CLOSE READING

45 YEARS OFWOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

1969
Jane Drew becomes the ***first female President of the Architectural Association (AA)***. Drew is known for her international modernist work in England, West Africa, Iran and India. She worked extensively on the ***Chandigarh Master Plan*** with Le Corbusier and her husband Maxwell Fry.

1970
Ada Louise Huxtable, the first female architecture critic for The New York Times, receives the ***first Pulitzer Prize for Criticism***, opening architecture up to public discourse.

1971
Chloethiel Woodard Smith, WUSTL M.Arch '33, leads the largest female-run architectural firm in the United States, called ***Chloethiel Woodard Smith & Associates***. The firm's projects include the National Building Museum, and an estimated 30% of architects working in Washington, D.C. in the early 1970's came through her office.

1971
National Organization of Minority Architects is founded at the AIA Convention in Detroit.

1972
Lella and Massimo Vignelli redesign the ***NY MTA Subway Maps and Signage***, setting the bar for successful public interface design.

1972
Judith Edelman, the first woman elected to the AIA New York executive committee, becomes a founding member of the ***Alliance of Women in Architecture.***

1972
Denise Scott Brown, with Robert Venturi and Steven Izenour, publish the canonical book ***Learning From Las Vegas: the Forgotten Symbolism of Architectural Form***.

1973
Chicago Women in Architecture and ***San Francisco Organization of Women Architects*** are founded, spurring discussions about women's status in architecture across the country.

1974
Gloria and Esther Goldreich publish the children's book ***What Can She Be? An Architect.***

1974
Phyllis Birkby, Katrin Adam, Ellen Perry Berkeley, Bobbie Sue Hood, Marie I. Kennedy, Joan Forrester Sprague and Leslie Kanes Weisman found the ***Women's School of Planning and Architecture***, an experimental educational institution for women in environmental design.

1974
The first ***Women in Architecture Symposium*** at ***Washington University in St. Louis***. For the first time, women in the field of architecture came together to discuss the lack of equality they were facing and what they were going to do to change that.

1974
Denise Scott Brown gives the talk that would later be published as the influential ***"Room at the Top: Sexism and the Star System in Architecture"*** at the West Coast Women's Design Conference, held at the University of Oregon.

1974
Women in Design: The Next Decade Conference is held at the ***Women's Building*** in L.A. The Women's Building, named after the 1893 Woman's Building at the Chicago World's Fair, was designated as a physical space for those exploring 1970s feminist narratives through the arts.

1975
The AIA Task Force on Women in Architecture carries out a study called the ***"Affirmative Action Plan for the Integration of Women in the Architectural Profession."*** The study called for women to "increase public awareness of the contribution of women architects in the design of the built environment" in order to change public perception of architects.

1977
Susana Torre organizes and curates the first major exhibition of American women architects, held at the Brooklyn Museum. The exhibition, titled ***"Women in American Architecture: A Historic and Contemporary Perspective"*** traveled across the United States and to the Netherlands, and was accompanied by Torre's edited book of the same title.

1978
Yvonne Farrel and Shelley McNamara establish ***Grafton Architects***. *See 2008

1980
The Feminist Design Collective formed in London, with the purpose of understanding and developing a feminist approach to architecture through discussion and architectural work. They aimed to involve women in all stages of the evolution of a building.

1980
M. Rosaria Piomelli heads the City College of New York College of Architecture, becoming the ***first woman dean of an American architecture school***.

1980
Beverly Willis and Norma Merrick Sklarek become AIA Fellows, acknowledging their significant contribution to architecture and society, as well as their excellence in the profession.

1981
Maya Lin, a college student at Yale University, controversially wins the competition for the ***Vietnam Veterans Memorial***, becoming a 'first' in many ways—as a young student, a woman and an Asian-American.

1981
Industrial designer and architect Gae Aulenti, who was one of few women designing in post-war Italy, is chosen to redesign the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. She goes on to design other large-scale museums, such as the Contemporary Art Gallery at the Centre Pompidou and the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco.

1982
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk and Andres Duany, arbiters of the New Urbanism movement, design the masterplan for ***Seaside, Florida.***

1984
Louise Bourgeois' series ***"Femme Maison (Woman House)"*** depicts a familial structure engulfing a nude woman, obstructing her identity, and isolating her from the world.

