

**Subject:** re: 2017-9-1 ACSF Newsletter

**Date:** Friday, September 1, 2017 at 13:28:13 Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Julio Bermudez

**To:** ACSF (list-server)

Dear ACSF members

Below, I am sharing news and articles about our area of mutual interest. Before I do, I want to highlight two books published by two ACSF members:

One is by **Andrea Longhi** and entitled "**Storie di chiese, storie di comunità. Progetti, cantieri, architetture**" (Histories of churches, histories of communities. Designs, building sites, architectures) -- Gangemi Editore 2017. It is in Italian and discusses the processes of construction of parish centres in Italy during the last decades, analyzing in particular the role of the people and the communities involved, under a social and theological point of view. Thirty parish complexes are analyzed, and the first part of the book outlines a method to study the history of recent churches and parishes. For more info: <http://www.gangemieditore.com/dettaglio/storie-chiese-storie-comunit%C3%A0/7590/2>

The other is by **Sigurd Bergmann** and entitled "**Wandel und Werschätzung. Synergien für die Zukunft von Kircheraumen**" (Schnell + Steiner 2017). This book is in German (but has chapter summaries in English) and addresses the possible synergies for the future of church or the transformation of church buildings in changing environments. Some of the authors included in the book are written by ACSF members. For more info: [https://www.schnell-und-steiner.de/artikel\\_8795.ahtml?NKLN=28\\_RSA](https://www.schnell-und-steiner.de/artikel_8795.ahtml?NKLN=28_RSA)

## OTHER BOOKS

### **Maya Ideologies of the Sacred: The Transfiguration of Space in Colonial Yucatan**

(by Amara Solari, U of Texas Press, 2013)

<http://caareviews.org/reviews/2482#.WamIloWzLWI>

When the Spanish mendicant orders built the first monastery complexes of the Yucatan Peninsula on top of extant pre-Columbian towns, temples, and ceremonial centers, one of their aims was to take possession of indigenous sacred space, appropriate its inherent sacredness, and reuse it to establish the Catholic faith in the New World. In *Maya Ideologies of the Sacred: The Transfiguration of Space in Colonial Yucatan*, Amara Solari examines the city of Itzmal in Yucatan as an example in order to illustrate how this project was heavily influenced, even challenged, by deep-rooted Maya traditions and conceptions of space.

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**Being Messy, Being Church** edited by Ian Paul (appeared in Church Times)

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2017/7-july/books-arts/book-reviews/whither-the-dinghy>

THIS book is a collection of essays in which the authors explore what Messy Church brings to the wider Church, how it is changing and growing, and which questions remain as it takes its place as an established form of modern Christian worship.

The question that arises most commonly for the authors is expressed succinctly by Mark Rylands. He speaks of the expectation that Messy Church congregations have "stepped into the rubber dinghy but won't properly be on the voyage until they have boarded the Sunday church ship". The essayists, in different ways, challenge this assumption. In doing so, they address the fundamental questions what church is and what is it for.

## MOVIES & ARTWORK

### **COLUMBUS** (Film)

It comes highly recommended by a few ACSF members for being "beautiful, spiritual, entirely about architecture and the soul." Check the reviews:

<http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com/films/reviews/view/28490/columbus>

<http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/columbus-2017>

<https://www.slantmagazine.com/film/review/columbus>

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### **BORGMAN | LENK reframes berlin church ruins with 'radiator' sculpture**

(appeared in DesignBoom)

<https://www.designboom.com/art/borgman-lenk-radiator-sculpture-berlin-08-16-2017/>

Danish-german artist duo BORGMAN | LENK has completed 'radiator', a temporary steel sculpture in berlin. the monumental intervention is located in the ruins of a monastery church. A massive ten-meter high pipeline is guided in a closed loop forming a spatial ensemble. the pipe links the sacred fragment of the monastery to this new space, which mimics the scale and spatial order of the neo-gothic church. the building plot seems interrupted by this absurd, non-functional object as the gigantic 11-ton radiator '*lets its inner emptiness circulate around*'. the sculpture juxtaposes opposites as the machine-like device is paired with historical fragments.

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### **Chris Ofili Tapestry Magic At The National Gallery By Edward Lucie-Smith**

(appeared in the Artlyst)

<http://www.artlyst.com/reviews/chris-ofili-tapestry-magic-national-gallery-edward-lucie-smith/>

The tapestry itself is entitled 'The Caged Bird's Song' paying homage to the famous book by the African-American writer Maya Angelou, "I know why the caged bird sings" with the show itself is called Weaving Magic. The idea that this is a sacred, magical event is reinforced by the fact that the tapestry itself is triptych – a format revived in our own time by none other than that confirmed-atheist-hankering-for-God Francis Bacon. In this case, however, the atmosphere is a good deal less fraught. Ofili's composition is a hymn to nature, and the great Modernist it tends to recall is Matisse (who, after all, decorated at least one church himself). It says a lot for Ofili that his tapestry stands up well to the comparison.

