

# Women and Environments

\$3.00

Vol. 7, No. 2, Spring 1985



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- Planning for Women in London
- Housing and Single Parents
- Prospects for Women Architects



- Organizing for Better Transit

WOMEN & ENV.

# Women and Environments?

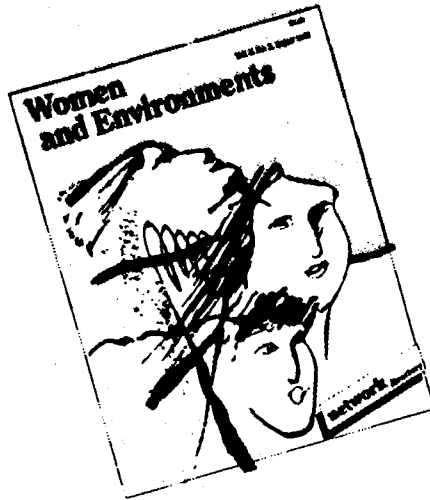
## Our Readers Respond

Most *Women and Environments* are a self-critical — and mutually supportive — lot. When the editorial board meets to assemble an issue, we struggle to choose what we consider a balance of feature articles, short articles, research resources, news of events, women's work, women's organizations — all of the things you see when an issue reaches you. We try to represent our individual as well as collective interests, trusting that you will share those interests, if not in a given issue, then across a number of issues.

In an effort to keep *Women and Environments* timely, relevant and interesting, we tried to find out more about our readers — who you are, what you do, what you like about the magazine and what we, the Editorial Board, can do better. Sixty of you responded to our Reader Survey; we're glad we asked because your support and enthusiasm are sustaining, and your suggestions for improvement will help us plan more effectively.

To the extent that we can generalize from about 10 per cent of our paid subscribers, our readers are female, well educated, reasonably well-paid, and largely urban. Of our 60 respondents, 14 are academics — 11 with PhDs; six are sociologists, others are in architecture, political science and psychology; their ages range from 30 to 60. Fifteen are students in planning, architecture, rural development, oceanography, anthropology, psychology; five are in various stages of their doctorate and all but one of the rest in Master's programs. Most of the students are aged between 31 and 40. Needless to say, this is not a well-paid group.

Eleven people identify themselves as planners; most of them hold Master's degrees, are 21–30 years old, and earn \$30 — \$40,000. Six people are researchers — five with Master's degrees or PhDs, mostly between 31 and 50 years of age and earning \$10 — \$30,000. There are 12 other professionals in our group of respondents, including an elementary teacher, secretary, social worker, architect; most of them hold at least one degree, and are aged between 31 and 40; half of them earn \$10-20,000, two earn more than \$40,000. A few of you acknowledge your multiple occupations as, for example, assistant professor/university administrator/mother/partner/daughter — a situation we're sure applies to more than just a few!



More than half of you live in big cities; most of the rest in small cities, with a few in small towns and rural areas. Our Canadian readership is somewhat higher than our American; we also have readers all over Europe, in Israel, Australia and New Zealand, in India and in several African countries.

For almost all of you, *Women and Environments* reflects both your work and other aspects of your life. Your major interests are widespread; you highlight a range of planning interests (housing, design, physical environment, resource development, history, public policy, development); daily concerns (community, children, support networks, education); abstract/theoretical interests (eco-feminism, feminist theory and research, politics). Your interests include your hobbies as well as your work, and reflect your concerns with a multitude of issues affecting women. You appear to be searching for knowledge to enrich your own and others' personal and professional lives.

Which section of the magazine do you like best? Overall rankings are close, but you give us some sense that your preferences are for:

1. features
2. short articles; news of women's work and projects
3. news of women's organizations, research resources, reviews
4. in print, news from other countries, events.

Almost all of you read everything in *Women and Environments*. Some of you skim most articles — and you qualify that by acknowledging a shortage of time. While most of you like our range of topics, you responded to our request for further suggestions. You want us to extend our concerns to include more aspects of women's lives and more material on women in many places to help promote our concerns and to connect with one another. You suggest historical material, biographies, student work, articles about older women and children, career development, academic programs for women. You ask for information about women in the Third World, cultural issues, minority women, women and technology.

Among your suggestions for improvement, you include film reviews, more pictures and photos, more book reviews, addresses for books mentioned and for contacting women about events, and a complete up-to-date network roster. You recommend that we keep our definition of environment broad in order to encompass as many issues as possible; you ask us for help in defining women's issues in planning "so that we can raise them in our professional life without appearing trivial," and for more about "how to influence decision-makers to consider women's needs/viewpoints in formulating public policies".

In our request for complaints you expressed some genuine concerns. One of our readers raises fundamental questions; why "basic assumptions are hardly ever identified" and whether there is "a universal female perspective." Another asks why men are writing articles in *Women and Environments*.

It is gratifying to see that most of you used our request for complaints to offer compliments:

*Honestly, I think it's excellent. Has been a big help in keeping me abreast of things happening in the field. It's worth the subscription rate definitely.*

*I appreciate the literary criticism, the specific and accurate information and, of course, the perspective women writers my own perspective.*

*I would like more articles more often.*

*Just wish more of the information was important in areas and that we would be able to write an article or two for the magazine.*

The level of knowledge and powers of expression/communication today among you younger women has me delighted, excited and willing to move over to make all the room you need.

Your responses to why you subscribe brought us many more compliments. You are telling us that *Women and Environments* is unique; it is useful, informative and relevant to you personally and professionally; you share the interests of our authors; and you gain support from our network. You subscribe because:

*There's nothing else so particular to my central issue in women and environment ... I love this publication.*

*I am hungry for material relating planning and environments to women's concerns.*

*Canada is ahead in many of its planning programs.*

*It's the only journal that follows women and environments - very important.*

*Only wide-ranging publication of this type.*

*I need to feel connected with other "aware" women.*

*I think the subject matter is important and deserves support.*

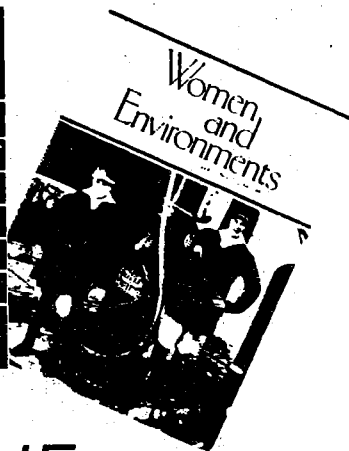
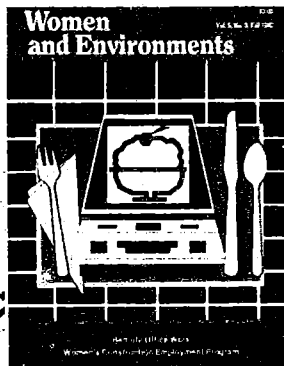
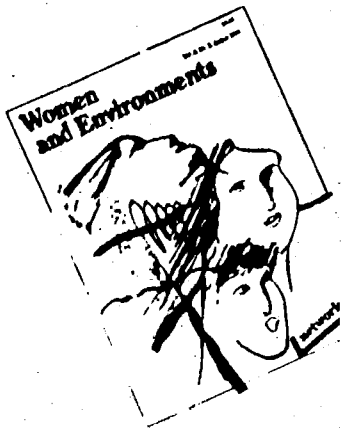
*To broaden my perspective, to gain a greater understanding of women and environmental problems.*

*I'm concerned about the interaction between women and our environment ... I am deeply committed to women's academic and professional development; for this to succeed, women must communicate, build up a history ... in these areas which have, for too long, been male-dominated and devoid of female input ...*

*Women and Environments* seems to fill an important need for you. You want us to be lively and up-to-date. You want us to bring you more of the same and to expand our horizons so that we represent more ages, more places and more issues. It sounds as though you want us to continue to be leaders in maintaining and raising your consciousness on all aspects of women and environments.

Thank you for responding. Thank you for giving us a stronger sense of what we do and what we can do. *Women and Environments* is sure to benefit, and so will we all.

Miriam Wyman



# Women and Environments

Vol.7, No.2, Spring 1985

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*Women and Environments* (ISSN 0029-480X) is published three times yearly. Authors and artists retain copyright, 1985

**Subscription Rates:** \$9/year individuals; \$15 institutions; overseas add \$3. Back copies \$3.

With grateful acknowledgement for assistance from the Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University and the Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, which jointly sponsor this publication.

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# Women Plan London

## The Women's Committee of the Greater London Council

By BEVERLEY TAYLOR

One of the most contentious pieces of legislation proposed by the Thatcher government in 1984 was the abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC) under its controversial political leader, Ken Livingstone. If Mrs. Thatcher does succeed in wiping out this and other metropolitan councils in Britain, a number of progressive initiatives which have brightened an otherwise gloomy political scene will be lost. Among these will be the Women's Committees of some local councils and, with them, their financial and political support of women's organizations and issues.

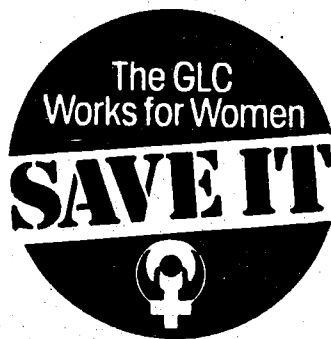
Thanks to the efforts of feminists working within the Labour Party, many of the left-wing borough councils in London have recently set up these committees, which have been instrumental in making women's needs visible in a local government system dominated by male councillors, male officers and male ways of organizing and thinking.

The GLC Women's Committee was one of the first to emerge, in 1982, to be followed in a number of boroughs in London and elsewhere. It remains one of the largest, both in budget and staff; over 70 women now work in the Women's Committee Support Unit at the GLC. The Unit makes grants to women's groups and organizations throughout London for projects involving women's centres, infant daycare, toy libraries, safe transportation and health campaigns; it is involved in the promotion of equality for all women, including black and ethnic minorities, lesbians, women with disabilities, older women, girls; it is an information and campaigning resource, and it works with other GLC committees and departments — housing, transport, planning, arts and recreation, and employment, to ensure that women's needs are

recognized in all aspects of the Council's work.

