

Dear ACS friends,

In this email you will find announcements of new books related to our ACS interest as well a couple of other interesting pointers.

## NEW BOOKS -----

ACS member **Sigurd Bergmann** (department of philosophy and religious studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology) is the author of a book that has just been released in paperback called ***Religion, Space, and the Environment*** (Transaction, 2016). At the book's heart is the questions of how space, place, and religion amalgamate and how lived space and lived religion influence each other. Religions often nurture important skills that help believers locate themselves in the world. Religious perceptions, practices, emotions, and beliefs are closely interwoven with the environments from which they emerge. Sigurd Bergmann's driving emphasis here is to explore religion not in relation to, but as a part of the spatiality and movement within the environment from which it arises and is nurtured. *Religion, Space, and the Environment* emerges from the author's experiences in different places and continents over the past decade. Bergmann explores how religion and the memory of our past impact our lives in urban spaces; how the sacred geographies in Mayan and northeast Asian lands compare to modern eco-spirituality; and how human images and practices of moving in, with, and through the land are interwoven with the processes of colonization and sacralizing, and the practices of power and visions of the sacred, among other topics. For more information, visit <http://www.transactionpub.com/title/Religion%2C-Space%2C-and-the-Environment-978-1-4128-6294-3.html>

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ACS member **Fernando López Arias** (Pontificia Università della Santa Croce in Rome, Italy) just published a book entitled ***Espacio litúrgico. Teología y arquitectura cristiana en el siglo XX*** (Centre de Pastoral litúrgica, Barcelona 2016). The book offers a tour of the theologians and architects of the twentieth century who have made notable contributions to sacred architecture in the Catholic Church. This work explores some of the main ideas and architectural projects that have marked the history of Christian architecture from the beginning of the Liturgical Movement to Joseph Ratzinger. Those interested in learning more (or to order it), refer to this link: <http://www.book.cpl.es/detalle.asp?codart=110230>

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ACS member **Rachel McCann** (with Patricia M. Locke) just published the book ***Merleau-Ponty Space, Place, Architecture*** (Ohio University Press, 2016). Phenomenology has played a decisive role in the emergence of the study of place, now indispensable to many disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and the contribution of Merleau-Ponty's thought to architectural theory and practice is well established. *Merleau-Ponty: Space, Place, Architecture* is a vibrant collection of original essays by twelve eminent philosophers. They mine Merleau-Ponty's work to consider how we live and create as spatial beings. The resulting collection is essential to philosophers and creative artists as well as those concerned with the pressing ethical issues of our time. As the first collection devoted specifically to developing Merleau-Ponty's contribution to our understanding of place and architecture, this book will speak to philosophers interested in the problem of space, architectural theorists, and a wide

range of others in the arts and design community. For more information, visit <http://www.ohioswallow.com/book/Merleau-Ponty>

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***Sacred Architecture in a Secular Age. Anamnesis of Durham Cathedral*** by Marie Clausén (Routledge 2016). Having won more than one recent poll as Britain's best-loved building, the appeal of Durham Cathedral appears abiding, which begs the question whether an iconic sacred building can retain meaning and affective pertinence for contemporary, secular visitors. Using the example of Durham Cathedral, this book sets out to explore wherein the appeal of historic churches lies today and considers questions of how and why their preservation into a post-Christian era should be secured. For more information, go to <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138125582>

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***Architecture as Cultural and Political Discourse. Case studies of conceptual norms and aesthetic practices***, by Daniel Grincer (Routledge, 2016). This book is concerned with cultural and political discourses that affect the production of architecture. It examines how these discursive mechanisms and technologies combine to normalise and aestheticise everyday practices. It queries the means by which buildings are appropriated to give shape and form to political aspirations and values. Architecture is not overtly political. It does not coerce people to behave in certain ways. However, architecture is constructed within the same rules and practices whereby people and communities *self-govern* and regulate themselves to think and act in certain ways. This book seeks to examine these rules through various case studies including: the reconstructed Notre Dame Cathedral, the Nazi era Munich Königsplatz, Auschwitz concentration camp and the Prora resort, Sydney's suburban race riots, and the Australian Immigration Detention Centre on Christmas Island. For more, visit <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138916807>

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***Through the Healing Glass. Shaping the Modern Body through Glass Architecture, 1925-35***, by John Stanislav Sadar (Routledge, 2016). In the mid-1920s a physiologist, a glass chemist, and a zoo embarked on a project which promised to turn buildings into medical instruments. The advanced chemistry of "Vita" Glass mobilised theories of light and medicine, health practices and glassmaking technology to compress an entire epoch's hopes for a healthy life into a glass sheet – yet it did so invisibly. For more, visit <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138837805>

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***Leap Before you Look: Black Mountain College, 1933-1957***, by Helen Molesworth with Ruth Erickson (Yale University Press, 2015). In 1933, John Rice founded Black Mountain College in North Carolina as an experiment in making artistic experience central to learning. Though it operated for only 24 years, this pioneering school played a significant role in fostering avant-garde art, music, dance, and poetry, and an astonishing number of important artists taught or studied there. Among the instructors were Josef and Anni Albers, John Cage,

Merce Cunningham, Buckminster Fuller, Karen Karnes, M. C. Richards, and Willem de Kooning, and students included Ruth Asawa, Robert Rauschenberg, and Cy Twombly. For more, see. <http://www.amazon.com/Leap-Before-You-Look-Mountain/dp/0300211910>. Also, for the exhibit related to the book : <https://www.icaboston.org/exhibitions/leap-you-look-black-mountain-college-1933-1957>

## VIDEO -----

In case you haven't seen this video, it is worth watching. It shows what **Ancient Rome** looked like using a very good reconstruction scholarship:

<http://www.vox.com/2016/2/28/11129238/rome-reborn-video>

## MAGAZINE -----

**Culture.pl**, an online magazine promoting Polish culture abroad, run by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, is publishing an article about the **most beautiful churches in Poland** that is worth reviewing. Here is a link: <http://culture.pl/en/article/polands-most-beautiful-churches>

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*"leap and the net will appear"*