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### **Somali-American artists mount 'huge' show in Minneapolis' West Bank neighborhood**

(appeared in StarTribune)

<http://www.startribune.com/somali-american-artists-mount-huge-show-in-minneapolis-west-bank-neighborhood/432988423/>

Minneapolis-based Soomaal House of Art collective kicks off its second group exhibition this weekend with an ambitious show spanning three venues in Minneapolis' Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. "Receptacle" opens Saturday <<https://www.facebook.com/events/113836342552266>> at Chase House Community

Room (1530 S. 6th St., 2nd floor, Mpls.) with a spoken word performance by poet Muna Abdulahi. The exhibition is concurrently on view at Masjid Dar Al-Hijrah/ICSA (504 Cedar Av. S., Mpls.) and Masjid Shaafici Cultural Center (400 Cedar Av. S., Mpls.) through Aug. 5.

## NEWS & ARTICLES

### **The neuroscience argument that religion shaped the very structure of our brains** (appeared in QUARTZ)

<https://qz.com/852450/the-neuroscience-argument-that-religion-shaped-the-very-structure-of-our-brains/>

Religion and neuroscience are not an obvious pairing. But a 2016 study published in Social Neuroscience demonstrated that spiritual feelings activate the neurological reward systems of devout Mormons. The study used fMRI scans to show that the nucleus accumbens—an area associated with reward—is activated when Mormons who have a strong sense of spirituality carry out religious activities. The same area can also be activated by love, sex, drugs, and music. In this particular paper, the study, with a sample size of just 19, has serious limitations. But it's part of a young and fast-growing new field that examines the relationship between our brains and religion, called neurotheology.

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### **Contested sacred space USA: Conflict and cooperation in the heartland**

(appeared in RNS)

<https://religionnews.com/2017/08/11/contested-sacred-space-usa-conflict-and-cooperation-in-the-heartland/>

There is an open patch of grass at the intersection of River Boulevard and Walnut Street in this Kansas City suburb. It looks like a vacant lot — no structures, no landscaping, no fence.

But this 2.5-acre site is sacred to a number of religious groups, all of which trace their origins to Joseph Smith Jr., the Mormon prophet. It is here, Smith declared in 1831, that Jesus will return — and soon — to rule his kingdom from a beautiful temple. For now, there is no temple — construction never got past the laying of cornerstones. But the three largest Mormon denominations have presences in and around Temple Lot: The 15 million-member Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints <<http://www.lds.org>> runs a visitors center on one corner across the street; the Community of Christ <<http://www.cofchrist.org/>> , with 200,000 members, has its world headquarters and an auditorium on two other corners; and the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) <<http://www.churchofchrist-tl.org/>> , which has just 5,000 members, has a low-slung sanctuary a few steps away.

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### **"Are We Ready For Another Reformation ? " By Rev. Peter E. Bauer** (appeared in Huffpost)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/are-we-ready-for-another-reformation-by-rev-peter\\_us\\_5980d7f0e4b02be325be01c8](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/are-we-ready-for-another-reformation-by-rev-peter_us_5980d7f0e4b02be325be01c8)

Five hundred years ago, this coming October, the Protestant Reformation formally began. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his infamous 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church in Germany. Luther was trained as a Catholic monk and, over time, he became disenchanted with what he perceived as a belief system that was mired

in a lot of hierarchy which also exhibited corrupt practices. Her railed against “the sale of indulgences,” pieces of paper which were sold guaranteeing the purchaser to be able to “get out of purgatory “and enter paradise. Luther was also committed to the idea of “sola scriptura “, only scripture was the basis of authority that was the basis of belief and salvation for Christians. He did not subscribe to having go through any intermediaries, i.e., priests or a Pontiff to receive sanctification. Luther proclaimed “by grace alone are we saved. “

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**Parting the Mist** (appeared in Patheos)

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/waterwitch/2017/07/parting-the-mist.html>

Parting the mist is crossing into liminal space, over the hedge and into the spirit world. You see this in examples like Alice in wonderland where she falls down the rabbit hole, and in Harry Potter’s platform 9 and ¾ and many other references in pop culture. In mythology and folklore often times the hero crosses water and enters the underworld; the River Styx is a good example and so is crossing a river to escape an angry spirit, and numerous other examples where humans cross from the mundane human world through a liminal space or object into a different world, a world of spirit or other.

