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PERIODICAL

# Women and Environments

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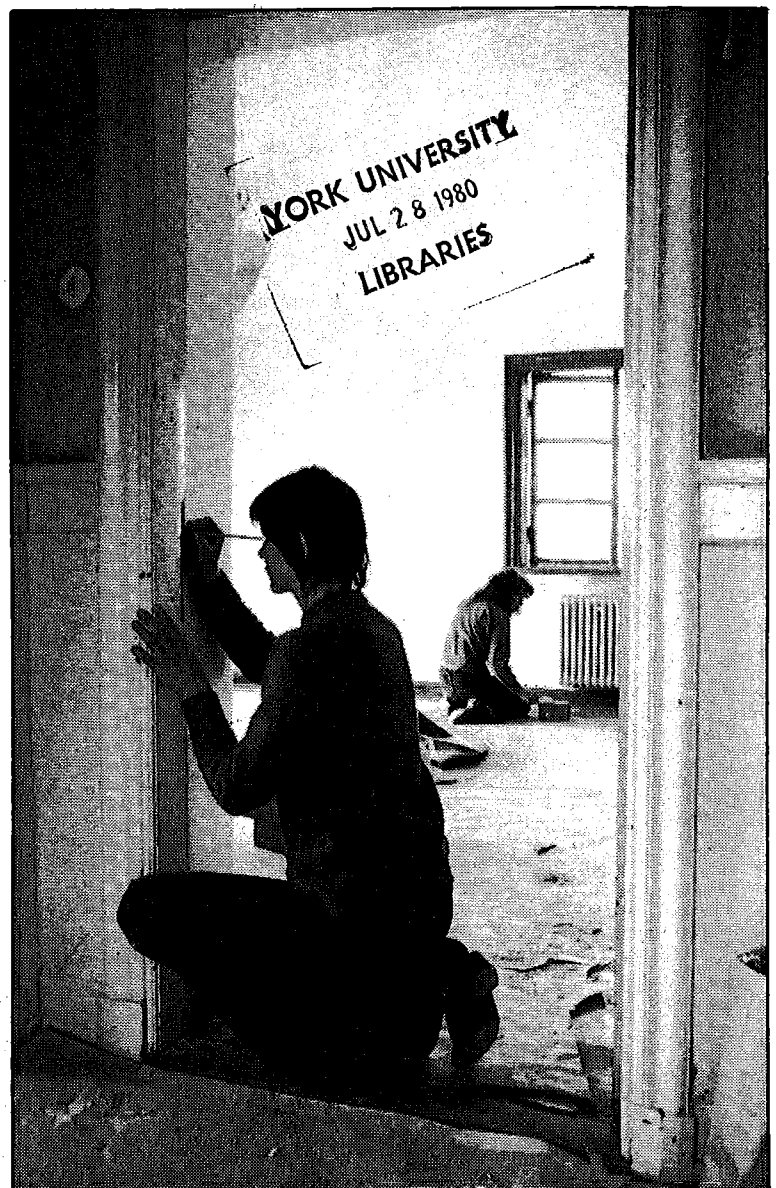
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Gun Andersson

# A Word From Us

Within the past year there has been an unprecedented boom in Women and Environments activities. Almost a dozen conferences have been held in the United States, Canada, France, West Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand to discuss the problems of women in architecture, in the planning of cities, in resource communities, and in relation to energy and environmental regulation.

There has been an increase in the number of courses being offered in universities on women and environments and it is no longer unusual for students to prepare papers and theses on these topics.

The newest and most promising development has been the emergence of several innovative demonstration projects such as the Women's Development Corporation in Rhode Island and women's self-help housing groups which seek to demonstrate concretely how women's needs might be better met in built form.

The increasing legitimacy of women's environmental needs in policy making and planning is reflected in the high profile that these issues have been given by the Office of Policy Development and Research within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: \$1 million has been allocated to a project on women's access to mortgage credit; a competition has been held to elicit profiles of innovative women's planning projects; a special issue of a well-known women's journal has been funded.

Another step forward has been the emergence of advocacy groups on women and planning within professional organizations such as the American Planning Association and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (Canada). The development of such national networks with a strong organizational basis are essential if women are to have some impact on national policy relating to energy, transportation, and cities.

As one of the first publications which focussed directly on all these issues, the essential role of *Women and Environments* continues to be one of networking and making linkages among the diverse groups and constituencies that have begun to define women's environmental issues as their own. With the great burgeoning of interest and activity that we've seen in the past year, there is a danger of fragmentation into disciplinary and professional groups that have few linkages with one another; into local, regional, and national groups working at different levels of the system; and into different interest groups—some focussing on specific types of environments, others working at a more macro-scale. Yet women's environmental needs cross disciplinary and geographical boundaries.

At this stage, it is essential that we build on one another's work. We need to know of successful alternatives to the way cities are currently organized—alternatives which support women's changing roles. We need to know of political strategies and legislation to end discrimination against women in specific environments. We need to develop new theories which integrate a feminist analysis with theories of the city, planning, and environment.

The goal of *Women and Environments* is to provide information about people, projects, and resources throughout the world to assist in the maintenance of those linkages which are so essential to the development of an international women and environments network.

This is a double issue. We are still plagued by financial problems as we are not associated with any dues paying organization and are, therefore, wholly dependent on subscriptions to produce *Women and Environments*. We urge you to renew your subscriptions, tell your friends about us, and ask your library or organization to subscribe. We are interested in exchange ads with other publication and accept paid ads.

Due to the increase in activities in this area, we hope to expand the size of the publication. The quality has also improved with each issue.

We welcome your announcements, reports on conferences, reviews of books, copies of recent publications, or short articles

## Women and Environments

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# Letters

## student asks...

I am a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara and am currently doing research for my senior thesis on Women and Planning. I am specifically interested in transportation; women's special needs in the built environment; child care centers; funding for women's special needs. I have narrowed my topic to include only the United States and Canada and have dealt with non-minority women who are of child-bearing age.

Cindy Pappas  
6608 Sueno 1  
Isla Vista, Ca 93017

## Suburbia and women

I am putting together my new article on women and suburbs. A Ph.D student in Sociology at Brooklyn College is doing a dissertation on women and neighbourhood organizations. Her address is Terry Haywood, Apartment 17B, 309 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11238.

Sylvia F. Fava  
Professor of Sociology and  
Director, Interdepartmental  
Program in Urban Studies  
Brooklyn College  
Bedford Avenue and Avenue H.  
Brooklyn N.Y. 11210

## Feminists for the Environment

I am one of several New Zealand women who have formed a group called "Feminists for the Environment". We heard that you were editing the *Women and Environments International Newsletter* and would appreciate being put on your mailing list.

Our group is recently formed and we are involved in various areas including the 245T protest; food additives and labelling. Our main field of interest however, is "Women in the Urban Environment" and we hope to bring a new perspective to problems such as public transport systems and mass housing. We hope to gain support for our ideas by political involvement particularly at the local level.

Mandy Reynolds  
c/o Jan Crawford  
29 Princes St.  
Auckland, New Zealand



## Urban form and women's employment

I am presently engaged in Ph.D research on employment opportunities for women as an outcome of urban form and our socio-economic situation and consequently would be interested in other work in this area.

Mercia Ferrier  
Griffith University  
Nathan, Brisbane  
Queensland 4111  
Australia

## Women and Environments—England

At the Summer School of the Women's Research and Resources Centre in September (1979) that I co-organized, we had a section on "women and the environment" in the hope of stimulating interest and work in this neglected area. The section had three convenors:

- 1) Renate Prince (architect)  
83 Fitzjohns Avenue  
London NW3
- 2) Gail Chester (active in environmental protest organisations)  
24 Myddelton Square  
London EC1
- 3) Elizabeth Lebas (sociologist)  
6 Granville Road  
London N4

Elizabeth Lebas (and others) are giving a talk to the urban sociology group of the British Sociological Association on Women and the Community in March.

I have teaching and research interests in Women and the Family (particularly violence towards women) and community work theory and method. I am active in Women's Aid and this takes one close to a concern with housing design and urban planning, but the connection has never been made explicitly enough.

Jalna Hanmer  
Postgraduate and Undergraduate  
Schools of Applied Social Science  
University of Bradford  
Bradford West Yorkshire  
BD7 LDP  
The Women's Research and  
Resources Centre  
190 Upper Street  
London N1

## Rural economic development

We are interested in encouraging rural economic development in northern Ontario involving women, and using low capital and low energy consumption technology. Any bibliographies, literature, audio-visual materials, or any other information would be appreciated.

Sara Williamson  
Project Officer  
Employment Development Branch,  
Employment and Immigration  
Canada  
General Delivery,  
451 Queen St. E.  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Ontario P6A 5L1

# Notes from all over

## Women and Mortgage Credit

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research has allocated almost a million dollars to the Women and Mortgage Credit Project aimed at increasing the participation of women in the mortgage and home ownership market.

The HUD project focuses on grass roots education of women about basic credit and housing finance. Emphasis is on workshops in 16 cities including Providence, Houston, Baltimore, Miami, Detroit, Los Angeles and others, the development of a series of educational packages on major housing issues of concern to women by the National Council of Negro Women, and a study of sex and race discrimination in the mortgage market by Harvard University. For more information contact Gloria Harris, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. 20410 (202) 755-5284.

Information packages prepared by the National Council for Negro Women:

- Housing, Sex Discrimination and You: A Guide for Female Home Purchasers.
- Housing, Sex Discrimination and You: A Guide for Female Renters.
- Housing Options for the Older Woman
- Organizing Local Coalitions of Women to Work on Housing Issues
- "Neutral" Laws Impacting on Women

Copies of these free publications may be obtained by writing Katherine O'Leary, Office of Product Dissemination and Transfer, room 8124, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. 20410.

Excerpted from *Spokeswoman*, Vol. 9, April 1979.

## National Congress of Neighbourhood Women (NCNW)

Research and program development geared towards meeting the needs of ethnic and minority working class and low to moderate income women, their families, and their neighbourhoods.



•Education Program: community based Associate-of-Arts (AA) degree in neighbourhood studies, in association with LaGuardia Community College of the City University of New York.

•Battered Women's Shelter: offers temporary residence for women and their families along with counselling services and workshops to aid women in expanding their lives.

•Project Open Doors: 38 service projects which give technical assistance to women in the areas of mental health, health care, education, ex-offenders' legal rights, housing.

•NCNW Resource Centre: provides information on issues relevant to low to moderate income women and serves as a network for this population.

•National Outreach: NCNW publishes *Neighbourhood Women*, a nationally circulated newspaper about the issues and news affecting neighbourhood women.

•Local Outreach: sponsors conferences, forums, local fundraising activities, workshops, summer recreation programs.

From Christine Noschese, NCNW, 11-29 Catherine St., Brooklyn, New York, USA 11211. (212) 388-6762.

## Concern Over Rape in the Suburbs is Growing

In reaction to F.B.I. statistics which showed suburban rape as having risen significantly, police departments in several suburban counties in New York State have initiated programs which include newspaper ads in an attempt to increase public awareness.

Citing the physical design of the suburbs as a contributory cause, victims are often hitchhiking teenagers, and bundle-laden shoppers in open parking lots of suburban shopping centers. Residents are reluctant to acknowledge the increase in suburban rape because many are former city dwellers who see the suburbs as a refuge from the city.

New York Times, 4/2/79, p.35

## Panel on American Women in the Cities

The Spring issue of the journal *Signs* has generated so much interest that the Community Section of the American Sociological Association is organizing a roundtable on Saturday August 30, 1980 at the New York Hilton. Participants include William Michelson, Helena Lopata, Galen Cranz, Jo Freeman, Lois Steinberg, Susan Saegert, Jacqueline Leavitt, Beth Hess, Marilyn Gittell, Stephanie Riger, and Margaret Gordon. Either Catharine Stimpson or Elsa Dixler of *Signs* will be present to discuss the origins of the issue. The Roundtable will focus on developing a research agenda.

From Sandra Schoenberg, Convenor of the Roundtable, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 63130

## Recent Election

Margarita McCoy, Chairperson, Urban Planning Department, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Ca. was recently elected one of the directors of the American Planning Association for a three year term.

## Slide Show on Women and Land Use

Baker, Community Development Director of Marin County, Marin County Planning Department, Civic Center, San Rafael, Ca., and Carol Sanford of Palo Alto developed a slide show on women and land use which has been shown around the country.

From Kate Warner.

## Life for a Woman

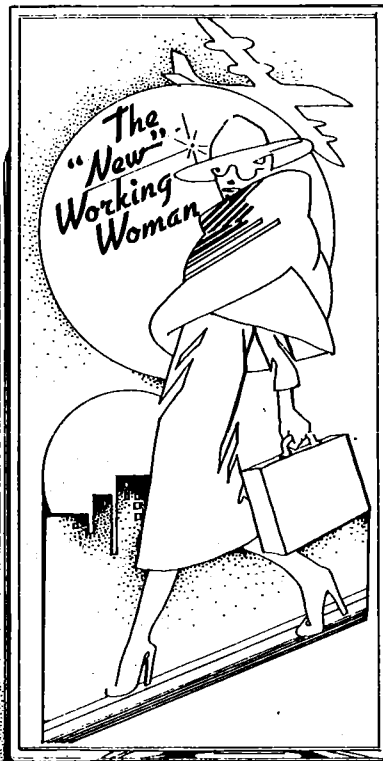
16mm., colour, screening time, 26 minutes, 99 seconds. Distributed by the National Film Board of Canada and available through all National Film Board Outlets. Produced and directed by Bonnie Kreps, 1980. This film is a portrait of the kind of life most women live in the estimated 800 single industry towns built in Canada alone. The scenario is bleak: in these towns family life is quite rigidly segregated—the father earns the money, the mother takes care of the home. Services cater almost exclusively to workers. Discriminatory hiring practices force most women to stay at home, as does the lack of daycare. Housing and services are tied to the man's job: in cases of divorce or separation, the woman and children are out on the street with no available housing after three weeks notice.

There are no medical or counselling specialists for women; usually no public transportation; the elementary schools are often in hazardous locations for small children to reach; and there are few, if any places where women can meet each other. The beer parlour is often the only place to meet people, but women are discouraged from being there unescorted. Recreation facilities are usually only available at times inconvenient to women with small children. Because of the lack of child-minding services, most women find it difficult to take advantage of any activities going on in town. Some women get so withdrawn that they are seldom seen outside their apartments or homes.

Kreps' film shows the human costs of planned communities which are oriented to the needs of male workers and ignore the needs of their families. Through interviews with women in Mackenzie and Fraser Lake, British Columbia she shows us a society which treats women as if the feminist movement had never occurred.

Kreps' film is powerful in its understatement. She lets the women speak for themselves—to point out the poorly designed housing which is designed for a southern climate with large windows and long driveways; the lack of sidewalks; the lack of spaces for women to meet. Kreps makes the connection between the problem of single industry resource towns and the lack of women's input to economic development in Third World countries.

Together women are getting some results: organizing a weekly drop-in so that women may meet each other; founding a daycare center for their children, and a women's center for counselling and job placement; electing a woman to the town's city council on a platform based on women's needs.



## Directory of Women and Planning in the Southeastern United States

A group of faculty and students in the Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 have formed "Women in Planning". Their first project is to compile a directory of resources related to women and planning in the southeastern United States (Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina). The directory will include brief descriptions of the projects in which individuals and groups are involved and it is hoped that this regional directory will serve as a model for the American Planning Association Planning for Women Division is compiling a nationwide directory. Topics include: (1) professional organizations for women planners, architects, urban designers, city managers, and related professions; (2) research on women's employment opportunities as professional planners; (3) research on women as they are affected by planning decisions in areas such as zoning, housing, transportation; (4) projects and organizations involved in policy and planning by and for women; (5) organizations gathering data relevant to women and planning.

Contact: Margaret Hilton, Department of City and Regional Planning, New East Building, 033A, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

## A.P.A. Reports Salary Gains for Women Planners

In the 1979 edition of Salaries and Tenure of Professional Planners (PAS Report No. 345), 5000 professional planners in Canada and the United States were surveyed. Women's salaries made the largest gain: 16% in 1979 compared with 10% in 1977. The findings also showed that Canadian planners on average earn more than their U.S. counterparts (\$28,000 to \$19,000), and that tenure for planners of non-profit organizations was usually less than two years even though the average pay is higher than with most government agencies.

A.P.A. News, Vol. 15, No. 1, January 1980.

## Women's Impact Statements?

"Why not require a 'women's impact statement' at policy-making level, and with applications for approval of development plans? Planners would then be forced to investigate real needs and how they would best be served. The political scene has shown itself to be nonetheless susceptible if only women use their voting strength, resort

to advocacy planning, and form pressure groups..."

From Mercia Ferrier.

MARION, Royal Australian  
Planning Institute Journal,  
Nov. '78, p. 23.

## Low Income Women's Resource Center Washington, D.C.

The National Council of Neighbourhood Women has received a contract from the Community Services Administration, Washington for a women's resources center to deal with women's needs for housing and community services in the Washington, D.C. area. A final report will be available in June/80.

## Student Theses on Women in the Urban Environment

I am currently a graduate student in the Department of Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles. I am doing research for my Master's thesis on women's relationships to the urban environment.

Melanie Archer  
5300 Sepulveda Blv. 8  
Van Nuys, Ca. 91411

Janice Stebbins, a graduate student in the programme here, wants to examine in her dissertation how well typical city and suburban environments accommodate the needs of mothers in dual career families, using Bill Michelson's congruence model. She is determined to do sound empirical research.

Willem van Vliet  
Man Environment Relations  
S-126 Henderson Building  
Pennsylvania State University  
College of Human Development  
University Park  
Pennsylvania 16802

Regula Modlich has just completed her Master's in Environmental Studies at York University and produced a detailed program for the development of a Non-Sexist Community Design for a population of 3000.

Regula Modlich  
72 Southwood Drive  
Toronto, Ontario

## Column on Planning and Women

I have enclosed photocopies of the articles that I have published in the Royal Australian Planning Institute Journal—the first was

requested by the Honourary Editor and after that I was asked to write a regular column on planning and women. Quite a breakthrough in a very male dominated profession. Having a female Honourary Editor, Claire Wagner, probably helped!

