems will operate, and in some cases, how profoundly positive it can be for the natural world when our exponential demands for oil, transport, and energy are curtailed.

Fallingwater Aerials

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC9ipWcYnQc&fbclid=IwAR2vek4XHgDWbUXsSzXxix1BeDPzI0iXUZtmz9XHSHAJh3jQygFoRKwldrM>

You have never seen Fallingwater like this. While we had to postpone our symposium there, at the very least make sure to see the stunning work done with drones to show you this masterpiece. It's just beautiful.

How Artificial Intelligence Will Shape Design by 2050

<https://www.archdaily.com/937523/how-artificial-intelligence-will-shape-design-by-2050>

As the world faces a number of urgent and complex challenges, from the climate crisis to housing, AI has the potential to make the difference between a dystopian future and a livable one. By looking ahead, we're taking stock of what's happening, and in turn, imagining how AI can shape our lives for the better.

St Martin-in-the-Fields

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/st-martin-in-the-fields>

The church also has longstanding links with the peace movement. They can't have been very happy when, in 1914, a bomb was planted in one of the pews, supposedly by the suffragettes. It destroyed a window dedicated to W.H. Smith (yes, that W.H. Smith). Since 2008 the church's eastern window has been warped, a deliberate installation by the artist Shirazeh Houshiary, who says her work symbolises the fact that 'everything is in a state of erosion'.

Smart Cities Paving the Way to a Smart Future

<https://www.archdaily.com/936781/smart-cities-paving-the-way-to-a-smart-future>

The "smart" movement has gained traction and generated buzz over the last decade, but despite all of the hype, what even is a smart city?

Design in the Time of COVID-19

https://www.architectmagazine.com/aia-architect/aiafeature/design-in-the-time-of-covid-19_o

The business of architecture has been derailed by a pandemic, but have remote offices changed the work of design?

Tadao Ando's Meditation Space captured in new photographs by Simone Bossi

<https://www.dezeen.com/2020/04/27/tadao-ando-meditation-space-photos-simone-bossi/>

Architectural photographer Simone Bossi has created a new image series exploring the curved concrete of a tiny building by Japanese architect Tadao Ando.

Gaudí, Wright, Niemeyer and Le Corbusier: Take a Virtual Tour Through Iconic Architecture

<https://www.archdaily.com/936442/gaudi-wright-niemeyer-and-le-corbusier-take-a-virtual-tour-through-iconic-architecture>

As a sizable portion of the world's population hunkered down at home, online activities have become the go-to for those looking to fill, often hours, of newfound free time. Thanks to the cooperation of several companies, anyone with an internet connection now has access to a trove of online educational (courses, workshops, tutorials) and recreational (documentaries, digital books, virtual tours) activities that can be enjoyed from home.

Rethinking Workplace Design in the Age of Big Data

<https://www.archdaily.com/937198/rethinking-workplace-design-in-the-age-of-big-data>

In the highly connected world we live in, technology influences and impacts almost every decision we make. Big Data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT) have enhanced our connected world and helped us understand more about the spaces we inhabit.

Building Culture: Perkins and Will on Designing with Respect for Indigenous Traditions

<https://www.archdaily.com/937337/building-culture-perkins-and-will-on-designing-with-respect-for-indigenous-traditions>

Context defines both how we design and what we build. This holds especially true when designing contemporary architecture for Indigenous communities.

The Architecture of Surveillance: The Panopticon Prison

<https://www.archdaily.com/937611/the-architecture-of-surveillance-the-panopticon-prison>

An expression of power and a symbol of surveillance, the panopticon is a notorious architectural concept intended as a disciplinary mechanism. Photographer Romain Veillon shares his images of the Panopticon-inspired [prison](#) in Autun, France.

The Future of Generative Design: Autodesk on Architecture and Machine Learning

<https://www.archdaily.com/938246/the-future-of-generative-design-autodesk-on-architecture-and-machine-learning>

Autodesk has quickly become an industry standard for architecture and engineering software. Bringing together a range of tools and programs with resources like Autodesk University and the Autodesk Foundation, the company is exploring the future of how we design and build.

The Fundamental Role of AI in Current Post-War Reconstruction

<https://www.archdaily.com/938705/the-fundamental-role-of-ai-in-current-post-war-reconstruction>

In a world devastated by war and destruction, new ideas for future reconstruction of cities are emerging. The latest technologies are creating opportunities to shape better built environments and better urban experiences.

Thom Mayne Reflects on the Founding of Morphosis

<https://www.archdaily.com/938693/thom-mayne-reflects-on-the-founding-of-morphosis>

Pritzker Prize Winner, Morphosis Founder & SCI-Arc Co-Founder, Thom Mayne joins the podcast to discuss his attraction to being an outsider, the use of technology within architecture, and how he founded the world-renowned architecture firm Morphosis

COMPETITIONS

Competition: Campus of Religions, Vienna -- *Architects Journal*

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/competitions/competition-campus-of-religions-vienna/10046950.article>

An international contest is being held for a new 16,000m² interfaith centre in Seestadt Aspern, Vienna

7 Competitions to Enter While on Lockdown

<https://www.archdaily.com/936608/5-competitions-to-enter-while-on-lockdown>

While the world is on pause and we are all leaning how to work from home trying to keep up with our usual productivity levels and fighting the lack of focus, we at ArchDaily want to help our readers keep their minds sharp through this challenge. One of the ways not to get absorbed in your daily routine is to make sure you have enough mental activity every day, and we have just the thing for you!

JOURNALS

The Plan Journal, vol. 5 [2020], no. 2 [Fall]

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: Healthy Urbanism

How can we imagine healthier, safer and more ecologically balanced urban environments that can support society's efforts for a stronger public health? Proposals [optional], about 500 words, due by **June 15, 2020**. For more info: <http://www.theplanjournal.com/content/call-submissions---vol-5-20-no-2-fall>

CONFERENCES

11th International Conference on the Constructed Environment

University of Calgary, Calgary, Canada 12–14 May 2021

Inviting proposals for paper presentations, workshops/interactive sessions, posters/exhibits, colloquia, focused discussions, innovation showcases, virtual posters, or virtual lightning talks. **Submit a proposal by** June 12, 2020. For more info:

http://www.newsletter.illinois.mx3a.com/vo/constructed_V21AVg.html

TALKS

20 TED Talks on how Architecture can Change the World

<https://www.archdaily.com/924696/20-ted-talks-to-help-architects-work-better>

Since its founding in 1984 by architect Richard Saul Wurman, TED has been a powerful force in the fields of technology, entertainment, design, and beyond. Architects are among the millions of people around the world who frequently tune into TED's "ideas worth spreading" including talks by architects such as Bjarke Ingels and Jeanne Gang. With over 2500 talks to choose from, we have followed on from our previous lists to provide you with 20 talks to help you work better as an architect.

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"leap and the net will appear"