Women with T-Squares
Tracing Forgotten Architects and Design Professionals

ACRL: Excited about Research
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Motivation

- Dean of Libraries
- University
- Financial need
- Timing
- Funding sources
- Personal interest

“I cannot, in whole conscience, recommend architecture as a profession for girls... the obstacles are so great that it takes an exceptional girl...”

Pietro Belluschi, 1955
Fellow of the American Institute of Architect
ASPIRES

A Support Program for Innovative Research Strategies

- Enhance quality, reputation, and competitiveness of research and scholarship
- Focused activities
- $20,000 + matching
- Potential return on investment
  - Scholarship
  - New external funding
Grant requirements helped to formulate the research project

- Vision
- Objectives
- Approach
- Expected results
- Budget
- Timeline
- Endorsements
- Future
# Budget

**ASPIRES grant:**
- $20,000
  - Research assistant
  - Programmer
  - Travel, lodging, meals

**Library/DLA match:**
- $6,000
  - 5% salary
  - Laptop
  - Software
Surprises: Reality and Negotiation

- Grant distribution
- Grant flexibility
- Research assistance
- More unknowns?
Research Plan

- Establish mechanisms for oversight and tracking information
- Resources
- Compile Information
- Record Results
- Analyze
- Apply for next grant
Using available technology

- Document, document, document
- Networked computer
  - Password protected
  - Researcher Assistants have access
- Logical organization
- Templates
- From private to public
  - Spreadsheets
  - IAWA Biographical Database
    - Public data entry
    - Validated before public access
Records of Contacts

- Who
- Why
- Researcher
- Date
- Results
  - Notes
  - Names

Women and their Organizations

- Who
- Where
- When
- Professions
- Referrals
- Further research
- Researcher and date
- Notes
- Verification, date into database
IAWA Biographic Database

- Basic information
  - Name, occupation, dates, places, notes, sources
- Apprenticeships
- Awards
- Collaborators
- Education
- Employment

- Exhibitions
- Licensing
- Professional affiliations
- Notable projects
- Publications about
- Publications by
- Specialties
Next Step: write a national grant to

- Solicit collections for the IAWA
- Process and conserve
- Access through EAD finding aids
- Access through bibliographic databases
- Digitize appropriate materials
- Exchange virtual collections, finding aids, images with similar repositories
“… the obstacles are so great that it takes an exceptional girl…”  Belluschi, 1955

“Women are not yet part of the inner circle. Fortunately, special architectural knowledge is not secret, or cannot be hidden today. However, it is still controlled by a select male few. So my struggle and that of other women continues.”

Beverly Willis, 1990
Fellow of the American Institute of Architects