

**MORE: Expanding architecture from a gender-based perspective**  
**III International Conference on Gender and Architecture**  
UniFi - School of Architecture - Florence, Italy / January 2017



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# MERGE OPEN RESIGNIFY EXPAND

## I. BRIEF INTRODUCTION DESCRIBING PREVIOUS EDITIONS

*MORE: Expanding architecture from a gender-based perspective. III International Conference on Gender and Architecture* intends to continue creating a space for meeting and debate about the issues that relate architecture and gender studies opened in 2014 during the I International Congress of Architecture and Gender “ARQUITECTAS. Redefining the Profession” (ETSA Sevilla, Spain) and resumed in 2015 by “Matrices. II International Congress of Architecture and Gender” (Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon).

The conference brought together professionals and academics working in the field of architecture of the standing of Jane Rendell and Martha Thorne, promoting the exchange of ideas between professional practice and academia.

NURIA ÁLVAREZ LOMBARDERO ED.  
 PAULA V. ÁLVAREZ - VIBOK WORKS  
 ATRU AMAMN Y ALCOCER Y MAITE BORJABAD PASTOR  
 SERAFINA AMOROSO  
 LIA ANTUNES  
 DANIELA ARIAS LAURIMO  
 CELIA ESTHER ARREDONDO ZAMBRANO  
 CAROLINE BOS & TANJA KULLACK  
 BLANCA DEL ESPINO HIDALGO  
 MARTA GARCÍA DE CASASOLA GÓMEZ  
 GABRIELA GARCÍA DE CORTAZAR GALLEGUILLOS  
 CRISTINA GOBERNA - FAKE INDUSTRIES ARCHITECTURAL AGONISH  
 FRANCISCO JAVIER LÓPEZ RIVERA  
 MYRIAM LÓPEZ-RODERO  
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 ÁNGELA MATESANZ PABELLADA  
 CATALINA MEJÍA MORENO  
 CARMEN MOLINA VÁZQUEZ  
 ZAIDA MUXÍ MARTÍNEZ  
 MARTA PELEGRÍN - MEDIOMUNDO ARQUITECTOS  
 BARBARA PENNER  
 LOURDES ROYO NARANJO, M<sup>a</sup> TERESA PÉREZ CANO Y  
 DAFNE SALDÑA BLASCO  
 INÉS SÁNCHEZ DE MADARIAGA  
 MARA SÁNCHEZ LORENS  
 PATRICIA SANTOS PEDROSA  
 ELIANA SOUSA SANTOS  
 MARTHA THORNE  
 ELISA VALERO - ELISA VALERO ARQUITECTURA  
 AMELIA YILAPLANA DE MIGUEL

004 e colección [CSS]



# ARQUITECTAS, Redefiniendo la profesión

NURIA ÁLVAREZ LOMBARDERO ED.



Recolectores Urbanos

## ArquitectAs (Women Architects). Redefining the profession. 1st International Symposium on Research in Architecture and Gender. ETSASevilla, Sevilla University, Spain 20-21.03.2014

The first international symposium invited masters or doctoral students, professionals, academics and educators to contribute with new ideas and reflections on a professional practice of architecture with greater equity in terms of gender. The symposium addressed the topic of hierarchical organization and “glass ceiling” effect that avoid women to held senior positions both in academia and in professional practice. The profession continues to maintain male patterns in practices, work organization and theoretical discourse and the wage gap remains unfavourable for women. However, the context of crisis was an opportunity to develop new insights into the profession, at a practical and theoretical level. Many of these innovations have been made by women. The symposium aimed to support these initiatives and create a network of support and professional help to improve our employment status through a search for new ideas and dissemination of the work of those professionals who have been able to develop their career.