Thanks to the GLC Women's Committee, the revised Greater London Development Plan (GLDP) — the strategic plan for London — includes a chapter on "Women in London." For the first time in this country, women's issues have been explicitly recognized in a land use plan.

The chapter describes those concerns of women living in the capital that relate to strategic planning: employment and training, housing, mobility and access to services, recreation and child care. It outlines the objectives of the Plan with respect to women's needs, and suggests policies to address these issues.



*Beverley Taylor works part-time for the Women's Committee Support Unit. The views expressed in the article are her own and should not be taken as those of her employer, the GLC.*

### The Women and Planning Working Group

A key factor in introducing the chapter into the Plan was the innovative organizing undertaken by the Women's Committee. In an attempt to bridge the wide gap between the autonomous women's movement and the local state, women were co-opted into the Committee from open meetings, and Working Groups were set up to focus on particular issues, such as black women, women with disabilities, transport, employment, child care. One of these was the Women and Planning Working Group which brought together many women involved in different aspects of planning in London, through both community action and local government. The obvious focus for the group, which formed in August 1982, was the fact that the Planning Committee of the GLC was going ahead with revisions to the outdated GLDP.

Many of the professional planners within the GLC were skeptical at first about the relevance of women's issues to a strategic plan, claiming that they were not directly related to land use or that they were more relevant to local plans. But women were and are aware that the issues which concern them the most — paid employment, child care, housing, transport and security — all have major implications for the way in which land in our cities is used. As the GLC Plan now states: "Women in London live in a city designed for men and have had little opportunity to influence or shape the urban environment through planning policies, in particular the way in which the public in-  
... can go a long way



## The Issues

Women make up 52 per cent of London's population but are at a considerable disadvantage due to the unequal distribution of wealth, their poor access to resources and opportunities, their limited mobility and caring responsibilities.

Over 65 per cent of women in London are in paid work, yet their salaries are low and they continue to be segregated into a limited number of industries and occupations. Their jobs have been affected by cuts in public expenditure, the decline in manufacturing, and the introduction of new technology. Caring responsibilities and restricted mobility make many women reliant on jobs they can find close to home, jobs which tend to be badly paid, casual positions in non-unionized firms. Work-at-home is on the increase and there is a lack of training opportunities.

Women continue to bear most of the responsibility for the care of dependents — not only children but also the sick and elderly and people with disabilities. This is largely unseen and unpaid work which greatly limits opportunities for paid work or other activities outside the home.

Women's access to housing is also extremely limited. Housing policies continue to focus on the needs of the nuclear family, and design of both public and private housing plays a major role in the reinforcement of the sexual division of labour and the isolation of women in the home. Many women need safe accommodation in order to

escape domestic violence; poorer, often black, households fare the worst in the housing stakes.

Mobility is also restricted by low income, by women's care work, by inadequate public transport and fear of attack or harassment. Women depend on public services, but in many cases these are in a state of decline or are becoming centralized, making access inconvenient. In addition there is a lack both of child care facilities and of public places where women can meet.

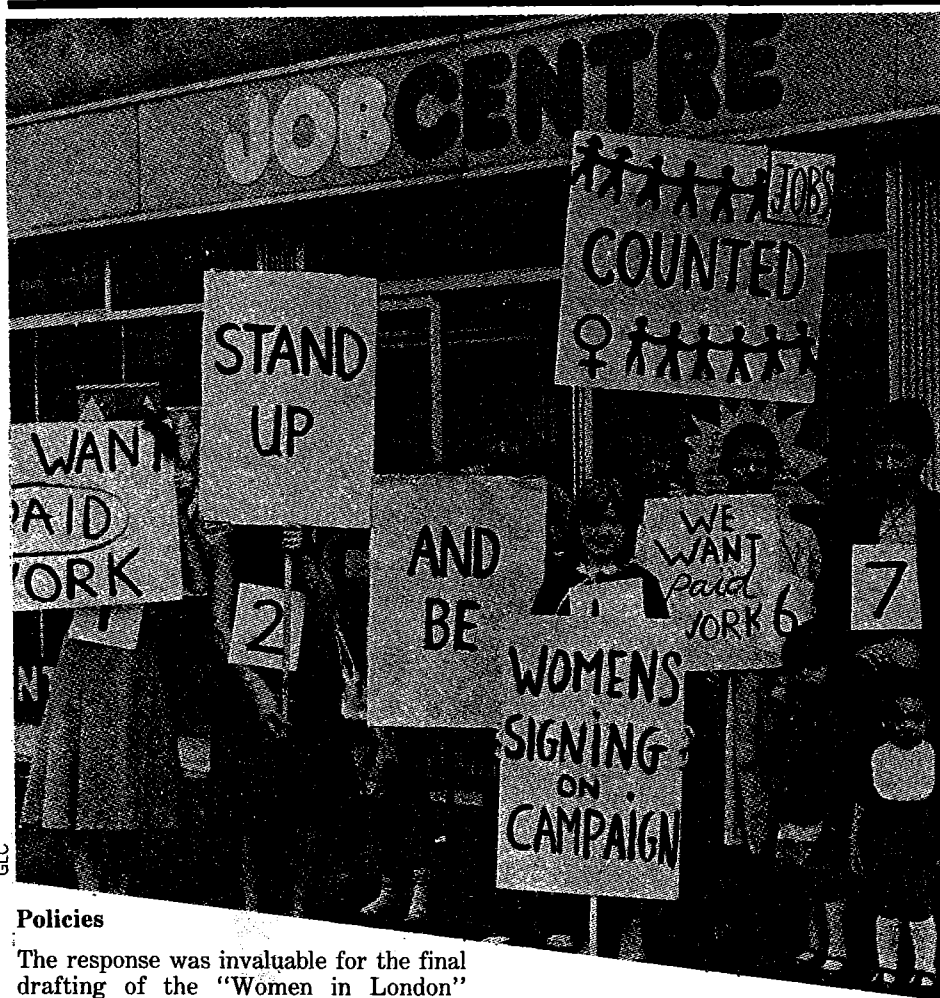
### A Separate Chapter?

One of the major discussions in preparing the Plan was whether the issues outlined above should be in a separate "women's chapter". Some planners argued that it would be better to incorporate the issues of concern to women in other chapters of the Plan. Although the Working Group agreed that chapters on such topics as employment, housing, shopping and transport should also reflect women's needs, they felt that a separate chapter was vital to provide space for stating things on women's own terms rather than having to fit them into conventional planning topics. During the major public participation exercise which took place during the early months of 1984, the

idea of a women's chapter was an effective way of attracting women into the participatory process and showing them how planning relates to their lives.

Public participation is a statutory requirement for the preparation of British "structure" or strategic plans but the GLC went beyond the minimum requirements and consulted many community groups and other interested organizations before the first draft of the Plan was finalized.

Major conferences were held on "The Future of London," where the Working Group circulated position papers; the participation of other Women's Committee Working Groups was also promoted. Specific steps were taken to encourage women to take part in the public consultation on the Draft Plan. A "Women Plan London" leaflet and free-post questionnaire were widely distributed, of which more than 600 were returned; an open meeting was attended by over 250 women. The excellent response convinced both planners and politicians that the issues raised in the proposed chapter had widespread support among women in London.



### Policies

The response was invaluable for the final drafting of the "Women in London" chapter. Women felt that it should be strengthened by including more policies which the Boroughs would have to implement in their Local Plans. So the first of the Policies in the final Plan reads:

#### Policy Wom 1

... London Borough Councils must promote and improve opportunities for women in their areas by identifying the social and economic needs and problems of local women and formulate appropriate local plan policies to meet those needs.

Women particularly wanted more emphasis on the role of caring for dependents and on personal security, so two further policies were added:

#### Policy Wom 3

Local plans must frame appropriate policies for the provision of a full range of childcare facilities and facilities for other dependents which fully reflect local needs.

#### Policy Wom 4

London Borough Councils must take into account the personal security needs of women and the importance of creating an urban environment which is safe and secure for women to use at all times in drawing up local plans and when considering new developments in their areas.

The inclusion of a women's chapter is not the only innovative feature in the Plan, which also contains a chapter on Race Equality and Ethnic Minorities. The inclusion of the two chapters in the Draft Plan drew public attention to the planning needs of other groups in the population. As a result of public pressure the final Plan also contains chapters on people with disabilities and elderly people. The pressure to have a "women's" chapter has therefore also created an approach which recognizes that land use policies and decisions have an important impact on the distribution of opportunities and resources to different groups of the population. These chapters are now grouped under a section of the Plan entitled "Equality in London".

### A Waste of Time?

At the final stage of the plan-making process, the document is submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment. A public enquiry is then held which may result in some modifications before the Plan is approved as a binding document. The Thatcher government has been doing its best to stop the revision of the GLDP, and the Local Government (Interim Provision)

Act was passed last year which absolved the Secretary of State from any responsibility to consider proposals submitted to him for the alteration of the GLDP or any other strategic metropolitan plans. Despite this, the Plan was submitted to the government by the GLC in September 1984.

Some skeptics argue that all the hard work involved in the revision of the GLDP has been a waste of time, since the new edition will never become a statutory document. But the final outcome is not all that important because great gains have been made through the process itself. Valuable networks and contacts have been established and a group of women has learned a great deal about the issues they need to focus on and how to work together effectively. Women and planning issues have been raised at public consultation meetings and in publicity material. The very existence of the women's chapter in a "glossy" document like the Greater London Development Plan has given women's issues a great deal of credibility in planning circles. A precedent has been set for other authorities to follow and the GLC is now using the Plan when commenting on the local plans being prepared by the London boroughs.

