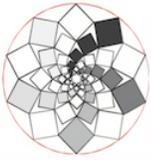


**Subject:** Re: 2020-02-29 ACSF newsletter  
**Date:** Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 14:44:14 Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** Julio Bermudez  
**To:** ACSF (NCSU) Listserv  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg



**ACSF** Architecture, Culture, and Spirituality Forum

## 2020-02-29 ACSF newsletter

Dear ACSF members,

Here is another issue of our newsletter. You will find in **GREEN** articles, design work, competitions, 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.

But before we start, we would like to encourage members that won't present work but are interested in attending **our next ACSF 12 symposium in Fallingwater (May 27-31 -- <http://www.acsforum.org/symposium2020/>)** to be very alert regarding when registration starts (we'll send an email). Since there is limited space we will not have open registration over the internet but people will need to contact one of the symposium co-chairs (Julio Bermudez) to receive the appropriate link to do it. If you already know that you want to join us in Fallingwater, email Julio Bermudez ([bermudez@cua.edu](mailto:bermudez@cua.edu)) so he can put you in a waiting list. You'll receive an invitation to register in the order your request came in.

Please, remember that there won't be a 2021 Symposium (we are taking a year break due to our year-long series of activities with CTI next academic year). In other words, the next ACSF symposium will be in Spring 2022.

### GENERAL ARTICLES

#### **Prosperity Without Growth**

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/02/10/can-we-have-prosperity-without-growth>

An article that questions whether materialism is really necessary for an economy to grow.

#### **Orgasms and Prayer**

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/ordinarymystic/2019/08/prayer-and-orgasm-have-more-in-common-than-you-think-guest-post-by-kelly-deutsch/>

The author ponders the connections between contemplative prayer to another form of surrender.

#### **Learning Compassion**

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/2020/01/30/an-angry-america-new-remedy-emerges-compassion/>

Hospitals, businesses, schools, and other institutions are investing in training employees to be compassionate.

#### **The Fear of Silence**

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/mindfulchristianitytoday/2018/06/the-fear-of-silence-is-killing-us/>

The author questions whether our fixation on keeping ourselves continually entertained is a

symptom of a fear of being quietly with our own thoughts.

### **Spirituality Goes to the Movies**

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/movies/story/2019-12-19/two-popes-dark-waters-hidden-life-have-religion-at-core>

Is there a trend of including more religion and spirituality in Hollywood films?

### **The Creative Act and Spirituality**

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/feminaferox/2020/02/creation-is-a-spiritual-project/>

This article explores how the artistic impulse is part of an individual spiritual practice.

### **Coming to Grips With Death**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/03/opinion/death-religion-philosophy.html>

A writer contemplates his own mortality, and how different faiths address this ultimate fact.

### **Being Present With the Night Sky**

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/strategicmonk/2020/02/15/practices-from-the-inside-out-looking-up-into-the-night-sky/>

The contemplation of the dance of lights in the night sky (an ACSF symposium favorite) can convey immensity and our place in it.

### **The Power of Silent Prayer**

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlmccolman/2020/02/26576/>

The author contemplates how silent prayer might open us to emotional intensity.

### **Goodbye, Sweet Mutt**

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/thefluencyofhope/2020/02/all-dogs-go-to-heaven-a-reflection-on-common-things/>

The author considers the power of a pet, and saying goodbye.

### **El Silencio de la Belleza** (for those that can read Spanish)

[https://elpais.com/cultura/2014/12/01/babelia/1417470651\\_675486.html](https://elpais.com/cultura/2014/12/01/babelia/1417470651_675486.html)

No hay nada inventado, ni hay asomo de piedad, en la obra de Thomas Mann

### **Where's My Consciousness-ometer?**

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/wheres-my-consciousness-ometer/>

Whether an entity is conscious may soon be a testable question

### **5 Languages That Could Change the Way You See the World**

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/5-languages-that-could-change-the-way-you-see-the-world>

If your language had no words to describe "the future," would you still stress over it?

## **SPECIFIC ARTICLES**

### **A Doorway Into Architecture**

<https://commonedge.org/teaching-an-appreciation-for-architecture-through-film/>

The author considers how film can be a way of teaching non-architects about architecture (based on ideas developed for an ACSF symposium).

### **Listen: The Sound Of The Hagia Sophia, More Than 500 Years Ago**

<https://www.npr.org/2020/02/22/808404928/listen-the-sound-of-the-hagia-sophia-more-than-500-years-ago>

Two scholars at Stanford have joined forces to recreate what a Christian choir might have sounded like inside Istanbul's Hagia Sophia before it became a mosque in the 1400s.

### **MoonArk will be a philosophical mini-museum, left on the moon for future explorers to discover**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/moonark-will-be-a-philosophical-mini-museum-left-on-the-moon-for-future-explorers-to-discover/ar-BB10cU4A?ocid=spartandhp>

Earth is giving a gift to the moon that will land on the lunar surface next year. The nine-ounce MoonArk -- a tiny time capsule-esque artifact of humanity -- will be attached to a small lunar rover. This is in the hopes that one day it may be picked up by lunar explorers -- hundreds or thousands of years in the future.

