

Edited by Lori A. Brown

feminist practices

interdisciplinary
approaches to women in
architecture

Feminist Practices

Interdisciplinary Approaches
to Women in Architecture

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ASHGATE

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Notes on Contributors

Meghal Arya

Meghal Arya is a graduate of the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT), Ahmedabad, India and completed her Master in Architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA. She teaches design, history of Indian architecture and construction detailing at the Faculty of Architecture, CEPT University, Ahmedabad. She has a varied range of interests, but the essence of it remains a concern with the meaning of space in Indian architecture and its contemporary manifestation. This is reflected in her teaching, research, as well as her professional practice. She is working towards an integrated approach to architecture, one that is inclusive. She is a partner in the firms Arya Architects and M/s Minakshi Jain Architects. Arya Architects is a young firm that negotiates the divergences of working in a traditional society with strong contextual influences along with a global impact. Most of their practice revolves around the architecture of public buildings. Meghal, along with her partner Vijay Arya have been recipients of several national awards including the Institute of Architects for public buildings, the Jindal award for outstanding design, and the J.K Award for public building. She is widely travelled and continues to nourish that passion through study tours and workshops for students. She has done extensive detailed documentation of the palaces and forts of Rajasthan as part of her research interests and is in the process of exploring spatial and architectural links amongst them. "Courtyards" is one of the first of those links. More recently, she is exploring the aspect of sustainable environments within this. She has written many articles and her work has also been published in leading magazines.

Lori Brown

Lori Brown received a Bachelor of Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology, attended the École d'Architecture in Paris, and a Master of Architecture degree from Princeton University. At the intersections of Architecture, Art, Geography, and Women's Studies, her work emerges from

the belief that architecture can participate in and impact people's everyday lives. As an architect and artist, her design, speculative work, and classes all engage with the larger idea of broadening the discourse and involvement of architecture in our world. Focusing particularly on the relationships between architecture and social justice issues, she has currently placed emphasis on gender and its impact upon spatial relationships. She has recently been working with the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation designing a Library of Feminism, the Upstate University Hospital renovation design for their chapel, and the Vera House, a local women's shelter in Syracuse, NY renovating their kitchen, dining and storage facilities. Her second book, to be published in 2012, investigates highly securitized spaces such as abortion clinics, women shelters, and hospitals and examines the spatial ramifications of access and security within spaces that are highly personal, private, and sometimes secret or even hidden. She has been awarded artist residencies at Macdowell, Jentel and Caldera and her work has been published in *306090*, *gender forum*, *Women and Environments International Magazine*, *Journal of International Women's Studies*, *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* and has been awarded an AIA Unbuilt Design Award for her University Hospital Chapel design. She is an associate professor at Syracuse University where her teaching builds upon her interdisciplinary interests and goals of challenging the gendered academic landscape with alternative pedagogical methods.

Meta Brunzema

Meta Brunzema is an architect and urban designer based in New York City. She founded the firm Meta Brunzema Architect P.C. in 1998. She is also an adjunct associate professor at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where she teaches graduate architecture, urban design, and theory. She believes that innovative design can accelerate the systemic societal changes that are needed to insure long-term socio-economic and environmental sustainability. Her professional and academic endeavours focus on ecosystem-based design that addresses rapid and non-linear changes in the economy, climate, communication, and technology. For example, she designed an innovative flow-through River Pool in Beacon, New York that engages people and the aquatic environment in a completely new way. Her architecture and urban design work has been exhibited and published widely, and she is a frequent speaker at professional conferences. Ms. Brunzema received a Bachelor of Environmental Design Science degree from Dalhousie University in Canada and a Master of Architecture degree from Columbia University in New York. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Urban Design in New York City.

Lilian Chee

Lilian Chee is a writer, theorist and designer. Trained at the Bartlett and the National University of Singapore, where she is currently Assistant Professor,

Lilian's research focuses on domesticity. Her publications include "An Architecture of Twenty Words", in *Negotiating Domesticity* (2005); "A Web in the Garden," in *Pattern, Haecceity Papers* (2007), "Living with Freud," in *Architectural Design* special issue "Atmosphere" (2008), "Performing Domesticity: Ma Qingyun's Father's House," in *Home and Space, Haecceity Papers* (2009) and "Under the Billiard Table" in the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* (forthcoming 2011). She also serves as Regional Editor for the *Journal of Architecture*. Lilian is currently working on a project exploring representations of Asian domesticity in architecture, art and film.

