



The Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion, I.I.T.
The Avie and Sarah Arenson Built Heritage Research Center
The event is under the sponsorship of the Polak Foundation and the Azrieli Foundation

**Gender Politics in Israeli Architecture and Landscape Architecture¹:
Figuration of Gendered Subject and Social Positions**
Symposium, Tuesday, 30.7.2019

Call for papers, deadline: 10 June 2019

Keynote Speaker: Beatriz Colomina

Howard Crosby Butler Professor of the History of Architecture, Princeton School of Architecture
Founding Director of the interdisciplinary Media and Modernity Program, Princeton University

Symposium organizers and initiators:

Dr. Yehotal Shapira, Dr. Orit Shmueli and Assistant Prof. Dafna Fisher Gewirtzman

CFP

The symposium will explore the interweaving of architecture, gender and feminism in Israel, focusing on theoretical and professional research praxis and experiences in the current and historical status of women and gender issues in Israeli architecture. We will examine this interweaving through core prisms, to be discussed in four sessions that will address architectural figuration of gendered subject and social positions, as follows:

A. Gendered Architecture as a Mechanism that Designates the Subject

Architecture facilitates gender encounters in private and public spheres through texture, structure and materiality, such as those created by openings and enclosures that segregate the built environment, structure movement and gazes. These encounters are configured and occur through the use of designed features such as bluntness, tangibility and vagueness, which are formed by absence, presence, traces and potentials. In so doing, it renders qualities such as sensuality, temptation and embracing, all of which are either taken for granted, disguised, imagined or repressed. Architecture operates in a cultural framework that either glorifies, oppresses or abjects (Kristeva, 1982) and which provides, withholds or forbids benefits and privileges in an unjust way. It is shaped by intersectionality with physical ability, marital status, religion, race, ethnicity, age, class and other forms of identity (which require 'privilege-checking'). Colomina claims that 'Architecture is not simply a platform that accommodates the viewing subject. It is a viewing mechanism that produces the subject.' (1992:83). In this regard, we will ask whether women want to or can withdraw from viewing mechanisms by determining a subject position on their own, or whether it is possible to escape from the patriarchal order by choosing a place or quality of the relationships that arise through masculine and feminine viewings and other gendered mechanisms. The panel will examine the possibilities to provide an emancipatory architecture by performing a variety of gender subject identities and allocating valuable and suitable living forms grounded in the various narratives and cultures of the Israeli context.

¹ This symposium is a collaboration between the architecture and landscape architecture tracks. Wherever architecture is mentioned, it refers to both architecture and landscape architecture.

B. The Womenization of Israeli Architecture and Landscape Architecture Professions

The session will concentrate on analyzing and indicating the characteristics and significances of the current process of womenization of Israeli architecture. It therefore considers the possibility for women to take an active role in figuring their professional identity and influencing the profession. Despite the current womenization tendency there is, within the architectural canon, a striking inequality created by the featuring of mainly male, white and middle-class architects. Women are largely absent from exhibitions and prizes and from the undertaking of public projects, all of which would enable equal representation in the canon. Quantitative empirical information on gender participation in the professional stages in Israel and its analysis is lacking (for instance, the data gathered by Equity by Design, 2018). In architecture studies at the Technion today, there is a marked trend of change, with women forming the majority of undergraduate students. In addition, there is an increase in the number of Arab-Palestinian students and a growing number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In parallel, the present local tendency indicates a decline in the image of the architecture profession and a general decline in remuneration (along with **wage gaps between women and men in the profession and between different sectors**). This may offer an opportunity to equalize participation in the studies and practice in a way that may enhance Israeli architecture and improve the discipline's ability to respond to the needs of various sectors and communities in Israel.

C. Architecture and Landscape Architecture Activism in the Professions

The session will address different modes of gender activism in the profession, such as negotiation and reconciliation, as opposed to dissent and resistance. It will address the place of emancipatory individual activist action alongside collaborative and/or institutional activism. It will examine whether feminine values, such as sensitivity, compassion and care can create alternative, minor (Deleuze and Guattari, 1983) architectural design, which will be a visible part of history. It will ask whether the contribution of women can be uniquely defined as feminine and whether there should be action to create gender-based innovative paradigms of design, or if these attempts actually maintain women's marginality. In addition, it will examine the unique ways in which the historiography of feminist trajectories may subvert the common categorization of architectural theory and practice. It will also consider the connections between the traditional configuration of women in society and the ways women, nevertheless, engage their position. In this regard, the session will consider new methods of activism that can be developed and which also enable a response to contemporary gender concerns.

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions that further these prisms and pose related questions, themes and innovative methodological approaches through papers that are grounded in practice and theory, as well as interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to broad cultural aspects relating to the interweaving of gender, feminism and architecture and the built environment in Israel. The language of the symposium will be English, therefore abstracts and papers must be written in English. Please indicate in which panel you would like your paper to be considered (ABC) and send your abstract (no more than 300 words) for a 15-minute presentation to Yehotal Shapira (yehotal3@gmail.com) or Orit Shmueli (oshmueli@technion.ac.il) by June 7, 2019.

TIMELINE

The process of selection of papers published in the proceedings will take place in several stages:

Abstract submission (300 words)-10.6.2019

Academic committee meeting-10.6.2019

Comments and communication of abstract acceptance - 17.6.2019

Resubmission of revised abstracts-30.6.2019

Conference program- draft-31.6.2019

Final conference program- 5.7.2019

Conference date - 30.7.2019

Proceedings full papers submission - 1.9.2019

Comments and communication of abstract acceptance - 1.10.2019

Notification of selected articles for publication - 15.10.2019

Resubmission of revised articles - 1.11.2019

The articles will be edited and adapted to the publication of the Proceedings through the common form under the supervision of the editors. The conference writers will be asked to adapt the articles for publication of the proceedings in accordance with the common form to be determined by the editors. The chief editors of the Proceedings have contacted the editors of leading journals in the field who are interested in the group of articles as being of special value to their journal. They will also be editors of any other academic publication of the symposium: Dr. Yehotal Shapira and Dr. Orit Shmueli and Assistant Prof. Dafna Fisher Gewirtzman.

Academic Committee

Chair of the Committee: Assistant Prof. Dafna Fisher Gewirtzman

Members of the Committee:

Prof. Iris Aravot

Associate Prof. Tal Alon-Mozes

Associate Prof. Alona Nitzan-Shiftan

Dr. Orit Shmueli

Dr. Dikla Yizhar

Dr. Yehotal Shapira

Arch. Idit Shachnai Ran

Arch. Ruth Liberty-Shalev

Organizing Committee

Chair of the Committee: Dr. Yehotal Shapira

Members of the Committee:

Assistant Prof. Dafna Fisher Gewirtzman

Associate Prof. Tal Alon-Mozes

Dr. Orit Shmueli

Dr. Dikla Yizhar

Arch. Idit Shachnai Ran