1984
Sharon Sutton becomes the first African-American woman in the United States to be promoted to ***full professor of architecture*** at the University of Michigan.

1985
Bulgarian architect Milka Bliznakov establishes the ***International Archive of Women in Architecture*** at Virginia Tech out of frustration at the enormous loss of material from the first generations of women architects.

1988
Industrial Designer Hedda Beese's "SL48 Solar Lantern" wins ***Best of Industrial Design Annual Design Review*** and the ***Essen Design Innovation 88 Award***. It is not part of the MoMA's Permanent Collection.

1988
3.6% of AIA members are women, one hundred years since the first female member of the AIA. *See 1991

1990
Katherine Krizek designs the ***"Mezzaluna Knife"*** which is honored with the Compasso d'Oro Award in Milan.

1990
Swedish nurse and industrial designer ***Lena Landin Lorentzen*** spends her career improving the design of objects in the healthcare environment with the goal of giving patients greater dignity and independence.

1991
Denise Scott Brown's partner, Robert Venturi, is awarded the ***Pritzker Prize*** for their joint work and accomplishments.

1991
Among firms with ***AIA membership***, men outnumber women by a ratio of three to one, but women only account for 8% of licensed architects.

1991
The Association of Women Industrial Designers is founded at Pratt Institute. The same year, the group put on a major exhibition of work titled ***"Goddess in the Details."***

1992
The ***AIA Task Force on Equal Rights and Proactive Action*** aims to establish equal access and influence within the AIA and the larger profession.

1992
L. Jane Hastings becomes the ***first woman Chancellor of the AIA's College of Fellows***, ten years after she became a Fellow of the AIA.

1993
Zaha Hadid's first built work, ***The Vitra Fire Station***, is completed. The Fire Station showcases Hadid's work in deconstructivist theoretical language that is often explored through drawings and paintings.

1993
Cynthia Weese becomes ***Dean of the School of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis***. Weese broadened the focus of the school to include outreach to the St. Louis community as well as encourage greater leadership amoung the students.

1993
Susan Maxman becomes the ***first woman president of the AIA***, despite only 5% of the AIA's members being women. Women have held membership in the AIA since 1888.

1994
Leslie Kanes Weisman publishes ***Discrimination by Design: A Feminist Critique of the Man-Made Environment***.

1995
7% of ***architecture students*** in Japan are women. By contrast, 33% of architecture students in China are women.

1997
Marion Weiss and Weiss/Manfredi Architects win the competition for the ***Women in Military Service for America Memorial*** in Washington, D.C.

1999
Elizabeth Diller and her firm DSR (then Diller+Scofidio) are the first architects to win the ***MacArthur "Genius Grant."***

2001
Kathryn Anthony, Ph.D. publishes ***Designing for Diversity: Gender, Race and Ethnicity in the Architectural Profession***. Her research has also led to the publication *Design Juries on Trial: The Renaissance of the Design Studio.*

2001
Lindy Roy's "Subwave" wins the ***MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program***.

2002
The Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation is established. The Foundation's goal is to change the culture of the building industry so that women's work, whether in contemporary practices or historical narratives, is acknowledged, respected and valued.

2003
Architect Eva Jiřičná becomes ***President of the AA***. Jiřičná is lauded for redefining the idea of retail space with her innovated use of industrial materials and famous steel and glass staircases.

2003
Gia Daskalakis becomes the ***first woman to receive tenure*** in the School of Architecture at Washington University in St. Louis, 93 years after the school is founded.

2004
Zaha Hadid becomes the first woman to win the ***Pritzker Prize*** for her work and achievements in architecture.

2006
Nicole Dosso, technical director at SOM, is honored by ***Professional Women in Construction*** for her leadership of projects including ***7 World Trade Center*** and the ***Baccarat Hotel***. Dosso also goes on to lead the construction of ***1 World Trade Center***, designed by Daniel Libeskind and David Childs.

2008
Architect Toshiko Mori becomes the chair of the ***World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Design***. In tandem, Mori launches ***VisionArc***, a think tank that probes complex global issues through design.