Ronit Eisenbach

An Associate Professor at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation and a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and Cranbrook Academy of Art, Ronit Eisenbach is an architect whose creative and scholarly efforts are located at the intersection of art and architecture.

Eisenbach employs design to generate discourse about the built environment. Her practice includes teaching, curating, exhibition design, and the construction of temporary site-specific environments; she explores how the perception of subjective, invisible, and ephemeral objects affects understanding and experience of place. An interest in thinking through making and refining perception has led her to develop a series of situation-based installations and courses that frame elements of architecture such as light, colour, space, and shadow in conversation with human movement. Her installations and maps have been exhibited both here and abroad in venues such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Graham Foundation, the Cranbrook Art Museum, the Art Gallery of Windsor, Princeton University, and the streets of Tel Aviv. In 2010, Eisenbach published, with co-author Dr. Sarah Bonnemaïson, *Installations by Architects: Experiments in Building and Design* (Princeton Architectural Press). In May 2010, "Sculpture at Evergreen 6: Simultaneous Presence," co-curated with Jennie Fleming, opened at Johns Hopkins University. A film, "The Radiant Sun: designer Ruth Adler Schnee," co-produced with Terri Sarris, and an associated exhibition at the Kibel Gallery premiered at University of Maryland, before opening at the Palazzo Mocenigo in Venice, Italy in June 2011. She was a Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation Fellow in 2008, and has been awarded residencies at the MacDowell Colony Fellow, Montgomery College, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

Özlem Erdoğan Erkarıslan

Özlem Erdoğan Erkarıslan studied architecture at the Dokuz Eylül University in Izmir and obtained her Master and Doctoral degrees from the same institution. She received a travel grant in London offered by the British Council in 1991 while she was pursuing her Masters thesis. During her doctoral research, the Aga Khan Awards for Architecture awarded her funding for travel to Switzerland.

After having a nine-year period of academic positions in different universities in Turkey and TRNC, she started to work as an assistant professor at the Izmir Institute of Technology in 1997. Her research interests include anti-orientalism, contemporary architecture in Islamic countries and gender issues. She is the author of two book chapters on the topic of women in architecture published in Turkey. She received a commendation from the Milka Bliznakov Prize in 2002 with her article entitled "Turkish Women Architects in the Late Ottoman and Early Republican Era, 1908-1950". She is also teaching and conducting research in the graduate program of Women Studies in Ege University. She is currently Chair of the Department of Architecture at Izmir Gediz University Faculty of Engineering and Architecture.

Cynthia Hammond

Cynthia I. Hammond teaches architectural history in the Department of Art History, Concordia University. She completed her PhD in 2002 through Concordia's interdisciplinary Humanities Doctoral Program. After teaching in several Canadian universities, she held a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Architecture, McGill University (2004-2006). Hammond has received awards for her research, including the Governor General's Gold Medal for Doctoral Dissertation (2002) and the Nineteenth Century Studies Association Emerging Scholar Award (2007) for her essay on hospital reformer, Florence Nightingale. Her FQRSC Emerging Scholar grant (2008-2011) supported research on the rise of modernism in Montreal, 1945-1965. Since her appointment at Concordia, Hammond has published on a range of subjects related to architectural history and contemporary urban issues. She has presented this work at professional conferences in Helsinki, Berkeley, New York, Washington, Dublin, Leipzig and Pécs, Hungary. Her book on women's contributions to the built environment and cultivated landscapes of Bath, England will be published by Ashgate in 2012. This publication will coincide with the one-hundred year anniversary of suffragette activity in that city, which is one of the key subjects of the book. In addition to research and publishing on architecture, cities and landscapes, Hammond maintains an interdisciplinary studio practice that includes public art, painting and drawing, sound and most recently, digital video. More details about her publications, research and art can be found at www.cynthiahammond.com and at www.pouf.ca.