Recently the R.A.P.I. Federal Council was asked to provide a speaker at the Australian Local Government Women's Association National Conference in Adelaide—May 1980, on the topic "Where are the Women Planners?" Very perceptive of this group to realize that women were singularly missing from this profession in Australia! The R.A.P.I. have asked me to speak on their behalf.

From Mercia Ferrier, Griffith University,  
Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland, 4111,  
Australia.

## Transportation studies in progress

One is the Guadaloupe Corridor Study. (The other is the San Jose Transit Mall Project which will be an integral part of the corridor study.)

Santa Clara County Supervisor Susanne Wilson will be on the Mall Board of Control, and she also serves on the Santa Clara County Transit District. She is avidly reading all the papers you sent... (and) I know she'll wish to incorporate some of the material in the Mall Study.

From Norma K. Menacci, Intergovernmental Officer, Office of the County Executive, County Government Centre, East Wing, 70 West Hedding St., San Jose, California. U.S.A. 95110 (408) 299-2424

## Co-op Housing for women

Representatives of several Toronto women's hostels held their first meeting in April to found a housing cooperative for a wide range of women, including women leaving transition houses and those on low or moderate incomes. They would like to hear from other women with experience in creating women's housing environments. Contact Alderperson Janet Howard, Alderpeople's Offices, Toronto City Hall, Toronto M5H 2N2 (416) 367-7916.

# Status of Women News

... published by the National Action Committee  
on the Status of Women.

featuring ...

- bilingual articles about controversial women's issues
- book and film reviews
- activities of Canadian women's groups

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# Events

## Women's School of Planning and Architecture

The Women's School of Planning and Architecture (WSPA) has chosen Hood College in Frederick, Maryland for their fifth session July 29-30, 1980. WSPA is an alternative learning experience for women in all environmental fields—architecture, construction, environmental psychology, housing, interior design, landscape architecture, neighborhood development, planning, etc. It is the only school of planning and architecture to be entirely conceived, founded, financed and run by and for women.

Some topics to be covered at the 1980 session include: Communities; Housing and Women; Appropriate Technology; Economic Development; Access to Money; The Workplace; Feminist Curriculum; Mobility for Women.

Women of all ages and interests in environmental issues are urged to attend. No academic credentials are required. Childcare is provided. Cost for room, board and tuition is \$275.00 (double occupancy) and \$150.00 for children. Registration deadline is June 1, 1980. For information, send a self addressed stamped envelope to WPSA, 2105 Erdman Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

## First Canadian Conference on Women and Environments

In the past year, Canada's National Action Committee on the Status of Women, an umbrella organization of 170 women's organizations, has sponsored several conferences on Feminist Visions of the Future. The first of these, November 9, 1979 focussed on Women and the Environment. It attracted more than 150 feminists representing women's groups, unions, voluntary organizations, government officials, and interested members of the community.

Berit As, a social psychologist and Norwegian MP gave the keynote speech. In Sweden, she said over 70 per cent of the female population is opposed to the use of nuclear energy, only 30 per cent of the men object. The government's misdirected response is to commission a large survey to discover why women have such irrational anxieties about nuclear power. Ursula Franklin, author of the Science Council of Canada's report on the Conserver Society said, "Nuclear energy is the prime example of the ultimate structural madness, the fascist technology of our society". A recurrent theme was that the wasteful consumer society is inextricably linked with women's oppression. Women are forced to conserve in the home rather than making appliances more energy conserving or forcing industries to conserve more.

Reassessing energy needs means re-examining the way our cities are built. Gerda Wekerle talked about urban planning as a feminist concern. "Transportation and zoning bylaws aren't very exciting, and they're not usually thought of as women's issues, but they generate serious problems for women" she said. Women are the heaviest users of public transportation, yet

it is not designed for part-time workers, for mothers taking children to daycare, for shopping trips. Zoning keeps stores, day care centres, group homes out of residential neighborhoods and makes care ownership and energy waste almost mandatory.

This conference served to bring together, almost for the first time, women concerned with energy and environmental issues and women who have been working in the feminist community. One outcome was the formation of a policy committee on housing and planning within the National Action Committee on the Status of Women with a mandate to review federal policies and lobby government officials. Chairperson of the committee is Gerda Wekerle and she would like to hear from Canadian women with interests and concerns in this area. (G.W.)

## Women, Work, and Urban Space

October 23-25, 1979 Fondation Internationale des Sciences Humaines, "La Femme, Le Travail et L'espace Urbain"—an international symposium held at the Maison des Polytechniciens, Paris, France.

The conference focused on the urgent problem of the reorganization of urban centers as a consequence of women's entry into the labour force in increasing numbers. Topics included the division of home and workplace, the large amounts of time spent in commuting, and the inadequacy of services for women in their family and professional roles.

Papers:

Farge, Arlette, Historienne, Attachée de recherche au CNRS, Paris "Spécificités Feminines des pratiques de l'espace: la femme et la ville au XVIII siècle".

Perrot, Michelle, Professeur d'Histoire à l'Université de Paris-VII. "Femmes et Espace Parisien au XIX siècle".

Hareven, Tamara, Professor of History, Clark University, "Historical changes in the family and in women's economic and work roles: changes in the timing of the life cycle and their impact on women's work".

Tilly, Louise and Leslie Page-Moch, Professor of History, University of Michigan and Research Associate, Department of Sociology, University of Champaign-Illinois. "Immigrant Women in the City: Comparative Perspectives".

Levy-Garboua, Louis and Bertran Lemennicier, Professeur d'Economie à l'Université de Paris-Nord, Chargé de recherche au CREDOC, Paris "L'offre du travail féminin et le dilemme autarcie-marché".

Rein, Martin, Profesor at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, M.I.T., "Labour Force: Participation of Wives and Mothers".

Oppenheimer, Valerie, Professor of Sociology

U.C.L.A., "Life-cycle Squeezes and Adaptive Family Strategies".

Fogarty, Michael, Deputy Director, Policy Studies Institute, London, "Women's Work and Community Organization: The Experience of South-west Oxfordshire".

Levy, Martine, Secrétaire Général du Comité du Travail Féminin, Ministère du Travail, Paris, "Travail Féminin: l'organisation communautaire est elle support ou obstacle?".

Cronberg, Tarja, Head of Department, Danish Building Research Institute, Horsholm, "The City, the Neighbourhood and the Dwelling—Consequences for Women and Work".

Gerard, Anne-Lise, Architecte, Professeur à l'Ecole d'Architecture de Strasbourg, "La femme et l'enfant comme indicateurs de configuration des lieux dans l'organisation des quartiers résidentiels en France de 1919 à 1973".

This symposium is the first phase of an international research project. Prof. Henry Cavanna, the director of the foundation writes: "It is our intention, if we do manage to get enough funding, to go ahead with this project after the first conference is over. We will then try to tackle in a more specific and detailed way some of the problems evoked in the programme in order to produced some policy oriented papers."

For information contact:

Prof. Henry Cavanna,

Le Directeur

Fondation Internationale des Sciences Humaines

13, Quai Saint-Michel

75005, Paris

## Planning for Women's Needs

The School of Architecture and Urban Planning, UCLA, January 26, 1980. Among the topics covered at the conference: "What would a non-sexist city be like?" Dolores Hayden, UCLA. "Issues in transportation for women" Martin Wachs, UCLA. "Battered Women—planning alternatives" Kate Yavenditti, staff attorney, Battered Women's Legal Counselling Clinic, Los Angeles. "Local politics for and by women" Ruth Yannatta Goldway, mayor pro tem of Santa Monica. Papers are available from the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA. 90024.

## National Conference of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA)\*

May 30-June 1, 1980, Adelaide, Australia, Eighth Biennial Conference. Theme: Working for the Community We Want. Speakers include Mercia Ferrier (RAPI) "Where are the Women Planners?" \*ALGWA was formed in Canberra about 30 years ago for the purpose of encouraging women to participate in local government.



## Women and Planning: The French Example

By Cynthia Ghorra-Gobin

"For women, the home represents the economic space of exploitation, whereas for men and children it is a place of leisure."

Today, women count for about 40% of the labour force in France and thus hold a plurality of functions as workers, mothers, and wives, whereas men have assigned themselves only one function. The purpose of this paper is to review the awareness of the French people of the disadvantages that our present urban system presents for women and the terms and possibilities for change.

It is important to emphasize that in France, contrary to other cultures, change is likely to happen in every day life if it has been previously defined theoretically. The theory of women's problems is very well developed in France. "Plan Construction"—an interministerial organization in charge of the research program in planning, organized a national colloquium "Les femmes et l'habitat" on April 29, 1979, which brought together different groups of professionals and researchers. The titles of the papers presented at this meeting, such as "Evolution of Domestic Work, Salaries and Conditions of Housing" and "The Feminine Role and Housing" indicate that the discussions focused mainly on the evolution of women's roles in society and the impact on the design of the city. An historical analysis of the transformation of the family, the dichotomy between work space and family space, the

relationship to changes in the modes of production, showed the plurality of duties which fall on women today, with only slight differences between social classes. For women, the home represents the economic space of exploitation, whereas for men and children it is a place of leisure.

Mrs. Monique Pelletier, Minister of Women's Condition since September 1978, outlined the necessity for women to be more directly involved in the planning process concerning their environment. While the percentage of women architects in France is only 8%, increasing the number of female professionals is an important step in planning for a non-sexist society.

The French analysis of women's situation dwells more on women's economic exploitation by their employers and husbands than on environmental issues. The line of argument of most feminist movements like M.L.F. (Mouvement de Liberation de la Femme) is that there is no point in continuing the trend of getting organized without being paid for the work done. They see the main problems for women as lack of power and their social identity. It is not by helping women in their roles as mothers and wives that you can change the society and an analysis of the city also does not seem to be the answer.

Some actions have taken place in certain suburbs and new towns where some associations and social workers have put together their forces and lobbied for facilities like day care centers. Yet nothing has been done to achieve more convenient hours for shopping even though food stores in France close by 7 p.m.

Involvement by women in urban politics as mayors or municipal advisers represents the best strategy for an effective change



wards planning a non-sexist environment. But it is not easy. One example is the project undertaken by the Mayor of Dreux. She is planning a neighborhood of individual houses and women are actively involved in the design of the different facilities as well as the transportation system. But this experience, which is worth being followed, is in fact very limited in our practice of planning.

Cynthia Ghorra-Gobin  
2, Rue des Pretes Saint-Severin  
75005, Paris, France

## Nordic Women's Building and Planning Forum

"An emphasis was the need for smaller, comprehensive units which are self-supporting and a common shared responsibility for the planned use of nature, energy, technology, work, dwellings and their surroundings.

Women from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden met at Kungälv near Gothenburg Sweden, May 4-6, 1979 for a conference on Building and Dwelling on Women's Terms. Participants focussed on women's dreams and goals and how to achieve them.

Goals included a concern for the needs of children and people's relation to nature, others, production and human care services. An emphasis was the need for smaller, comprehensive units which are self-supporting and a common shared responsibility for the planned use of nature, energy, technology, work, dwellings and their surroundings. Women at the conference felt that dwelling places and work should emphasize closeness between the dwelling, work and recreation; between human care services and production; between different age groups. They wanted transportation which is organized collectively and designed with concern for the safety of the weakest groups. Another goal was that women should constitute half of the decision-making body on all levels and take an active part in the planning, building and administering of the built environment.

A recurring theme in the discussions was the need for a "middle level" between the private and the public spheres, between 'society' in general and the diminishing family, that this middle level should be connected with the dwelling, be based on doing work together and on self-determination for neighboring groups of people. There was a "desire to break down the division of labor, both in production and reproduction" and the need for shorter work hours. "It seemed to be an obvious assumption that part of the time we regain through the shortening of hours spent in paid work outside the home should be devoted to our community work in the neighborhood and to participation in the decision-making processes on different levels of society. Neither did anyone talk about the need of a higher private standard, or better equipment in the private home. This is in itself rather surprising, since 'housing policy' and society's support to building and dwelling are still directed toward encouraging the rise in the material standard for each individual household."

### Plan of Action

**Women as dwellers:** "start neighbourhood community groups to exchange experiences and work out alternatives; experiment concretely with food collectives and other collective forms of dwelling together; work in neighbourhoods to gain greater influence over the decision making processes concerning dwelling environment and housing policy."

**Women as architects and planners:** "start from your own and other women's experience and place your knowledge at the disposal of user-groups; support and be loyal to other women in your workplace; cooperate with other women within your own field of work and in mixed fields of work in planning; work toward all planning, investigations and research showing the consequences for women."

**Women as politicians:** "support women's issues; support and

procure resources for experiments with new forms of dwelling and living together; work for increased resources for research about women; demand that all planning, investigations and research show the consequences for women.

A new conference will be held in 1981. Contact:

Kerstin Kärnekull, SAR, Odengatan 3, S-114 24, Stockholm, Sweden.

Sigrun Kaul, NIBR, Postboks 15, Grefsen, N-Oslo, 4, Norway

Anne Fogh, Nedre Strandvej 58, DK-3000 Helsingør, Denmark.

Kirsti Vepsä, Asuntohallitus, Malminkatu 34, SF-00101 Helsinki, Finland.

Kristin Gudmundsdottir, Statens Boligstyrelse, Laugavegi 77, IS-101 Reykjavick, Iceland.

Translated by Elly Berg, Barrstigen 11, 161 35 Bromma, Sweden.

Excerpt Gerda Wekerle.

## Women and Planning—Australia

"Few would dispute that town planning involves the regulation of land use and the distribution of scarce resources amongst competing groups in our society, having a differential effect on these groups—benefitting some and depriving others; but recognition of women as one such deprived group is not so readily accepted." (p. 6)

As both a student of planning, and a consumer of planning, Mercia Ferrier has examined in great detail the major problems facing women in urban centres, as a result of the way planning is carried out in those centres.

While her research is primarily based on the Australian experience, the goals and objectives which are outlined can certainly be applied to many, if not most, cities in the western culture.

The problems which women face as a result of the planning process are examined from the perspectives of employment, transportation, child care, housing, shopping, community design and support services.

In the section dealing with housing, the author explains that...

"In our western society, the house has become the centre of people's lives where they spend the greater proportion of their time; women are only the primary users of housing but 'non-working' women tend to spend most of their day in the home. The nuclear family with its increased home-centredness, privatism and symmetry, uses the home as a refuge, a shelter for living, and as the main focus of recreation and leisure pursuits. Hence the type and location of housing best suited to the needs of the family, and women in particular, are of great importance to town planners." (p. 13)

"In our changing society there is need to cater not only for the traditional nuclear family but for alternative life styles. Also, it is because planners and planning regulations have been preoccupied with providing for a typical nuclear family that they have neglected the needs of that large proportion of the population that lives in non-nuclear families." (p. 13)

"Variability in the demand for housing is a function of age, marital status, family composition and socio-economic status which can be best dealt with under the concept of life cycle stages—young single women, married women with children, middle-aged women, and women over 65. When considering housing for women it is important to recognize the constraints which affect large numbers of women due to their disproportionately low incomes. There is a need for more low income housing or finance support systems." (p. 13)

The author outlines four goals which might be pursued by planners in order to ensure a more equitable housing situation for women:

1) Urban design and planning regulations should allow for innovative and imaginative housing, particularly for non-nuclear

families, offering greater diversity of housing type for all income levels.

2) Residential zoning regulations should be flexible enough to allow, for example, ancillary units to be attached to existing homes to accommodate elderly parents; and to satisfy the needs of women as the family size expands and contracts and women seek new activity, it should be possible for the home to be built in stages or subdivided into flats when the larger area is no longer needed.

3) Special attention should be given to the provision of low income housing or finance support systems for female headed households.

4) There should be better integrated services such as transport, shopping, community and health centres within housing complexes and these must be provided *simultaneously* with housing constructions and occupation.

In the author's conclusion, she states that her "...goal is for a society in which women are afforded equal access to opportunity, status and power; one in which the real value of women's contribution to the gross national product, as mothers and housewives, is recognized." She concludes that "...when society recognizes that planning for women does not serve a small special interest group, but rather affects the majority of the population, it will be possible to improve the quality of life for all women and in doing so, benefit the whole community." (p. 20)

Excerpted from "Women and Planning" by Mercia Ferrier, in *Planner*, Journal of the Queensland Division of the Royal Australian Planning Institute, Nov. 14, 1978. Excerpt by Kim Vale Dods.

## Single Parent Housing Cooperative

"Rents in the city have doubled in the past few years and heavy construction of rental units to condominium housing made costs prohibitive for many single parents."

Last summer, a group of nine single parent mothers was trying to develop a single parent housing cooperative in Hayward, California. Rents in the city had doubled in the past few years and heavy conversions of rental units to condominium housing made costs prohibitive for many single parents.

This project is now in the development stages and Harriet Dichter, Project Manager, writes: "Eden Housing, Inc., a nonprofit developer, is now directing the project; we have a contract with the City of Hayward to organize and implement the cooperative, using HUD's Community Development Block Grant for predevelopment expenses (i.e. site acquisition and preparation, architectural and staff fees).

The development strategy for the cooperative has changed somewhat since Eden Housing began its contract work in September. We spent three months publicizing the cooperative and received well over 125 inquiries from potential single parent cooperative members. Most of the publicity was directed at places frequented by single parents—housing offices (both governmental and nonprofit), Welfare Department, single parent organizations, schools (especially daycare centers), and some churches.

Since late fall, we have been holding community meetings every six to eight weeks; attendance averages 35-50 single parents. The meetings have a dual purpose: single parents may learn about cooperatives generally and may also contribute to the growth of the single parent cooperative: Eden Housing has the opportunity to plan with greater effectiveness and sensitivity by working directly with single parents during the entire development process. The single parent group attending the meetings serves as an advisory team. For example, they discussed and approved the selection of guidelines which Eden Housing staff prepared. Currently, the architects (Sandy Hirschen and Mui Ho, Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley) are doing programming work with the staff and single parents.

We are in the process of negotiating for a one-and-one-half acre site capable of housing twenty to twenty-five families. It seems as though Section 8 may be the financing mechanism—all but two of the single parents who are interested are Section 8 eligible. However, there are still other financing possibilities to be explored."

Contact: Harriet Dechter  
Eden Housing  
1065 "A" Street, Suite 222  
Hayward, California 94541

## Planning and Women— New Division of the American Planning Association.

"Women within the APA have been working for the past two years to have women's needs officially recognized within the organization."