Most important perhaps, the ideas set out in the chapter can provide women in London with a tool with which to campaign for changes in local plans and development taking place in their areas. However, local campaigns are likely to be effective only in certain boroughs; without a co-ordinated London planning strategy as put forward in the GLDP, these changes are likely to result in greater inequalities of opportunity in different parts of London. The abolition of the GLC would be a big step backward in planning for equality. □





# Public Transport for Women in London

*Transport was repeatedly raised as an area of concern during the Greater London Council's Women's Committee public consultation process on the draft plan for London in 1983. Here are some excerpts from the April 1983 Women's Committee report W188, Women and Transport:*

Women held views on all aspects of the provision of public transport. The two areas, however, on which the greatest number of comments were received were firstly, personal security, and secondly, poor design of stations and vehicles for passengers travelling with young children or shopping, or for passengers with disabilities.

Very few women are consulted in the transport policy making process. Many of the organizations consulted do not have a high representation of women and women's needs are underrepresented.

Though overall men and women travel a similar number of passenger miles per annum on London Transport, variations are significant and should be taken into account when considering policies which benefit one section of passengers as opposed to another.

London Transport's concentration on providing a commuter service does not relate to the actual use that is made of the bus service by many women. Women make journeys for vital purposes during off-peak hours and it is essential that off-peak hours improve. Routes should connect homes with schools, shopping centres and medical services and take account of the vital journeys made by women during the day.

## Design of Public Transport

Women are the largest proportion of bus users. They are shoppers. They travel with children. They are a higher percentage of the elderly and the disabled. But design ignores their needs. On buses women need easy access and accessible storage space for shopping and pushchairs.

One-person operated vehicles mean there is no-one to help passengers with children or shopping or elderly people.

Seating is needed at every bus stop.

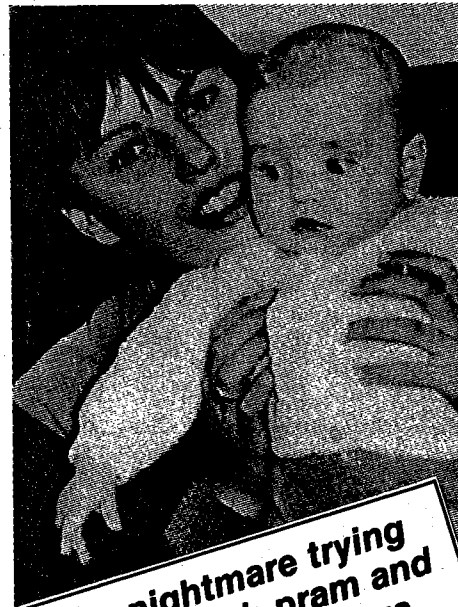
The mobility of one-parent families could be increased by the introduction of concessionary fares.

## Disability

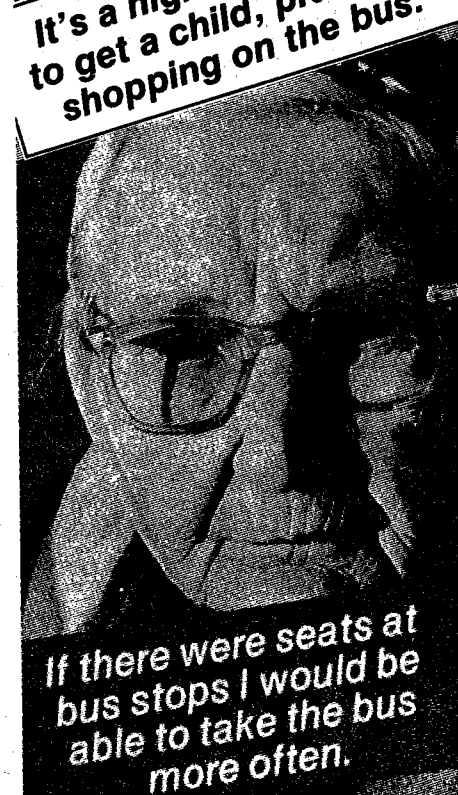
(M)any of the improvements in the public transport system that are needed by people with disabilities (eg, elevators in the underground, hydraulic lifts on buses, storage space for wheel chairs, self opening doors, automatic announcement systems on vehicles, large visual signs and maps) would also serve to make the system more accessible to other groups of people, for example,

the elderly and people travelling with young children.

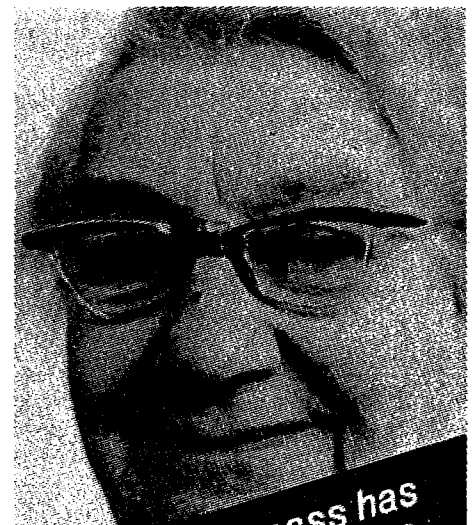
Inequality in mobility between men and women does not disappear in the event of age or disability. Indeed there is evidence that it may increase. Although, overall, half as many women as men possess a driving licence, this proportion falls to one-fifth among people over 65. Women with disabilities may be especially vulnerable to sexually motivated assault.



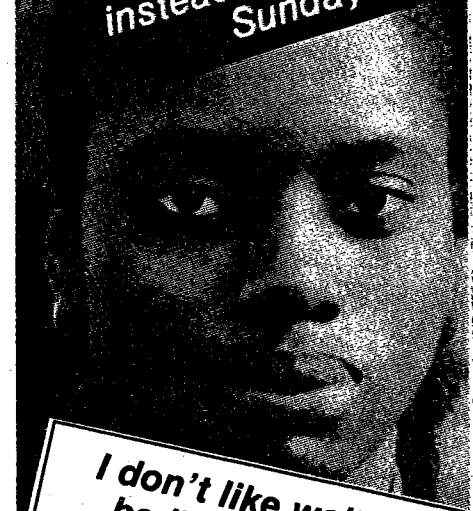
**It's a nightmare trying to get a child, pram and shopping on the bus.**



**If there were seats at bus stops I would be able to take the bus more often.**



**My OAP bus pass has been a godsend. I go and see my daughter and grandchildren twice a week now instead of every other Sunday.**



**I don't like waiting at badly-lit bus stops at night.**

## Security

The use of public transport puts women into situations where they are stationary; where they must share their space with other members of the public without means of exit being immediately available; where they may be isolated with one other stranger. In these situations women are vulnerable to attack, physical or verbal.

Research is urgently needed into (a) how women in London perceive their personal security in relation to transport and (b) to what extent concern for their safety affects their decision whether or not to make journeys by public transport and what mode of transport to use.

## TRANSPORTATION

# It's Easier to Get Around in European Cities

By REGULA MODLICH

**W**hat is it that makes European cities so much easier to move about in than North American cities, even though women in Europe have even less access to cars than their North American counterparts? While the obvious factors of higher densities and integrated land uses come to mind immediately, there are other movement supports that also make a difference.

Several of these supports deal with public transit. Almost every stop in Frankfurt, Berlin and Zurich features vending machines for several different types of tickets, long or short haul, daypasses of multi-trip ticket booklets. The daypass especially makes sense for many women who, while not employed on a daily basis nonetheless tend to have multiple destinations when they do embark on an outing. These ticket automats also have full network display maps, some of them excellent. Another sensible device is tape recordings in transit vehicles which clearly announce the name of the next stop and all the transfer possibilities there.

Once inside a bus or streetcar, passengers in Copenhagen can deposit their suitcases and strollers right next to the entrance. Another great invention in that city is the Copenhagen Card. It looks like a credit card, but is a free pass for the dates indicated on it to all transit facilities, museums, zoos, historic sites, etc. Transit-only rights-of-way are very common not only on vehicular roads, but also as part of pedestrian malls.

In both Zurich and Frankfurt commuter trains provide cheap and very frequent connections directly from underneath the airport terminal into the heart of the city. The Lake of Zurich "Zmorgeschiff", or breakfast boat, is a wonderful way to start a commuter's day. If you live along the lake you can use your commuter train ticket with a small surcharge and receive hot croissants and coffee on a scenic and not much longer boat ride to downtown. Surely everyone could think of numerous metropolitan areas where this kind of commuting could be introduced and significantly boost the quality of working life: and it doesn't need

an expensive right-of-way!

Even the humble pedestrian will find more consideration in European cities. Traffic lights in Innsbruck, for example, give not only a visual but also an audio signal. For children, the elderly and those with impaired eyesight this is of great and probably quite inexpensive assistance. Intersections have frequently a pedestrian-only cycle which allow diagonal crossing. Most cities have pedestrian-only sections or surface malls, especially in their older or historical areas.

Cycling is far more common, even in more northerly countries such as Denmark. The

frequent inclusion of special bicycle paths is a great boon for both motorist and cyclist. Why can't such rights-of-way be provided in North America at least between spring and fall on a few routes leading to major work and service nodes? Rental bikes are available in every Swiss train station. This is an ingenious way to fill the gap between mass transportation and individual destination, which discourages so many passengers from using mass transit in the first place. And these cycles can be dropped off at any other station without penalty.

How about it? Meet you on the breakfast boat?





# Campaigning for Mass Transit: A Grassroots Primer

By MARIE SHEAR  
& ARLINE L. BRONZAFIT

**F**ed up with crowded, noisy, slow, unreliable, dirty buses and subways? Or with the *lack* of mass transit? You realize that poor transit is wasting your time and sapping your strength? What can you do about it?

Here are some suggestions for mounting a grassroots campaign; you can adapt them to fit your own needs and your local community.

## Take Stock of the Situation

- Find out whether someone is already trying to improve mass transit in your area. Ask good-government, civic, consumer, feminist and environmental groups whether they are already at work on the problem. If they are, they will welcome more volunteers. Join them. If they are not treating mass transit as a high-priority matter, urge them to start doing so.