Read more at <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/waterwitch/2017/07/parting-the-mist.html#M2Q5vJ0TEIXCWSU6.99>

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**Why we must open them every day: our 5-point plan to save Britain's churches**

(appeared in Church)

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/why.we.must.open.them.every.day.our.5.point.plan.to.save.britains.churches/111105.htm>

The UK has around 42,000 Christian places of worship. They are a unique combination of architecture, history and faith and a vital and much loved part of our heritage. In England, 45 per cent of all Grade I Listed Buildings are churches and cathedrals. Last year, 57 per cent of British adults said they had visited a church, chapel or meeting house to attend a religious service, a community event or as a tourist or visitor. The facts speak for themselves – it is clear that churches are important places in the lives of many British people, providing a physical space for spirituality, reflection, celebration, exploration.

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**At the Temple Mount, it’s not about metal detectors, it’s about sovereignty**

(appeared in The Times of Israel)

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/at-the-temple-mount-its-not-about-metal-detectors-its-about-sovereignty/>

The Israeli government missed the point of Palestinian anger directed at metal detectors placed at entrances to the Temple Mount and, having misdiagnosed the situation, made a decision that failed to resolve the crisis and has only made it worse. At least, that’s what many of the Muslim protesters in the streets of Jerusalem’s Old City have been saying since the metal detectors were removed early Tuesday morning.

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**See the spectacular Sufi temple built with Cheesecake Factory money** (appeared in Curbed)

<https://sf.curbed.com/2017/7/13/15965852/sufism-reoriented-saranap-temple-east-bay>

Music and culture publication *Fader* took a look this week at the startling but tranquil Sufi temple in Saranap financed largely by Cheesecake Factory founder David Overton. Several obvious questions present themselves—chiefly, where is Saranap and why does

it now have a \$20 million Sufi temple?

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**Developers Are Trying to Build a Pipeline Through a Watershed. These Nuns Built a Chapel in Its Path** (appeared in the Sourners)

<https://sojo.net/articles/developers-are-trying-build-pipeline-through-watershed-these-nuns-built-chapel-its-path>

More than 500 people gathered in a hot and dusty Pennsylvania cornfield yesterday afternoon to join the Catholic sisters of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ for the dedication of a new outdoor chapel, built on land about to be seized from them by a corporate developer planning to build a natural gas pipeline.

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**Sacred Space, University of Miami partner to educate community on wellness** (appeared in the Miami Herald)

<http://www.miamiherald.com/living/health-fitness/article160552079.html>

It's a meditation garden. A plant-based restaurant. A culinary academy. And as of late, an educational institution. Sacred Space Miami <<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/article104098286.html>> , a 12,000-square-foot center for healing and well-being, is partnering with the University of Miami's new Osher Center for Integrative Medicine to host a seven-part lecture series on topics like medicinal cannabis, gut health and mindfulness.

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**Chicago Archdiocese opens first cremation garden in a cemetery** (appeared in Chicago Tribune)

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-archdiocese-cremation-garden-met-20170710-story.html>

Faced with a growing number of Catholics choosing to be cremated when they die, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago opened its first cremation garden Monday, at All Saints Cemetery. Sylwestrak, who died last month, and his wife — who died seven years ago and whose remains have been kept by Thom — on Saturday will become one of the first couples to be buried there.

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**The colourful reinvention of a 100-year-old US church** (appeared in Stuff)

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/homed/other-spaces/92098666/the-colourful-reinvention-of-a-100yearold-church>

Since the dawn of time, some of the most beautiful art has been found in sacred spaces. In the 6th century, it was the Hagia Sophia; Notre-Dame was finished in the 1300s, and in the 1400s, Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Recently, as society moves toward a more secular point of view, stunning old churches have been reinvented as trendy homes, condo conversions or for other new purposes. Now, a 113-year-old building in Denver, Colorado, has taken the conjunction of art and worship to a new high.