The APA's new Division on Planning and Women held its first program in Baltimore, October 13-15, 1979 and its second in San Francisco, April 13-15, 1980. Women within the APA have been working for the past two years to have women's needs officially recognized within the organization. The response has been overwhelming—an initial membership of 500 makes it one of the largest of the APA's 13 Divisions. The Division has a dual function—the career development of women within the planning profession and a focus on planning issues as they affect women.

The Baltimore conference featured five sessions on women and planning and a mobile workshop. All were heavily attended as women made contacts with one another and began to define an agenda for the Division. The bus tour of specific women-organized services in Baltimore was a highlight of the conference and would be a great idea in other cities where women meet. It included a visit to a battered women's shelter, multi-service center, two daycare centers (one of them organized by the textile worker's union), and a women's bookstore. A meeting with leaders of various Baltimore women's service organizations provided detailed information on funding and organizational problems.

In its first six months, the Division has been remarkably active. It produces a quarterly newsletter of reports, reviews and short articles; Jacqueline Leavitt has been developing a research agenda; an annotated bibliography is planned; HUD's Policy and Research Division has awarded the Planning and Women Division \$50,000 to sponsor a competition "Planning to Meet the Changing Needs of Women" to identify and publicize innovative solutions to the planning problems of urban women. The Division will also make recommendations for changes in the APA Planning Policy Document which specifies legislation to support in Washington in the coming year. This includes more emphasis on a wider range of housing types in residential areas, local transit in off-peak hours, urban design for security and safety.

Contacts:

Director: Mary H. Deal, 610A Dodge Court, Dayton, Ohio (513) 258-1938.

Assistant Director: Jacqueline Leavitt, Columbia University, Division of Urban Planning, 410 HA Avery, New York, N.Y. (212) 280-3524.

Policy Activities: Carol D. Barrett, Water Project Director, NAC, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 785-9577 and Marjorie W. Macris, 45 Wildomar, Mill Valley, California 94941 (415) 479-2526 ext. 100.

For membership in the Division—\$40.00 APA and \$10 Division which includes APA publications, newsletter, full voting rights; subscribing membership to the newsletter only \$10.00. Send cheques to Richard C. Jaffeson AICP, American Planning Association, 1778 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington D.C. 20036.

Women and Environments

## Women's Development Corporation

The Women's Development Corporation was founded to create a new approach to improving housing and economic opportunities for low-income women."

The Women's Development Corporation is a non-profit team of planners and architects which received a contract of \$200,000 in the Fall of 1979 from the Community Services Administration's Department of Housing Community Development and from the Economic Development Administration's Office of Special Projects National Technical Assistance Program, Washington, D.C. The Women's Development Corporation was founded to create a new approach to improving housing and economic opportunities for low-income women. Beginning in the Fall of 1978 as a volunteer project, the WDC founders have worked with government agencies to plan a pilot program Housing with Economic Development (HWED). Some of the ideas for the program began at the 1978 summer session of the Women's School of Planning and Architecture (WSPA), with assistance from the Women's Policy and Program Division of HUD.

HWED plans to rehabilitate approximately 100 units of abandoned and under-utilized housing over a 2-3 year period in a low income neighbourhood of Providence, Rhode Island. The project is aimed at improving both housing and work opportunities for low-income women who are single or heads of households.

The housing component includes several innovative features which have been emphasized in feminist publications on women's architectural needs:

**INTEGRATING HOUSING AND COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS** to provide additional support services to women as well as local jobs. Services might include a cafeteria, bakery, food buying cooperative, daycare cooperative, daycare for the elderly or invalids, paramedical and nursing center, home maintenance service headquarters where residents can do carpentry, energy conservation retro-fitting, an automobile do-it-yourself repair shop; workshops and class meeting space, a solar greenhouse and garden area; clothing and furniture recycling center; recreation space; and work space for related enterprises.

**NON-TRADITIONAL HOUSING** to provide opportunities for congregate living and extended families would be encouraged. Design will emphasize more variety in dwelling unit types than is typical in conventional apartments by providing such facilities as additional rooms for guests or rental space, greater variety in kitchen and dining areas, and private space for both adults and children.

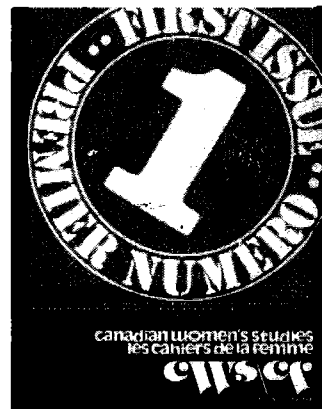
**HOME OWNERSHIP** is seen as an important component of providing stable housing for low income women. HWED will help arrange for shared financing and ownership. Rental income from some housing and commercial units will be used to lower home owners' monthly expenses, and the number of buildings owned by the HWED group will create jobs in housing maintenance and management.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATED WITH HOUSING—A KEY COMPONENT** The program will expand jobs and businesses based on women's traditional homemaking skills and also provide access to information and training for non-traditional jobs such as construction. Women require pre-apprenticeship training and special long-term peer support and this will be provided by the Women's Development Corporation.

Contact:  
Women's Development Corporation  
104 Princeton Avenue,  
Providence, R.I. 02907 (401) 751-4088.

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## Reviews

**Why the Green Nigger?: Re-Mything Genesis**, Elizabeth Dodson Gray, 1979, 166 pages. Roundtable Press, Four Linden Square, Wellesley, Mass. 02181; paper \$7.95, cloth \$10.95.

Reviewed by Neil Evernden

The 'green nigger' of the title is, of course, the whole of non-human nature, and the purpose of the book is to pose the question "How could we have oppressed the natural world as we have done?" In attempting to analyze the attitudinal basis of the 'environmental crisis,' Gray shares the company of such authors as David Ehrenfeld (*The Arrogance of Humanism*), Gregory Bateson (*Mind and Nature*), and Vine Deloria (*The Metaphysics of Modern Existence*), to name only a few of the most recent contributors to the 'deep ecology' literature. But hers is certainly unique in that field, not for the overview of the problem which she presents very ably, but for the added insights she brings from her interests in women's rights and theology.

For anyone interested in an introduction to the debate on human relationships to the natural world, this book will provide a good starting point. But there are other books that do that better, in my opinion. In part, this is due to a stylistic fault rather than any intellectual shortcomings. The author's enthusiasm for the many interesting sources she has discovered seems to have led her to believe that others can always 'say it better' than she could (which, judging from some her descriptions of personal insights and experiences, is certainly not so). Consequently, she quotes very extensively from her favourite sources, and produces a very 'patchy' book that presents a good many interesting ideas without developing them fully (by rough count, about two thirds of the pages of this book bear lengthy quotations from other authors).

But where this book stands apart from others of its type is in the connections the author makes with theology and women's rights. In connection with the former, she makes no bones about the shortcomings of traditional Christian attitudes to nature, and even dismisses recent apologists who see in 'stewardship' a way of reconciling Christian and environmental ethics. This attitude is "paternalistic, clothed still in hierarchical categories, and subtly related to such old ideas as 'enlightened slave

owners' and 'the white man's burden.'" She makes roughly the same criticism of the whole of western civilization, and links these failings to the dominance of male habits of thought. Indeed, she speaks with 'considerable passion when she rails against the 'linear and hierarchical' thinking perpetrated by men on society and against nature. Had female attitudes been more highly regarded, much of the environmental damage might have been avoided. And now is the time to recognize those attitudes, so as to give a more balanced approach to our life on this planet. That is a rather simplistic summary of her argument, of course, but it is certainly one that many readers would find interesting.

I find myself able to sympathize with the change in perspective she advocates, but quite ambivalent about whether she is justified in identifying the old 'controlling' attitude with men and the recommended 'complying' one with women. To be fair, she does not pretend the attitudes are totally exclusive to each group. But all the same, one can't help but wonder whether the natural tendency to want to associate desirable traits with whatever group one is part of—be it black, white, eastern, western, extroverted, introverted, academic, practical, technocratic, mystical, or whatever—hasn't led her to choose for women an extravagant share of humanity's better traits. In short, it seems possible that the characteristics she considers to be environmentally desirable may be just that, rather than a sex-linked quality of mind. But, having only a male experience to bring to bear, I may be quite wrong about that. This is probably a point each reader will have to decide for him- or herself.

In any case, there is no doubt that Ms. Gray has produced a labour of love, and that it will be a valuable reference for a great many people. Regardless of whether one agrees with the personal arguments the author presents, there is almost certain to be something of interest to any reader with an interest in person/nature relationships.

Ralph E. Smith editor, *The Subtle Revolution: Women at Work*, The Urban Institute, Washington D.C., 1979.

Reviewed by Cynthia A. Felice

*The Subtle Revolution: Women at Work* examines the impact of women's continued labor force participation on the job market, the home, family life, and resource allocation within families. All of the chapters

are based on the assumption that the female labor force participation rate in the U.S. will continue to increase at a fairly rapid pace throughout the next decade. Three significant patterns emerged from that analysis: virtually all of the projected labor force increase is in the 25-54 age group, a larger proportion of the female population is expected to be married and engaged in paid employment in 1990 than in 1978, and there is expected to be a substantial increase in the number of working mothers with young children.

This book takes a macro view of the participation of women in the labor force. It identifies national trends through analysis of data from the Census Bureau, and relies primarily upon existing studies to study selective impacts of the growing female labor force. The analysis is focused on the impacts on traditional female roles, particularly those of wife, homemaker, and mother. Scant attention is paid to unmarried women, either in terms of their occupations or earnings profile.

The movement of women into the labor force is regarded as a revolution because it is bringing about a fundamental change in social and economic conditions. It is a subtle revolution because of the gradualness of the increase of the number of women who participate in the paid labor force, the lack of specific origins of the movement, and the difficulties of predicting female labor force growth. *The Subtle Revolution: Women at Work* contributes to our understanding of this phenomenon, and is a welcome addition to the literature.

## Magazines

*Alternatives*, a journal of Friends of the Earth, is published quarterly at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8. Approximately 75 pages, and now including *Conservator Society Notes*. Primarily concerned with environmental activism, there is a regular section on women and the Conservator Society. The individual subscription rate is \$10.00 (D.W.)

*Neighborhood Organization Research Group (NORG) News Bulletin*. A \$5.00 fee includes membership in NORG and four issues of the *NORG News Bulletin*. It is published by the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, 814 East Third Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47405. NORG's objective is to answer the need of neighbourhood researchers for

Women and Environments

mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information on such matters as teaching materials, references, names of persons and particular kinds of research, funding sources, and methodology. (D.W.)

**Healthsharing**, is a 16 page magazine published four times a year. The first issue appeared last November, 1979. Each issue carry several feature articles as well as health-news shorts, columns, reports on women's health activities across Canada, book and film reviews. Articles are in either French or English, with an abstract in other language. It is published by a feminist collective who came together in 1978 to do research, writing and advocacy work on women's health issues. Subscription rates are variable. Individuals \$5.00 to Women Healthsharing; P.O. Box 230, Station M, Toronto, Ontario M6S 1T3. (D.W.)

**Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics**, published four times a year by Heresies Collective, Inc., 225 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012. Rates, \$11 individuals, \$18 institutions (outside U.S. and Canada add \$2 postage). Heresies 7, Vol. 2, No. 3 is on the topic of "Women Working Together". Heresies 11 (May 1980) is a special issue on Women and Architecture. (D.W.)

**International Newsletter, The Women's School of Planning and Architecture**, Box 213, 1409 Addison, Berkeley, California 94702. The Fall issue originated from Edmonton, Canada, and contains a localized update of women, projects, and productions. The WSPA International Newsletter is available by membership donation of \$5, \$10, or \$15 to the Women's School of Planning and Architecture; send check or money order to: Sophia Hauserman, 820 West Howe Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, (for this year 79/80). WSPA is looking for women from all areas of environmental studies: psychology, architecture, building, communications, design, art, and other related fields, to be resources and future participants in the School. (D.W.)

**Child in the City** sends the following news. Topics covered in past issues include "Block-Parenting in Toronto," and "Childcare under Constraint," and are available without charge from: The Child in the City Programme, University of Toronto, 455 Spadina Ave., Room 425, Toronto Ontario, Canada M5G 2G8.

# Urban Women

Denise Piché, "L'Appropriation de l'Espace par les Femmes." *Atlantis*, Vol. 4, No. 2,

June 1980


Part 2, (Spring 1979), "Space-making being a social process and land-use a reflection of social order, it is useful to examine women's place in the urban environment in relation to their place in society. This paper outlines research directions about urban space conceived of as a support and an expression of the links between women and their community. For this purpose, it will attempt a diagnosis of the appropriation of space by women, an evaluation of the concept of 'Appropriation of Space' in the light of different stances on women's liberation and an examination of women's role in modelling urban space." (Abstract) K.V.D.

**Women and Urban Society**, Vol. 7 of Urban Studies Information Guide Series, by Hasia R. Diner, and published by Gale Research Co. Book tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, 138 p. This bibliography contains sections addressing five general issues: (1) women and the process of urban migration and accommodation to the urban environment; (2) women and the urban family; (3) urban fertility patterns; (4) female employment in urban society; and (5) the psychological and social implications of urbanization for women. There is also a section on the images and attitudes toward urban women. (D.W.)

**Status of Women News**, Special Issue, Vol. 6 (Winter 1979-80) "The Environment: a Feminist Issue", with articles on Urban

Planning, Design and the Home, Surviving in the Suburbs, and Opening the North. The lead article, "Urban Planning: Making it Work for Women", is by Gerda Wekerle of **Women and Environments**. Other articles are by J. Louise Atkins, Meg Luxton, Wendy Lawrence, Natalia Boland, Debra Dungey, L.P. Laforge, Regula Modlich, Janet McClain and Nadia Ghalem. **Status of Women News** is published in English and French quarterly by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, 40 St. Clair Ave. East, No. 306, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M9. The individual local rate is \$5.00. Institutions, and overseas and U.S.A., \$8.00.

**Conservator Society Notes**, Special Issue: **Women and the Conservator Society**, Spring/Summer '79, Vol. 2, No. 1, 28 pages. Besides reviews and other information, this issue contains five feature articles "Impacts of the Conservator Society on Women", by Rebecca Peterson (editor of **Women and Environments**); Lorna Seaman, "Prospect House: a Three Generation Female Experiment"; A. Hertz, D. Magidson, J. Wright, "Women in a Conservator Society: Doing More of the Same with Less"; David Morley, "Reflections on Women's Liberation and Environmental Conservation in a Time of Societal Crisis"; Gail Robinson, "A Woman's Place is in the Movement". Single copies can be ordered from **Women and Environments**, c/o Fac. of Environmental Studies, York University,




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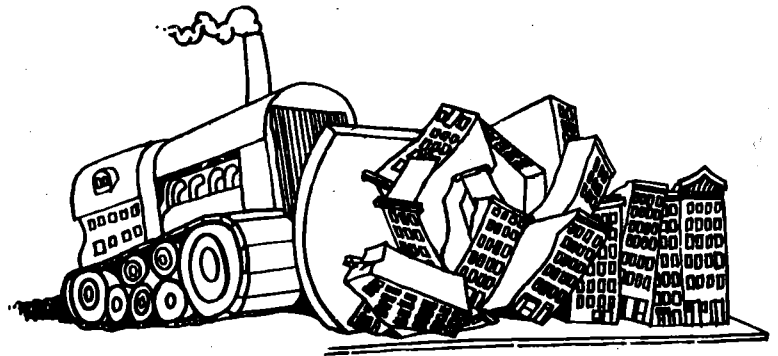
**Undercurrents**, an alternative technology magazine has a special issue on Women and Energy, Women and Work, Women and Ecology, Women and Utopias, Women and Community. (Aug./Sept. 1978). Write to: 27 Clerkenwell Close, London, England. EC IROAT.

**The Suburban Environment and Women** by Donald N. Rothblatt, Daniel J. Garr, and Jo Sprague, all of San Jose State University. This 210 page book printed in 1979 presents a large-scale study that measures levels of satisfaction with four major dimensions of suburban life—housing, collective goods, friendship, and mental health—for women in a wide range of social and physical environments. Orders can be sent to Diane Laurenzo, Praeger Publishers, 383 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. Cost, \$22.95, payable to Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (D.W.)

Helga E. Jacobson, **How to Study Your own Community: Research from the Perspective of Women**. Women's Research Centre, Vancouver, B.C., 1977. The author states that "the aim of this paper is to provide the basis for understanding that more than one approach to research is valid. It will attempt to show that we do not necessarily need large scale survey research in order to present our view of and experience in the world. The approach I advocate and demonstrate starts from our understanding of the world as women, and how as women we know the world and what we know of it. I hope that this approach will create a basis for providing a more adequate description of women's lives and work—one that is spoken by women—an account that we ourselves provide." (G.W.)

A collection of articles by Jeanne Fagnani on **Women and Transportation**. (1) *Cahiers Du GRIF* (No. 19—Nov. 1977) (2) *Annales De Géographie* (No. 477, Sept./Oct. 1977) - "Activités Féminines Et Transports Urbains". (3) *Rapport DGRST* (Jan. 1979) - "Rapports conjugués et mobilité des femmes employées dans l'agglomération parisienne." - *Systèmes de transport et rôles professionnels et familiaux: le cas des femmes employées dans l'agglomération parisienne.* (Cynthia Ghorra-Gobin).

Lynn Yandell, **Housing For Single Parents: Issues and Visions**. M.Arch thesis, Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley, 1979. This thesis addresses the many concerns facing single parents, such as conflicting roles, the dismemberment of previously existing social networks, and the often neglected fact that most single parents are women and poor. Within this context the issue of housing



is greatly clarified: it is subject to cultural assumptions and expectations regarding parenting, work roles, family relationships, and household organization.

Housing is viewed as a key element in the role adjustment of the single parent. It provides in many instances the primary linkage of the reconstituted family with the rest of society. Yet despite this, the single parent often faces choice restrictions in how the family will be housed. This is due to financial constraints brought on by a drop in real disposable income, and additional expenditures for services such as childcare and security which may not have been previously demanded. As well, latent discrimination exists in the private market with respect to the availability of capital for borrowing, and lifestyle restrictions which may be publicly sanctioned in the form of zoning which regulates household composition.