### **Organizing Committee**

Coordinator: Francisco José González de Canales Ruiz

Organizer: Nuria Alvarez Lombardero

Collaborator: Encarna Márquez Garfia

### **Scientific Committee**

Zaida Muxi Martinez

ETSA Barcelona - Polytechnic University of Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain

Inés Sánchez de Madariaga

Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad - Spanish Government, Madrid, Spain

Eliana Sousa Santos

Centre for Social Studies - University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

Luz Fernandez de Valderrama Aparicio

ETSA Sevilla - University of Seville, Seville, Spain

Marta García de Casasola Gómez

ETSA Sevilla - University of Seville, Seville, Spain

Barbara Penner

Bartlett, University College of London, London, UK

Despina Stratigakos

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, US

2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON  
**ARCHITECTURE AND GENDER**

[www.2ga.ulusofona.pt](http://www.2ga.ulusofona.pt)



**MATRICES**  
MARCH 18-21 | LABART | ULHT | LISBON

**Matrices.**  
**2nd International Congress on Architecture and Gender.**  
**Universidade Lusófona, Lisboa, Portugal 18-21.03.2015**

The Second International Conference on Architecture and Gender addressed the theme of Matrices. This concept has several definitions and they are all inclusive by nature. Matrices are environments where things develop, the models or patterns that shape formations, and they can also reinvent an environment. These images are suited to address the current patterns of change regarding architecture and gender. They invited researchers, scholars, professionals and graduate students, in the fields of architecture, urban design, history of architecture and related areas, such as sociology, geography, anthropology, to present their insights on the changing patterns regarding gender and architecture on the following topics: Practices, Academia, Histories, and Data.

### **Organizing Committee**

Eliana Sousa Santos, CES University of Coimbra, Portugal.

Maria João Matos, LABART Lusófona University, Portugal.

Nuria Álvarez Lombardero, Architectural Association, UK.

Patrícia Santos Pedrosa, LABART Lusófona University, Portugal.

### **Scientific Committee**

Ariadna Cantis, Curator, Spain.

Barbara Penner, Bartlett School of Architecture, UK.

Jane Rendell, Bartlett School of Architecture, UK.

Jorge Figueira, University of Coimbra, Portugal.

Luís Santiago Baptista, LABART Lusófona University, Portugal.

Martha Thorne, IE School of Architecture & Design, Spain.

Nuria Alvarez Lombardero, Architectural Association, UK.

Olívia de Oliveira, ETSAB Spain, UPC Brazil.

Patrícia Santos Pedrosa, LABART Lusófona University, Portugal.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## II. DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The Third International Conference on Research in Architecture and Gender will focus on the theme of **expanding**-architecture from a gender-based perspective and incorporating feminist strategies. It will promote, address and disseminate high-quality research, drawing connections among specialist areas of both theory and practice, thus revealing trans-disciplinary aspects and activating hybridizing processes that can no longer be eluded.

(Architectural) Space is not neutral: it is a social **production** and the result of a collective **action**. For this very reason, in order to face the new challenges induced by the current crisis (which has disclosed and highlighted the unstable and precarious dimension of our vital needs and environments), the behavioural changes resulting from the use of new technologies and the changing exigencies of the labour market, architects and, consequently, educators are required to take into account the dimension of **time** (beyond space) and become crosscutting **agents** of spatial and social changes.

There are different ways of understanding the social dimension of architecture: it is a field replete with tensions and contradictions, uncertainties, possibilities and discussions about whether or not the social and political commitment of architecture is something structural of its agenda. Architecture operates at the intersections of various elements depending on contingencies, on contexts at a particular place and time. It deals with wide sets of (power, production) relations and has to face entanglements of (cultural, political, economic) factors (systems of representation, objects, forms, meanings). For these reasons, professional identity and socio-political responsibility cannot be considered as separated entities. Both production and use belong to the same process: the traditional client-architect relationship should necessarily be questioned and redefined, since architecture involves something more than the way in which our environment has been built, including the way in which it is experienced, used, maintained.

