

new book on Regionalism by Vince Canizaro



Vince Canizaro, Associate Professor of Architecture in UTSA, has recently published a new book titled: **“Architecture and Regionalism: Collected Writings on Place, Identity, Modernity, and Tradition”**. The book brings together more than 40 articles or book excerpts from seminal figures in architectural regionalism, stretching from the early part of the 20th century to the present. The articles represent works by well-known writers on the discourse of place and architecture, including Wendell Berry, Paul Ricoeur, Lewis Mumford, Pietro Belluschi, Christopher Alexander, Alan Colquhoun, Le Corbusier, Mary Colter, James Stirling, Kenneth Frampton, Sigfried Giedion, among others. The book further considers Regionalism in an international context, particularly the developing world, through the writings of Suha Ozkan (Middle East), Balkrishna Doshi (India), and Kenza Boussora (Algeria). As such, “Architectural Regionalism” represents the history of regionalist thinking in architecture from the early twentieth century to today.

The texts included in the book, many of which are out of print, are organized into 8 chapters revolving around several themes including regionalism and rapid modernization, modernism, historicism, regional planning, bioregionalism, and critical regionalism. Also included are a small group of recent, previously unpublished essays that extend the notion of architectural regionalism into the future. Taken as a whole, the collection underscores the continuing relevance of the concept as it fosters thoughtful works that engage the senses, embody and express local cultural processes, promote environmental sustainability, and enhance people’s awareness of the world around them. Canizaro’s insightful introduction and analysis of each essay guides readers through the lively debate surrounding this topic, and provides faculty, students, and practitioners in design and design-related fields,

who are interested in the history, theory and practice of regionalism, with a comprehensive overview of what he terms “this misunderstood and neglected discourse.”

In his book, Canizaro argues that regionalism in architecture eludes a single definition, and writes, “Regionalism is never a singular theory or practice but is most often a means by which tensions—such as those between globalization and localism, modernity and tradition—are resolved.” Still, the term refers to buildings and communities that are connected to, and draw their context from, a particular locale. Canizaro also argues that regionalism, far from fostering provincialism, can “open up the possibility of shared purpose, in which the concerns of here are understood as linked to there: ecologically, economically, and socially.” He further argues that “regionalism must be more than design by applique or reference alone. It must foster connectedness to that place and be a response to the needs of local life, not in spite of global concerns and possibilities, but in order to better take advantage of them. And as such, the promise of regionalism in architecture is to re-embed us in the reality and diversity of our local places--critically and comfortably... Further, there is no reason why regionalism should not be understood as a progressive and high-performance architecture, one that is highly attuned to the constancy and change of the local environment.”

Canizaro is an associate professor and the Graduate Advisor of Record in the College of Architecture. He teaches graduate design studios as well as graduate seminars on the theory and philosophy of regionalism and on sustainable Architecture. Both in his teaching and as a practicing architect, Canizaro focuses on site-specific, sustainable, and community-based design and landscape. The 460 page volume is published by **Princeton Architectural Press**.