By citing specific case studies, the author points out that the issues governing single parent housing find no easy resolution. The incorporation of the single parent family into conventional publicly and privately assisted housing projects often entails some measure of conflict in the physical design. Likewise, the segregation of these families to specific neighbourhoods or communities is also not totally successful due to a lack of social heterogeneity. Yandell provides considerable detail on the kind of urban design required by single parents: changes in zoning, neighborhood planning, site selection, and a housing program statement. (B.L.)

**Women's Travel Issues—Research Needs and Priorities**. U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. Sept. 1978. The Executive Summary of this conference is now available at no cost. Papers and Proceedings of the Conference (approx. 300 pages) will also be available (no price). Contact Karen Borlaug, Office of Transportation Regulation, P-54, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20590 (G.W.)

**Women and the City**, edited by Eva Gamarnikow, special issue *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* Vol. 2 (October 1978) Single issue \$11 (U.S.)

from Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd., 41 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DQ. This issue contains articles by: Dolores Hayden, "Melusina Fay Peirce and cooperative housekeeping"; Danielle Chabaud and Dominique Fougeyrollas, "Travail domestique et espace-temps des femmes"; J. Coutras et J. Fagnani, "Femmes et transports en milieu urbain"; Regina Fodor, "Day-care policy in France and its consequences for Women: a Study of the Metropolitan Paris Area"; Michele Morville Descolanges, "A propos de la socialisation du travail domestique: l'analyse d'un village de vacances"; E.M. Eitorre, "Women, urban social movements and the lesbian ghetto"; Hilary Rose, "In practice supported, in theory denied: an account of an invisible urban movement"; and Anna Whyatt, "Cooperatives, women and political practice". (G.W.)

**Women and the American City** Special issue of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* a supplement to the Spring 1980 issue and free to subscribers. *Signs*. Donna E. Shalala wrote the Introduction; Gerda R. Wekerle, "Review Essay: Women in the Urban Environment"; Jo Freeman, "Women and Urban Policy"; Marilyn Gittell and Teresa Shtob, "Changing Women's Roles in Political Volunteerism and the Reform of the City"; Elizabeth Markson and Beth B. Hess, "Older Women in the City"; Galen Cranz, "Women in Urban Parks"; Margaret Gordon, Stephanie Rige Robert LeBailly, and Linda Heath, "Crime, Women and the Quality of Urban Life"; Susan Saegert, "Masculine Cities and Feminine Suburbs: Polarized Ideas and Contradictory Realities"; Helena Z. Lopata, "The Chicago Woman: A Study of Patterns of Mobility and Transportation"; and Dolores Hayden, "What Would a Non-Sexist City be Like?" Also included are contributions on childcare, women planners, community participation of women in the neighborhoods, and other topics. (G.W.)

**Women in Architecture—Women in Architecture?** (Frauen in der Architektur—Frauenarchitektur?) Special issue *Bauwelt*, Vol. 70 No. 31/32 August 2, 1979. These articles are all in German and include: "The Rediscovery of Female

Women and Environment

Principles in Architecture" — Margrit Kennedy; "Architecture—Why Women Find Themselves There" — Barbara Thier; "Constraints on the Emancipation of Women in the Dwelling—The Example of the Bedroom" — Myra Warhaftig; "Women in Planning" — Margrit Hoffman, Irmgard Metzler; "Women Form Their City—First Steps in Concretizing Our Research and Findings" — Marianne Pitzen.

Translations and excerpts from some these articles are planned for a subsequent issue of **Women and Environments**.

Addresses of existing groups of women architects in Germany:

Architektinnengruppe  
c/o Frauenbuchladen  
Königsplatz 14  
D-5000 Aachen

Architektinnen im Beruf  
c/o Frauke Grave-Tempich  
Königsplatz 12  
D-1000 Berlin 12

Architektinnengruppe  
c/o Ingeborg Kuhler  
Königsplatz 14  
D-1000 Berlin 31

Architektinnengruppe  
c/o Birgit Wend  
Königsplatz 14  
D-1000 Berlin 15

Frauen Formen ihre Stadt  
(Women Form their City)  
c/o Marianne Pitzen  
Königsplatz 68  
D-5300 Bonn  
(also information on exhibit by this name)

Frauengruppe Architektur  
c/o Gisela Hatmann  
Königsplatz 12  
D-6100 Darmstadt

Architektinnengruppe  
c/o Veronika Zimmer  
Königsplatz 77  
D-3500 Kassel

Plannerinnengruppe  
c/o Frauenzentrum  
Königsplatz 26  
D-3000 Hannover 91

Upcoming symposium 1980/81 "Frau und Architektur"  
Prof. Dr. Franziska Bollerey  
Königsplatz 1  
Page 14

International Exhibit of Architecture and Building—Berlin 1984 Preparations are underway for the Congress of the Union Internationale des Femmes Architectes (UIFA). The German organization is working on a demonstration project to redesign a

Berlin neighborhood to be more supportive of women's needs. Contact Dr. Margrit Kennedy, Altwaterstr. 14d 1000 Berlin 38, Tel. (0-30) 8 03 80 77 and Ingeborg Kuhler, Institut für Bildungs—Kultur—und Sozialbauten/Fachgebiet Bebaudekunde und Entwerfen—TU Berlin, Fachbereich 8—Strasse des 17 Jun Nor 135. Tel. (030) 3 14 32 51. (G.W.)

# Women in Resource Towns

Northern British Columbia Women's Task Force Report on Single Industry Resource Communities, 1977, 100 p. The Women's Research Centre, 517 East Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. 50¢

In 1977 women living in three British Columbia resource towns prepared a report outlining the difficulty of maintaining a family in a community that women had no part in planning, a community designed primarily for male workers. They state: "The report challenges a system that demands we fill only those traditional roles and at all costs. We share a real concern that unless our experiences are taken into account the development plans of industry and government will continue to deliver programmes that reinforce women's role as marginal, dependent and unimportant." The report provides detailed case studies of the everyday problems of women in three towns—Kitimat, Fraser Lake, Mackenzie.

Topics include housing, shopping, transportation, health care, employment, daycare, women on welfare. Recommendations focus on the need for users, and specifically women, to be involved in the planning of the townsites and home design; for better transportation services; for 24-hour childcare to allow women to participate in shift work; and for equal employment opportunity programs for women.

Following this report have come plans for a national network of women living in resource communities, a national conference and a film by independent filmmaker Bonnie Kréps. (G.W.)

**A Women's Impact Statement—Beyond the Pipeline** A study of the lives of women and their families in Fort Nelson, British Columbia, and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory and an identification of their socio-economic concerns resulting from the proposed construction of the Alaska Highway gas pipeline. Vancouver, British Columbia: The Women's Research Centre, December 1979, 252 p. with appendix, interview schedule, bibliography. Available from Northern Pipeline Agency, 4th Floor—

Shell Centre, 400 4th Avenue S.W., Calgary Alberta, \$6.

The Vancouver Women's Research Center was given a two-year \$53,000 contract by the Northern Pipeline Agency to examine the effects of major pipeline construction on women in two Northern communities. It is an important report because it goes beyond the economic and environmental indicators standard in environmental impact statements and looks at the impact on families, children, women's labor force participation, women's family maintenance functions, and women's health, social service and recreation needs that will be caused by an expansion of population and rising prices when a pipeline is built.

The study used researchers living in the two communities and interviewed 116 women as well as government officials. In women's own words, this report documents their isolation in the home and the resultant cabin fever, high levels of depression, and resort to medication. It shows that basic community services are inadequate despite the greater need in geographically isolated communities. Local women's voluntary organizations have developed compensatory services such as women's centres, a Transition House and mini-bus system to fill gaps in existing services, but they receive little financial support from government or industry.

The solutions that women propose are remarkably similar to the kinds of proposal that women in large cities and small towns have made: more childcare which is accessible and available for shift workers as well as day workers; access to higher education and training for non-traditional jobs; better health care for women; more indoor recreational facilities for adults and children because of the long and severe winters; policing which takes seriously the crimes against women such as rape and wife battering; the establishment of public transit in one community which has none and the extensions of service to nights and weekends in the other community.

Women in northern communities have special community planning and housing needs. Both communities are care oriented and shopping facilities were located away from residential areas and impossible to reach without a car. Schools and playgrounds are also not easily accessible to pedestrians. There are few sidewalks and this hampers women's mobility and is unsafe for children.

Access to community services was viewed as one of the most important aspects of housing. Houses are not designed for the northern climate—insulation is poor, they are not oriented towards the sun, construction is often not up to standards. Because of the long winters, indoor play space for children, storage space, and room

for home entertaining are crucial needs in northern communities, yet many houses are too small and poorly planned.

The study concludes that women will pay the highest costs for the boom expected with pipeline construction: they will be the ones to cope with rising costs, scarce community services, rising crime, overflowing schools, and higher house prices and housing shortages. It calls for greatly increased services in those areas where there are significant gaps before the pipeline construction is begun. (G.W.)

Meg Luxton, "Opening the North-Women in Primary Resource Communities" *Status of Women News* vol. 6 (Winter 1979-80): 7-14.

Luxton, an anthropologist, spent several years in Flin Flon, Manitoba doing participant observation on women's work and their central role in the development of the town. She uses extensive quotes to illustrate how women extended their domestic labour into the community and worked collectively to create amenities and social services. (G.W.)

Meg Luxton, "Motherwork: More than a Labour of Love" *Canadian Women's Studies* vol. 11 (1980): 31-35.

This is an excerpt from the forthcoming book by the same title to be published by the Women's Press, Toronto, Spring, 1980. It is a study of three generations of housewives in Flin Flon, a Manitoba mining town. Luxton documents the changes in childrearing practices among three generations; she relates this to changes in household technology and the level of municipal development and services, and shows how the primitive nature of early housing arrangements made housework difficult and childcare hazardous. (G.W.)

Claire Williams, "Working Class Women in an Australian Mining Town" *Hecate: A Women's Interdisciplinary Journal* vol. 2 (January 1976): 7-20.

"This article attempts to examine the consciousness and avenues for the political development of full-time housewives in the setting of a new, relatively isolated mining town in Central Queensland. The study concludes that women have very narrow life-chances in semi-isolated conditions: there is little paid employment and almost all are full-time housewives; they live either in suburban houses or trailers; and there are few opportunities to develop politically in the traditional women's clubs. (G.W.)

---

## **FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME DEGREES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES**

### **MA IN WOMEN'S STUDIES**

Applications are invited from students with good honours degrees in either the social sciences or the humanities for registration for the MA in Women's Studies. Registration may be on a full-time basis for one year or on a part-time basis for two years. Examination is by coursework and dissertation. Candidates take a compulsory course on 'The Theory and Development of Feminism' and optional courses from the following: Women in Islam; Women, Crime and the Law; Women and Employment; Women, the State and Social Policy; The Intellectual Origins of Feminism; The Feminist Aesthetic; The Philosophical Assumptions of Feminism; Equality and the Law; Biology and the Woman Question.

For further information and applications write to: The Senior Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Social Sciences, The Registry, The University, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, England.

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### **Faculty of Social Sciences University of Kent at Canterbury, England**

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# Courses



Michael Ross

## Canada

Planning and Designing Special Environments  
Faculty of Home Economics, University of Manitoba  
Novia Carter, Department Head, Family Studies, University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

This course is concerned with the physical, social, and psychological environments relating to the specific needs and activities of Canadian women of all age groups. The focus will be on behavioural implications of evolving changes in women's perceptions of, and attitudes toward social, economic and physical environments. The contexts to be included are urban, rural, northern and isolated resource communities.

### Outline:

- 1) The Women's Movement in Canada: overview of research on women with focus on recent work in family studies, sociology, architecture, psychology, planning, and environmental studies.
- 2) Human Settlement Forms and Women: the impact of critical activity centres related to traditional and changing roles of women and their life functions with age as a factor: schools,

employment, shopping, transportation, garages, parks, voluntary activity centres, etc.

- 3) Neighbourhood Environment: neighbourhood control and change related to changing lifestyles.
- 4) Family/Home Environment: relationship between roles and physical environment.
- 5) Life-Stage Environments: children, early adulthood, aged.
- 6) Work and Economic Environments: examination of women's work environments.
- 7) Women and Natural and Human Resource Systems: environments of fear, environments of limited access, environments related to women's biological distinctiveness.
- 8) Women as Creators of Environments: creative and professional roles; political and economic roles.

Planning the Non-Sexist City  
Faculty of Environmental Studies,  
York University, Fall 1979  
Gerda R. Wekerle

The course examined some current planning issues which inhibit changing gender roles for men and women: exclusionary zoning, centralization of services, planning which excludes the transportation disadvantaged, home design which reinforces traditional roles, housing discrimination in rental and mortgage

markets. Students were required to direct their project to an external constituency and projects could have included analyses of existing agency policies and programs, translating existing knowledge into planning guidelines, seminars, displays, press releases or short published articles.

### Course Organization:

#### 1. An Overview of the Issues

Gerda R. Wekerle, "Review Essay—Women in the Urban Environment" Signs supplement to Spring 1980 issue on Women and the American City.

Gerda R. Wekerle, "A Women's Place is in the City" Land Policy Roundtable Basic Concept Series No. 102, (Cambridge mass.: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 1979).

#### 2. Housing

a. The single family house and women's housing needs.

Martin Meissner, et. al. "No Exit for Wives: Sexual Division of Labour and the Cumulation of Household Demands" Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, Vol. 12 (4) 1975: 424-39.

"A Self-Cleaning House?" Family Circle July 17, 1979.

Gwendolyn Wright, "Sweet and Clean: The Domestic Landscape in the Progressive Era" Landscape 20 (October 1975): 38-43.

Donna Warnock, "What Growthmania does to Women and the Environment" no date, Feminist Resources on Energy and Ecology, P.O. Box 6098, Teal Station, Syracuse, N.Y. 13217. (\$3/100).

b. Alternatives: Self-Help and Collective Solutions.

Dolores Hayden, "Redesigning the Domestic Workplace" Chrysalis 1 (1977): 19-29.

—"Bridge Over Troubled Water" (Nina West Homes) The Architects Journal (September 1972): 681-683.

Material on Danish new communities of Vaerbros Park, Galebakken obtained from the Ministry of Housing, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Ellen Perry Berkeley, "The Swedish 'Servicehus'" Architecture Plus (May 1973): 56-59.

Mary Soper, "Housing for Single Parents: A Women's Design" in Gerda R. Wekerle, Rebecca Peterson, David Morley, *New Space for Women*, Boulder, Westview Press, 1980.

kc. Housing Discrimination and Legislative Solutions.

Excerpts from National Council of Negro Women. *Women and Housing: A Report on Sex Discrimination in Five American Cities*. Wash. D.C. HUD. June 1975.

#### 3. Transportation

a) Men's and women's transportation patterns Executive summary, Conference on Women's Travel Issues, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. Sept. 1978.

Janice Fanning Madden and Michelle J. White "Women's Work Trips: An Empirical and Theoretical Approach" Paper presented at conference on Women's Travel Issues, Sept. 1978.

John Everitt, "Liberation or Restriction? The Job as an Influence on Urban Environmental Perception and Behaviour" *Antipode*

Julia A. Erickson, "An Analysis of the Journey to Work for Women" *Social Problems* 24 (April 1977): 428-435.

b) The transportation disadvantaged and alternatives.

Rebecca Dreis, *Beyond Hitchhiking and the Bus: Alternative Transportation Proposed for Women* M.A. thesis, University of California, Santa Barbara, June 1979.

—"The Midnight Rides of the Cyclo-Feminists" *Ms* 22(Feb. 1979).

Excerpts from materials on vanpooling and subsidized taxi services in California.

4. Urban Form and Women's Changing Roles  
a) Women in the Urban Environment

Gerda R. Wekerle, "A Woman's Place is in the City".

Eli Ginzberg, "Who Can Save the City?" *Across the Board-The Conference Board Magazine* Vol. 15 (April 1978): 24-26.

Karen Gerard and Mary McCormick, "Who Can Save the City"—2 Excerpt from report "The Impact of Women on the Economy of New York City" *Across the Board* Vol. 15 (April 1978): 27-29.

Claude Enjeu and Joana Save, "The City: Off-Limits to Women" *Liberation* Vol. 18 (July/August 1974): 9-15.

b) Women in the Suburban Environment  
David Popenoe, "Women in the Suburban Environment: A U.S.—Sweden Comparison" in Wekerle, Peterson, Morley, 1980.

Sylvia F. Fava, "Women's Place in the New Suburbia" in Wekerle, Peterson, Morley, 1980. Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto.

"Metro's Suburbs in Transition", November 1978. Site visit to the St. Lawrence Housing Project, Toronto—an example of an in-town medium density neighbourhood.

Student projects included the design of a non-sexist community for 3000 residents: an evaluation of closing neighbourhood schools as possible multi-service centers; mapping the location of Metro daycare centers relative to need; a review of the literature on sex discrimination in housing and its applicability to the Canadian context.

## United States

**Housing: A Socialist Feminist Analysis of its past development, current trends and future possibilities—the need for feminist action.**

Outline:

1) the historical roots of housing movement: women's role in housing.

2) development of present housing system: roles of banks and government, lack of participation by women

3) impact of housing system on women, working class and poor

4) directions for change  
Barbara Ehrenreich, *What is Socialist Feminism?*

Eugenie Ladner Birch, *Women-Made America: The Case of Early Public Housing Policy.*

Michael Stone, *Mortgage Bankers and the Politics of Housing.*

Michael Stone, *Gimme Shelter.*  
Chester Hartman and Michael Stone, *Housing: A Socialist Alternative.*

Joel Freidman, Judith Kossy, Mitt Regan, *Working Within the System: The Role of the Progressive Planner.*

Available for feminist groups or feminist-sponsored conferences.

Mary Vogel  
39 S. 39th St.  
Boulder, Colorado  
USA 80303  
Tel: (303) 499-2531

**The Sexual Politics of the Man-made Environment: Why Architecture is Important to the Women's Movement**  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
School of Architecture  
Slide Lecture by Leslie Kanes Weisman

Topic:

1) The built environment as a cultural symbol—the values it embodies and how they affect women;

2) The ecology of sex roles—how role stereotyping affects the design and use of space;

3) The politics of institutions—how the appropriation and use of space, and the existence or absence of certain types of architectural environments constitute an act of oppression or support for women;

4) Environmental barriers—the laws and customs and aspects of physical design which discriminate against or restrict women.

