

S A + P



Dean's Newsletter 1.4

10.01.2020

Dear friends,

What should our students read today? To some, those canonical volumes that make up our library collections appear too narrow, or out of step with the present moment. The social, political, and environmental climate we now face suggests we should increasingly be reading across disciplinary boundaries.



Please rotate your mobile device for optimal view of this newsletter.

Join our mailing list

Follow us on Social Media



Meet the OTB Jury



Sunil Bald

Yale University



Craig Barton

Brown University

In this newsletter, I'm delighted to introduce a new awards program at the School of Architecture + Planning (SA+P): the *On the Brinck Book Award + Lecture*.

As an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin, I took a life-changing architecture studio with **Michael Benedikt**. In addition, I took away with me his inspiring words in the form of a very special book *For an Architecture of Reality* (1987). Over the following decade, it was my go-to book when I was asked to suggest the perfect architecture read. Not because it was small and easy to carry, but because it was clear and grounded in real life. It broadened my perspective and spoke to a greater calling beyond the prevailing trends of a discipline.

Now to the question: What are today's go-to books?

SA+P has established the *On the Brinck Book Award + Lecture* to address exactly this question. We aren't necessarily searching for another short treatise (like Benedikt's) to simply pass on, instead we aim to grow a vital collection of enlightened writing in our allied fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and community and regional planning (inclusive of environmental design and urban design). Our students deserve the opportunity to broaden their perspective beyond their own discipline and pursue meaningful dialogue.



Greg Castillo

The University of
California, Berkeley



Felipe Correa

The University of Virginia



Cathy Lang Ho

Writer & Editor



Dorothée Imbert

The Ohio State University



Kathleen Kambic

The University of New Mexico



Nina-Marie Lister

Ryerson University



Victor Rubin

Policy Link



Sponsored by The John Brinckerhoff Jackson Endowment

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The University of New Mexico
School of Architecture + Planning
Presents the 2020-21 Inaugural

ON THE BRINCK
BOOK AWARD + LECTURE

This new awards program is intended to recognize and honor John Brinckerhoff “Brinck” Jackson, who had a very special connection with New Mexico and our School. His writings, which are not easily classifiable, reflect a life devoted to the study of cultural landscapes encompassing all the physical spaces we inhabit as human beings. It is in the spirit of this kind of unbounded disciplinary work that we commence this awards program.

In 1951, Jackson founded *Landscape*, a journal that, while principally establishing that field, also appealed to a multi-disciplinary audience that included architects, geographers, historians, landscape architects, and sociologists. Not only was he trailblazing in his ability to create platforms for new areas of study, he was also unconventional and innovative in his research and writing, mixing fiction with non-fiction, and scholarship with free-form narrative. His writings are accessible and engaging. His work appealed to numerous disciplines by focusing on human inhabitation and experiences that are brought about by events and everyday life, as much as it focused on built form.

Jackson’s examination of the American cultural landscape—which can be defined as the natural environment as it is modified by human motivation and action—embraces the allied disciplines that we study at the SA+P. Jackson spent his late life in the village of La Cienega, New Mexico, building deep roots, and very generously assisting the people he met. He passed away in Santa Fe in 1996. In 1997, the School received **The John Brinckerhoff Jackson Endowment** in the amount of \$2.5 million. Through this new book and lecture award, we gratefully celebrate his legacy.

In speaking of Jackson’s particular study of our culture, landscape and architecture historian **Marc Treib** says: “Jackson’s project remains a vital model for its very breadth, its regard for every life situation as a part of something greater, and for the courage to define the landscape in other than pictorial and formal terms.” I anticipate a significant enrichment of discourse among all our students through this awards program, and I hope that the three books that are recognized each year rise in prominence beyond our School. The awards program will culminate in a lecture series, in which we will hear from the winners themselves.

We’ve selected twelve exceptional jurors who will choose the books and authors who will come to lecture. This group of experts not only represents our allied disciplines, but a broad



Lawrence Sass

Massachusetts Institute
of Technology



Thaisa Way

Dumbarton Oaks



Sibel Zandi-Sayek

College of William & Mary

Full Jury Bios

range of perspectives. They are the professionals, scholars, and academic administrators and leaders who understand the environment in which our students study. Their choice may start to answer the question: what should our students be reading today?

Nominations are open to the general public starting today, October 1. To review the criteria and the nomination process, please visit the [On The Brinck](#) website.

In this newsletter, we also feature the work of distinguished educator **Anne Taylor**, who is a trailblazer in her own right. Like Jackson, she found her niche by looking broadly and with open eyes, and applying the same kind of cross-disciplinary work to her own area of specialty: architectural education for children. We hope you enjoy reading about Taylor’s life-long mission to enrich the experiences of the forthcoming generations.

