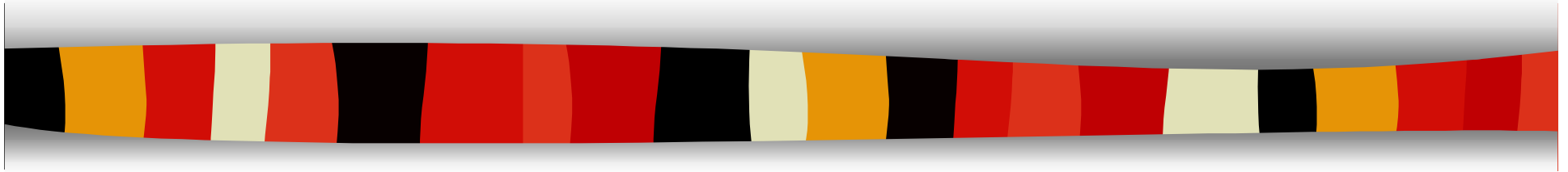


# Women with T-Squares

## Tracing Forgotten Architects and Design Professionals



ACRL: Excited about Research

April 12, 2003

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Digital Library and Archives, University Libraries, Virginia Tech

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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

## International Archive of Women in Architecture

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

*“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