The Slides: examples of phallogentric and energy wasteful architecture, the house as a series of spatial metaphors for role playing, and designs for existing and theoretical birth centers run by nurse/midwives as examples of an architectural "institution" which challenges patriarchal values and reflects a feminist ideology.

**The American Home and Household**  
Leslie Kanes Weisman  
New Jersey Institute of Technology,  
New Jersey School of Architecture

Leslie Kanes Weisman has taught several courses on the American Home and Women's Roles both at the New Jersey Institute of Technology and currently at Brooklyn College in the Women's Studies Department. She writes: "Originally I had proposed this course as *The American Women's Home: Its Origins and Future* (Spring-Summer 1979). All of these materials, including the lengthy (but now incomplete) bibliography will be published in a book entitled *Women's Studies and the Arts* Elsa Fine (ed.), Wittenborn Art Books, as a hard cover college text scheduled for release in the Fall of 1980, along with an essay I wrote about the reasons I developed the course and the methods used. While I was working on the actual lectures, readings, slides, research, etc., I realized that the historical information would be so fascinating that I would never get past World War II! And I really haven't. I also began to realize that the course title and outline was so clearly a Women's Studies course that my potential registrants at NJIT (99% male architecture majors) would probably be put off. They were.

So I went through the arduous task of a name change to the *American Home and Household: A Cultural, Architectural and Psychological Analysis of Various American Homes and Households Throughout History* and a rewrite of the flyer to convey that it was (and now is) an historical course only and much work on publicizing the course to students and faculty. I did another course announcement that

"sounded" less "women focused", although I am bringing the same information to bear in this format as I would have under the original historical section. I added and modified the bibliography for this "new" and narrower course and taught it to a class of 15 students (half women and half men) with very good results.

This term I am repeating it with an enrollment of 30 students (27 men, 3 women) at NJIT and I had to close the section due to over-enrollment. Hurrah! So now I watch them squirm a lot as I repeatedly refer to women, women's role in the culture/domestic setting, etc. However, none of them are leaving.

Finally, I have been asked to teach the course at Brooklyn College through the Women's Studies Department this semester (Winter 1980). The title of the course is *The American Home: A Feminist Social and Architectural Analysis* (I think it's a suitable title). And finally, I intend to do a second course which goes from WWI to today and I also want to do the original course that I first proposed in toto, when I am able to teach it to the type of students I want and when I have the time to develop lectures and slides of the Images of Women and Home and the Ecology of Sex Roles parts. I have a lot of ideas and materials to do with it.

**A Cultural, Architectural and Psychological Analysis of Various American Homes and Households Throughout History.**  
Leslie Kanes Weisman

Topics:

The Puritan society and colonial home...the Victorian home and family...the frontier homestead...19th century utopian communes...immigrants, the working class poor and urban tenements...war housing and suburban homes.

Selected Readings:

John Demos, *A Little Commonwealth: Family Life in the Plymouth Colony*, N.Y.: Oxford Press, 1976.

Dolores Hayden, "Catherine Beecher and the Politics of Housework", *Women in American Architecture: An Historic and Contemporary Perspective*, ed. S. Torre. N.Y.: Whitney Library of Design, 1977.

Dolores Hayden, "Redesigning the Domestic Workplace", *Chrysalis*, 1. 1977, pp. 19-29.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Passing of the Home in Great American Cities." *Cosmopolitan*, Vol. 38, December 1904, pp. 137-147.

Ruth Schwartz Cowan, "The Industrial Revolution in the Home: Household Technology and Social Change in the 20th Century." *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 17, No. 1, January 1976, pp. 1-26.

Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English, *For Her Own Good: 150 Years of the Expert's Advice to Women*. N.Y.: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1978.

Robert C. Twombly, "Saving the Family: Middle Class Attraction to Wright's Prairie House, 1901-1909." *American Quarterly*, Vol. 29, March 1975, pp. 57-72.

David P. Handlin, *The American Home: Architecture and Society, 1815-1915*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co. 1979.

Information on the above courses may be obtained by writing:

Leslie Kanes Weisman  
Associate Professor of Architecture  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
323 High St.  
Newark, New Jersey  
USA 07102  
Tel: (201) 645-5541

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# New Space for Women

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edited by Gerda R. Wekerle, Rebecca Peterson, David Morley  
Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto

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**NEW SPACE FOR WOMEN** is a ground-breaking volume that presents the first generation of empirical research into women's relationships with the home, neighbourhood, and city.

Articles by architects, planners, historians, psychologists, sociologists and urban activists examine how the existing design of homes, neighbourhoods, and organizations reinforces traditional sex roles.

Alternative home and community designs to generate and support women's participation in the public sphere are discussed. The book also considers the emerging role of women as environmental activists and innovators — designing organizations, spaces, and services to support their changing lives.

## CONTENTS:

Introduction — Gerda R. Wekerle, Rebecca Peterson, David Morley

### 1. THE DOMESTIC WORK PLACE

- 1.1 The Home: A Critical Problem for Changing Sex Roles — Susan Saegert and Gary Winkel
- 1.2 The Household as Workplace: Wives, Husbands and Children — Sarah F. Berk
- 1.3 The Appropriation of the House Changes in Design and Concepts of Domesticity — Cynthia Rock, Susana Toree, Gwendolyn Wright
- 1.4 Redesigning the Domestic Workplace — Dolores Hayden

### 2. URBAN DESIGN: THE PRICE WOMEN PAY

- 2.1 Women's Place in the New Suburbia — Sylvia F. Fava
- 2.2 Women's Travel Patterns in a Suburban Development — Mary Cichocki
- 2.3 Women in the Suburban Environment: A U.S.-Sweden Comparison — David Popenoe
- 2.4 Swedish Women in Single-Family Housing — Karla Werner
- 2.5 Toward Supportive Neighbourhoods: Women's Role in Changing the Segregated City — Judy Stamp

### 3. WOMEN IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING: INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS

- 3.1 Architecture: Toward a Feminist Critique — Ellen Perry Berkeley
- 3.2 Women in Planning: There's More to Affirmative Action than Gaining Access — Jacqueline Leavitt
- 3.4 From Kitchen to Storefront: Women in the Tenant Movement — Ronald Lawson, Stephen Barton, Jenna Joselit
- 3.5 Women at City Hall — Richard Butler and Susan Phillips

### 4. WOMEN AS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS

- 4.1 The Los Angeles Woman's Building: A Public Center for Women's Culture — Sheila Levrant de Bretteville
- 4.2 Emerging Shelter: The Development of an Innovative Women's Environment — Anne Cools
- 4.3 Housing for Single-Parent Families: A Women's Design — Mary Soper



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April 1980, approx. \$24.50

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U.S.A.

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# Network

## Australia

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Australia 4111

Royal Australian Planning Institute  
Journal columnist; Women and  
Planning. Research on the inter-  
relationships amongst urban policy,  
socioeconomic policy, and employment  
opportunities for women.

Wendy Sarkissian  
c/o A.E. Cross  
12-226 Carrington Street  
Adelaide, South Australia  
Australia, 5000

Housing policy and design; battered  
women's shelters/refuges. Barrier-free  
architecture.

## Canada

Caroline Andrew  
Dept. of Political Science  
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Teach courses in social policy, with an  
emphasis on women.

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Women Student's Office  
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Francis Fox  
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Mercury pollution of our northern lakes  
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Sociology of women; environment at  
home and at work; social impact of  
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Women as planners, homemakers and  
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Women's place in the environment;  
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environmental issues, and politics.

Net Skerry  
1155 Beach Ave.  
olver, B.C.  
V2

Women and environments job  
opportunities.

Ellen Perry Berkeley  
Box 311  
Shaftsbury, Vermont  
05262

Graduate student focusing on women  
and community development, (self-help)  
and service needs.

Sutton  
of Envir'l Studies  
University  
Keele Street  
sview, Ontario  
L2R3

Architectural, user needs.

Gayle R. Bloomingdale  
310 Huntington Drive  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
48104

Self employed land use planner,  
facilitator, consultant. Actively involved in  
the Women's School of Planning and  
Architecture.

me Underwood  
2401 9925 Jasper Ave.  
monton, Alberta  
T2X5

Architectural design and our changing  
lifestyles. Women architects and their  
history of practices and design.

Jilliene F. Bolker  
P.O. Box BC  
Ventura, California  
93001

Ecological studies of women in household,  
in community. Need bibliographies to help  
in study of how households respond to  
climate change for AAAS Global Climate  
Change Project. Chair "Social and  
Institutional Responses" panel.

Wong  
Thorncliffe Park Dr.  
3206  
onto, Ontario  
M1L7

Health issues.

Elise Boulding  
Soc. Dept.  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, New Hampshire  
03755

ny P. Zeldin  
3310  
Gerrard St. East  
onto, Ontario  
M3V 2E8

Health education, public speaking and  
use of media. Urban lifestyle.

Ann Chapman  
Western Reserve Academy  
Hudson, Ohio  
44236

Galen Cranz  
Dept. of Arch.  
Univ. of California  
Berkeley, California  
94720

Women in architecture, landscape  
architecture and urban design.

## England

ophia Martinou  
A.A. Graduate School  
34-36 Bedford Sq.  
Londond W1 England

Architect: Feelings-Experiencing-  
Awareness of Space, factors and  
variables affecting and formating these,  
informal ways used by women to express  
these, and attempts to translate these  
informal expressions into terms of design.

Deborah Crossley  
49 Porter Street  
Somerville, Massachusetts  
02143

Particularly interested in how our  
(women's) environmental histories  
(spatial experiences) affect our life  
choices and design decisions.

Susan P. Curnam  
Smokey House Project  
Danby, Vermont  
05739

Director of a youth work program  
on 5000 acres of forest and agricultural  
land. The project involves alternative  
agriculture and technology as well as  
traditional skills of forestry and sugaring.  
Interested in doing away with  
stereotyping in environmental work and  
in non-sexist cooperation and sharing in  
work / environmental contexts.

## Mexico

Elena Vega  
Sur 67A, 3129 - 8  
Mexico 13, DF Mexico

Planning research; low-income housing,  
urbanization.

Energyworks Inc.  
45 Border Street  
West Newton, Massachusetts  
02165

## Puerto Rico

Angela Belavel  
Parque de las Fuentes No. 1801  
Hato Rey, Puerto Rico  
00918

Design of commercial and public  
interiors.

Lois Eveloff-Slavkin  
2027 San Ysidro Drive  
Beverly Hills, California  
90210

Women and suburban environment;  
suburban raised vs. urban youth.

Sylvia F. Fava  
Dept. of Sociology  
Brooklyn College  
Brooklyn, New York  
11210

Women's networks in city and suburbs.  
Planning for and by women. Citizen  
participation. Community development  
and control.

## United States

Beverly Foit Albert  
Foit-Albert and Associates  
4224 N. Buffalo Street  
Orchard Park, New York  
U.S.A., 14127

Architectural and planning services;  
Urban and community design and  
planning; Public way improvements;  
ommerical and industrial.

Cynthia Felice  
1068 East Thomas. Apt. 1  
Seattle, Washington  
98102

Relationships between changing  
lifestyles and transportation policy and  
planning methods: women in the labor  
force.

Rosalie G. Genovese  
17 Selborne Chase  
Fairport, New York  
14450

Economics of housing: mixed-use  
women space.

- Lynn Gernert  
No. 7D - 211 West 106 St.  
New York, New York  
10025
- Elizabeth Gilbert  
Dept. of Sociology  
and Anthropology  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, Indiana  
46556
- Margo Hebal-Heymann  
225 Santa Monica Blv., Ste. 404  
Santa Monica, California  
90401
- Carolyn Hock  
Dept. of Geography  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, Oklahoma  
73019
- Bobbie Sue Hood  
Hood Miller Associates  
2051 Leavenworth Street  
San Francisco, California  
94133
- Suzanne Keller  
Dept. of Sociology  
Princeton University  
Princeton, New Jersey  
08540
- Lois Langland  
Scripps College  
Claremont, California  
91711
- Elsa Leviser  
13020 Hanover Street  
Los Angeles, California  
90049
- Lyn H. Lofland  
Dept. of Sociology  
Univ. of California  
Davis, California  
95616
- Bonnie Loyd  
27 Chatsworth Ct.  
Oakland, California  
94611
- Carol Manahan  
601-15th Ave.  
Menlo Park, California  
94025
- Clare Cooper Marcus  
Dept. of Landscape  
Architecture  
Univ. of California  
Berkeley, California  
94720
- Ann R. Markusen  
Dept. of City and Regional  
Planning  
Univ. of California  
Berkeley, California  
94720
- Laurie Marston  
2515 Western Avenue
- Active in energy policy discussions:  
would like to know what other women are  
doing on the international scene.
- Women and work; women and the  
environment, women and socialism.
- Comparative responses, men and  
women, to new communities; adolescent  
responses.
- Interest in planning, architecture and  
landscape and how environments affect  
the living, freedom and mobility of  
women.
- Sociological studies of women's special  
relation to or utilization of public space.
- Women and geography; sex roles and  
domestic space.
- Organization of Women in Landscape  
Architecture (OWL) 415-326-8331.
- Women and their dwellings; the personal  
and symbolic relationship of women  
living alone.
- Interested in theory of patriarchy and  
urban space, regional issues and  
women.
- Waukegan, Illinois  
60085
- Sherry Oeser  
Dept. of Urban Planning  
Univ. of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon  
97403
- Dixie Ann Pemberton  
Univ. of Maryland  
4309 Woodberry Street  
University Park, Maryland  
20782
- David Popenoe  
92 Moore Street  
Princeton, New Jersey  
08540
- Laura J. Riggs  
305 Tally-Ho Drive  
Ambler, Pennsylvania  
19002
- Dore Rotundo  
P.O. Box 596  
Melrose, Florida  
32666
- Janice Stebbins  
PSR Box 119  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania  
17701
- Jane Tannehill  
3060 West 30th Ct.  
Panama City, Florida  
32405
- Susanna Torre  
The Architectural Studio  
39 West 57th Street  
New York, New York  
10019
- Women in Planning  
Dept. of City and  
Regional Planning  
New East Bldg. 033A  
UNC-CH  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
27514
- Willem van Vliet  
College of Human  
Development, S-126  
Pennsylvania State Univ.  
University Park, Penn.  
16302
- Mary Vogel  
380 South 39th  
Boulder, Colorado  
80303
- Urban planning and the feminist  
perspective.
- Journey to work patterns. Business  
opportunities for women in rural areas.
- Interest in women professionals as  
creators of environments that support  
new cultural values when the old cultural  
values are found inappropriate
- Architect, women built environments.
- Housing for dual career families.
- Student of architecture; urban problems
- Housing for changing family needs.  
Women's institutions.
- Women planning student organization  
with interests in our future roles as  
professional planners; integrating  
women's concerns/issues in our future  
practice; working on making our  
department more responsive to women  
issues in teaching, hiring faculty;  
contacting womens campus groups  
Particular interest in obtaining  
information on women and planning  
related projects and activities in the  
southeastern U.S. (Mississippi,  
Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama,  
Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, North  
Carolina, South Carolina). Compiling a  
resource directory related to this subject  
for the American Planning Association  
Planning and Women Division.
- Application of space-time budget  
methodology to assess objective and  
subjective dimensions of the quality of  
life of children and women in their  
environmental and familial context.
- Interest in development of technology  
and its impact on women's lives;  
appropriate technology (domestic and  
global) and women; socialist feminist  
analysis of current U.S. housing policy

and the need for radical change in it; Co-ordinator, Women's School of Planning and Architecture, 1979.

P.O. Box 6098, Teall Station  
Syracuse, New York  
13217

Housing and women, housing rehabilitation programs. Elderly women and supportive environments; transportation, service delivery, coop housing.

Leslie Kanes Weisman  
New Jersey Institute of Tech.  
323 High Street  
Newark, New Jersey  
07102

Interested in educational experiences where the methods, and the structure reflect feminist values; and the content is concerned with women's relationships to the built environment. Political activism and research on environmental issues; battered women's shelters, rape crisis centers, housing for single parents, birth centers, displaced homemakers and women's resource centers.

Feminism and ecology; women and nuclear power, the Karen Silkwood case.

Warner  
Lindwood Ave.  
Arbor, Michigan

Warnock  
Feminist Resources on  
Ecology and Ecology



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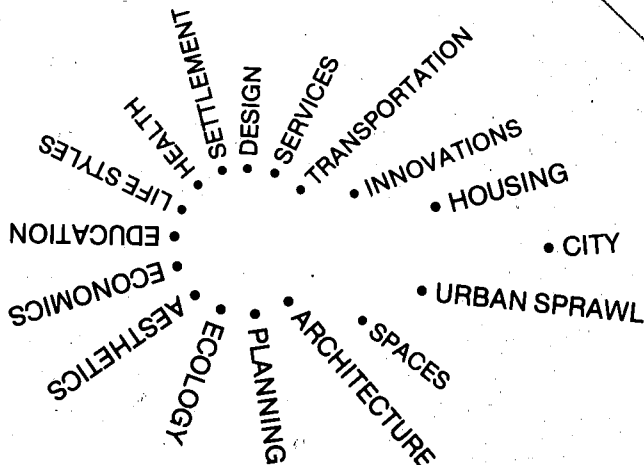
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Box 230, Station "M"  
Toronto, Ontario M6S 4T3.

