

WHO WE ARE

The International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA), established in 1985, is a collaborative initiative of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries at Virginia Tech. Its board of advisers includes international architects, city planners, industrial and interior designers, librarians, and archivists. Virginia Tech faculty members and librarians serve as the executive committee.

DISTINCTIONS

The IAWA includes diverse materials documenting the creative process by women in architecture, the built environment, and design fields. Many prominent people and organizations are represented.

- Eleanore Pettersen, one of the first female architects in New Jersey, graduate of Cooper Union, and apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright, bequeathed her life's work.
- Sigrid Lorenzen Rupp, principal of SLR/Architects 1976-1997, donated her firm's architectural records.
- The Organization of Women Architects, founded in 1973 in San Francisco, donates its records.
- Ute Weström, German architect whose career began in the 1960s, is noted for original designs, and restoration and renovation of the Martin Gropius Bau building in Berlin.
- Lois Gottlieb's papers include her apprenticeship to Frank Lloyd Wright.
- Beverly Willis' papers document her 30-year career.

AWARDS

The IAWA Board of Advisers established the Milka Bliznakov Prize in 1998 to recognize the founder and Virginia Tech professor emeritus of architecture by rewarding research that advances knowledge of women's contributions. An honorarium supporting research in the IAWA was established in 2005.

International Archive of Women in Architecture

WHAT WE DO

The International Archive of Women in Architecture preserves 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 their organizations. The IAWA collects this information to fill serious gaps of the primary research materials for architectural, women's, and social history research.

Research — The archive contains significant international and American contributions that document individual projects, entire careers, and professional organizations — architectural drawings and sketches, photographs and slides, presentation boards and architectural models, and job files. Blueprints and published works are also included in the archive to support the primary materials. The growing archive is a renowned historical resource of more than 290 collections spanning more than 1,200 cubic feet. The IAWA's biographical database is developing an extensive record of women in architecture while its archive preserves the physical evidence of their contributions to the built environment.

Education — IAWA activities include research, exhibitions, lectures, seminars, and symposia based on its collections. For example, the 10th anniversary celebration of the archive included the symposium, "A Decade of Commitment." The annual IAWA newsletter is available to 2,500 friends of the IAWA and online.

Exhibitions — The IAWA mounts annual exhibitions, some of which can be viewed with other digitized resources in the Virginia Tech ImageBase. <http://imagebase.lib.vt.edu>

Facilities — The secure temperature and humidity controlled environment of the newly renovated Special Collections in Newman Library houses the IAWA. Professional archivists and librarians organize and inventory the collections and prepare guides to help researchers access these resources. Special Collections librarians and staff assist virtual and walk-in researchers.

PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The IAWA focuses primarily on collecting the papers of those women practicing at a time when there were few in the field, usually working in architectural firms and yet not granted professional status or partnerships. The archive also collects the works of women who have flourished in architecture and related fields.



This survey of women architects and designers from about 1850-1970 was published separately in German and English (NA1997.H58 1980z) for the 1986-87 exhibition prepared by the German Federal Republic Section of the International Union of Women Architects and Town Planners.



Members of the Union International des Femmes Architectes

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