Falling outside of the parameters of mainstream discourse - and prioritizing **place-making** rather than **form-making** - a large group of women architects and educators have turned gender and social justice into the main features of a feminist agenda in architecture that includes a commitment to participatory principles and an inextricably intertwined link between theory and practice, design and (performative) actions. An independent understanding of reality from a gender-based perspective is needed to develop new crosscutting views on urgent social and political issues (social, political, ecological, management -and use- based issues, focusing on hybrid production models that take into accounts care, affection, enjoyment), taking action, blurring the traditional disciplinary role and mastery of the architect, focusing on the social production of space. The most challenging issue is to activate spatial potential rather than providing design solutions, thus making (urban and architectural) spaces a continuous collective and engaging project open to changes and transformations.



We believe that the exchanging of ideas and experiences, carried out by sharing and collectivizing current (design or practice-based and artistic) research and explorations on critical, experimental, feminist, hybridizing approaches to architecture might provide and promote new epistemologies, methodologies and pedagogies in architectural discourse and practice. It's possible to detect in the way feminist practices dismiss the **traditional** role of the architect as the sole and undisputed producer / demiurge – pursued by working as curators, advisers, space activators, and other producers – a sort of drift towards an **expanded** dimension of architecture and architectural education which calls into question what architecture itself is. Architecture can hybridize with peripheral knowledge and experiences that have not been taken into account by traditional architectural debates. Focusing on an architectural practice that comes from counter-hegemonic positions and places of social exclusion can meet unattended challenges.

Dismantling the paradigm of the building as the *conditio sine qua non* of architectural production, testing and questioning some of the most consolidated and accepted categories of architectural practice (such as the role of the author, the concept of disciplinary boundaries, the gap between builders and theorists), many women architects have subverted the relationship between theory and practice, pointing out that writing, drawing, and model-making (whether validated by building or not) are all specific forms of architectural thought and practice.

We invite educators, researchers, scholars, professionals, graduate and doctoral students, in the fields of architecture, urban design, art, history of architecture and related areas, such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, geography, new technologies and law to present the result of their investigations and/or their ideas, suggestions, insights on the above mentioned gender sensitive/feminist strategies in architecture and architectural education by responding to the following thematic areas.

Scientifically rigorous products of various formats (such as papers, interactive sessions and seminars, theatre plays, videos, photographs, performances, sound installations, artworks, etc.) will be accepted and welcome.

We also propose to organise additional *workshops* to create an open space in which promoting both individual and collective awareness on intersectional (gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, age, ability) concerns, encouraging and fuelling the debate even through more performative approaches.

# CONFERENCE TRACKS

## A. MORE THAN OBJECTS

### 1. Deconstructing the concept of canonical (buildings)

Beyond the canon towards the creation of a corpus of (both architectural and trans-disciplinary) production from gender and feminist perspectives that overcome the presence of (spatial and temporal) biases in research, academy and the editorial market.

### 2. Going beyond the notion of building as a single (and physical) object

Exploring connections between buildings and places, space and time, performances and built environments, and their (social, psychological, emotional) impact in urban space, with a specific focus on (health and social) care facilities (for children, elderly and disabled people).

## B. MORE THAN CITIES

### 3. De-constructing patriarchal dichotomies and categories in urban spaces as part of the lifelong learning process

Exploring gender sensitive approaches to participatory emotional and affective urbanism (such as participatory activities, which local residents could get engaged in) in order to enable inhabitants and local organizations to manage the space they live in.

### 4. The role of mass media, communications media and ICT in promoting gender biases in urban and architectural space

Exploring how communication technologies and tools and their related uses affect meaning and representation in architectural and urban spaces, reproducing power structures and systems, detecting gender and sexual asymmetries and bias and case studies or best practice examples in which communication and technological media are used to create more egalitarian urban spaces, developing strategies for resistance.

### 5. Detecting gender inequality in (architectural and urban) spaces

Exploring how architecture itself, above all in the urban realm, reproduces and perpetuates biased and asymmetrical representations and ideologies in the built environments, in order to experiment strategies aimed at changing these effects.

## C. MORE THAN ACADEMIA

### **6. Promoting a gender sensitive approach to teaching in a design studio environment**

Which is the main contribution that a gender sensitive approach makes to (design) methodologies and strategies within a studio environment? Possible methods, tools, techniques, devices, protocols, agendas and processes.