Rebecca Krefting

Rebecca Krefting earned a BA in English and Psychology at the University of Alabama, Huntsville and an MA in Women's Studies at Ohio State University (OSU). She completed her doctorate in American Studies in 2010 at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD). Beck's research specializations are studies in humor and laughter; performance studies; gender, sexuality, and race/ethnicity studies of visual and popular culture; identity and difference; women's history; cultural studies; feminist, disability, and comic theatre;

and pedagogical studies. She is currently working on a monograph titled: *Not Just a Joke: American Humor and Its Discontents*. Besides researching and publishing in the field of humour studies, Beck has published work in disability education and theatre. She has presented her research nationally and internationally, been invited to lecture about humour, and was a PAGE (publicly active graduate education) Fellow for Imagining America in 2007. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Skidmore College in the Department of American Studies. She was recognized for excellence in teaching at OSU when she was nominated for a graduate teaching award in 2004 and again at UMD when the Center for Teaching Excellence named her a Graduate Teaching Fellow in 2009-10. Her work is transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary and she has taught in many disciplines including Women's Studies, American Studies, African American Studies and in UMD's Honors Humanities Program as a Doctoral Teaching Fellow.

Kyna Leski

Kyna Leski earned a Bachelor of Architecture from The Cooper Union Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture in 1985 and a Master of Architecture from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in 1988. She is a professor of architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design where she has been active in forming, teaching and coordinating the first semester core design curriculum since 1989. She has just completed a book on this pedagogy, called *The Making of Design Principles*. She also served as the head of the RISD European Honors Program in Rome from 1993 to 1995. Kyna Leski and Christopher Bardt are principals of the architectural design firm 3SIX0 (<http://www.3six0.com>). Their work includes residential, commercial, institutional and furniture commissions as well as urban competition projects. 3SIX0 has received several AIA Awards and has been recognized as one of the Architectural Vanguard Firms by *Architectural Record* in 2002. Leski's project, "Dream House," placed first in *The Japan Architect's Shinkenchiku Residential Design Competition* in 1998 and was published in *Modern House 2* by Claire Melhuish (Phaidon Press, 2004). In 1997 the Architectural League of New York selected Leski as one of five winners of its annual "Young Architects Competition." In 2000, she was nominated for the Chrysler Design Awards. Currently, she is serving as the "City Architect Design Decision Review Advisor" to the Mayor of Providence, the Planning Department, and the City Planning Commission and Downcity Review Commission.

Janet McGaw

Janet McGaw is a Senior Lecturer in Architectural Design in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning at the University of Melbourne. The creative project that is described in this book, "Urban Threads," was the subject of her doctorate, awarded in 2007. Her research works, teaching and practice continue to investigate equity in the urban realm. Janet uses methods that are discursive, collaborative, and sometimes ephemeral. Recent

publications include essays in the *Journal of Architectural Education* (for which she was awarded the Deans Prize for Published Postgraduate Work), *Architectural Theory Review*, *The Journal of Architecture*, and interdisciplinary journals *Junctures*, *Emotion Space Society* and *Double Dialogues*. She is currently a chief investigator on an Australia Research Council Linkage Grant with the Melbourne City Council Indigenous Arts Program, the Victorian Traditional Owners Land Justice Group, and Reconciliation Victoria to investigate Indigenous Place-making in Melbourne in light of a desire by Indigenous groups for a major, purpose-built centre for Indigenous Culture, Knowledge, and Education in Melbourne. As part of the research, Janet is working on a creative collaboration with Traditional Owners to produce a contemporary possum skin cloak that represents the “place” of each language group in the state of Victoria. Janet maintains a small private practice that specializes in domestic architecture. Her “Warehouse Conversion in Ascot Vale” won the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Award for best alteration and extension in 2006.