Women and Environments  
 c/o Faculty of Environmental Studies  
 4700 Keele Street  
 Downsview, Ontario  
 Canada M3J 2R2

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# Women and Environments

YORK UNIVERSITY

6 MAR 1981

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Vol. 4, No. 3, Dec. 1980-Jan. 1981



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# A WORD FROM US

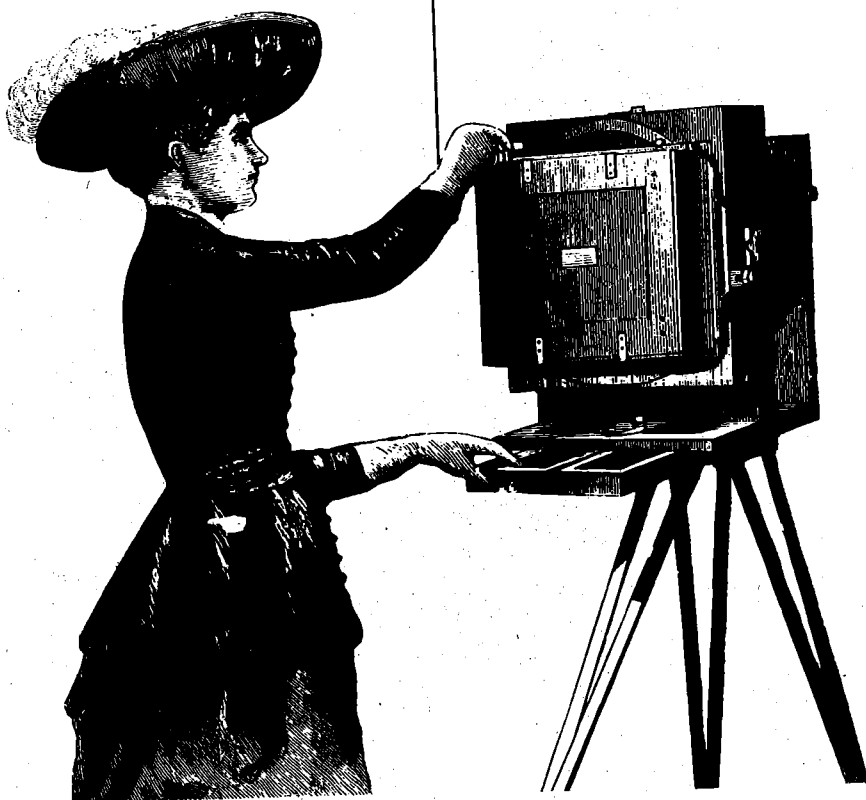
This issue illustrates the breadth of our concerns: from the built environment to the role of women in technology and women outdoors. The focus of this work is international — ranging from women and environment issues in Quebec to women's architectural organizations in California, housing collectives in Sweden and Feminists for the Environment in New Zealand. Our features illustrate three significant trends: the growth of women's support networks in male-dominated environmental professions; the search for new forms of housing which incorporate support services to free women from some aspects of household work; and the acceptance of environmental issues as part of a feminist agenda by women's organizations.

Behind the scenes of this publication, we are a group of six individuals attempting to keep to deadlines and integrate a diverse field while trying to raise funds to keep the publication going. We wish to thank the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental

Studies, Rodger Schwass, for the grant to cover publication costs of this issue, and the President of York University, Ian Macdonald, for a grant to cover promotional activities. These grants have made this issue possible.

We want to ask you, the reader, for two things. First please renew your subscriptions and ask your friends to subscribe as well. Second, we need your participation in gathering the materials for each issue. Clip items of interest from other newsletters, magazines, and newspapers. Write us with your thoughts. Send us articles and information about your organizations. Send us your feedback on this issue. Send us your photographs and graphics. Many of you are already doing these things, but we need even more from each of you if we are to publish three issues a year. Finding material and graphics takes enormous amounts of time — these are ways that you can help to insure that this publication continues.

The editors.



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Cover illustration courtesy of Hecate.

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# LETTERS

## Collective housing

I am a research associate at the Department of Building Function Analysis, School of Architecture in Lund. I have been working with research about communal living. In Sweden, housing units with collective services, such as restaurants, children's day centers and communal rooms have been discussed and built for a long time. The collective housing unit "Stolplyckan" is my main research project during recent years.

My main interest will be a panel study where we will interview a group of tenants before they move to the new housing unit and then twice after they live in Stolplyckan.

Britt Pedersen  
Assistant Professor  
Lund University  
School of Architecture  
Dept. of Building Function Analysis

## Feminist geography

I am a geographer teaching in the School of Social Science at Hampshire. My most recent interest is in the area of women and environment — in particular, the role which women play in urban community struggles. As a member of the editorial board of *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*, I am however, painfully aware of the neglect which my discipline (including its radical fringes) has demonstrated in all areas concerning women. In an effort to reverse this situation, stimulate new interest in environmental studies as it relates to/and affects women, as well as support those in the field who are already pursuing feminist geography in isolation, I would like to devote part of a future issue of the journal to describing those efforts which are underway to teach on the subject of women and environment. One possible format is to publish a number of course syllabi with related bibliographies and to accompany this with a short essay outlining the kinds of issues and themes being addressed in these courses.

Myrna M. Breitbart  
Assistant Professor of Geography  
School of Social Science  
Hampshire College  
Amherst, Mass.  
01002

## Congratulations

I look forward to using it (Women and Environments Newsletter) in the education of my Local of which 98% are women.

Ms. Gail L. Sneddon  
Vice President  
Office and Professional Employees  
International Union  
Local No. 468

Really happy to receive Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2, June 1980 issue of "Women and Environments". I like the format and layout very much.

Jilliene Bolker  
P.O. Box 3544  
Hollywood Ca  
90028

I enjoyed receiving my first copy of Women and Environments which I will be sharing with the other members of AWA and hope to pick up some more subscribers to your network.

Elsa Levisseur  
Environmental Design and Planning,  
Residential and Landscape Design  
13020 Hanover St.  
Los Angeles, Ca.  
90049

It is owing to the Resources for Feminist Research that I made myself acquainted to "Women and Environments". I am presently a student in architecture and I am preparing my diploma with a research on "Women and Housing and Planning". I was interested in your review and surprised by the article from Cynthia Ghorra Gobin on "Women and Planning: the French Example". Today it is still difficult to undertake research on women and planning.

Marie Paule Halgand  
2 bis, rue Dobree  
44100 Nantes — France

Dear Friends,

Such a splendid publication! I am subscribing for daughters and daughters-in-law. Be sure to keep mine coming.

Elise Boulding  
Chair, Sociology  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, New Hampshire  
03755



# NOTES

## Two Canadian Fires

Two Canadian Women's Environments were destroyed by fire this fall. On October 14 the Vancouver Women's Bookstore was gutted and more than a thousand books, magazines and records were either destroyed or heavily damaged by water. On November 12, 21 McGill, the posh 7-year old women's club in downtown Toronto suffered 2.2 million dollars damage. The Women's Bookstore was not insured but the 21 McGill building was. Both fires were the work of arsonists.

(Excerpted from *Broadside*, v. 2, no. 3, Dec. 1980/Jan. 1981, p. 8.)

## Aegean Women's Studies Institute Offers Courses in Greece

Three sessions of credit courses in women's studies will be offered this summer through San Francisco State University Continuing Education, and the Aegean Women's Studies Institute. Sessions will be held from June 10 through July 28. Students may choose either the full 6-week session or one of two 3-week sessions. Costs range from \$1300 to \$2000 depending on departure points and length of stay. Scholarships, if available, will be awarded on the basis of need. The sessions will be held on the island of Mytilini (Lesbos), the birthplace of Sappho.

Courses to be offered might include: Women of the World, Gods and Goddesses of the Mediterranean, Images of Women in Greek Art, Women in Classical Greek Philosophy, Women and Their Environments, Poetry, Fiction, Myth and Ritual, Theatre, Women's Studies and Social Policy, Feminist Utopias, Women and Money, and Women, Sex and Survival. The list of Faculty/Mentors includes Ellen Boneparth, Carol Christ, Paula Harper, Marcia Keller, Bonnie Loyd, Deena Metzger, Valeria Miner, Batya Podos, Deborah Rosenfelt, Josephine Stuart, and Betty Dahl Woodward.

For further information contact:

Dr. Ellen Boneparth, Director  
Aegean Women's Studies Institute  
468 Greenwich  
San Francisco, Ca 94133



Fifty Years of Soviet Art

## Feminist Party of Canada Holds Electoral Forum on Women in the City

The Feminist Party of Canada held an electoral forum on women in the city on November 3, 1980 in Toronto, just before the municipal election. The purpose of the forum was to highlight the many areas of women's lives which are affected by municipal politicians: safety of women in the streets, child care, transportation and access to services, i.e. education, health, and housing. Panel members included Lorraine Clark, Fran Endicott, Eileen Samuel, Geraldine Waldman, and Gerda Wekerle.

This was the first time that the Feminist Party, or any other women's group, had publicly defined urban issues as key women's issues. This is an essential first step in politicizing these issues and incorporating them into political platforms. Women were urged to attend all-candidates meetings, raise the issues discussed in the forum, to lobby for better services for women: more daycare spaces, battered women's shelters, and higher public transit subsidies. Participants noted that no woman sits on either the police or transportation commissions.

For further information:

Feminist Party of Canada  
(Parti Feministe du Canada)  
Box 5715, Station A  
Toronto M5A 1A0  
Phone 416-960-4327

## Quest Plans Special Issue on Women and Energy

**Quest: A Feminist Quarterly** plans a special issue on "Women and Energy" in 1981. This issue will examine why ecology, the environment, nuclear power and appropriate technology are feminist issues. How can women as producers, as designers, as consumers influence new technologies? What are the points of access for women for use, development and control of alternate technologies? What will an environmental/feminist utopia look like? We welcome articles from women who are scientists, grassroots organizers on safe energy issues, women in government, in public interest organizations, in environmental and energy education, researchers, and hands-on appropriate technologists and futurists.

## Conference on Women, Planning and Architecture

Please mention that our third annual Conference on Women, Planning and Architecture will be February 21st. The topic will be on women in the labour force.

Dolores Hayden  
University of California  
U.C.L.A. School of Architecture  
and Urban Planning  
405 Hilgard Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90024  
AU01

## Santa Barbara Women Plan Women's Building

Jilliene Bolker, a California network participant, sent us an article from the *Santa Barbara News and Review*, "Building the Women's Movement", July 17, 1980, (p. 11). A day-long conference was to be held to begin planning for a women's building to serve the multi-purpose function of centralizing women's crisis services, as well as serving as a community-wide women's center with its own projects, such as housing referral, bartering systems, and a cultural forum for women.

For information contact:

Rebecca Dre  
1839 Lomb  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

## APA Announces Winners of Competition on Planning to Meet the Changing Needs of Women

Winners of a national competition on design that is responsive to the changing roles and needs of women were announced on May 30 by the American Planning Association in Washington, D.C. The winning projects responded to specific local needs in housing, transportation, employment, personal safety, economics and human services, and in general, could be transferred to other cities. Awards included 13 \$1,500 prizes to existing projects and four \$1000 prizes for innovative proposals. In addition, 27 noncash honorable mention awards were given in each category. Overall there were 130 entries nationwide. The competition was sponsored by APA's Planning and Women Division, under a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research.

The winning projects are:

- Building for Women, New York City: on-the-job training in construction and rehabilitation skills for women ex-offenders.
- National Congress of Neighbourhood Women, Neighbourhood College, Brooklyn, N.Y.: a community-based neighbourhood studies program.
- Building with Economic Development, Providence, R.I.: self-help housing and economic development activities.
- Child Discrimination and Housing, Atlanta, Georgia: a research and lobbying program concerned with the problems women with children have in locating suitable rental housing.
- Community Action Strategies to Stop Rape, Columbus, Ohio: a four-year rape prevention program.
- Child Advocacy Project, Denver: physical and psychological support services for the children of battered women and for the mothers.
- Neighbourhood Self-Employment Project, Madison, Wis.: a resource center to help women and minorities operate inner-city businesses.
- Chicago Urban League's Young Parents Center: services for teenaged mothers.
- Women's Building of the Bay Area, San Francisco, Ca.: a nonprofit women-owned and operated facility that services women's groups and community organizations.

- Shelter and Supportive Services for Battered Women and Their Families, Baltimore: comprehensive services.
- Alternative Job Options for Women, Salt Lake City: prepares and places low-income women in higher-paying, nontraditional jobs.
- Self-Reliant Education, Community Model Development, Sunnyvale, California: educational and community development aid for women in six communities.
- Karuna Counseling for Women and Their Friends, Atlanta: a feminist counseling center.

The winning proposals are:

- Housing Cooperative for Single Parent Families, Hayward, Calif.: a new construction, limited equity housing co-op.
- Women's Changing Housing Needs in the Pittsburgh Area: an identification process that includes a film focusing on the diversity of women's housing needs.
- Garden Street Project, Cambridge, Mass.: an urban work environment to house a range of ventures undertaken by women.
- Blueprint for the Women's Development Project, Brooklyn, N.Y.: a neighbourhood will be planned so that the space, ownership, and services respond to women's needs.

All projects will be described in a technical compendium to be distributed to local government officials, urban planners, and other policy makers, as well as to women's groups and other organizations across the country.

For further information please contact:

Mary H. Deal, chair of  
 APA's Planning and Women Division, or  
 Sandra Kashdan,  
 APA Staff American Planning Association  
 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20036

## Women and Planning Issue in New Zealand

Jan Crawford writes from Auckland, New Zealand: "A group of women planners has been formed here and our first project will be to publish the March issue of the **Town Planning Quarterly** (the official journal of the New Zealand Planning Institute). Deadline for any copy would be 1 February 1981." Those of you wishing to pursue this further can contact:

Jan Crawford  
 29 Princes Street  
 Auckland, New Zealand

## Women's Studies International Quarterly Plans Issue on Women and the Built Environment

Jan Walbe writes that the **Women's Studies International Quarterly** is planning a special issue on Women and the Built Environment. The editors are calling for papers.

Contact: Jan Walbe, Assistant Editor  
 95 Allison Road  
 London N8 0AP  
 England

## Childcare in Public Spaces

I'm looking for information on childcare in public spaces — in shopping centers, stores, government buildings, schools. In particular, I would like photographs, slides, anecdotes about experiences of women and children in these spaces; design of the spaces, their management and financing.

Write to:

Gerda Wekerle  
 Faculty of Environmental Studies  
 York University, 4700 Keele Street  
 Downsview, Ontario, Canada  
 M3J 2R2

## Workshop on Women and Environment Held at Waterloo, Ontario

On October 4, 1980, a workshop sponsored by the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group and the University of Waterloo Federation of Students addressed questions of current needs of women in urban and work environments. Professors Sally Lerner of the University of Waterloo, and Gerda Wekerle of York University served as resources for the workshop. After their presentations the group broke into four workshops:

- Designing and Implementing the Non-segregated and Non-Sexist Community
- Women and Conflict: Emergency Shelter and Beyond
- The Overlooked Health Hazards of the Office
- Sexual Harassment in the Work Environment.

Many universities have chapters of Public Interest Research Groups. They are funded by student fees. Feminists might use the research capabilities of this organization to focus on women and environments research and organize local conferences.

## Notes on Women and Technology

Women's Studies International Quarterly is planning a special issue on "Women, Technology and Innovation". Publication is planned for late 1981. Joan Rothschild, guest co-editor writes that they're planning a women's studies section for the issue to include materials on courses, programs, and resources. In addition she sends information on the following forthcoming publications:

- Rothschild, Joan. "A Feminist Perspective on Technology and the Future", *Women's Studies International Quarterly*, v. 4, no. 1 (1981). This is a search for ideas and models for a feminist technology, and provides a review of the literature on women and technology, as of January 1980.
- Rothschild, Joan. "Technology, Women's Work, and the Social Control of Women", in Margherita Rendel (ed.) *Women, Politics and Social Development*. London: Croom Helm, spring 1981. The thesis developed in this article is that reproductive and household technologies in the United States, instead of freeing women, have in many ways helped to lock women more firmly into their traditional roles of wife and mother, technology serving both patriarchy and a capitalist political economy.

Joan recently chaired a panel at the National Women's Studies Association convention in Bloomington, Indiana, May 16-20 on "Women and Technology: Woman as Subject, Woman as Object: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives". There were five papers: women inventors in agriculture; early domestic science and household technology; thesis on origins of patriarchal technology; masculine/capitalist elements in engineering culture; and patriarchal and feminist perspectives on bio-engineering.

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One University Avenue  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01854

## International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women

(Submitted by Willem van Vliet).

"Women's Worlds: The New Scholarship" is the theme of a congress to be held at the University of Haifa, Israel, December

28 and January 1, 1982. This congress will bring together academics from all over the world who are working or researching in this area to allow for a dialogue between the various disciplines of the social sciences and humanities, with the hope of furthering cooperation and interaction. The partial list of co-sponsors includes the University of Haifa; Division 35, Psychology of Women of the American Psychological Association; The Center for the Study of Women and Sex Roles, City University of New York; Sociologists for Women in Society; The Federation of Organizations for Professional Women; American Women in Science, and Sex and Gender Section, American Sociological Association.