### **The Arts Can Liberate Us from Loneliness**

<https://www.artsandmindlab.org/arts-liberate-from-loneliness/>

Whether experiencing them as an observer or a creator, the arts can help us feel less alone in the world. They help us forge new social connections as well as recapture ones that may have been lost.

### **The Insanity of a State Sanctioned Style for Architecture**

<https://www.archdaily.com/933800/the-insanity-of-a-state-sanctioned-style-for-architecture>

The inanity of the architectural "Style Wars" was in full flower this week. Treating architecture as civic wallpaper—with "Traditional" and "Modern" veneers viewed as criteria for moral judgment—has been a battle between true believers of both sides for a century. Those fears found a fresh voice this week.

### **Explore the Sacred Maya World at These 12 Guatemalan Sites**

<https://www.fodors.com/world/mexico-and-central-america/guatemala/experiences/news/explore-the-sacred-maya-world-at-these-12-guatemalan-sites>

From the volcanic highlands of Lake Atitlán to the vast jungles of El Peten, Maya spirituality is sewn into Guatemala's ancient Earth. Although each of the country's almost two dozen Indigenous ethnic groups are unique, they share similar characteristics including the importance of ancestral sites and natural places like caves and lakes, as well as syncretic traditions that blend Indigenous worldviews with the Catholicism brought to Guatemala in the early 16th century.

### **Washington D.C. Temple: How our sacred spaces shape us**

<https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2020/2/27/21156143/washington-d-c-temple-open-house->

### [sacred-spaces-churchill-kelsey-dallas](#)

People who are losing the capacity to feel awe, wonder and a sense of the sacred are in danger of losing a great deal more. As a society we have lost so much when it comes to the sacred, the reverent and the uplifting. Sadly, even sacred spaces have all too often become scenes of angry protests, insults and persecution.

### **A Lost Village of Buddhist Treasures**

<https://www.archdaily.com/933970/a-lost-village-of-buddhist-treasures>

The historic village of Indein, Myanmar was founded by monks around the 3rd century B.C, who wanted to spread Buddhism across the country. Hundreds of pagodas, ornaments, and statues of Buddha were built around the area, but with time, the village was abandoned and its temples were consumed with greenery.

## **COMPETITIONS**

### **Create a Wine-Tasting Room**

<https://bustler.net/competitions/latest/7067/monte-d-oiro-wine-tasting-room>

A design competition to design a place for tasting wine might include the experiential dimensions of enjoying the fruit of the grape.

### **Design a Cabin for Meditation**

<https://bustler.net/competitions/7006/vale-de-moses-meditation-cabins>

What would be the ideal environment for meditation? If you have an idea, enter this international competition.

### **A Chapel for Ecology**

<https://uni.xyz/competitions/eco-chapel/info/about>

A competition to design forest chapels in Ethiopia.

## **DESIGN**

### **A Wonderous Wooden Chapel**

<https://www.archdaily.com/913153/wooden-chapel-john-pawson>

This spiritual retreat by architect John Pawson is a winner in ArchDaily's 2020 Buildings of the Year.

### **"Architecture Is to Put in Order a Room, a House, a City": In Conversation with Alberto Campo Baeza**

<https://www.archdaily.com/934005/architecture-is-to-put-in-order-a-room-a-house-a-city-in-conversation-with-alberto-campo-baeza>

Campo Baeza's architecture is about transparency and precision, as well as asserting such fundamentals as ground planes, straight lines, and precise corners. He has built relatively few projects and, for the most part, on a small scale. Yet, his legacy is remarkably complete, consistent, profound, memorable, and inspirational.

### **Marcel Breuer's iconic Pirelli Building will be readapted into hotel**

<https://archpaper.com/2020/01/marcel-breuer-iconic-pirelli-building-readapted-into-hotel/>

The Marcel Breuer designed Pirelli Tire Building in the Long Wharf district of New Haven, Connecticut, is about to have new life breathed into it following 32 years of vacancy. Local developer Bruce Becker purchased the 2.76-acre property late last December for \$1.2 million with plans to turn the brutalist structure into a hotel with up to 165 rooms, as was originally reported in April 2018.

### **Herzog & de Meuron Unveil New Motorway Chapel for Switzerland**

<https://www.archdaily.com/934136/herzog-and-de-meuron-unveil-new-motorway-chapel-for-switzerland>

Herzog & de Meuron have designed a new motorway chapel for Andeer, [Switzerland](#). The new project is sited on A13, the road that connects the village with Chur to the north, and to Ticino and Italy to the south. The idea for the chapel in Andeer was inspired by the site alone and its location, from the road itself.

### **Rothko Chapel Will Reopen in June**

<https://hyperallergic.com/542151/rothko-chapel-reopen/>

The Houston chapel, which features 14 works by painter Mark Rothko, has been closed since March of last year for renovations and to expand its campus.

