

OLLI @Berkeley
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Women in Architecture in 20th and 21th century.
Pierluigi Serraino

Syllabus

Architecture is a male dominated industry. The fame of Zaha Hadid, the legendary Iraqi-born London-based architect who passed away suddenly on March 31, 2016- who captured the enthusiasm around the world for her designs is the grand exception in the field's history. This has little do with gender capacities to perform and excel in the work, and more with socio-cultural circumstances that have directly curtailed access to opportunities and the presence of women in the architecture arena. While the times are changing, the proportion of women in the profession is significantly lower than their male counterparts despite their robust presence in the student body at college level. This course focuses on 6 key characters who have overcome these historical difficulties and asserted themselves authoritatively with their groundbreaking work. Some of them are historical, some of them are contemporary, some of them are practitioners in the San Francisco Bay Area. In reviewing their trajectories we will learn about their sensibilities in dealing with design problems, their cultural referents, what distinguishes their work from others, and how they see themselves in the larger project of modern and contemporary architecture worldwide.

Lesson 1. JULIA MORGAN: A DESIGN PIONEER

Julia Morgan was one of the most prolific architects of the 20th century. Up until her death in 1957, she designed hundreds of structure virtually all in California that have contributed to the distinct iconography of the Golden State. The first woman to graduate from the Beaux-Arts school in Paris, she single-handedly catered toward a coterie of patrons that financed the landmarks of California architecture, the San Simeon Castle for William Hearst and the Asilomar complex in Pacific Grove being two of the most prominent. This lecture puts her achievement in context with the historical climate of the time and the stylistic eclecticism of the late 10th century.

Lesson 2. KAZUYO SEJIMA. JAPAN STARARCHITECT

The brightest star of her generation, Japanese architect Kazuyo Sejima has been producing extraordinary designs in Japan, Europe, and the United States. Raised in the office of Arata Isozaki, Sejima, endowed with uncommon design talent, has been able to overcome the rigid hierarchy of the workplace in her country and carve for herself a space of sustained renown for her projects. In the United States, she has completed the Museum of Glass, in Toledo, Ohio, the New Museum in the Bowery in New York, and Grace Farms, a non-profit center in New Canaan, Connecticut. Soft-spoken and

assertive, Sejima has raised the design standards in the field and offered a powerful example of leadership in architecture.

Lesson 3. CHARLOTTE PERRIAND: THE FEMALE LE CORBUSIER.

Many of the early designs of the French master Le Corbusier had in fact Charlotte Perriand as the key designers. Already part of the team that created the masterpiece, Villa Savoye, in Poissy, France, in 1929, Perriand signed both buildings and furniture that became classics in 20th century architecture. In recent years she has experienced a resurgence in interest worldwide, demonstrating in no uncertain terms that the project of Modern Architecture has both women and men shaping the environment of the 20th century. In this lecture we will hear excerpts from her interview where she talks about her experience with Le Corbusier and her own work,

Lesson 4. Guest speaker: ANNE FOUGERON

The San Francisco-based Anne Fougerson is one of the most admired architect in the country. A native of Paris, she graduated in architecture from UC Berkeley and after an apprenticeship with Daniel Solomon she opened her independent practice. Recipient of countless national awards she will give an overview of her career focusing on a few key projects and her current work, among the most significant designs is one for a residential tower in San Francisco in association with Rem Koolhaas' OMA. A Q&A session would follow after her presentation to tease out autobiographical reflections on how she broke out in the field and build her reputation.

Lesson 5. Guest speaker: MARY-ANN SCHICKETANZ.

A native of Linz, Austria. Mary-Ann Schicketanz graduated in Vienna studying under Gustav Peichl and Johannes Uhl in the 1970s and moved to the United States to start her practice. Her 14-person firm is based in Carmel and has focused on residential and commercial Philip Johnson, William Wurster, Charles Moore, and many more. Mary-Ann will introduce the audience to practicing in Carmel as a woman-owned firm, the project types she has pursued, and the obstacle she faced in her ascent in the profession. A Q&A session would follow after her presentation for the audience to ask direct questions on the challenges she had to overcome in her work.

Lesson 6. ON OVERVIEW OF CURRENT WOMEN ARCHITECT AROUND THE WORLD

The growing presence of women architects in publications and media appearance is progressively eroding the subcategory of women in architecture. While figures like Gae Aulenti, Lina Bo Boardi, Cini Boeri, and many others paved the way for later generations to do their work, the current scene is rich in design stars like Jeanne Gang in Chicago, Julie Eizenberg in Los Angeles, Marion Weiss in New York, Benedetta Tagliabue in Barcelona, Spain and so forth. This closing lecture will expose the audience to the burgeoning scene of talents that is creating the architectural marvels of the 21st century.