

WHO WE ARE

The International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA), established in 1985, is a collaborative project of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries at Virginia Tech. Its board of advisors includes architects, city planners, industrial and interior designers, librarians, and archivists from Canada, France, Japan, Switzerland, India, California, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. Virginia Tech faculty members and librarians serve as the executive committee.

DISTINCTIONS

The IAWA includes many unique and diverse materials documenting the creative process by women in architecture and the built environment. Many prominent people and organizations have contributed.

- Susana Torre donated original drawings and art works by prominent women architects.
- Duke University's Center for Women's History and Culture transferred the Louise Hall Collection. She was a long-time member and archivist of the North Carolina AIA, taught at Duke, and mentored many architects and scholars.
- The American Institute of Architects donated a 100-cubic-foot traveling exhibition documenting women architects since 1888.
- Lois Gottlieb's papers include project files, architectural drawings, and correspondence, including her apprenticeship to Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin.
- Beverly Willis' papers include her drawings of designs in the San Francisco area and computer programs, such as the Site Utilization Analysis System and Computerized Approach to Residential Land Analysis.

AWARDS

The Bliznakov Prize was established in 1998 to recognize IAWA founder, Milka Bliznakov, professor emerita of architecture at Virginia Tech. The award recognizes research that advances knowledge of women's contributions to architecture and design. The first Bliznakov Prize was awarded to Claire Bonney of Switzerland for her "Work and Life of Adrienne Gorska (1899-1969)."

International Archive of Women in Architecture

WHAT WE DO

The purpose of the International Archive of Women in Architecture is to preserve the history of women's involvement in architecture by collecting, organizing, preserving, and making available to researchers the professional papers of women architects, landscape architects, designers, architectural historians and critics, and urban planners, as well as the records of women's architectural organizations. The IAWA collects this information to fill serious gaps in the availability of primary research materials for architectural, women's, and social history research.

Research — The archive consists of sketches, manuscripts, drawings, blueprints, individual projects, and the works of entire careers and organizations. Primary research materials (unique and original documents) typically preserved in the archive include architectural drawings, photographs and slides, and job files. As the clearinghouse of information about all women in architecture, the IAWA also collects such materials as biographical information, publications, and exhibitions. The archive is a tremendous historical resource, housing approximately 200 collections spanning more than 700 cubic feet. It continues to grow in significance through international and American donations.

The IAWA biographical database collects information about all women in architecture. The goal is to be an extensive record of these women while the archives seeks to preserve the physical evidence and records of their contributions to architecture and the built environment. It can be searched at http://lumiere.lib.vt.edu/iawa_db/.

Education — On the basis of its collections, IAWA activities include research, exhibitions, lectures, seminars, and symposia. For example, at the 10th anniversary celebration of the archive there was a symposium, *A Decade of Commitment*. The annual IAWA Newsletter is available to 2,500 Friends of the IAWA and online at <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/iawa/news/>.

Exhibitions — The college and the library have presented extensive exhibitions of donations from individual donors and from the American Institute of Architects. The board of advisors meets annually in the fall and an exhibition is mounted in Newman Library — <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/exhibits/IAWA/window1/>.

Facilities — The archive is housed in the temperature and humidity controlled environment of the Digital Library and Archives' Special Collections in Newman Library at Virginia Tech. The curator of historical manuscripts maintains the collections, including processing, creating detailed inventories, storage in acid-free folders and boxes, and a secure environment.

PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The IAWA focuses primarily on collecting the papers of those women who practiced at a time when there were few in the field (generally before the 1950s), usually working in architectural firms and yet not granted professional status or partnerships. In addition, the archive collects the works of women presently flourishing in architecture and related fields.



The traveling exhibition, "That Exceptional One," documents women architects from Louise Bethune, the first woman to be elected to the AIA in 1888.



Anna Keichline was the first registered woman architect in Pennsylvania and inventor of the K brick.



Contact information:

Marcia Feuerstein, AIA,
assistant professor of
architecture and chair of
the International Archive of
Women in Architecture
College of Architecture and
Urban Studies (0205)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061

540-231-5260 FAX 231-9938
mfeuerst@vt.edu

Gail McMillan
professor and director of the
Digital Library and Archives
540-231-9252
gailmac@vt.edu

<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/iawa/>

IAWA
Special Collections
University Libraries (0434)
Virginia Tech
P.O. Box 90001
Blacksburg, VA 24062-9001