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**Roswell, Sacred Shrine of UFO Enthusiasts** (appeared in JSTOR Daily)

<https://daily.jstor.org/roswell-sacred-shrine-of-ufo-enthusiasts/>

This month is the 70th anniversary of... *something* in Roswell, New Mexico. Officially, a balloon being tested for the monitoring of Soviet nuclear tests crashed. But curiously, the military's own initial press release said the crash was of a flying disk. A brief UFO craze resulted from the events of the summer of 1947. And there the story ended—until the

late 1970s, when an alternative story began to emerge. It wasn't a balloon after all: it was a spacecraft whose remains, including alien beings, had been kept secret since. Today, "Roswell" usually indicates an inside joke and/or the site of a vast conspiracy. Popular culture has made the town a household synonym for aliens, secrecy, and decades of cover-ups, thanks to *Unsolved Mysteries*, *The X-Files*, *Alien Autopsy*, *Independence Day*, and *Roswell*. Meanwhile, the "Roswell Incident," as it is termed, is marketing gold: Roswell features "aliens" painted onto the globe streetlights, a McDonalds shaped like a flying saucer, and UFO welcome mats for sale at the tourist information center.

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**UNESCO, Bilaam, and the secret of sacred space** (appeared in israel national news)  
<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/232009>

Back from the US, Rabbi Richman is reunited with Yitzchak Reuven for this week's edition of Temple Talk. Our hosts examine the heathen prophet Bilaam's motivation and methodology in his attempt to curse the people of Israel before they enter into the Promised Land. Of course, Bilaam has many politically-correct disciples today who attempt to curse Israel from various vantage points, acting from similiar motivation - and achieving similiar results. Tune into this week's episode of Temple Talk for fascinating and timely Torah teachings and insights into current events.

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**An 'Underworld' Discovered Beneath Mexico's Teotihuacan Ruins** (appeared in Telesur)  
<https://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/An-Underworld-Discovered-Beneath-Mexicos-Teotihuacan-Ruins-20170705-0021.html>

The tunnel reinforces researchers' belief that the theme of life and death was constant throughout the Teotihuacan culture.

The National Institute of Anthropology announced its discovery of a tunnel beneath Mexico's Teotihuacan Temple.  
"We are seeing that underneath the great monuments of the archaeological zone there are previous buildings. We have seen it under the pyramids of the Sun and the Feathered Serpent, why not under the Pyramid of the Moon?" lead archaeologist Veronica Ortega stated.

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**United Church embraces startups as it updates its social mission to engage millennials** (appeared in The Globe and Mail)  
<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/small-business/startups/united-church-of-canada-fostering-startups-amid-shifting-role-of-religion/article35512698/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com&>

With prime real estate in cities across the country going increasingly unused, the United Church of Canada is testing out the idea of opening sacred space up for incubation. Under the guidance of 35-year-old minister Katherine Selby and entrepreneur coach Peter Miller, St. Andrew's United Church in Markham, Ont., has opened its doors to 12 small business owners and social entrepreneurs. The "hubsters," as they're affectionately known, have 24/7 access to church space to work, meet clients and attend workshops on everything from branding to cybersecurity.

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**Mountaineers ignore ban to climb sacred native american monument** (appeared in the Independent)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/wyoming-mountaineers-climbing-devils-tower-native-american-monument-sacred-ceremonies-a7820896.html>

Summer climbers are ignoring the seasonal closure of a sacred Native American site. During June, visitors are asked not to climb Devils Tower - a Wyoming National Monument - in order to respect American Indian ceremonies. But the closure is voluntary and the number of those scaling the site has been increasing in recent years. The rock formation is part of the Black Hills mountain chain, near Belle Fourche River. It rises 386m above the surrounding area and was declared the first National Monument of the United States by President Theodore Roosevelt.

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**Sacred Space in Hyderabad, India** (appeared in Architizer)

<https://architizer.com/projects/sacred-space/>

A micro-mosque designed for elderly residents in the parking garage of an existing apartment complex. A community-oriented project under the DesignAccess initiative, the entire project took three weeks from conception to realization within a constrained space and budget. Basic materials and techniques were adapted from other disciplines such as soft furnishing and tailoring, to carve out a small mosque that would serve as a space to pray taraweeh, the additional late-night congregational prayer during Ramadan.

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**Appeal to Vatican puts sale of Mount Carmel on hold (appeared in the Telegram.com)**

<http://www.telegram.com/news/20170630/appeal-to-vatican-puts-sale-of-mount-carmel-on-hold>

So while parish leadership proposes to sell the historic Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, the landmark Italian-American church on Mulberry Street that has been closed and had been facing the wrecking ball, appeals to the Vatican may postpone the church's fate indefinitely - possibly for years.

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**Julio Bermudez**, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor*

The Catholic University of America  
School of Architecture and Planning  
Crough Center of Architectural Studies  
620 Michigan Ave NE  
Washington, DC 20064

(202) 319-5755 (phone)  
[bermudez@cua.edu](mailto:bermudez@cua.edu) (email)  
<http://faculty.cua.edu/bermudez> (web)

*"leap and the net will appear"*