

lecture/reception (19 October) Brinda Somaya, Architect
Friday, October 19, 2001
3:00 pm
Room 100, Cowgill Hall
reception following lecture, Cowgill Hall Lobby

IAWA exhibition (17 - 21 October in Cowgill Hall Lobby)

The International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA), established in 1985, is a joint program of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries . 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 collects this information to fill serious gaps in the availability of primary research materials for architectural, women's, and social history research.

The IAWA is having its annual meeting the weekend of the 20th of October. Architects, Historians, Archivists, Designers from as far as India will be here to take part in that event. As part of the events for the meeting, the IAWA will be sponsoring an exhibition (17 - 21 October in Cowgill Hall Lobby) and a lecture/reception (19 October) by Brinda Somaya, Architect, Somaya and Kalappa (Mumbai) Architects and International Archive of Women in Architecture Advisor. She will discuss the work of architects in India and specifically Village Earthquake Rehabilitation, Urban Architecture in India and South Asia.

In her lecture, Somaya will talk about her recent earthquake disaster rehabilitation work for the village of Kutch, India. This small, remote village experienced a devastating earthquake in January 2001. She will also address urban issues and the work of several prominent women colleagues in Mumbai (Bombay) during this lecture. This event takes place in conjunction with the annual meeting of the International Archive of Women in Architecture on the same weekend.

Brinda Somaya maintains a distinguished, award-winning practice as a partner in Somaya & Kalappa Architects in Mumbai. One of the leading architects in Mumbai, she is widely published and has won numerous awards for her buildings and civic leadership. She is a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects and the India Society of Engineers; founding trustee of the Hecar Foundation; trustee of the Spastic Society of India; and member of Mumbai's committee for streets and public spaces and the Indian National Trust of Art and Cultural Heritage, among others.

Somaya is a committed supporter of the work of women architects throughout South Asia. As Chair of *Women in Architecture - 2000 Plus*, she led a conference and

exhibition of South Asian women architects. This work represents an effort to identify women in architecture who have made significant achievements in their respective countries and, yet, are largely unknown. Somaya donated, to the IAWA, the exhibition and book from *Women in Architecture 2000 Plus - Focus South Asia Conference*. Her donation, which will be on display in Cowgill Hall from October 17-21, is the IAWA's largest holding of work by women architects in South Asia. Other drawings and projects selected from the IAWA will also be exhibited,.

Marcia F. Feuerstein, Ph.D., A.I.A.
Assistant Professor, Architecture
Chair, International Archive of Women in Architecture
Director, Blue Ridge AIA
Virginia Tech

540-231-5260 (o)
mfeuerst@vt.edu