

Architecture Now: *New Trends, Recent Triumphs* and a Few *More Terrible Ideas*

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Week Five: Technology and Systems, A Wild Ride



PLP Labs and Modular Landscape, mycelium sculpture at 2025 Chelsea Flower Show, plparchitecture.com

Goals

Investigate the relationship between technology, creativity and architecture

Investigate materials and methods

Identify and consider systems of relevance

Part I: Materials and Methods

Framing questions

What do we mean by technology?

Why must architecture synthesize systems?

Part II: Form and Future

Framing question

How has our age of technology and information affected the practice of architecture and the way our built environment looks and works?

Vocabulary List

Week 1 Commodity, Firmness, Delight; Plan, Section, Elevation; Program, Site and Context; Design and Form; Material and Technology; Narrative and Emotional Power

Week 2 Dwelling and Vernacular

Week 3 Resource: intention and responsibility (in architecture); Social equity (in architecture)

Week 4 Creativity and Culture; Design Thinking

Week 5 Systems Thinking

More websites worth perusing and possibly bookmarking

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2026-10-06/stone-construction-stages-comeback-as-low-carbon-building-material>

This was a recent article in the Bloomberg CityLab newsletter from Oct. 6. Lots of information and links to sources of claims about the carbon footprints of common construction materials. A side note: CityLab was created by The Atlantic but is now owned by Bloomberg Media. It's still got great stories on architecture and urban design/planning.

<https://www.planetizen.com/> This website features urban planning news, and may be of interest now that we've viewed "The Future of Cities" in class. Architecture is part of many systems at many scales!

<https://www.ted.com/> Although it has organized topics now (like Architecture and Creativity), you'll still have to dig through it.

<https://metropolismag.com/> Offering an early eye on the future of architecture (thanks to Susan Szenasy, editor-in-chief from 1985 to 2017), Metropolis continues to focus on the intersections of architecture, interiors, sustainability, and innovation.

Re: creativity

Aleksandra Kasuba – an artist who explored space-making

<https://www.archpaper.com/2019/03/aleksandra-kasuba-obituary/>

<https://post.moma.org/aleksandra-kasubas-shelters/>