My very best,

Robert Alexander González
Dean and Professor

 [@Gonzalez_UNM](#)



Anne Taylor: Bringing Architecture to Children

Cindy Graff Cohen

Anne Taylor may not be an architect, but the American Institute of Architects (AIA) made her an honorary member when it recognized her Institute for Environmental Education, previously located in the School of Architecture + Planning, as one of the best environmental and design education programs in the U.S. She actually holds a doctorate in art education, a field that gave her a new perspective in her classes with

Announcements

The SA+P Historic Preservation and Regionalism program will host a virtual conference with the program Patrimonio Histórico + Cutlural Iberoamericano (PHI). Director of HP+R **Francisco Uviña-Contreras** is organizing this year’s event around the theme of “Social Integration Initiatives in Restoration and Rehabilitation Projects.” The virtual conference will take place on October 26-27, 2020 (second day is free). The lectures will be presented in Spanish and Portuguese.

[Read more...](#)

hundreds of University of New Mexico architecture students from 1975 to 2012.

The Institute for Environmental Education, which she co-founded with the late Wolfgang Preiser, professor emeritus, drove Taylor’s mission to design schools for more effective learning and happier kids. Her vision was nothing less than a new use of space and a new model of interdisciplinary teaching in a studio-like setting. Most importantly, her new teaching paradigm would include a whole new subject area for young people: design skills and architectural awareness, all taught as a nexus for studying required academic subjects, like mathematics, history, and science.

Revolutionizing the Classroom

Taylor is not the first to contemplate adding architecture into a young students’ education—she says that the AIA has had teaching architecture to young people on its radar since 1965. However, it is safe to say that she’s had the biggest impact in the field: her teacher training methods and design concepts have been studied and replicated across the country and around the world.

Her interest in the subject began while she was working on her doctorate in art education at Arizona State University. While searching for a dissertation topic, her “aha moment” came not on campus, but on a beach in Mexico, when she was leading her three daughters and her friends’ children on a walk along the shore.

She saw how even the youngest children made decisions about which seashells to take and which to leave on the sand. “They were making critical aesthetic judgments about the environment,” she recalls, “and nobody had taught them—they just knew what was beautiful.”

She came back ready to explore how elementary classrooms were fostering children’s artistic development. Studying 47 classrooms, she found nearly all lacked arts and creative activity spaces and anything of cultural value. Rows of desks followed a rigid “factory” model. “Nothing had changed since the Industrial Revolution,” Taylor laments.

Research

We would like to thank **Edith Cherry** for her recent donation of books to the Indigenous Design + Planning Institute (iD+Pi).

CRP Assistant Professor **Jennifer Tucker** published “Informal Work and Sustainable Cities: From Formalization to Reparation,” in *One Earth*, Vol. 3, Issue 3. [Read more...](#)

For her dissertation, she designed a learning environment for the developmental needs of three- to five-year-olds, with the help of ten volunteer architecture students. Assessments of the experimental groups showed significantly increased creativity among students and English language facility in bilingual classes. For Taylor, the study led to the construction of similar classrooms across Phoenix, a contract to design new playgrounds, and a new life mission.

Going Global, Sharing Pedagogies

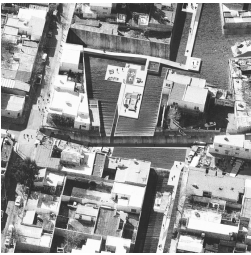
Taylor’s journey to UNM started when she and one of those ten architecture students, George Vlastos, left Phoenix to work

CRP Assistant Professor **Lani Tsinnajinnie** received an NSF NM EPSCoR research award. She will serve as co-PI on a project that will look to develop AI/AN-based STEM education activities for K-12 and higher education students.

[Read more...](#)

Profiles

Architecture Assistant Professor **Cesar Lopez** joins us this year. His research focuses on architecture, territory, and politics. He will be presenting his project on the representational character of the US-Mexico Border at the Bracket [Takes Action] Panel Series. [Read More...](#)



"Borderlands: An Exploitation of the US-Mexico Political Geography", *Bracket [Takes Action]*, (Applied Research & Design, 2020)

Congratulations to Architecture graduate student **Natasha Ribeiro** for receiving an American Association of University Women (AAUW) 2020-21 Selected Professions Fellowship. [Read more...](#)



Design

Student work from Principal Lecturer III **Karen J. King's** studio has been showcased in the International VELUX Award website.

on a federally funded regional educational program in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She and Vlastos, who became her collaborative partner in many projects throughout their careers, wrote a book based on their findings called *School Zone: Learning Environments for Children* (1975). The book helped Taylor get an associate professorship in UNM's art education department in the early 1970s. Within three years, she was promoted to full professor.

At the same time, UNM's architecture school asked her to teach courses on learning environments, in addition to her full load of art education courses. By 1975, Taylor was ready to ask for a joint appointment in both schools. "The provost said 'Sorry, we don't have interdisciplinary appointments in this university,'" she recalls. "He said 'you either stay in art education or go to architecture.' I picked architecture and took my full professorship with me."

During her 37 years at the School of Architecture + Planning, Taylor became one of the school's few Regents' Professors and earned the Distinguished Professor status from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), in addition to the AIA's honorary membership. She taught two full generations of students, collaborated with colleagues and the local AIA chapter, and lectured and published widely.