### **The Red Planet: Design on Our Race to Mars**

<https://www.archdaily.com/933244/the-red-planet-design-on-our-race-to-mars>

Space has long captured our imaginations. Looking to the ocean above us, writers, scientists and designers alike have continuously dreamed up new visions for a future on distant planets. Mars is at the center of this discourse, the most habitable planet in our solar system after Earth. Proposals for the red planet explore how we can create new realms of humanity in outer space.

## **CONFERENCES**

### **Jewish Topographies – 5th International Congress on Jewish Architecture**

**Website:** <https://architexturez.net/pst/az-cf-184801-1505812127>

From September 21 to 23, 2020, Bet Tfila – Research Unit for Jewish Architecture in Europe will organize the conference "Jewish Topographies – 5th International Congress on Jewish Architecture" at the Technische Universität Braunschweig

The conference will focus on the meaning of the term "Jewish topography" and also on how historical phenomena can be categorized both socially and culturally.

The conference will be held in English. Please send your abstract (max. 2,400 characters) and your CV (max. 1,200 characters) including your academic affiliation by February 27, 2020, to Dipl.-Ing. Mirko Przystawik (m.przystawik@tu-bs.de).

### ***Ambiances, Alloaesthesia.Senses, Inventions, Worlds.***

4th International Congress on Ambiances

2nd-4th December 2020

Media, Arts and Technology. University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.

<https://www.ambiances.net/congresses/santa-barbara-2020-international-congress-ambiances-alloaesthesia.html>

his 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Ambiances aims to bring together a large community of

academics, practitioners, artists and students working on, with or through atmospheres. The mobilization of this tryptic underlines the diversity of the forms of mobilization of the notion of atmosphere, which questions the sensitive world in terms of: research subject, category of analysis, and *dispositif* for action.

**Deadline for Abstract submission on conference website: 20th March 2020**

Selected abstracts will be notified by early April 2020.

General inquiries can be directed to the organisation committee of the Congress at: [ambiances2020@ambiances.net](mailto:ambiances2020@ambiances.net)

**International Conference on Poetry Studies: Poetry Between Creation and Interpretation**

19th to 19th September 2020

Oxford, United Kingdom

**Website:** <https://poetry.lcir.co.uk>

**Contact person:** Dr Elena Nistor

The conference aims to bring together international poets, literary critics, translators and scholars from diverse contexts and interdisciplinary fields to share their work. It will focus on issues related to poetry, poetics and translation.

**Organized by:** London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

**Deadline for abstracts/proposals:** 30th April 2020

**Mirror, Mirror: Perceptions, Deceptions, and Reflections in Time Conference**

19th to 19th September 2020

Oxford, United Kingdom

**Website:** <https://mirror.lcir.co.uk>

**Contact person:** Dr Deborah Kelley-Galin

This conference explores how our virtual concepts and reconstructed worlds impact humanity, the arts, and nature in the age of rising anthropocentrism.

**Organized by:** London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

**Deadline for abstracts/proposals:** 30th April 2020

**International Conference on Myths, Archetypes and Symbols: Models and Alternatives**

26th to 26th September 2020

London, United Kingdom

**Website:** <http://myths.lcir.co.uk>

**Contact person:** Dr Elena Nistor

The conference aims to explore local, regional, national, or global aspects related to myths and mythology, archetypal characters, situations and symbols, providing an integrative approach to their perception and relevance in the 21st century.

**Organized by:** London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

**Deadline for abstracts/proposals:** 15th May 2020

**Play, Masks and Make-believe: Ritual Representations Conference**

5th to 5th December 2020

Cambridge, United Kingdom

**Website:** <https://masks.lcir.co.uk>

**Contact person:** Dr Gabriele Biotti

By exploring the nature of play and of fictional moments of representation, this conference aims to shape a deeper look into different aspects of an anthropology of performance.

**Organized by:** London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

**Deadline for abstracts/proposals:** 10th June 2020

**CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD: Questions of Culture, Climate & Design  
Conference**

16th to 18th June 2021

New York, United States of America

**Website:** <https://architecturemps.com/new-york-2021/>

**Contact person:** Cindee Hogan

CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD Architecture, urbanism, sociology, health, environments, economies Organizers: City Tech, CUNY Publications: Routledge, UCL Press Formats: Films, skype, written, in-person Abstracts: 30 Nov 2020 & 30 Mar 2021

**Organized by:** CUNY - City Tech / AMPS

**Deadline for abstracts/proposals:** 30th November 2020

---

**Julio Bermudez**, Ph.D.

*Professor, Director Cultural Studies & Sacred Space Graduate Concentration*

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

[\(202\) 319-5755](tel:2023195755)

[bermudez@cua.edu](mailto:bermudez@cua.edu)

<http://faculty.cua.edu/bermudez>

*"leap and the net will appear"*