2008
Grafton Architects wins ***Building of the Year*** for their Bocconi Library in Milan. *See 1978

2009
The first ***AIA Women's Leadership Summit*** occurs in Chicago through the initiative of the ***Women's Principal Group***. Over 150 leading women in the profession attend.

2009
British architect Ruth Reed becomes the ***first female President of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)***.

2009
Adele Naude Santos, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at MIT, receives the ***AIA's Topaz Medallion***, only the second woman to receive this award following Denise Scott Brown in 1996.

2010
Kazuyo Sejima wins the ***Pritzker Prize*** with partner Ryue Nishizawa for the work and achievements of their firm, SANAA.

2011
The Australian Research Council begins an in-depth survey ***"Equity and Diversity in the Australian Architecture Profession: Women, Work and Leadership,"*** which has become an international model for collecting and understanding information about women in architecture.

2011
Architect Barbie debuts at the AIA Convention in New Orleans. Despina Stratigakos, architect and professor at University of Buffalo, collaborated with Mattel on the development and launch of the doll as part of an initiative to break down stereotypes in the public's perception of architects.

2011
Aine Brazil, vice-chairman and managing principal of the large structural engineering firm Thornton Tomasetti, is honored by ***Real Estate Forum*** as a ***Woman of Influence***. Brazil manages projects including Hudson Yards and 11 Times Square.

2011
Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang is awarded the ***MacArthur Fellowship***. Her 2009 Aqua Tower is the largest project ever awarded to an American firm headed by a woman.

2012
Deborah Berke recieves the inaugural ***Berkeley-Rupp Prize*** from the University of California, Berkeley. The prize is awarded biannually to a distinguished practitioner or academic who has made a significant contribution to promoting the advancement of women in the field of architecture, and whose work emphasizes a commitment to sustainability and the community.

2012
Lori Brown, architecture professor at Syracuse University, and Nina Freedman, Creative Director at Shigeru Ban, launch ***ArchiteXXs***, an organization and website for women in architecture.

2013
Harvard GSD's Women in Design create a petition demanding the Pritzker Prize Committee recognize Denise Scott Brown's role in the work that garnered Robert Venturi the 1991 Prize. The petition received 20,000 signatures and spurred discussion about the recognition of women in architecture, but ultimately the Pritzker Committee refused to recognize Denise Scott Brown. In response, ***Design for Equality*** was founded as a way of generating a prolonged response to the Pritzker Jury.

2013
The Missing 32% is a group created by the AIA San Francisco to address women's role in architecture. Most recently, the group published the results of their Equity in Architecture 2014 Survey of the profession.

2013
Lori Brown publishes ***Contested Space: Abortion Clinics, Women's Shelters and Hospitals***, which investigates how legislation affects politicized and securitized spaces for women. Her work calls into question female architect's obligation toward designing spaces that empower women.

2013
Alison Brooks, principal of Alison Brooks Architects, receives the ***Architects' Journal Woman Architect of the Year Award.***

2014
Amale Andraos is appointed ***Dean of Columbia University's GSAPP.***

2014
Built by Women NYC, an initiative of the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation, sets out to identify 100 outstanding structures and built environments in New York City, either contemporary or historic, designed and/or constructed by women, to highlight women's contributions to the built environment.

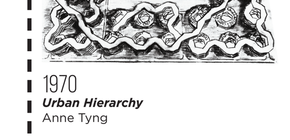
2014
Sheila Kennedy wins the ***Berkeley-Rupp Prize*** for her advancement of equity in architecture.