Her landmark and lavishly illustrated 470-page monograph, *Linking Architecture and Education: Sustainable Design of Learning Environments* (UNM Press, 2009), was a breakthrough book for the field. It challenges school systems to design buildings and learning landscapes to be three-dimensional textbooks that teach students problem-solving and stewardship for the world around them.

Her work took her across the country. For ten years, she frequently commuted to Seattle to work with architects on designing schools that fit developmental and curricular needs and with teacher's professional development training on learning environments, eventually reaching 5,000 educators. In Anchorage, the Museum of History and Art commissioned her and Vlastos to create a "phantasmagoric" exhibition for children on architecture and design: it drew over 200,000 visitors from across the state. The city's AIA chapter helped build it.

Taylor's publications have been translated into several languages and her concepts have been applied in schools around the world, including Bolivia, China, Finland, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore, Taiwan, and Turkey. Japanese architects have been particularly enthusiastic; she has visited Japan five times to work with them.

Taylor and Vlastos founded the nonprofit organization [School Zone Institute](#) (SZI) to produce curriculum, sponsor teacher training, and conduct workshops for the Architecture and Children Design Education Program. The Institute serves as a research center to study school environments and their effects on learning and promotes using teaching strategies borrowed

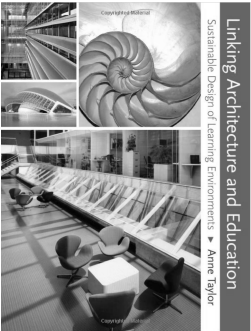
[Read more...](#)

from the architectural design studio.

The SZI lesson plans, learning posters, and exercises take elementary school students from understanding the organizing principles of design and schematic drawing through building model houses and planning and designing a model city. Key to SZI curriculum and classroom design is the incorporation of the STEAM curriculum: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, with Art and Architecture added. Taylor adds cultural, historical and even kinesthetic activities – all part of her commitment to interdisciplinary teaching.

Learning Across Disciplines

What makes one person specialize and stay inside that silo and another person walk through boundaries as if they were not there? Taylor’s propensity to think across disciplines took shape the summer she was 12 in upstate New York when her father—a principal, school superintendent, and Shakespearean scholar—took the family on a cross-country trip “to see America.” They stopped at national parks and historic landmarks, big cities and small towns. In Montana, they stayed at a dude ranch; in California, they swam in the Pacific. “It was a real education,” she recalls. “I never forgot that trip.”



Linking Architecture and Education: Sustainable Design of Learning Environments
(University of New Mexico Press, 2008)

At Wells College, a small liberal arts school in Aurora, New York, Taylor’s problem was that she liked too many subjects. She ended up graduating in 1955 in American Studies, the rich intersection of history, literature, art, architecture, political science, geography, and all that makes the United States tick. “Right there it was embedded in me to look at the whole picture,” she adds.

Although she may have retired at 79, she is still immersed in important design and education projects at age 87. One of her post-retirement projects, a three-year architectural studies program at an Albuquerque elementary school, earned the 2019 AIA Collaborative Award for working with those outside the industry.

Last spring, she co-taught a Design Education Workshop with faculty from SA+P, College of Education, and the Fine Arts Department. The interdisciplinary team is exploring how design education could be embedded into degree programs for teachers. This fall she is meeting with Dr. Janet Abrams, a SA+P visiting associate professor, to help support the School’s new [A+D Camp](#) (architecture + design), a summer camp for middle and high school students in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. The camp launches the summer of 2021. Teens will be introduced to architecture, landscape architecture, community and regional planning, and historic preservation.

Also on her agenda: continuing to enjoy being with her three daughters and seven grandchildren and hammering away on her memoir. Its working title comes from the Wells College motto: “To Have and To Share.” The subtitle is: “A New Educational Model for Our Time.”

For half a century, Dr. Anne Taylor has been a pioneer in exploring the role of design on learning environments. She has also been an international leader in introducing the study of architecture into elementary school curriculum, helping build the next generation of architects.

“Sometimes it takes a person outside a discipline to see the value of it,” she says.

Emeritus Professor Anne Taylor can be reached at aetaylor@unm.edu

Donate to the Anne Taylor Design Education Scholarship

[Dean's Newsletter 1.1](#)
Feature: Mark Childs / Fall 2020 Welcome / New Faculty

[Dean's Newsletter 1.2](#)
Feature: Michael Pride / New SA+P Org Chart / MakerLab / You Have My Ear / Associate Chairs & Special Asst's to the Dean

[Dean's Newsletter 1.3](#)
Feature: Ted Jojola / Land Acknowledgement / Jeff Harnar Award Student Competition / New Alumni Liaison / VAP Jeffrey S. Nesbit



Copyright © 2020 The University of New Mexico, School of Architecture + Planning.
All rights reserved.

Join our mailing list

Our mailing address is:
saap@unm.edu

[Give to SA+P](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).