Margarita McGrath

Margarita McGrath received a Masters of Architecture from the University of California, Los Angeles, and from Rice University a Bachelor of Architecture and a Bachelor of Arts in Art History. A Fulbright project, *Loos, Musil and Wittgenstein: Three Houses*, took her to Vienna, Austria where she studied at the Universität für angewandte Kunst. She spent an additional three years abroad in Seoul, South Korea where she practiced, travelled extensively through Asia, and began teaching architecture. Margarita is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Architecture + Design at Virginia Tech, where her focus is on championing a cadre of young practitioners equipped to re-position the profession of architecture as a cultural and civic practice devoted to a broad public audience. Margarita has participated on multidisciplinary teams developing curriculum to deploy design in technology-laden environments, including a million dollar grant shared by three universities focused on teaching design in computer science HCI programs. Her shared practice (with Scott Oliver), noroof architects, is committed to prompting individual, civic, and environmental connectiveness aligned to living within smarter, smaller footprints. Beginning with a national AIA Housing Committee citation for their first built work, noroof has received community, national and international recognition, including features in *Sanctuary* (2009), *dwell* (2009), *wallpaper** (2008), the *New York Times* (2006), *The New Modern House* (Bell and Stathaki, 2010), *Tiny* (Zeiger, 2009), *Brooklyn Modern* (Lind, 2008), *Contemporary Design in Detail: Small Environments* (Chan, 2007) and numerous awards including two New York City AIA merit awards for design excellence.

muf architecture

muf architecture/art was established in London in 1995. The practice has an international reputation for its site-specific, research driven projects that address the social, spatial, and economic infrastructures of public space. The work constantly negotiates the lived and the built and who might be defined as client. Practice is funded through commissioned projects, the work is made by questioning and extending briefs. Projects range from large-scale urban design strategies, landscapes and buildings, and temporary interventions.

Their work is predominantly in East London but not exclusively so; recent work includes the British Pavilion for the 2010 Venice Biennale, Barking Town Square, winner of the 2008 European Prize for Urban Space, and a number of projects in the fringes of the Olympic site. Liza and Katherine are visiting professors at Yale University. www.muf.co.uk

Julieanna Preston

Julieanna Preston's practice as an academic and designer is grounded in her education at Virginia Tech (Bachelor of Architecture, 1983) and Cranbrook Academy of Art (Master of Architecture, 1990). She is a sole practitioner of Building Arts Practice in Wellington, New Zealand and an Associate Professor at The College of Creative Arts, Massey University, Wellington. Julieanna's teaching and creative work exemplify her commitment to design research through making across several scales and medium including full-scale constructions and installations coupled by collaborative and interdisciplinary inquiry. Recent publications include *INTIMUS: Interior Design Theory Reader* (2006), "Soft Stuff" in *The Sensuous Intellect* (McLeod, Pringle and Kaltenbach, eds., 2006) and "Ro:om, Spatial and Material Transmissions" in *IDEA Journal* (Attiwill and Lee, eds, 2005). Julieanna is currently in the final stages of a creative practice doctoral project entitled "inertia: interior, surface, matter" at RMIT which has produced several performative installations, sculptures, visual essays and critical reflection on construction, interior environments and ethic feminist material practices..

Jane Rendell

Jane Rendell BA (Hons), Dip Arch, MSc, PhD is Professor of Architecture and Art and Vice Dean of Research at the Bartlett, UCL. An architectural designer and historian, art critic and writer, she is author of *Site-Writing* (2010), *Art and Architecture* (2006), *The Pursuit of Pleasure* (2002) and co-editor of *Critical Architecture* (2007) *Spatial Imagination* (2005), *The Unknown City* (2001), *Intersections* (2000), *Gender Space Architecture* (1999) and *Strangely Familiar* (1995). She is on the Editorial Board for ARQ (Architectural Research Quarterly) and the *Journal of Visual Culture* in Britain, a member of the AHRC Peer Review College and chair of the RIBA President's Awards for Research. In 2006 she was a research fellow at CRASSH (Centre for Research in Arts,

Social Sciences and Humanities) at the University of Cambridge and received an honorary degree from the University College of the Creative Arts. As a writer, researcher and educator of artists, architects and historians, through individual and collaborative research projects, her work over the past ten years has explored various interdisciplinary intersections: feminist theory and architectural history, fine art and architectural design, autobiographical writing and criticism.