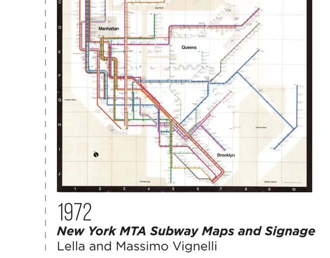
2015
Elizabeth Chu Richter, elected in 2014, will become the ***President of the AIA.***

DESIGNED BY WOMEN

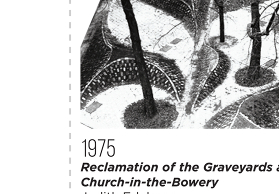
1967
Lieb House
Denise Scott Brown

1969
Sao Paulo Museum of Art
Lina Bo Bardi


1970
Urban Hierarchy
Anne Tyng

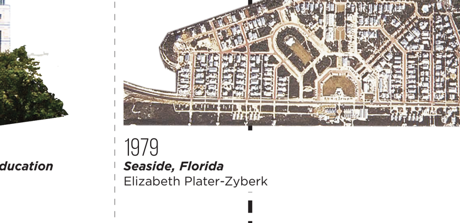

1972
New York MTA Subway Maps and Signage
Lella and Massimo Vignelli

1973
Women's Building
Used by Judy Chicago, Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and Arlene Raven for Feminist Studio Workshop


1975
Reclamation of the Graveyards at St. Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery
Judith Edelman

1977
Women in American Architecture Exhibit, Brooklyn Museum
Susana Torre

1977
Mauritius Institute of Education
Jane Drew

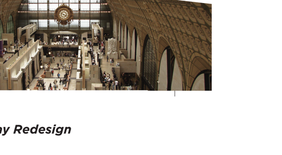

1979
Seaside, Florida
Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk

1979
University of Washington Cunningham Hall Restoration
L. Jane Hastings

1981
Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Maya Lin

1982
San Francisco Ballet Building
Beverly Willis

1984
Femme Maison
Louise Bourgeois

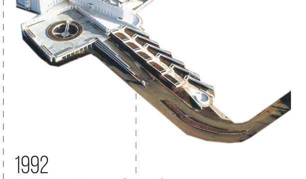

1986
Museé d'Orsay Redesign
Gae Aulenti

1988
SL48 Solar Lantern
Hedda Beese

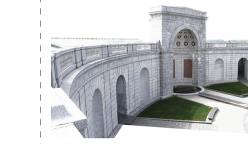
1988
Washington Square
Chloethiel Woodard Smith

1990
Mezzaluna Knife
Katherine Krizek

1991
Seattle Art Museum
Denise Scott Brown


1992
Supreme Court of Israel
Ada Karmi-Melamede

1993
Vitra Fire Station
Zaha Hadid


1997
Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Marion Weiss

1998
Orangery
Eva Jiřičná

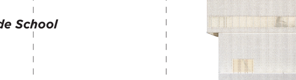
1999
Media Centre @ Lorde's Cricket Grounds
Amanda Levete

2001
Subwave (MoMA PS1)
Lindy Roy

2002
Yokohama International Ferry Terminal
Farshid Moussavi

2002
Hydra Pier Pavillion
Lise Anne Couture

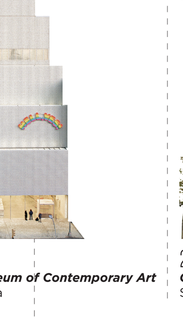
2003
Starlight Theater
Jeanne Gang


2005
METI Handmade School
Anna Heringer

2006
Marianne Boesky Gallery
Deborah Berke

2006
7 World Trade Center
Nicole Dosso

2007
Espace Citroen
Manuelle Gautrand

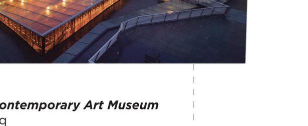

2007
The New Museum of Contemporary Art
Kazuyo Sejima

2008
Galleria Centercity
Caroline Bos

2009
Porsche Museum
Elke Delugan-Meisel

2009
Clapham Manor Primary School
Sadie Morgan

2010
Times Square Plaza
Aine Brazil


2010
MACRO Contemporary Art Museum
Odile Decq

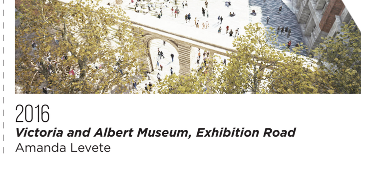
2012
The Brass Building
Alison Brooks

2013
The SOFT House
Sheila Kennedy

2012
University of Limerick
Grafton Architects

2013
Women's Opportunity Center
Sharon Davis

2013
Heydar Alyev Center
Zaha Hadid


2016
Victoria and Albert Museum, Exhibition Road
Amanda Levete