## If It is Unsatisfactory, Start on Your Own

- Invite friends, relatives, neighbours and co-workers to an informal meeting about public transportation. Ask them for accurate details of the problems, based on their personal experiences. Take notes. Then ask the participants to join you on specific projects, like those listed below.
- Check the library for news coverage, reports published by non-partisan study groups, and previous promises made by politicians. That way, you won't reinvent the wheel.
- Do your own studies. Survey waiting times, crowding, safety, missing shelters and benches, multiple fares, or other mass transit miseries in your area. Compare the time needed to travel between key points via mass transit with the time that the same journey takes by car. Using volunteers, compare as many pairs of key points as possible.
- Decide what additional service is needed. Prepare specific recommendations for change.
- Broaden your base of support. Organize coffee klatches to inform, and win the aid of, additional members of your community. Ask sociologists, psychologists, environmentalists, economists and students from the nearest college or university to help you conduct studies and prepare recommenda-

tions. Contact public interest research groups. Seek legal advice from public-spirited lawyers. Send speakers to meetings sponsored by civic, business and fraternal organizations; ask them to support your proposals. Remind business leaders that passengers who are delayed or exhausted by mass transit have less time to spend on the job and less energy for shopping.

## Go Public

- Write letters urging public officials at the city, state and federal levels to increase funding for mass transit. Individual letters from constituents are more effective than phone calls or petitions.
- Visit those officials at their offices to ask them to endorse your recommendations.
- Attend public hearings. Testify. Bring along your supporters for a show of strength. Bring large photos and boldly-drawn charts to make your case clear to newspapers, TV stations and wire services.
- Insist that mass-transit users be included on decision-making bodies. Government won't plan and fund adequate public transportation while all the VIPs continue to ride around in limousines and venture onto buses or subways purely for ceremonial effect.
- Urge schools and colleges to include public transit in their curricula so that students will understand its impact on their lives. Ask these institutions to build well-lit shelters at the bus stops most often used by their students.
- Use traditional "women's" skills to raise money for your project. Sell cakes, house plants, quilts. Or crochet scarves and caps in your "campaign colours." Set up a table at street fairs.

## Publicize Each Stage of Your Work

- Send news releases to newspapers, radio and TV stations, and community group newsletters. These releases can announce

your meetings, recruit more allies, report the results of your research, explain your recommendations, advertise endorsements from community leaders, and identify responsive — and unresponsive — government officials by name. Include photos and charts with your mailings.

- Write letters to newspapers.
- Start a monthly newsletter. Publish a pamphlet summarizing your work. Include a coupon which readers can use to make contributions or volunteer to participate.
- Get free TV and radio time by responding to broadcast editorials on related topics like auto safety, traffic tie-ups and road repairs. In your responses, point out the importance of public transportation.
- Take a newspaper ad.
- Rent a bus, hang a brightly-coloured banner advertising your project on its side, and send it along the route on which you want new service added. Take photos to send to the news media.

## Stick With It

- Most important, don't quit. It is not the originality of your tactics so much as your determination and tenacity which produces results. Politicians will not start taking you seriously unless they know you'll stay with it. Work like this can be discouraging. While you are collecting facts, getting organized, and making yourselves heard, you and your colleagues will encounter logistical problems. Do not be discouraged. After all, those very problems inspired your project in the first place, and they prove that your efforts are indispensable. Be a stubbornly constructive realist, not a romantic, and keep going.

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# Some Gloomy Thoughts From Britain:

a response to Suzanne Mackenzie  
on developing gender-sensitive theory

By LINDA McDOWELL

**1984** was a difficult year. For many academic feminists working in the environmental disciplines, a number of awkward questions kept raising their heads but the answers seemed to get more and more elusive. And 1985 promises to be little different.

I was prompted to this gloomy thought by Suzanne Mackenzie's excellent short article in the Fall 1984 issue of *Women and Environments*. Excellent, yes, but from a British perspective too optimistic because the questions about theory, about the relationship between gender and class, about academic methods and practice and about women's oppression as a whole seem to raise more complex and challenging issues than Mackenzie acknowledged. As she suggests we have reached a point where we can no longer go on working at the edges, adding in women to the conventional academic structures; we need to challenge the very foundation of the academy, its assumptions and working methods. But, and it's a big but, feminists themselves are divided on approach and on tactics. The context too — of recession, unemployment, welfare and education cuts — makes the challenge itself both harder and, in some eyes at least, less relevant.

Developments within the environmental disciplines in Britain have paralleled those in the USA and Canada. In the seventies, small numbers of teachers, researchers and practitioners began to add women into their work. Ephemeral papers, the occasional journal article and more recently, as

feminism has proved it sells, books, began to make clear the assumptions that made women invisible to geographers, planners and architects. In 1984 two important books in the field were published in Britain: *Geography and Gender* by a collective of feminist geographers and *Making Space* by Matrix, a group of feminist architects.<sup>1</sup> But as yet their impact has been minimal. These subjects continue to be taught by, practiced by, the content determined and controlled by, men. It is questionable whether the fundamental challenge posed by feminist urban research has yet had any effect on the dominant mode of thought.

### Utopian Fantasies

More important is the question of whether it will have an impact in the near future. Women make up a tiny minority in the academic world, in the least prestigious, lowest paid and least secure positions. In Britain, full-time tenured jobs are now virtually extinct and the growing cuts in educational spending are threatening research posts, where women have been relatively more numerous. The same is true outside the universities and colleges: the number of jobs in architecture and planning in both the public and private sector has declined dramatically in recent years. Feminists pushing for new courses, new ways of looking at and constructing the world, are increasingly accused of utopian fantasies at a time when, it is argued, the harsh demands of economic stringency require the protection of existing divisions. It is hardly surprising that a fundamental reassessment of existing practices has little attraction when the very existence of disciplines and jobs is at risk. At the same

time, fundamental change is actually what a commitment to feminist theory and practice implies for the environmental disciplines.

### Patriarchal Relations Vary

There are also less pragmatic grounds for this belief, to do with the construction of feminist theory. As Suzanne Mackenzie argued, we have taken a great step forward by moving away from describing how women's beliefs and behaviour in space differ from those of men, towards more fruitful questions about the social construction of gender, about how environmental conditions influence the definitions of femininity and masculinity and how they affect social behaviour. We have begun to recognize that patriarchal relations vary over time and across space, but in order to move towards this more sophisticated understanding of the construction of gender we have also been forced to consider parts of our lives, and sets of literature, that traditionally are not emphasized within the environmental disciplines.

We are reaching out to a body of theory, a discourse, that is much more specifically feminist and we find that we have more ideas and theories in common with feminists working in other disciplines such as economics, sociology, even psychology or literature, than we have with colleagues in our own areas. To understand the relationship between gender divisions within the home, for example, we also need to look at gender divisions within the labour market, to show how women's domestic responsibilities influence their participation in waged labour. In turn, the nature and conditions of waged labour influences domestic

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roles. The type of waged work many women do has a profound influence on decisions to embrace matrimony and motherhood. So the interconnections between home and "work" are complex and reciprocal.

### Conventional Divisions

Explanation is impoverished by conventional academic divisions of labour, between economics on the one hand and sociology on the other, or between urban and industrial or regional geography. In Britain a number of thought-provoking studies of women's waged work have been published in the last few years: Cavendish's study of the vehicle component trade, Pollert's of work in a branch plant in the tobacco industry, Westwood on the textile industry for example<sup>2</sup>, and these should find a place on reading lists within the environmental disciplines as much as in economics or sociology. But because it is so difficult either to persuade non-feminist colleagues of the relevance of broadening their perspective or to challenge the conventional divisions and subject matter of our disciplines, we need to argue much more strongly for women's studies as a separate area. In Britain, at the undergraduate level but in particular at higher levels, women's studies degrees are not commonly offered at the moment and the whole issue of separate or integrated women's studies options is not on the agenda as it is in the US and Canada. Increasingly, however, the question of where, as well as what and how, we teach is being asked, and there are no easy or obvious answers.

In Britain, too, the need to develop gender-sensitive theory has increasingly come to the forefront of debate as it has been recognized that classifying differences between women's and men's spatial behaviour is only the starting, not the end, point of feminist environmental studies. But, and this is where I diverge from Suzanne Mackenzie's essentially optimistic arguments, there is little agreement among feminists on theoretical grounds. In broad terms, the opposing tendencies are socialist and radical feminism although there are divisions within these perspectives. It is interesting, and problematic, that whereas socialist feminism predominates in the academy it is from within radical feminism that the greatest practical energies have come. Feminist action to alter the structure of the environment, to build women's houses, information networks, community centres, to create alternative jobs, to protest against nuclear installations, has in general had its origins in the theoretical debates about patriarchy dominated by radical feminists and, more important, in women's groups in the community. For socialist feminists, the key question is not about



patriarchy *per se* but about the relationship between gender and class oppression, and here there is not a single coherent tendency or set of beliefs.

### Class and Gender Divisions

The extent to which there is one explanation of women's oppression and the degree to which divisions based on class and gender coincide, is the subject of fierce theoretical and practical debate in Britain. Black women, for example, have criticized as racist the attempts by white middle class feminists to erect a unitary theory of women's subordination. Elsewhere there is critical engagement by socialist feminists with the basic concepts of historical materialism and with the institutions and

practices of socialist struggle. The neglect of "women's" interests by the male-dominated structures of the British trade union movement, for example, has sparked off a sharp debate in Britain between socialist feminists.

It is by no means self-evident that a satisfactory theory of gender divisions will be at one with theories of class exploitation. The exact relationships remain to be explored with careful empirical analysis of class and gender relations in particular places at different times. For socialists, the development of feminist theory at times poses difficult questions. The challenge, however, is that the answers will change our lives, for feminism is about action as well as theory.

But how far are women able to act together to challenge their subordinate position, to alter the structure of cities to make their lives more tolerable? Here too it is difficult to be optimistic in the current economic and political climate in Britain. Unemployment remains intolerably high, and registered rates have increased faster for women than men. Where men are unemployed gender divisions within the home seem to be untouched, and many women's domestic responsibilities are being increased by cuts in state expenditure. Cuts in public spending on housing, on transport, on education and social services all increase the daily pressures experienced by women living in urban environments that increasingly do not fit their needs.