Deadline for submission of papers is April 1, 1981, and upon request Abstract forms and further details will be provided. Notification of acceptance will be sent out by September 1, 1981. The Abstracts must be submitted in 3 copies (original plus 2) to the Secretariat and must reach them not later than April 1, 1981. For further details write:

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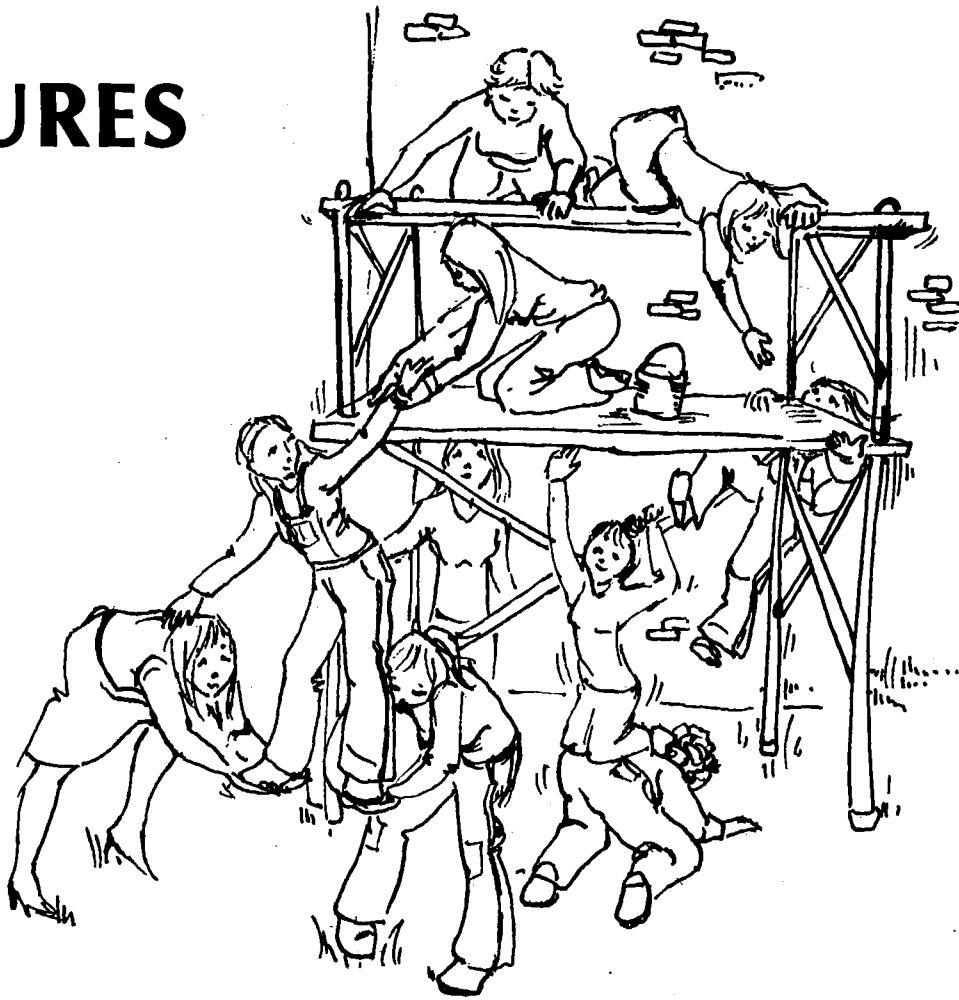


Illustration: Bernadette Hunt

## Combining the Personal and Professional: The Organization of Women Architects

Interview with Mui Ho and Wendy Bertrand  
by Gerda R. Wekerle

Last winter I spoke with Mui Ho and Wendy Bertrand of the Organization of Women Architects/Design Professionals — San Francisco and Bay Area. It was soon apparent that this was an extraordinary professional support group which could be a model for others. Between 30–50 of the 150 members meet each month at members' homes. I was struck by the fact that these were very busy professional women — some of them students, others newly started in their careers, and some well-established or heads of their own firms — who made time to meet on a regular basis. It was obvious that the group was important to them and that they not only supported one another in finding jobs and passing architectural boards, but also formed strong friendships within the group. Following are excerpts from our discussion.

Gerda Wekerle

We started in Berkeley in November, 1972. Our goals were to create a support

group, erase the competitive climate among women, help each other to find jobs, and overcome discrimination. We were not interested in criticizing the profession, or becoming a big national organization. The ratio of energy spent had a direct, high return for us. There was not the delayed effect that is the rule for large organizations trying to serve a group *en masse*.

An important aspect of our structure is the way we try to combine our personal and professional lives. For instance, we choose to meet in private homes over dinner. We phone one another often, we are friends, we recommend one another for jobs, and help one another in the profession — the "new girl network". We have not gone after or attracted the "known" women in architecture. We don't recruit but tend to attract people who hear of us. The group is open to any person interested in its goals.

From the beginning, we were convinced that the structure should be horizontal.

A basic concept has been to encourage sharing and participation. There is no "star" in the group. We encourage leadership

rather than relying on the natural leaders of the group. We considered it essential that everyone understand that they would have a turn to be on the Steering Committee and the Steering Committee saw its task as involving others.

One of our basic principles has been to have a large steering committee of ten people so that individuals are responsible for less. Major time-consuming duties rotate, i.e. leading the meeting, editing the newsletter, preparing food. The education and licensing committee conducts seminars, and a mock exam to give members experience for the state licensing examinations. Two persons are responsible for each of these functions, and, in order to ensure some continuity, their tenure is staggered so that a new person works with a member who has already been in the position for six months.

With so many people involved, making a decision may take longer, however, it is more democratic because it is talked over from many sides. It's like an old Indian powwow. We sit around and talk it out. It takes

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a little time, but is worth it. It's also a way to learn about other people.

Because of the built-in change of leadership, our emphasis remains dynamic. One woman was concerned with affirmative action and organized an employment survey of architectural firms, asking them why they did not hire women. Last year, the push was to organize a museum show of women architects' lives. OWA also provides a group health plan for members and has established a library. Many members have grown through participating in the group and having a chance to test their ideas. Some have gained the confidence to open their own firms and have hired friends met through OWA.

Meeting in a different home each month and eating together bind us together and are part of the organization's spirit and structure. Meetings occasionally attract more than 50 people. When this happens,

the house environment is strained. Some people have suggested that we should rent a hall. But we don't want that. We don't want to sit in rows in an uncomfortable formal hall. It is important to meet in a member's house because you learn something about that person; it is a way for us to observe the whole context of our professional lives. How we organize the food is also important. The women engineers we talk with say that it must be confusing and a burden to organize food for so many people. Five to six people are asked to bring food; their costs are reimbursed. We try to pass this around and usually ask non-steering committee members to contribute food. This is one way to encourage people who may be on the fringes. It makes us feel a part of the group, affords another way to participate and show dedication.

We have had to change our expectations. Five years ago we saw ourselves making a

more public contribution to society. As the organization became larger, we found that the support function was so important and took so much of our energy that these other projects did not materialize. Some women have considered us too feminist. Others have felt that we are not radical enough because we do not take big actions outside the group. It may be that five years from now, through the connections in this group, we will be involved in major professional projects that are acknowledged as a productive contribution rather than the more process-oriented, nourishing base we are now building.

*Mui Ho has her own architectural practice in Berkeley, California and is a lecturer in the Department of Architecture, University of California, Berkeley. Wendy Bertrand is an architect for the Western Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command, San Bruno, California.*

## Networking: Women in Architecture

by Elsa Levisseur

*The Association of Women in Architecture is a professional, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the status of women in architecture and related fields, and to advancing these professions. . .*

This statement of goals of the Association of Women in Architecture, Los Angeles (AWA) has been discussed, argued, and reprioritized, and always ends up the same. The goal reflects AWA's continuing middle of the road philosophy which attempts to stay uncontroversial in order to include as many viewpoints as possible. Inevitably, this stance lays the organization open to accusations of being both too far to the left and too far to the right and thus probably still effectively limits participation.

The debate over the philosophic thrust of the organization helped to define for me the most important aspect of the group — supportiveness for personal and professional self-confidence and growth. These benefits have derived from the opportunity to come up through the ranks and take on more responsibility in a safe atmosphere, and to work with other women on projects undertaken by the group. Projects have included the monthly newsletter and lecture meeting, career counselling (where we find that girls with design interests are still being directed to professions such as hairdressing), exhibitions, and conferences.

Founded in 1922 as Alpha Alpha Gamma, a national sorority of students from four universities, the Association of Women in Architecture was incorporated as a professional body in 1934. In its heyday, the AWA



functioned as a national organization, consisting of nine professional and twelve student chapters. A period of gradual decline followed, ending in the demise of all chapters but the headquarters group in Los Angeles, which has persisted through the years.

Recent efforts of the AWA have been directed at eliciting greater responsiveness to

women within the American Institute of Architects (AIA). This has resulted in the establishment of a Women Architects Task Force within the AIA. Chaired by Virginia Tanzman, past president of AWA, this task force is working on the formation of a comprehensive networks of women architects, involving members more closely in the mainstream of AIA government, outreach to women students, and a clearinghouse of information on women in the profession. However, it is not clear at this time that the AIA is following through on its commitment to women, as the money and staff for implementation have been cut and the program is threatened. Pressure from the women's organizations might help remedy this situation, as it did in the passage of a resolution which prevented AIA conventions from being held in states which did not ratify the ERA.

The greater resources of the AIA raises the question of whether the AWA would be more effective working within the AIA. AWA membership has chosen not to do this. Our lack of staff and money are directly related, I feel, to the effectiveness of the organization and the five-year energy burnout. I also feel that the major issue today is no longer women's lack of power in the profession, but how the designed environment affects women's lives.

Whatever the current thrust of the AWA the inherent value of the contact, support and understanding between women remains the wellspring of the organization and will continue to be so until it is no longer necessary to have separate women's organizations.



## Collective Housing Units In Sweden

Dick Urban Vestbro

Housing units with collective services, such as a restaurant, children's day nursery and communal rooms have been discussed and built in Sweden for a long time. They have been called "collective housing units", "family hotels" or "service blocks". The 20 blocks of this type, which have been built in Sweden, have functioned according to a plan for 10, 20 or 30 years. Today only a few of these blocks function on a collective basis, but new collective housing units are planned in Stockholm and Linköping.

The first collective housing unit was built between 1907 and 1909 to resolve "the servant problem" and consisted of kitchenless flats. A dumb waiter transported meals from a central kitchen to each flat. Paid staff provided laundry, cleaning, help in illness and other services.

The architect who principally was to devote himself to collective housing was **Sven Markelius**, who later became a professor and Director of Town Planning in Stockholm, and died in 1972. He collaborated with **Alva Myrdal**, who later became a Social Democratic member of the Cabinet, a disarmament expert etc. In 1932 Markelius and Myrdal presented a plan for a collective housing unit in Alvik. It consisted of three blocks of eight to ten storeys with a restaurant and other collective premises in the basement. Despite the ideal of a collective life centered on the dining-room, they envisaged a system of food lifts along exactly the same lines as in "Hemgarden" 25 years before. Although the Alvik scheme was not realized, a smaller project was built.

### The rise of collective housing units

The building contractor, **Olle Engqvist**, was among those captured by the collective housing debate. In 1938 he built a collective housing unit for single women in Kungsholmen in Stockholm. It was called "**Smaragden**" and contained 200 flats consisting of one room and a kitchenette. At first collective services included a restaurant, laundry, cleaning service, gymnasium and lounge. A sun-terrace on the roof was one of Stockholm's best vantage points. The building functioned on a collective basis until 1976 when the owner closed the restaurant.

One of the most enthusiastic pressure groups behind the idea of collective housing was the Business and Professional Women's Club (Yrkeskvinnornas Klubb, YK), an organization primarily for female graduates. In 1939 the Business and Professional Women's Club managed to set up its own collective housing unit, the "**Yrkeskvinnornas Hus**" (Professional Women's House) on Gärdet in Stockholm.

"Yrkeskvinnornas Hus" contained 62 flats consisting of one to four rooms. The flats (except for the staff accommodation) had standard kitchens despite the fact that there was a restaurant with food lifts in the block. At first the residents' association itself ran the restaurant, a laundry, a cleaning service and the day nursery situated in the building. There was also a gymnasium which at the same time functioned as an assembly room. There was a small shop in the basement. The block was gradually de-collectivized. The day nursery and the restaurant are, however, still in existence and the collective housing unit could be "revived".

During the period 1939-1944 four housing units with collective services were built in Stockholm. Two of them, "Elfvingsgården" in Alvik and "Gärdesgården" on Gärdet in Stockholm, still function on a collective basis. They are designed for single women and childless couples respectively.

### Marieberg collective housing unit

In 1944 **Olle Engqvist** built a new collective housing unit in Marieberg in Stockholm. It was specially designed for families with working parents and therefore had a day nursery in the block as well as a restaurant, laundry and cleaning service. In addition there was a reception, baker's shop, general shop and a separate dining-room for guests.

In order to obtain a stable basis for the restaurant **Olle Engqvist** introduced a subscription system, which was written into the lease, and which meant that each tenant had to pay for 24 meal coupons per month, ten months per year. The tenants could choose between eating in the dining-room and taking their food up to their flats from a special serving area. The restaurant was not open to non-residents, but was to function as the tenants' communal dining-room.

Marieberg collective housing unit contains ca 200 flats, the majority of which consist of two rooms and a kitchenette. Due to the day nursery and the restaurant it was considered possible to reduce the dwelling space and the kitchen fittings, and thus keep the costs down. There were also twelve small staff flats in the block.

Families with more than one child found the flats too small and moved out, but instead new households with children moved in, often single mothers and their children. The number of children did not fall until the 1960's. A rich social life developed in the block, largely due to the collective services. The residents got to know each other by sight in the dining-room, in the day nursery and in the corridors, and spontaneous contacts were possible. At times there was

an active pressure group for the residents in the block.

The cleaning service, laundry, shop and reception functioned for ca 25 years. The dining-room functioned until 1976 when it was closed by the owner. Today the flats are too small to attract families with children. Since the closure of the restaurant many people have moved out and the block has gone downhill.

### Hässelby "family hotel"

In the mid fifties, **Hässelby "family hotel"** was built. It contained 330 flats divided into four tower blocks of nine to ten storeys and 13 blocks of three to four storeys, all linked by a corridor rich in variation. The flats had one to five rooms, but the majority consisted of one room and kitchen.

The collective services consisted of a restaurant, cleaning service, day nursery, leisure centre for young people, reception, shop with evening opening hours, dry cleaner's, medical care for the elderly, cafeteria, hobby premises and a large dining-room for festive occasions, which could also be used for general meetings. The block also housed a gymnasium, which belonged to the adjacent school, a youth club run by the local authority and a chapel, which belonged to the church.

In the 1960's a radical women's group, an active contact committee (the basic committee in the tenants' association) and a special collective housing group with the aim of campaigning for collective housing in general, were founded in Hässelby family hotel. The block's own pressure group was very much involved in various issues and came into conflict with the owner over the dining-room: the menu, hours of opening, price and management.

As in most other collective housing units the cleaning service, reception and shop were gradually discontinued. Today the pressure group says that people can manage their own cleaning and laundry. It is the restaurant (and communal dining-room), the day nursery and communal rooms which are important. The indoor communications and the spontaneous opportunities for contact create unity and security without reducing individualism.

However the conflict over the dining-room continued and in 1976 the owner was granted the right to close the restaurant. This was a serious blow to the idea of the collective housing unit. Undoubtedly staff costs had risen sharply and there were great difficulties in recruiting kitchen staff. But since the owner rejected proposals that the tenants should take over the whole or parts of the restaurant management, it seems as if it was the criticism and the administrative

problems which made Olle Engqvist's company close the restaurants. In Hässelby family hotel, however, a large group of tenants took over the preparation of food themselves and ran the catering service for ca 100 persons for nearly three years, until the owner in July 1979 had them thrown out with help from the police.

### New Pressures for Collective Housing

The idea of collective housing first returned in connection with the flaring up of the "women's debate" in the 1960's. Many women's organizations demanded collective housing and accused the male decision-makers, who themselves in most cases had wives at home, of a lack of understanding for women's problems.

In the 1960's many of the housing units described above had been decollectivized, which fostered the idea that the collective housing units had "failed" despite the fact that many of them had functioned well for 30 years.

"Service centres" and "service areas" were launched as an alternative to collective housing. This meant a partial rationalization of housing management, but also an improvement in social services such as day nurseries, social welfare, cultural services and local shops dispersed throughout the normal residential environment. A few such service areas have been built in Sweden.

The "service block" was a combination of the service area and the collective housing unit. The foremost Swedish example of this is the **Sollentuna service block**, which was built between 1969 and 1972 by the municipal housing corporation of Sollentuna north of Stockholm. The complex comprises no less than 1,250 flats.

The service block was provided with a restaurant, several day nurseries and leisure homes for children, a youth club, junior level comprehensive school, reception, hobby premises, cafeteria, communal rooms, gymnasium, exhibition hall, dentist, doctor, physiotherapist, bank, hairdresser and about 20 shops. However the tenants were to do their own washing and cleaning. The critics said that it was not a question of a collective housing unit at all, but of ordinary flats which happened to be situated above a commercial, suburban centre.

There has been a renewed interest in the idea of solidarity, security and spontaneous opportunities for contact. The fact that the tenants in the Hässelby block prepare food jointly has also stimulated the idea of increased co-operation.

The trend towards more and more households of one and two persons and the increase in the number of divorces also point towards the need for dwellings of a new type with opportunities for spontaneous contacts, preferably indoors. The nuclear family, consisting of mother, father and

children, is in a clear minority in Sweden today, but in spite of this dwellings are mainly planned for nuclear families. Many people are of the opinion that the collective housing unit can contribute to reducing isolation and alienation in the community.

Some consider that the collective housing unit provides good opportunities for breaking down the segregation between income and ethnic groups and integrating the outcasts and old people with "normal" people.

Almost all Sweden's women's organizations are today demanding collective housing. Stockholm's housing department has a waiting-list of 13,000 persons, wanting collective housing. Loan conditions have been changed so that housing contractors can obtain favourable loans for collective services. Nevertheless the local authorities and the private building contractors are hesitant.

### The future

One exception is the municipality of Linköping, which has decided to build a collective housing unit along more or less the same lines as the Hässelby family hotel. It is called "**Stolplyckan**" and will contain 186 flats, 35 of which are for pensioners and 9 for the handicapped. The tenants are to be specially selected so that all ages and types of households are represented. According to the plans the residents are to have a great deal of influence over the collective services: a restaurant, day nursery, assembly hall, library, hobby rooms and gymnasium, all connected internally with the flats.

Several research projects are in progress today at the technological universities and at the National Association of Swedish Architects (SAR) to answer questions about collective housing. The pressure group in the Hässelby family hotel has stated that the collective housing unit is incompatible with private property ownership. Even the municipal housing corporations are criticized for not giving the residents any influence over their immediate environment. In a collective housing unit special demands must be made for the residents to have an influence over the collective service and to actively accept responsibility for it themselves. It must not be left to the profit principle or to central bureaucrats. If the residents carry out part of the collective service themselves, it is also possible to manage with fewer employees and reduce the costs so that even the low-paid can afford to live in collective housing.

*Dick Urban Vestbrö is an Architect and Assistant Professor at the Royal Institute of Technology. Excerpted with permission from "Current Sweden", published by the Swedish Institute, Box 7434 S-103 91, Stockholm, Sweden*

## Women and Environments: A Review of Research and Activities in Quebec

by Denise Piché, Ecole d'Architecture, Université Laval

The place of women in society has been a widely debated question in Quebec for the past five years. All social forces seem to have combined to talk about women. Unfortunately, change and action are not as readily forthcoming. For instance, the provincial government has recently released its political statement on women through its Conseil du Statut de la Femme; main press media have begun to discuss women's issues, and "comités de condition féminine" are active in trade unions. Even more significantly, women's associations are growing at an unprecedented rate, feminist literature proliferates, and spontaneous groups of women everywhere — be they mothers, psychologists, or artists — are beginning to speak out. Women can mobilize themselves in a week, as they did recently against an inadequate Bill to Promote the Payment of Support.

