



2003

4 Proposals Now Being Accepted for the 4th Bliznakov Prize

Additional prize information
is available on-line at
<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/iawa>

The Board of Advisors of the **International Archive of Women in Architecture** (IAWA) presents this annual prize of \$1,000 following a two-stage process. Stage One is an open review of proposals. Stage Two is by invitation to finalists from stage one.

Stage One: Review of Proposals -- A 500-word proposal with curriculum vitae must be received or postmarked by September 1, 2003. Electronic submissions are encouraged. Proposals may include original projects, research, or scholarly work, which contributes to and advances the recognition of women's contributions in design. The board encourages proposals that draw upon or expand the IAWA collections and reflect upon the broader context of women's contributions in the field of design. The product of the work should be specified in the initial proposal.

The IAWA jury may select up to six (6) proposals from the first round of proposals. Authors of these selected proposals will be invited to continue their work and submit their completed project to the jury for stage two of the Bliznakov prize.

The prize money will be awarded to the winner following review of the second stage finalists' submissions by this final IAWA jury. Proposals for stage one should be sent to: IAWA Executive Committee, Attention: Donna Dunay, AIA, Chair, Milka Bliznakov Prize Committee, 202 Cowgill Hall (0205), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, or by sending your submission via email to ddunay@vt.edu.

The IAWA was established in 1985 and is a joint program of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries at Virginia Tech.

The purpose of the archive is to document the history of women's involvement in architecture by collecting, preserving, storing, and making available to researchers the professional papers of women architects, landscape architects, designers, architectural historians and critics, and urban planners, and the records of women's architectural organizations, from around the world.

The IAWA focuses primarily on collecting the papers of those who practiced at a time when there were few women in the field (before the 1950's). The IAWA collects this information to fill serious gaps in the availability of primary research materials for architectural, women's, and social history research.

The IAWA also collects books, biographical information, and published materials as part of its mission to act as a clearinghouse of information about all women in architecture, past and present.

A voice for women in architecture: Milka Bliznakov...

Milka Bliznakov only knew two English words when she came to the United States from Bulgaria in 1961 -- yes and no. Now, fluent in English, she speaks a bold "yes" for the importance of women in the field of architecture. When arriving at Virginia Tech in the early-70s to teach architecture, Milka was mindful that she was one of very few women architects, and that there was no recognition for the contributions made by these women. Coming from a family of professional women as daughter of a doctor, and niece of a dentist, she wanted to do something about this problem. In 1985, with the help and support of faculty and administrators, Milka founded the International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA) as a joint program of the University Libraries and the College. Today there are over 200 collections in the archive.

Now retired, Milka has dedicated much of her time to making personal calls to women architects, designers, and planners all over the world, encouraging them to consider donating their drawings and projects to the archive.