There are, however, some grounds for optimism. Women are still camping at Greenham Common, challenging the madness of the nuclear program; women are organizing in small groups to fight to protect essential community services; and finally there is the astonishing part played by women from the mining communities in the year-long coal strike. It is unlikely that these women will be content to return to their homes, to go back to the private sphere from which most conventional urban analysts and designers have signally failed to realize that women have long escaped. These women in their daily lives continually remind us that theory and practice are interconnected for feminists interested in the environment. □

1. Women and Geography Study Group of the IBG, *Geography and Gender*, London: Hutchinson, 1984; Matrix, *Making Space: Women in the Man-Made Environment*, London: Pluto Press, 1984.

2. R. Cavendish, *Women on the Line*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1982; A. Pollert, *Girls, Wives, Factory Lives*, London: Macmillan, 1981; S. Westwood, *All Day Every Day*, London: Pluto Press, 1984.

# Mother-led Families and the Built Environment in Canada

By FRAN KLODAWSKY and ARON SPECTOR

Until quite recently, mother-led families were not often accepted as a real or permanent household form in Canada. More common was the attitude that they were a temporary anomaly that would quickly be resolved through remarriage. To a significant extent, this attitude remains in both public and private approaches to the built environment that have impacts on families.

In a few recent instances, however, alternative accommodations and neighbourhoods have been conceptualized and built with single mothers and their children in mind. By examining the differences between such housing and that which is available in the community at large, the possibility arises of identifying built environment policies that are compatible with these families' needs.

Between 1971 and 1981, the proportion of families headed alone by women (and those with children under 18) grew from 6 per cent to 8.6 per cent.<sup>1</sup> Despite the substantial growth, these statistics mask the real significance of this family type in contemporary Canadian society. Many more women are single parents for some segment of their lives and many more children live with single parents for some part of their childhood.<sup>2</sup>

The problems of mother-led families are multiple, tied to education, health care, societal attitudes and social service provision. They are also linked to the shape of the built environment. Data indicate that these families are especially disadvantaged in housing-related terms. In a 1982 survey, single mothers with children under 18 paid a higher percentage of their income for housing and housing maintenance than other families in the same income quintile, and than all families included in the survey.<sup>3</sup>

Mother-led families also have trouble finding suitable and secure housing. Both the 1981 Census and the 1974 Survey of Housing Units show that such families tended to move far more frequently than others and, given their multiple responsibilities, we can assume that these moves were largely involuntary. In many cases, women who were previously part of middle income families find themselves in a house

they can no longer afford to maintain. By moving to other less costly, but usually inadequate, housing they simply add to the upheaval that divorce or separation entails by leaving behind neighbours, familiar schools and friends.<sup>4</sup>

In general, such data suggest that neither existing social housing programs nor private market developers are adequately meeting the needs of these families. Another indication of this is the growing number of existing or planned alternative housing projects for mother-led families in Canada. By examining the characteristics of housing planned for single parent mothers and their children, and by contrasting them to standard housing options, we can begin to identify design criteria of significance to them. In the housing projects described in this article, three environmental considerations appear to be of special importance: highly efficient and appropriately designed private units; a location central to a variety of support services and facilities; and opportunities for social interaction and service support in the immediate community.

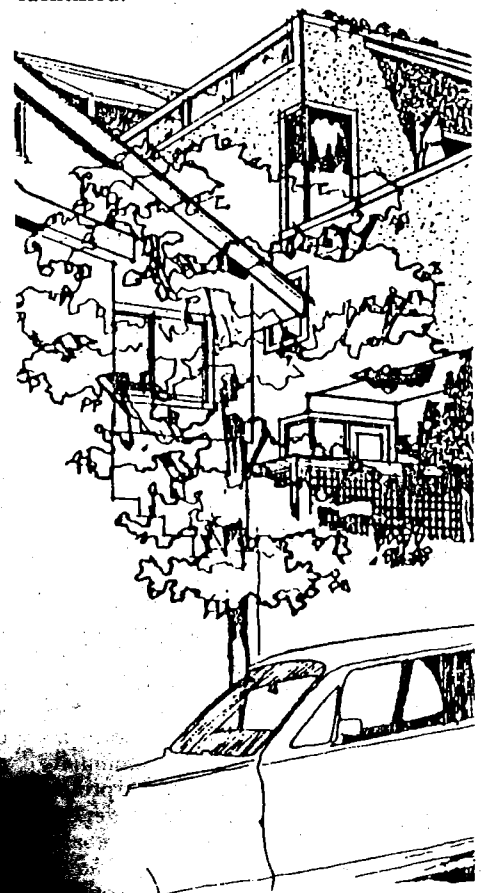
## Alternative Housing and Communities

Young, unwed mothers sometimes find themselves simultaneously with child and without parental home and support for the first time in their lives,<sup>5</sup> often needing a wide range of help for both themselves and their children. Battered wives in contrast are somewhat older and usually have one or more children. Initially, they are in need of deep emotional support and sympathy, but very soon their priorities change, and their need is for an environment in which they are able to deal with a bewildering array of public and private officials in order to arrange a different type of life for themselves and their families, with or without their spouse.

Therefore both young, unwed mothers and battered wives require an environment which supports their transition from one situation into another. These transitions are relatively short duration moves with an intensity of accessible support services which

contrast to most other single mothers, their transition period is especially traumatic and sudden.

Even when battering or youth is not a complicating factor, single mothers often confront an environment that does not meet their needs. While housing that is affordable in income terms is often inaccessible to necessary support services and/or costly to maintain, centrally located shelter is usually expensive and inappropriate for families with children. Thus, despite differences within the population of mother-led families, common built environment needs can be identified.



### Homes for Adolescent Mothers

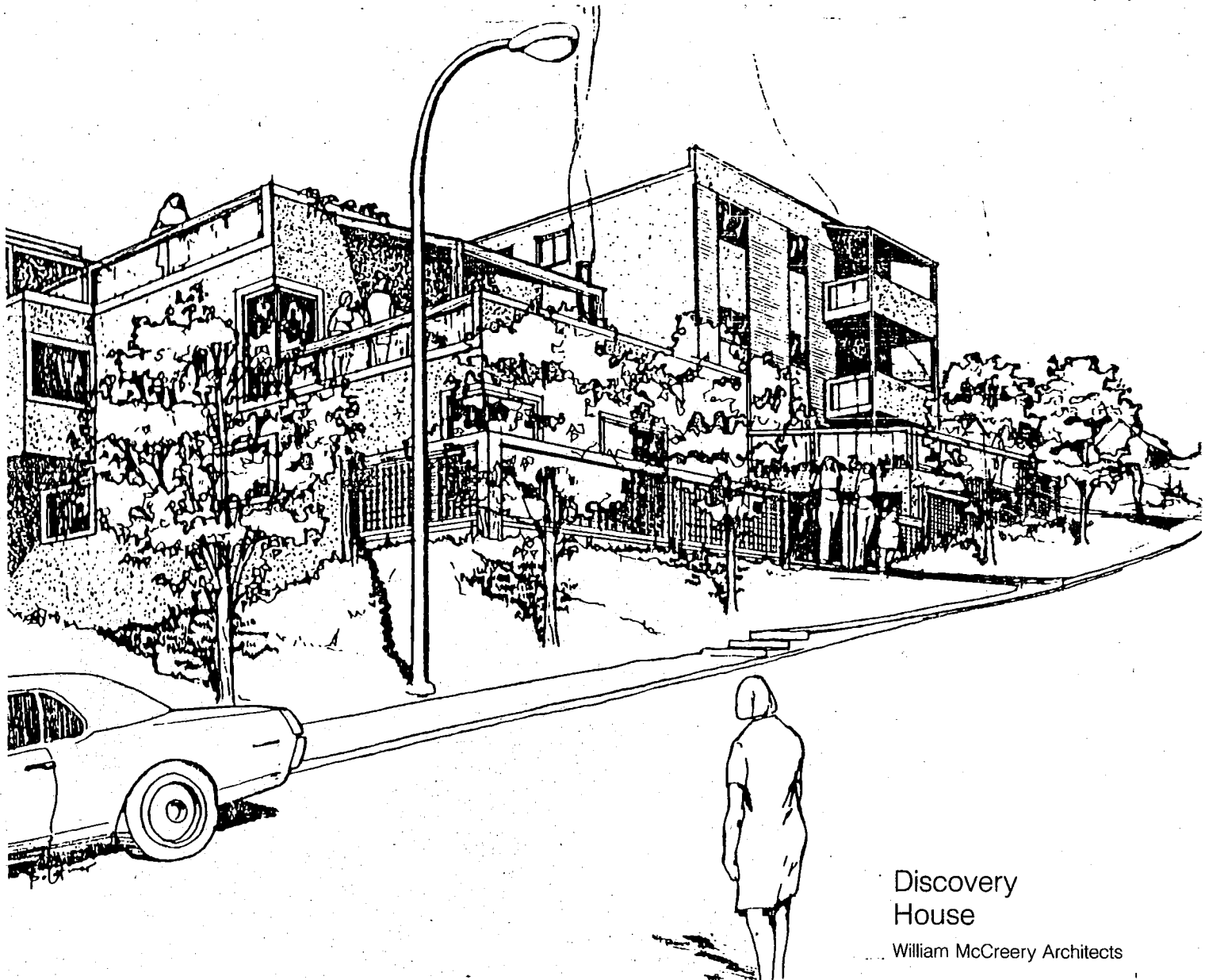
In Canada, homes for unwed mothers usually specialize in either before-birth or after-birth care. While the former offers a place for a pregnant woman to stay until the birth of her child, the latter consists of a specialized setting for new mothers and their infants. As a refuge for pregnant women, evidence suggests that homes for unwed mothers are of declining relative significance,<sup>6</sup> and that existing facilities are adequate to meet the small residual demand. Much more significant is the need of young adolescent mothers for housing, daycare, information and emotional support after the birth of their children. While some needs may be provided by community-based drop-in centres, the declining availability of affordable and appropriate housing is threatening the adequacy of such support services.

In recognition of this trend in Ottawa, the directors of one before-birth facility (Bethany House) recently completed construction of a suite to house two mothers and their infants until suitable long-term accommodation is found.