Problems, however, still remain. During the recent referendum campaign, the conservative movement known as "les Yvettes", after a docile little girl in Quebecois reading manuals, drew thousands of women to political rallies.

With respect to environmental issues, women in Quebec are a reflection of their society. The environment has never been of great concern to citizens of Quebec, although we are polluted, underdeveloped, and strangled by land speculation. But recently, groups of women have begun to organize themselves with respect to the environment. It is the aim of this paper to introduce, in a kind of potpourri, some of these early developments.

1. For the first time, this year one of the major women's associations (AFEAS) has made an environmental issue — water pollution — one of its targets. This is a hard working group, so it will be interesting to see what will develop.

2. The "black book" on women's condition in Quebec, by the Conseil du Statut de la Femme, includes many recommendations with respect to the environment, based on the principle that poverty and women's double burden in the home and in the workforce limit their well-being and participation in society. It calls for the development of:

- an accessible network of daycare centres
- summer camps for children
- programmes of family holidays that would free women from their usual tasks
- home services for single parent families in times of illness
- a network of leisure equipment and centres

...res that would open new opportunities for women. This would include public support of activities, such as arts and crafts, in which women are already active, as well as those, such as organized sports, where men have traditionally dominated. financial aid to single parent families to maintain acceptable living standards during times of hardship such as illness.

enforced measures to stop discrimination against women and children with respect to renting and house financing  
 a Habitability Code that would take into account family and community needs  
 users' participation mechanisms with respect to housing development  
 the invalidation of zoning restrictions on the use of buildings for daycare and community activities

the opening of underused public buildings for community purposes

the examination of working conditions with respect to women's health. (A new law has been adopted that permits workers to quit a job that they judge dangerous to their health, until an investigation board has ruled on the case.)

3. "Femmes de Mont St. Pierre", a group of women from a small rural village, has produced a study of women in isolated fishing villages along the St. Lawrence coast. Their work has provided a model for studying women's lives with reference to regional identity. Another group, "Femmes de Mont-

Laurier", has followed suit by publishing a report of their region.

4. "Abitibiennes-enceintes" have tackled the humanization of birth with an environmental perspective. When a local hospital planned a new delivery room with expensive equipment, this group demanded an ordinary room designed with local resources. They were successful in obtaining this room, in accordance with an ideal of a simple birth in simple conditions, where human warmth is the only variable that counts.

5. A group of women consisting mostly of single parents have started a housing co-op in Quebec city. Named "Vivre en Ville", it is part of a project to recycle an old convent into housing in the centre of town.

6. I would not like to leave women artists out of the picture, especially given the rapid development of environmental art. Women now have their own gallery in Montreal, named Powerhouse. Francine Larrivée has been developing a feminist approach to art for a few years. One of her works, "The Nuptial Room", is a complete environment aimed at raising consciousness about the life of the couple.

7. Resistance to change in the universities has been difficult to overcome. A pioneer in the field of women and environments, Anne-Marie Pollowy has tried to create a course on space and women at the

Université de Montréal, and has pursued research on women and interior design. Frustrated by administrative harassment, she now works in Baltimore. Louise Tassé has tried to continue her work at the Université de Montréal, but was refused a course on women and environments because it was judged too narrow in scope. She is expected to conduct such a course next year at the Université du Québec à Montréal. (UQUAM) Her current research bears upon the evolution of domestic work during the course of industrialization and urbanization in Quebec. Also at UQUAM, Rose-Marie Arbour is teaching on women and the arts, and Ginette Rachon is examining innovations in design geared toward women's lives. Huguette Dagenais, at the Université Laval, has published a text on the meaning of urban life to women.

I myself have written on the appropriation of space by women (*Atlantis*, 1979), and organized a meeting of women architects in Quebec city. I am actively working on feminist utopias and preparing a research project to examine how the environment can support various patterns of leisure activities in women.

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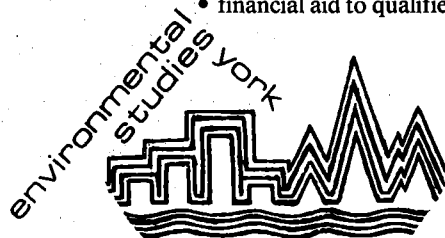
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# IN PRINT

## REVIEWS

Reviewed by Anne Chapman

**New Space for Women**, edited by Gerda R. Wekerle, Rebecca Peterson, and David Morley. Westview Special Studies on Women in Contemporary Society. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1980

**New Space for Women** makes two main points. First, that both domestic and urban/suburban environments are designed with stereotyped cultural ideas in mind, which limit women's options and are out of synch with what women's lives are actually like; and second, that these environments should be, can be, and have been changed to make them serve women's needs better — but only in the face of severe institutional constraints.

The seventeen articles in this complex and challenging collection are grouped by topic: women in the home, in the wider, public environment, in environmental decision making, and as activists. A substantial introduction by the editors succeeds — no easy task — in creating a conceptual framework for material that ranges from historical and statistical analyses to sociological surveys and case studies, and from individual experience, to interviews, to accounts of events spanning over a century.

The home is seen as the key arena where possibilities of change for women will be decided, both because so much of women's time and energy is spent there and because of its symbolic significance. **Crestwood Heights**, the 1957 study of a Toronto community, found for women "something close to an identification of the home with the body." Research from the US reported here suggests that women still "think of the home as an expression or component of their own identity," and that the control culturally allowed women over the spaces within the home, as over their own bodies, is precarious. Most acknowledgedly "theirs" is the kitchen, containing cabinets that "conceal objects whose correct placement only the wife knows." But the kitchen is perhaps the most intruded-upon room in the house; and the wife's control over the supplies behind those closed cabinet doors results in her having to do, or supervise, the work involving their use.

Women "continue to be responsible for eighty to ninety per cent of all household tasks"; whether or not they were employed had no "real impact on the reduction of wives' household contributions or on an increase in husbands', whose help was seen by women as peripheral . . . demanding

supervision, and ultimately not substitutable" for their own work. Given the deep satisfaction women said they gained from their work in, and identification with, the home, it is, however, an open question whether in this situation they are unwilling victims or deliberate maintainers of a measure of control in an area emotionally important to them.

Alternative housing designs, discussed in **New Space for Women**, that "challenge the concept of the isolated single family house controlled by the housewife" and attempt more suitably to accommodate living units other than the traditional nuclear family, did give the women who lived in them relief from isolation and more time for themselves. But, while some proved longer lasting than others, none was widely influential; and none succeeded in breaking the ideological identification of cooking, cleaning and childcare as "women's work."

Woman as fulltime housewife and mother has remained the prevalent paradigm underlying suburban and "new town" planning, even though in 1977 only 16 per cent of US households consisted of a father as sole earner, a wife and at least one child. Low density, and the strongly emphasized separation of private (residential) from public (employment and services-related) space, are still seen as the most desirable features of the suburb by planners. But the spaciousness and homogeneity of suburbs, husbands' primacy in car use for the necessary long-distance commuting, and inadequate public transportation combine to restrict women's access to jobs and services, and men's time spent at home. Sex role stereotyping is built into the system; and that the costs to women are higher than to men is shown in various ways — most directly, by a survey of married couples in urban and suburban environments that showed wives in the suburban house had the lowest, their husbands the highest, degree of satisfaction with how they spent their time.

The space/time constraints imposed by suburban design are even more severe for working women than for housewives; nevertheless, the employment rate is increasing. Almost half of suburban women in America now hold jobs. To be sure, this is well below the three-quarters who do so in a Swedish suburb that, not coincidentally, has "easily-reached public transport, daycare centres, playparks, low maintenance housing and husbands who have a short journey to work." Yet it is clear that neither a more supportive environment nor women's employment suffice to change sex role

stereotyping: suburban women in Sweden still accept a subordinate role and "regard work outside the home as a secondary life task."

Whether women's equal participation in design decisions would result in more equitable and helpful environments has yet to be tested. A case study of the London, Ontario municipal government shows that "neither through group pressure . . . nor through election or appointment" did women succeed in having significant impact on environmental decision-making. In the US, women are under five per cent of architects and hold only 10 per cent of professional and perhaps two per cent of executive positions in planning. Historically, in the New York tenants' movement women dominated the active membership but the leadership was male — self-appointed, or, not infrequently, "put up . . . to front for" the women, on the assumption that men "would be taken more seriously by the authorities."

In spite of ideological and institutional resistance, women have created satisfying and sustaining spaces for themselves: counselling centres, clinics, bars, coffee houses, bookstores, drop-in places and even a transit system. The examples discussed, such as the Los Angeles Woman's Building and the Toronto "Women in Transition" residence, demonstrate the emphasis on design that fosters both a sense of community and sharing, and the development of individuals' sense of competence and vitality; and the commitment to diversity, informality, co-operation and participation.

**New Space for Women** is valuable on a personal level because it helps to identify and articulate the often inchoate resentments and frustrations we feel as a result of the structure of our environment; and, recognizing this, we can try to do something about it. On the level of theory, it raises some thorny issues. To what extent do women need different environments from men as opposed to a more equal share in the same environment; whether purely spatial, apart from ideological or institutional, factors significantly influence women's options; and what pay-offs in the existing arrangements give them a stake in avoiding change. These are some of the questions basic to the issue of new space for women, about which this pioneering book invites further research and discussion.

Anne Chapman teaches history at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio.

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## WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Judney Oliver, "Feminism, Environmentalism and Appropriate Technology", *Quest*, vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 70-80.

Oliver outlines the assumptions shared by the feminist movement, environmentalism, and the appropriate technology movement: (1) "that people are linked to each other and to our environment in a delicate, two-way balance, and that human survival depends on nurturing that balance; (2) that we must reverse the dominant ethic of competition; (3) that health depends on control over our own lives". . . "It is important to recognize that these three common beliefs are among the building blocks on which we can assess coalition, and on which we can begin to build links among our movements. . . Of all the myths about feminism I think two in particular hurt our efforts to build coalitions: the idea that feminists are interested only in 'women's issues' and the idea that feminists are too fixated on individual self-determination to work for the good of 'the community'." Oliver analyzes how women's biology — based issues are linked to other oppressions and how these linkages form the basis for coalitions with the environmental and appropriate technology movements. (G.W.)

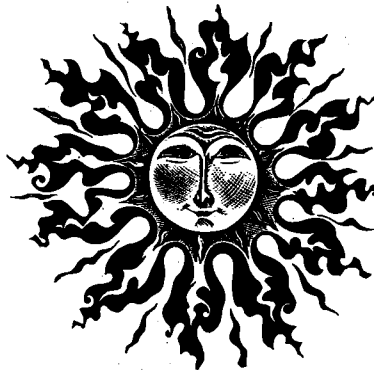
Maria Bergom-Larsson, "Women and Technology in Industrialized Countries", Science and Technology Working Paper Series, no. 8. United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), 801 United Nations Plaza, N.Y.

This paper, available free of charge from UNITAR, examines the impact on women of rapidly changing technology. Bergom-Larsson critically explores technological evolution which has proceeded without consideration of its social, political, and economic effects. These effects, she observes, have only served to widen the gap between men and women. Areas covered include the computerization of work, technology in the household, women and the peace movement, and women's criticism of male technology. (M.L.)

Susan Koen and Nina Swaim, *Ain't Nowhere We Can Run: A Handbook for Women on the Nuclear Mentality*, Women Against Nuclear Development (WAND), Box 421, Norwich, Vermont, 74 pp. \$3.50

In the foreword, Susan Koen writes: "My

hope . . . is that women will be inspired, enraged, and motivated to get together with other women. . . My intent in working on the material is not to have more women join the anti-nuclear movement, but rather to have women join with other women to address the issues which nuclear development brings so clearly to the surface — exploitation, oppression, manipulation, deceit, and power of men over women." This book grounds the nuclear debate in an analysis of patriarchy and the nuclear mentality. It examines the effects of nuclear development on women, especially the health effects of radiation on childbearing women. Particularly useful are the stories of women in the anti-nuclear movement: Holly Near, Helen Caldicott, Karen Silkwood. The authors make a plea for a new paradigm "ecofeminism". "When we discover that the root of the problem is deeply ingrained in the duality paradigm of patriarchy, we have the clue needed for our solution. We have to begin to envision a world in which balance comes from the existence of a dynamic system intermeshing both parts of the duality: i.e. male/female, body/mind, spirit/matter. In such a world, the either/or dichotomies which predominate today's world would be replaced by a celebration of both/and perspectives." (G.W.)



Fifty Years of Soviet Art

## WOMEN OUTDOORS

Anne LaBastille, *Women and Wilderness: Women in Wilderness Professions and Lifestyles*, San Francisco, Sierra Club Books, 1980, 310 pp. \$16.95

This book provides both an historical analysis of women's traditional exclusion from the wilderness and profiles of 15 women whose lives and careers center on the outdoors. LaBastille draws on historical accounts, journals, letters, and fiction to describe women on the frontier. (G.W.)

Profiles of two women and their distinctive ties to the environment appear in *Landscape*, vol. 24, no. 3, 1980

Recognition of Mary Hallock Foote, the writer and illustrator, has recently been revived by Wallace Stegner's novel, *Angle of Repose*, and by the opera of the same name. But in "Mary Hallock Foote's Images of the Old West," Barbara Cragg presents a more accurate portrait of this Eastern woman who lived in mining camps throughout the West in the late 1800s. As a contributor to popular magazines such as *Scribner's*, Foote ignored the trend of her male colleagues to depict the West as a howling wilderness for rugged masculine adventures. Foote's images grew more realistically out of her daily experiences, and promoted the West as a place for homes and families. Cragg's article is illustrated with Mary's own sketches and draws on her letters, essays, and fiction to uncover her personal image of the West.

"Celia Thaxter and Her Island Garden" provided the inspiration for a generation of painters, writers, and musicians on the East Coast. Celia managed an island resort off New Hampshire that attracted American and European visitors near the turn of the century. Among these were a select group of artists drawn by Celia's lively salon and dazzled by the garden she nurtured on the rocky terrain. Celia's own poetry and prose offer a detailed record of her gardening that has enabled the plot to be restored. Illustrations for the article by Katherine Jacobs include Childe Hassam's painting of Celia in her garden. (From Bonnie Loyd)

Rogert Hart "Sex Differences in the Use of Outdoor Space" in Barbara Sprung (ed.) *Perspectives on Non-Sexist Early Childhood Education*, New York: Teachers College Press, 1978

The use of outdoor space is examined in terms of different attitudes, rules and expectations for boys and girls. In an investigation of play activities of five to twelve year olds in a small New England town, the author found that boys had a larger range in which they were allowed to play than did the girls. More frequent and effective modification of the landscape by boys was also observed. The author suggests that girls are socialized to work with interior spaces and therefore reflect this in their play. Superior spatial abilities observed in adult males may be a result of their greater spatial freedom both in terms of range and manipulation of their environment in early life. (H.M.)

# ORGANIZATIONS

**Women in Community Development**, based in western Pennsylvania, was formed two years ago as a vehicle through which to foster the professional development of women in the housing and community development fields and influence housing policies and programs on women as consumers. Membership, open to anyone supporting WICD's objectives, now numbers about sixty women who are working in local, state and federal government offices as well as in non-profit agencies and consulting firms in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

For further information contact:

Julie Kaschal  
Women in Community Development  
P.O. Box 1953  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219

(Excerpted from **Pennsylvania Planner**, 1 (1), August 1980, article by Margaret Charney, sent to us by Willem van Vliet)

**Wisconsin Women's Network** is a banding together of Wisconsin organizations and individual women and men to facilitate coordination, provide a communications system, and strengthen advocacy for women's issues. Issues addressed by the network include: Homemakers' rights, property rights of farm women, assistance to older women, problems of minority women, employment and education.

Contact:

Wisconsin Women's Network  
Gene Boyer, Chair  
218 Front Street  
Beaver Dam  
Wisconsin 53916

**Rural American Women** is a 3-year old, 25,000 member organization for "sharing ideas, learning to tap resources for tools to build on what they have, and winning support in making development reflect their locations and their values." They are planning a conference in Massachusetts for the Northeast in spring of 1981. For further information contact:

Rural American Women  
1522 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

(Excerpted from article "A New Harvest for Rural Women" by Peggy Thomson, MS, September 1980, pages 85-87)



Illustration: Bernadette Hunt

**Match** is a non-governmental organization designed to match the resources and the needs of Canadian women with those of women in the Third World. Individual membership is \$5.00 per year Canadian. For further information contact:

Match International Centre  
401-171 Nepean, Ottawa  
Ontario K2P 0B4

## **Feminists For the Environment — New Zealand**

Thank you for contacting "Feminists for the Environment". I wish to subscribe on behalf of the group to the newsletter. Our group consists of about 10 keen members

and was formed out of the United Womens Convention held in Hamilton, New Zealand at Easter 1979. We meet every 2-3 weeks for an hour and a half over tea/cheese and try to organize our meetings to deal with both theory and matters of action. So far we have not yet finished our manifesto. Answering the question "Why is the environment a feminist issue?" is not easy! Our approach has been to prepare short, individual papers on the various aspects of the issue and then we discuss each one, with a view to clarifying each facet before synthesizing the topics in a manifesto. For this reason, we have made no attempt to extend the size of the group. We feel that women must know on what terms they join an active environmental group.

This has not stopped us from taking part in a seminar on housing in the inner city of Auckland (Oct. 1979) nor from making submissions to two parliamentary Select Committees considering new legislation. One of the issues was the use of cartons for milk packaging. The other matter is the National Development act — an iniquitous macho piece of work if ever there was one! Roughly, it enabled the government to declare a project of any land whatsoever a "matter of national importance" and then to proceed via a "fast track" to circumvent the usual procedures of existing legislation affecting the environment. I made personal submissions to the Select Committee on behalf of the group, to some effect but the act as it was finally adopted was only a little better than the initial bill (draft).

This year, the group is already committed to assist in a one day seminar on Women and the Environment and a display at the local Teaching College.

You did say that you wished for a short description of the group but it really isn't possible to be brief! At least, not brief without underplaying the sense of struggle that prevails. A struggle to understand and write down what we believe is the essence of women's relationship to the environment.

Thanks for your enquiry and the information. I hope you will let people coming to New Zealand know about us. We would be pleased to arrange accommodation, etc. on behalf of visitors. Later I will send you complete details of the members and our manifesto.

Kind regards,

J.L. Crawford  
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