### **7. Developing structural changes in educational (at primary, secondary and university level) institutions and redefining educational models and patterns**

Implementation of gender sensitive approaches to space and architecture in the official curricula and agendas at an institutional level: exploring how a gender-based perspective can provide a better knowledge about space that looks beyond academic positions and approaches to engage with a life-long spatial empowerment process that permeates education at various stages of studying, from school to university.

### **8. Hybridizing practices and education: writing/building/drawing**

Working across disciplinary boundaries can be considered as a distinctive aspect of a gender based perspective in architectural practices and education.

## D. MORE THAN HUMANS

### **9. Expanding urban, landscape and territorial. interventions from an animalistic conception of nature.**

Exploring how post- feminism criticism extends to the deconstruction of the oppositions between human/animal and animal/vegetal, which are the categories we use to place ourselves in the environment and to transform the territory.

### **10. New ecologies from an affective approach to the natural and built environment.**

Exploring architecture experiences based on an affective approach rather than a paternalistic one can be use to find new guidelines for building (performing) cities in a more inclusive way. How can even ruins, discarded materials, polluted places, unproductive grounds become grounds of opportunities.

# WORKSHOPS

## WORKSHOP I

**The perception of space from an intersectional feminist perspective. Awareness rising from individual perception to collective debate.**

This workshop offers an individual and collective reflection on the intersection of different dimensions in our spatial and urban perceptions: structures of power (social dimension), life experiences (psychological dimension) and locations (spatial dimension). The aim is to reflect on the relationship between power structures and their articulation in different spaces and visualize how places play a key role in the reproduction of inequalities.

## WORKSHOP II

**Urban recognition tour. Talking about our daily life environments from a gender perspective.**

This workshop consists of a collective walk through our everyday spaces. It is an individual and collective exercise through the dialogue. Through a recognition route along different places, we observe and describe everyday environments from our direct experience as women. With pictures taken along the way we describe all those observed elements that are part of our everyday experience. Photographs help to mention, classify, establish relationships and assess our experiences in the different spaces we inhabit.

### **III. MAIN OBJECTIVE AND IMPACT**

The III International Conference on Research in Architecture and Gender is not conceived as a forum for academic debate, but rather aims to prompt practical actions. For this reason it will be accompanied by workshops that will promote from the same event an active look at the city. It seeks to create complicities, a point of encounter for different actors and professionals involved in the construction of our living - both collective and domestic - space that can open new ways of approaching the urban project.

### **IV. TARGET PUBLIC**

The Congress is aimed at educators, researchers, scholars, professionals, graduate and doctoral students, in the fields of architecture, urban design, art, history of architecture and related areas, such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, geography.

### **V. SCHEDULE**

Call for papers June 2016

Holding of the Congress 26-28 January 2017

Additional exhibitions, satellite meetings, social and networking events until May 2017

### **VI. RESULTS' PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION**

Accepted papers will be included in the book "MORE: Expanding architecture from a gender-based perspective"

### **VII. ACTORS INVOLVED**

DIDA Department of Architecture - School of Architecture - University of Florence

Figline Valdarno City Council

Colexio Oficial de Arquitectos de Galicia

### **VIII. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

The initiative will feature a team of international and high profile experts and professionals working from a gender-sensitive perspective on public space.

## IX. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

### **CARLA AMAT, DAFNE SALDANA, HELENA CARDONA Y JULIA GOULA**

**EQUAL SAREE, Catalonia (Spain)**

Equal Saree is a feminist collective that applies the gender perspective in the design, architecture and urbanism from a horizontal organization and an interdisciplinary approach. Equal Saree has led various projects between research, training and social action in India, Morocco and Catalonia. They have worked in urban transformation plans dynamizing citizen participation processes. Since September 2014 they study the use of space during childhood and they have developed their own methodology for gender equality analysis and intervention in playgrounds.