Two Canadian examples of comprehensive after-birth housing services for these families were described in a 1975 report from British Columbia.<sup>7</sup> One was initiated by the Children's Aid Society and managed by the YWCA under provincial financing, while the other, the Bishop Cridge Centre, was established and operated by a private church group. Both facilities provide daycare to residents and other single parents in the community, with the aim of encouraging friendships between residents and non-residents, as well as allowing them access to jobs and education. While the Y-managed housing consists of scattered two-

family units within one neighbourhood, the Bishop Cridge Centre is a grouping of townhouses. These group homes attempt to encourage the possibility of emotional support and sharing among the single parents, through both the type and arrangement of the housing they offer, and the provision of a common daycare facility. During an evaluation by residents in 1975, the positive aspects of low rents, good daycare and possibility of friendships were contrasted with feelings of isolation and distance from the community at large, especially in the Bishop Cridge Centre, where the three-year maximum stay was also a cause for concern, since market rents were much higher elsewhere.

The problem of affordable housing for these young mothers is probably even more acute today in many centres across Canada. Until this problem is resolved, the benefits



Discovery House

William McCreery Architects



of providing community based services will be limited. However, low rent is not the only built environment need of single mothers. Access to good daycare, to education and job opportunities, as well as opportunities to make friends and share resources, are also significant for women who are severely handicapped because of their responsibility for children and lack of private transportation.

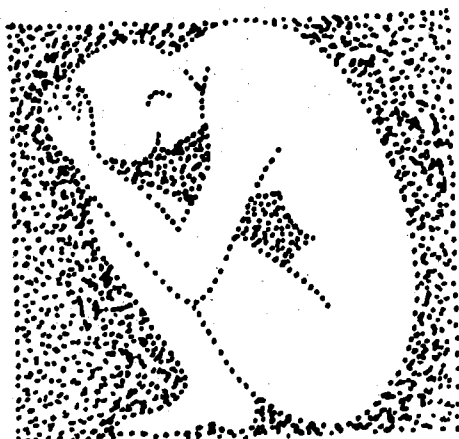
### Refuges for Battered Women

Beyond the immediate need to escape violence in the family home, many battered mothers also require a similar complex of physical and social services. Continued abuse often makes these women passive and afraid, yet in order to break the battering cycle they too need to reorganize their lives in a variety of ways.

Transition houses are a recent and badly understood resource in Canada, and very little information about them has been documented, despite their rapidly growing numbers. In Ontario, the first shelter opened in 1972; in 1981, 4,422 women and 5,910 children were accommodated in 35 centres operating across the province.<sup>8</sup> Physical design of the structures has not been a primary concern of Interval House organizers. In some cases, funding was so limited that very few alternatives were available. In others, a municipal or provincial government agency provided a publicly owned shelter at a nominal rent. As Interval House organizers gained experience and knowledge, however, and in conjunction with mortgage interest subsidies available from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), they have become more interested in purchasing and renovating houses specifically as shelters for battered women. Again, almost no research has been conducted as to what exactly their housing and design needs are.

Advice from the pamphlet "How to Establish a Refuge for Battered Women" cautions that an early decision should be made as to *where* the house should be located, based largely on considerations of accessibility to public transportation, schools and support services such as hospitals and welfare offices, and placement in a neighbourhood that is safe for children. The optimal or acceptable number of bedrooms is another important early decision, since size influences potential funding and staffing requirements. Finally, organizers are cautioned to check their status vis-à-vis local zoning by-laws.<sup>9</sup>

According to representatives of two Ottawa-area Interval Houses, large older houses within the central area are in practice best suited to their needs. The combination of several bedrooms on the upper floors, and large common spaces on the main floor,



BARBARA SANFORD

allows for privacy and retreat while also offering community support and security. In one of the Ottawa examples, such a house was purchased with CMHC mortgage subsidy support. It contains eight bedrooms, an office and a quiet room on the second and third floors, and a large kitchen, living area and dining room on the first floor. A main-floor playroom, bathroom and wheel-chair ramp to a private fenced yard were added after the purchase. This house is on a quiet street near bus routes, schools and a community centre where many Interval House activities take place. A second refuge was able to rent, at a nominal fee, a similar structure from a government agency, which renovated the property according to specification and is being reimbursed for the work in lieu of rent on a monthly basis.

While both these examples are success stories, one can speculate that future houses may not be so fortunate, given the rapidly accelerating cost of central city land, and the rate at which older structures are being replaced with new townhouses. Whether or not new public policies are put into place, these built environment priorities that were identified — accessibility, safety for children, and the combination of many small private spaces and some large common areas — will remain important criteria for the success or failure of future Interval Houses.

In the short term however, battered women's refuges are also facing the problem of finding adequate accommodation for residents who decide to leave their family homes permanently. For example, while the official policy of the Interval House of Ottawa-Carleton is to provide emergency shelter for up to six weeks, the average length of stay is now three months. In many cases, the problem is simply one of not being able to find suitable accommodation. Both publicly subsidized and low cost private market housing opportunities are badly lacking compared to the demand for low cost, accessible and safe accommodations. As of December 1984, 1507 families

were on the combined waiting lists for rent-g geared-to-income housing of the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Housing Authority and the City of Ottawa's Non-Profit Housing Corporation (CONPAC). An additional 992 families were on the CONPAC waiting list for housing at low-end-of-market rents. Evidence from other cities suggests similar trends.

One concrete response to this difficulty has been the move to establish second-stage or medium-term transition housing for battered women and their children who wish to attempt independent living. In several Canadian communities, including Halifax, St. John's, Regina, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver, such facilities are either a reality or in the planning stage.<sup>10</sup> Monroe House in Vancouver and Discovery House in Calgary are two fully operational second stage housing and support facilities. In Monroe House, residents can stay for three to six months, while Discovery House provides a one to three month transition period.

Discovery House combines an existing 8-unit apartment building, a new 14-unit facility, and various support services to provide 12 one-bedroom, 9 two-bedroom and one three-bedroom residential units, a 20-space child care facility, a Common Room for programs and informal gatherings, facilities for counselling, volunteer and administrative activities, and utility and storage areas. The design, developed by William McCreery Architects, aimed to maximize security and privacy for women still living in fear of violence, but at the same time, to provide a positive environment in which women would be able to establish new lives for themselves. For security reasons, there is one entrance only, from the second floor. Common areas include a first floor children's play area and an entry courtyard at the second floor level that is primarily adult oriented. There are individual unit balconies and patios, all screened to ensure a safe play space for children and some "breathing space" for mothers. The advantages of the facility's present location are discussed at some length in an information pamphlet written by Discovery House representatives, and is worth quoting:

*The proximity to other facilities makes our present location highly desirable as a vast majority of the residents at Discovery House are without private transportation and cannot afford the luxury of taxis.*

*The closeness and accessibility to the city core — with bus service less than a block away — is important for several reasons:*

1. A large proportion of the women are either unemployed or registered in job-training or educational up-grading programmes and over half the children are below school-age and require daycare. As the city core is the convergence point for mass transportation, easy accessibility to

The complete Network Directory was published in the August 1983 issue of *Women and Environments*; this is the third update since then — see also *W&E* April and Fall 1984.

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*Continued over*

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- teacher at Centre for Community Planning of Mass at Boston
- researching history of major Boston public housing developments

**Bodil Kjaer**  
University of Maryland, HSAD  
Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, MD 20742

- teaching courses in community and privacy, work environment and public-transitional spaces
- full-scale environmental design simulation

**Anita Landecker**  
#105-6447 Orange St  
Los Angeles, CA 90248

- co-op housing for low-income households
- housing for single parents
- mobile-home park housing

**Joan B. Landes**  
School of Social Science  
Hampshire College  
Amherst, MA 01002

- women and urban environment
- feminist theory
- women in public and domestic spheres

**Denis Le Cam**  
#9-773 Cole St  
San Francisco, CA 94117

- urban co-operatives
- housing for singles
- job sharing

**Dawn Leger**  
549 Riverside Dr, 3K  
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- battered women's shelters
- economic equality
- international feminism

**Suzanne Lindamood**  
Dept. of Family Economics  
Justin Hall, KSU  
Manhattan, KS 66506

- ownership/housing preferences
- access apartments and zoning

**D. Loggins**  
723E 10th St  
Brooklyn, NY 11230

- urban open space design
- urban garden design
- urban ecology

**Janaea Martin**  
Dept of Psychology  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85719

- women in professional environments
- history of women in psychology
- general environmental psychology

**Susan Meeker-Lowry**  
GOOD MONEY  
28 Main St.  
Montpellier, VT 05602

- editor of journal on investing in social change
- writer on alternative economics and finances with special interest in integrating spirit and human values

**Ann Meyerson**  
50 West 96th St  
New York, NY 10025

- asst. professor NYU (Metropolitan Studies Program)
- housing

**Sigrid Miller Pollin**  
633 Spruce St.  
Riverside, CA 92507

- teaches architecture
- design
- planning

**Gwen Owens-Wilson**  
Kansas State University  
Seaton Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

- energy aware construction
- graphics
- left brain/right brain
- technical graphics

**Gloria Phillips**  
576 Kearsage  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

- networking
- equal rights amendment
- empowerment of women

**Sharin Pollak**  
1205-5th St  
San Francisco, CA 94122

- women in architectural planning and community development

**David Popenoe**  
Dept of Sociology  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

- household and family in Sweden

**Nancy Sackman**  
24 Hall Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144

- ecological development/job creation
- redevelopment
- planning

**Nancy Schroeder**  
109 Laurel Park  
Northampton, MA 01060

- community economic development
- housing

**Diane Silas**  
1400 Virginia Ave  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

- reproductive/health issues and laws
- weaving, crafts

**Sim Swan**  
4 East 89th St.  
New York, NY 10128

- responsibility in architecture
- architectural innovation in "being, dwelling, and thinking."

**Evangelia Tentokali-Skourti**  
47 Amherst St  
Roslindale, MA 02131

- visiting scholar, MIT's Dept of Architecture
- role of women inside the house
- the home's organization — a reflection of family structure?

