**AASL Core List of Architectural Periodicals, 5th edition (2017)**

As the professional librarians’ association most closely linked to serving the creative and scholarly needs of Architecture faculty and students, AASL members are committed to identifying and providing access to the best resources in support of the ever-changing field of architectural design. To this end, AASL has assumed responsibility for creating a reference list of core professional, trade, and scholarly periodicals most appropriate to the needs of first-degree programs in Architecture.

AASL members compiled the first core list in 1995. The need for such a resource was initially suggested a few years earlier by Pat Wiesenberger, then architecture librarian at Kansas State University. Sharing her thoughts at an annual AASL meeting, Pat proposed preparing a list of titles “without which we cannot operate.”

This principle has defined the core list through four subsequent editions. Throughout the list revision cycles, team members’ professional experience and knowledge of the current state of architecture, informed by survey, listserv, and other input from members, have been key. Work on the list’s 5th edition began after the annual meeting in 2014, with survey data gathered from faculty via *ACSA News* combined with input from both AASL and ARLIS/NA members via organization listservs.

The compilers of the 5th edition-- Barbara Opar of Syracuse University, Kathy Edwards of Clemson University, and Rose Orcutt of the University of Buffalo–also expanded the scope of data they gathered about each title beyond that provided in earlier lists. The availability of indexing as well as format (print, electronic) influenced list selections, as did the quality and extent of graphic documentation (e.g. plans, sections, notation of scale), image quality, the length and substance of articles and project coverage, notable contributors, and the extent of geographical coverage. Overall publication quality, robustness, reputation, and longevity mattered. New in this addition are language information, peer review status, impact data (when available), publication frequency, and other notations. (See criteria, below). Browsing statistics for current print titles were also factored in, based on Barbara’s observation at Syracuse that patrons’ browsing habits frequently extend beyond key titles.

In survey responses and in conference discussions that followed annual list-work updates, some librarians expressed deficiencies in the longstanding categories of ‘core’ and ‘supplementary’. The list revision team listened, and after much discussion and consideration, devised the present categories of **Fundamental**, **Recommended**, **Topical**, and **Titles to watch.**

**Category Definitions:**

**Fundamental titles** are the best architecture and design publications reasonably accessible for academic libraries.

**Recommended titles** extend a collection’s scope and reach to include peer-reviewed scholarship in architectural theory and criticism, top-tier professional periodicals from beyond North America, and basic titles in planning, landscape and garden design, urban design, and interior design.

**Topical titles** are either highly specialized or regionally focused.

**Titles to watch** are either new promising additions to the design publications landscape--or proven titles in a state of transition--that have yet to prove their market viability.

AASL presents the 5th edition of the Core List of Architecture Periodicals as guidance for faculty and students and a working tool for collections librarians. NAAB accreditation teams also may find the list a valuable resource in the evaluation of the robustness of an architecture program’s information resources.

New or small schools may only be able to add select fundamental titles, while larger institutions may even consider more topical journals or additions from outside the immediate field. Regionally important titles should become part of every collection. Hopefully this list will enable users to become more aware of the breadth of architectural periodic literature.

Screening criteria for a ‘core’ architecture periodical:

Longevity

Relevance to the profession (including consideration of currency)

Geographical scope: global/regional/national

Topical scope (does it reflect trends and issues within or affecting the profession)

Typological scope: breadth, or focus

Editorial content

Depth and relevance

Authority

Length of articles

Language/accessibility

Publisher:

Stability

Authority

Reputation

Availability (supports institutional subscriptions/access)

Graphic standards:

Clarity of format

Overall design quality

Graphic coverage: plans/sections/elevations/axonometric/site plans/photographs/analytical graphics

Graphic reproduction quality

Photographic quality and appropriate abundance

Inclusion of scale/dimensions

Access to content: i.e., inclusion in the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals and/or other major indices

How exemplary of its publication category: academic/scholarly, professional/trade, consumer

For peer-reviewed periodicals: availability of impact data, measuring the importance of journal by the frequency of yearly article citations.

**Attachment**:

Core Lists spreadsheet: Fundamental, Recommended, Topical, Titles to Watch (and Discontinued, for informational purposes)