### **MARIA NOVAS Y SOFIA PALEO**

**DEXENEROCONSTRUCCION, Galiza (Spain)**

Dexeneroconstrucion was created in Galicia in 2012 by María Novas and Sofía Paleo (Architects, Master's Degree in Applied Research in Feminist, Gender and Citizenship studies and Master's Degree in Restoration and Urban Regeneration, respectively), with the aim of approaching gender perspective to architecture and society. The components of *Dexeneroconstrucion* have elaborated specialized theoretical contents, published numerous articles, as well as presented papers or participated as speakers in different congresses. As practical work, they have organized workshops and have been part of work groups with the aim of promoting reflection and inclusive practices in architecture and urbanism.

### **SERAFINA AMOROSO**

**Florence (Italy)**

Serafina Amoroso is an Italian architect with a PhD degree in Architectural and Urban Design who is currently working as a lecturer under contract in a second-year Architectural Design Studio at the School of Architecture of Florence and as a secondary school teacher. In 2012 she got a Master degree in Advanced Architectural Design from the ETSAM in Madrid, where her personal and academic interests began to focus on gender perspectives and their relationship with space and education. In 2014 she was selected to participate in the Visiting Teacher's Programme of the Architectural Association in London. Her recent scientific articles and papers have been published in international journals and/or presented at national and international conferences and workshops.

### **AMELIA VILAPLANA**

**Alicante (Spain)**

Amelia Vilaplana is an architect trained in Critical Theory and Museography at the Independent Studies Program of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona (MACBA). She is a Teacher at the University of Alicante (2012), and has worked in collaboration with the MACBA on the exposition dedicated to Ignasi de Solà-Morales. As a member of Atelier Paipái studio and she won the competition to renovate the entrance of the historical Ateneo building in Madrid (2011). Her curriculum vitae also includes winning the Pasajes-iGuzzini Architectural Award (2011) and Lamp International Award (2010). Her work has been included in the Arquia catalogue (2014) and has been published in a number magazines and books.

# LAURA ANDREINI

Florence (Italy)

Laura Andreini graduated with honours from the Architecture Faculty of Florence in 1990, completing her PhD at the same university in 1997. This represented the beginning of an intense activity in the field of teaching, which has continued over the years, parallel to her work as an architect and researcher. She is now Associate Professor in architectural and urban planning at the architecture faculty of Florence. In 1988 she founded the Archea firm together with Marco Casamonti and Giovanni Polazzi. As a partner in the firm she conducts design and research activities in the field of urban planning, architecture and industrial design, using the professional activity as a means of testing the positions assumed in relation to the contemporary architectural culture. She has since 2003 held the position of vice editor in chief of the international Area magazine, which is published by Tecniche Nuove.

# SAVERIO MECCA

Florence (Italy)

Saverio Mecca is Full Professor of Building Production at University of Florence. Since November 2009 to December 2012, he has been Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and he currently holds the position of Dean of the new Department of Architecture. He has expertise in building techniques, process management, vernacular architecture and earthen architecture in Mediterranean region. Since 2007 he is Director of the Research Center on Innovation and Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems at University of Florence, INN-LINK-S Research Center, oriented to investigate local and traditional knowledge systems in the field of architecture, agronomy and material cultures with an interdisciplinary scientific approach.

# PAOLA GIGLI

Florence (Italy)

Member of the *Ordine degli Architetti P.P.C. della Provincia di Arezzo* (Local Architectural Board Council) since 2001, Paola Gigli is the President in charge of the council from 2009 (2009/2013 and 2013/2017 mandates). In 2010 she becomes one of the members in charge of the *Commissione Regionale dei soggetti professionali della Regione Toscana - L.R. 73/2008* (Regional Board of freelance professionals of Tuscany) and Coordinator of its *Tavolo Tecnico* (working group of technical professions). From 2015 on, she is member of the *Ufficio di Presidenza della Conferenza nazionale degli Ordini degli Architetti Pianificatori Paesaggisti Conservatori italiani* (Chairman office of the National Architectural Conference).

## CONTACT

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