*Continued over*

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# NETWORK UPDATE

## United States *Continued*

### Janet Van Zandt

38 St. Rose St  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

- housing, including transitional housing
- homesteading
- community land trusts

### Mary Vogel-Heffernan

Val Michelson & Associates  
1812 University Ave  
St Paul, MN 55105

- environments for women
- shelters for battered women

### Kate Warner

1804 Linwood Ave  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

- Assoc. Prof of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
- housing and community development
- housing for homeless and elderly
- manufactured housing

### Margaret D. Woodring

938 B Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901

- housing for low income families
- director, International Program for Housing and Urban Development Officials, Berkeley
- real estate development

### C. Zucker

27950 Cambridge Lane  
Cleveland, OH 44124

- community organization
- neighbourhood revitalization
- tenant management

## Britain

### Janet Richards

2E Farm close  
Kerseley, Coventry  
England CV6 2GD

- women and housing
- single parents and housing

## Israel

### Ronita Davidovici-Martin

Neta St, 3/M  
Tel Aviv, Israel

- neighbourhood character, suburbia
- womens employment
- women and transportation

## Sweden

### Alison Woodward

Arnborsv. 2  
Stockholm, Sweden 125 34

- co-op housing
- energy and environment
- city planning

## Australia

### Jannette Rochweger

43 Donnithorne St  
Kyneton, Victoria  
Australia, 3444

- users and the built environment, especially housing
- socio-behaviorial use of space
- MA architecture student

### Jennifer Wolcott

Flat 5-61 Kooyong Rd  
Armadale, Victoria  
Australia, 3143

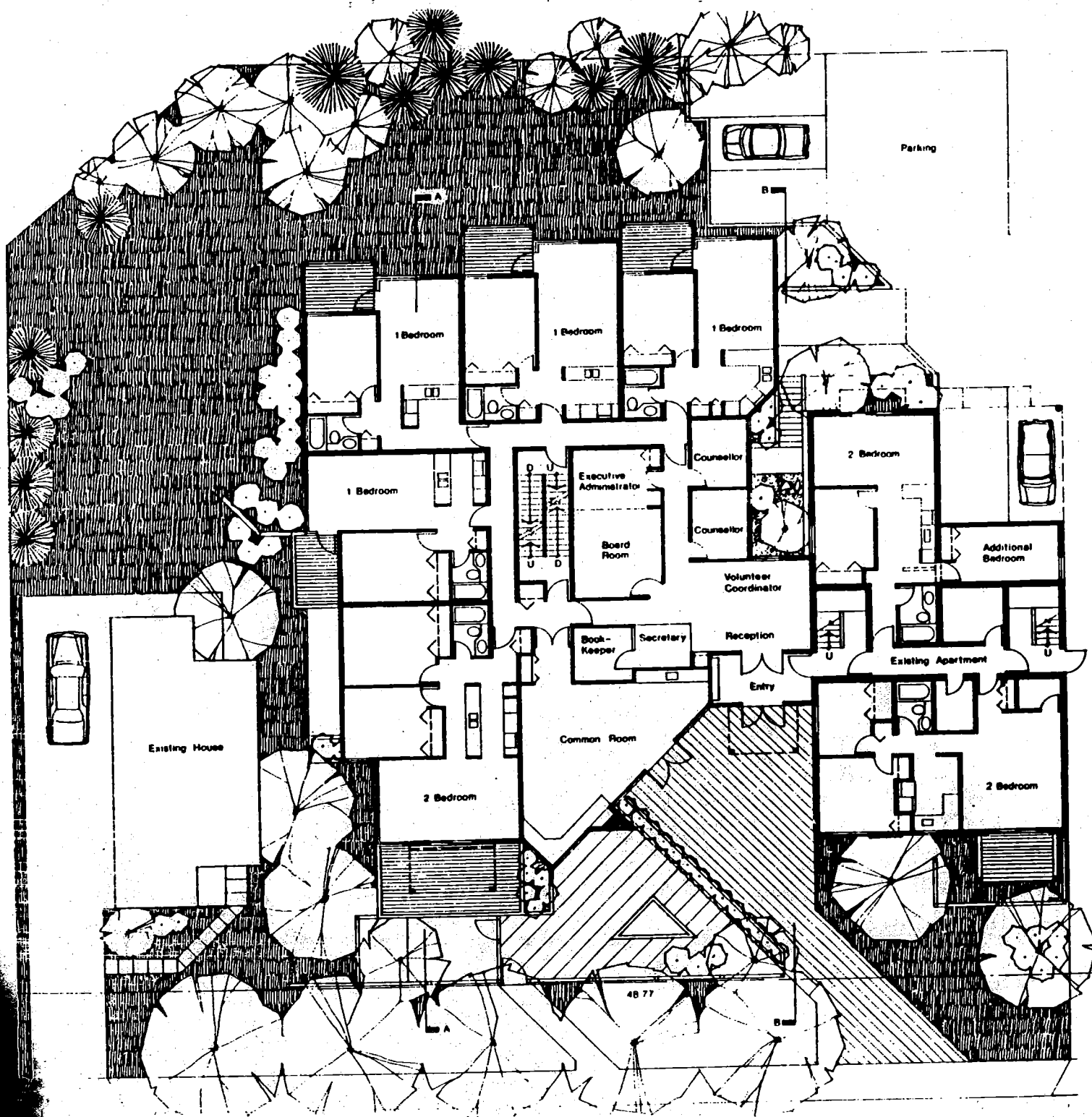
- forestry

### Wendy Sarkissian

PO Box 814  
Armidale, NSW  
Australia, 2061

- housing
  - suburbia
  - energy policy
-





Discovery House First Floor

downtown means that women who are dependent on public transportation are spared several hours of bus travel each day.

2. The downtown core provides the majority of employment for the women at Discovery House.

3. Because of the nature of their situations, the residents ... must frequently go to the city core for legal counsel, court appearances, and so forth.<sup>11</sup>

Many of Discovery House's attractive features are also available at Monroe House, although on a more modest scale. This second stage housing facility in a central residential Vancouver neighbourhood uses a large existing structure that was renovated to provide six self-contained units, a basement TV/playroom, a ground floor office and a fenced outdoor play area. Several volunteers regularly offer baby-sitting services to the residents, and two co-ordinators who work out of the office offer counselling and referrals to other support services. In a 1980 evaluation of the house, residents emphasized both safety and the support of workers and fellow residents, as the two most attractive features of the living arrangement.

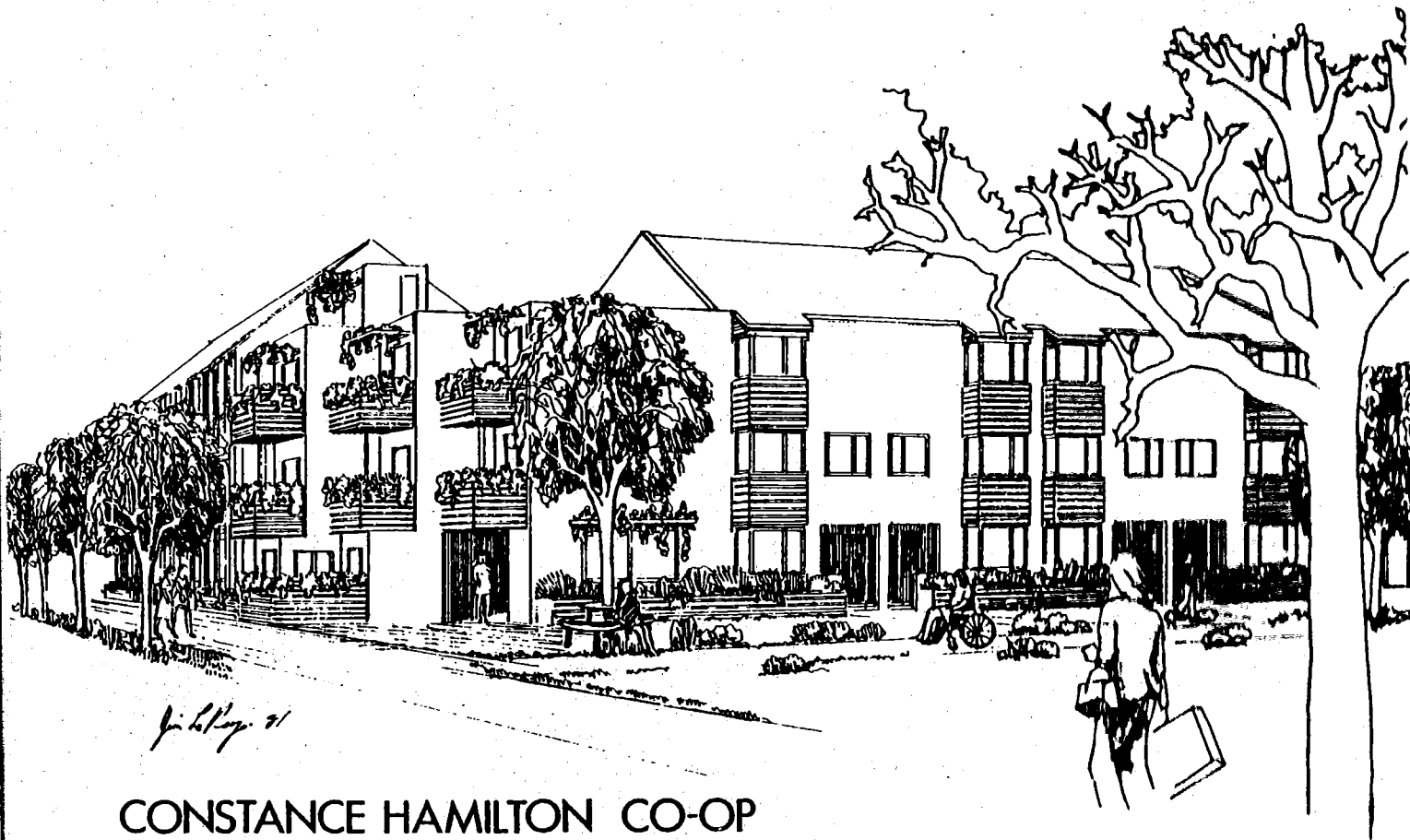
As was true in the case of both battered women's refuges and afterbirth homes for young mothers, relative location and facilities that encourage sharing of tasks and emotional support seem to be supremely significant in this housing. The similarity of these temporary facilities and housing built as long-term accommodation for women, is perhaps even more striking. Two Canadian facilities, in Toronto and Halifax, have been established for this purpose, and several more have been conceived in some detail.