Kim Steele

Kim Steele received a Master of Architecture, a Master of Landscape Architecture and a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the University of Colorado as well as a Master of Arts in Art History from the University of North Carolina. She is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Arizona State University. Working from the belief that design and design research must breach traditional categories for it to be relevant today, Kim seeks to transform narrow disciplinary boundaries in her own work as well as in her role as an educator. She has worked on a variety of design/research projects ranging from public art installations to master planning and site design for an eco-resort in the Bahamas to participating in the development of the Center for Sustainable Rural Living in Shorter, Alabama. Her current research and creative work investigates market- and state-driven practices of silencing marginalized populations, of disinvesting in the creation of meaningful public space, and the methodical eradication of small farms and diversified food sources. Her work on agricultural landscapes, "Home Grown," grew out of an interest in analysing the many excessive landscape practices extant today.

Despina Stratigakos

Professor Stratigakos received her PhD from Bryn Mawr College and taught at Harvard University and the University of Michigan before joining the SUNY Buffalo. She is an architectural historian with an overarching interest in gender and modernity in European cities. Her book, *A Women's Berlin* (2008), explores the conception of a city built by and for women, a place that was imagined and partially realized in the years before the First World War. She has also published on the public image of women architects, the gender politics of the Werkbund, connections between architectural and sexual discourses in Weimar Germany, and exiled Jewish women architects in the United States. She recently curated an exhibition on Architect Barbie and is currently writing a book on the work of Gerdy Troost, Hitler's trusted artistic advisor and one of the most powerful architects of the Third Reich.

Meghan Walsh

Meghan holds a Master of Architecture from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Massachusetts. She is a Senior

Architect at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development, Rural Housing Service. She is the Owner and President of MW Architecture, PC, a private architectural practice, and the Founder and President of AxisMundi, Inc. a non-profit design/build educational organization focusing on the use of natural and recycled materials. AxisMundi emphasizes a multi-tiered mentoring process, whereby youth are mentored by college students, who are mentored by recent graduates, who are mentored by mid-career professionals, who are mentored by their elders who have spent 20 years or more in their areas of expertise. She has taught architectural design as an adjunct faculty member at Howard University and Catholic University of America and as a Resident Fellow in the Alice Lloyd Scholars Program at the University of Michigan. Her built work includes many private residential projects for clients who are conscious of using space efficiently and building with environmentally sustainable materials and methods. She balances her private work with a contingent of projects for non-profit organizations, including schools, arts centres, transitional living programs and offices where she maximizes creativity to compensate for tight budgets. In addition to her work in the US, Meghan spends a lot of time working on a creative, urban, design/build effort to improve infrastructure in Bahia, a small community in Salvador, Brazil. She takes students from all over the world each year to contribute and make a small but creatively crafted improvement.

Lois Weinthal

Lois Weinthal is Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor for the Master of Interior Design Program in the School of Architecture at The University of Texas at Austin. Her practice focuses on the relationship between architecture, interiors, clothing and objects, resulting in works that take on an experimental nature. She is editor of the interior design theory reader, *Toward a New Interior: An Anthology of Interior Design Theory* (2011) and co-editor of *After Taste: Expanded Practice in Interior Design* (2011) with Kent Kleinman and Joanna Merwood-Salisbury, both published by Princeton Architectural Press. She was Director of the Interior Design Program at Parsons The New School for Design from 2007-2009. She has received grants from the Graham Foundation, Fulbright, and DAAD for residency in Berlin that led to the exhibit, "Berlin: A Renovation of Postcards" at the Friedrichstrasse train station in Berlin. In 2007, she curated "Architecture Inside/Out" at the Center for Architecture in New York City. Lectures include the Architectural League in New York City and the Museum of the City of New York in addition to national and international lectures. She received her Master of Architecture from Cranbrook Academy of Art and Bachelor of Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design.

Preface

I would like to acknowledge and thank those who have made this project possible. I should first give credit to Iris Marion Young's 1990 book *Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays in Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory* which I was reading at the time the idea came to me to even begin thinking of this project in its exhibition format. Her essays exploring one's body, one's identity, and the spatial relationships that are a part of who one is continues to be influential in my own thinking and creative practice.

Before becoming a book, *Feminist Practices* was a travelling exhibition at many schools of architecture in the United States and Australia. I thank all of these schools for believing in the project and hosting the exhibit at their various institutions.

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