### Permanent Housing for Single Mothers and Children<sup>12</sup>

Toronto's Constance Hamilton Co-operative opened in 1982, after several years of concerted efforts by various social service agency representatives and local women activists. The co-op, designed by Joan Simon, consists of both a six-bedroom second stage transition facility for women needing crisis housing, and 31 townhouses designed for the long-term use of single women and women with children. Again, it is fairly convenient to shops, schools and public transportation although not ideal according to Simon. Wherever possible, safe outdoor

and indoor children's play spaces are provided in locations that maximize the ability of mothers to supervise them while involved in other tasks. Access to an internal courtyard, small private balconies and combined kitchen/dining areas are all used to achieve this goal. Another significant design feature is the provision of common spaces where co-op members can meet. Given the extremely limiting specifications that CMHC insists upon in its Section 56.1 non-profit and co-op housing program, these spaces were not easy to incorporate; including a room for child care, a tea room, or a co-op shop all would have resulted in disqualification from funding. Since the primary aim of the co-op's initiators was to provide affordable as well as appropriate housing, these guidelines could not be neglected. Instead, the architect rearranged parking facilities to allow for a community patio. She also was able to include a communal roof terrace in the hostel facility.

Even with the resulting subsidies, only 25 percent of the units were provided with rent-gear-to-income funding supplements, a proportion much lower than needed, given the income profiles of most women and the stipulation that the other units would have



CONSTANCE HAMILTON CO-OP  
Simon Architects

to be rented at the lower-end-of-market value. To compensate for this restriction, Simon designed units to facilitate sharing, by putting living rooms and dining/kitchen areas on separate floors, and also by placing some bedrooms downstairs. Lack of daycare centres in the immediate area, and the inability to find funding to establish one, is the second major disadvantage, after cost, that women in the co-op identified.

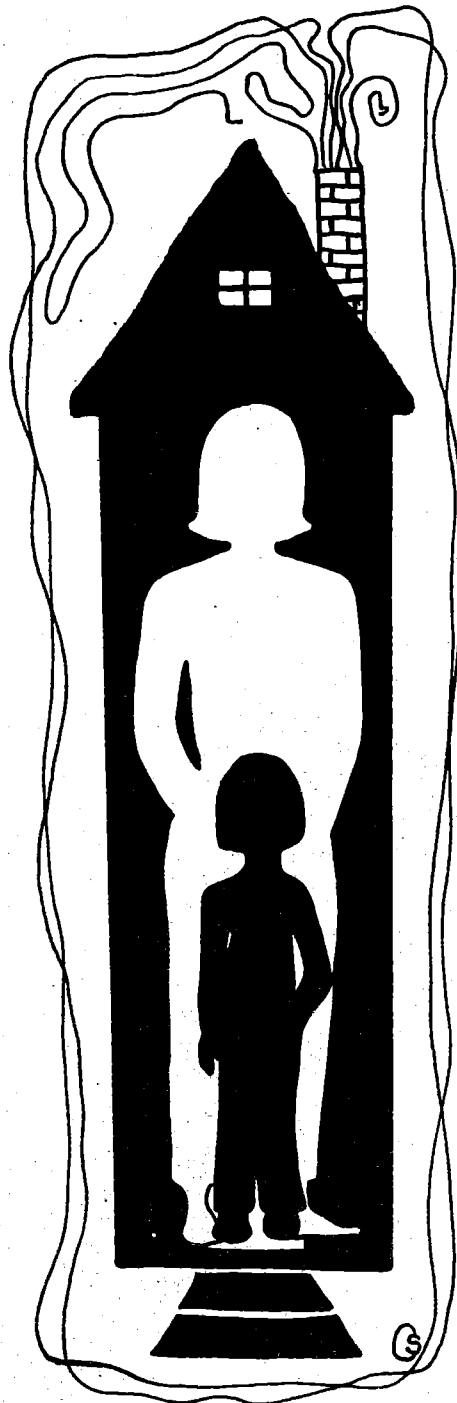
In a more positive vein, women find living in Constance Hamilton attractive for reasons other than simply the physical design. The possibility of living in a community of supportive adults with some similar needs and interests is also important. Another attraction is the enhanced degree of control over one's environment that co-operative, as opposed to rental, housing allows. All members of Constance Hamilton are expected to participate in one of the committees established to maintain and enhance the structures.

#### Housing Policies for Families and Other Households

There is a growing awareness among housing analysts of the widening gap between the cost of new private construction and the amount of rent that low and moderate income households can afford. Shelter allowances have been proposed as one solution, but a limitation of this approach for single mothers is that their accessibility requirements are not recognized in estimating the extent of the allowance. In addition, shelter allowances are intended to stimulate *new* construction, and it is unlikely that the new units would be constructed close to required services.

A probably cheaper and more suitable alternative is the intensification of existing residential areas through the promotion of policies to encourage either the division of single family dwellings into two or more separate units, or the adding of a new unit to an existing structure. Potential advantages to female single parents are multiple. On one hand, intensification might allow single mothers who are living in owned accommodation an opportunity to reduce the size and cost of their living space without having to uproot themselves or their families. On the other hand, the enhanced availability of modest private housing units suitable for children and in close proximity to established schools and services, would help those single mothers in need of low-cost, suitable, rented accommodation. Although the dangers of promoting intensification without proper guidelines are real, so too are the possible benefits of properly conceived and executed programs. Among the benefits is a built environment that can accommodate many types of household, including single mothers and their children.

We seem to be at a cross-roads in choosing between alternative housing policies. The dimensions of the present housing affordability squeeze will not be resolved without concerted public action. We can hope that the route chosen will support the development of built environments that recognize the needs and possibilities of mother-led families in our society. □



CHRIS SCHERBARTH

1. 1981 Census of Canada.
2. M. Eichler, *Families in Canada Today*, Gage, 1983, estimates that approximately 18.3 per cent of all Canadian marriages end in divorce; in 1980, mothers became primary custodians in 78 per cent of all cases. An additional 10.4 per cent of Canadian children are born to never-married women.
3. Statistics Canada, *Survey of Family Expenditures Micro Data File*, 1982.
4. See S. Anderson-Khelif, "Housing Needs of Single Parent Mothers", in S. Keller, ed., *Building for Women*, Lexington Books, 1981; D. Hayden, "What would a Non-Sexist City be Like?" *Signs*, Spring Supplement, 1980; J. Sweet, "The Living Arrangements of Separated, Widowed and Divorced Mothers", *Demography* 9(1) 1972; R. Weiss, "Housing for Single Parents", *Policy Studies Journal* 8(2) 1979; E. Jordan, *The Housing Needs of Female-Led One Parent Families*, CMHC, 1981; F. Klodawsky, A. Spector, D. Rose, *Canadian Housing Policies and Single Parent Families: Why Mothers Lose*, CMHC, Forthcoming, 1985; M. Steele, *The Demand for Housing in Canada*, Statistics Canada, 1979.
5. See for example W. Hedderwick and K. Pelkey, "A Study of Single (Unmarried) Parents in the Community", Toronto, Children's Aid Society, 1975.
6. D. Barton, *Housing in Ottawa-Carleton: a Women's Issue*, Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa-Carleton, 1983; H. MacKay and C. Austin, *Single Adolescent Mothers in Ontario*, Canadian Council on Social Development, 1983.
7. P. Gurstein and N. Hood, *Housing Needs of One Parent Families*, Vancouver, YWCA, 1975.
8. See T. Don, "Brief to the Committee on Social Development in Ontario: Battered Women's Emergency Housing in Ontario", Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses, July 1982.
9. F. MacLeod, *Transition House: How to Establish a Refuge for Battered Women*, Ottawa, National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, 1983.
10. See for example J. Barnsley, *A Review of Monroe House*, Vancouver, Women's Research Centre, 1980; K. Berg, "Second Stage Housing for Battered Women", *Horizons* 2(2) 1984; J. Brackley, "Second Stage Housing", *Women and Environments* 6(2) 1984.
11. Calgary Family Support Society, *Discovery House*, n.d.
12. See G. Goliger, "Constance Hamilton Co-op", *Habitat* 26(1) 1983; J. Simon, "Housing by and for Women", in *Women Inland Planning: Proceedings of a Conference*, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, 1983; M. Soper, "Housing for Single Parents: a Women's Design", in G. Wekerle, R. Peterson, D. Morley, *New Space for Women*, Westview Press, 1980.

*Fran Klodawsky and Aron Spector are urban and social policy analysts in Ottawa.*

# Women as Architects: Have We Come a Long Way?

By ROCHELLE MARTIN  
WENDY CHAMBERLIN and  
SARAH HASELSCHWARDT

**A**s we progress through the eighties, more and more women are taking their places alongside men in professions once considered to be "off limits". Women in the field of architecture are no exception. However, women architects claim that much of their progress is illusory. They say they have difficulty finding jobs and "moving up" once they are hired; they are not accepted as equals; and they must work twice as hard to prove themselves. Are these perceptions accurate or are they exaggerated by women in the field? Are there prejudices? What is the man's point of view?

To answer some of these questions we decided to investigate the hiring practices of architecture firms in the Detroit area. We wanted to determine the number of women employed by architecture firms as architects, the positions these women held, their salaries compared to those of their male colleagues, and the advantages and disadvantages of hiring women.

Out of approximately 200 architecture firms in the Detroit area a random sample of 60 was selected and questionnaires mailed in June 1983. These firms represent a cross-section of the employment opportunities available to women architects. Of these we received 29 responses, giving a return rate of 48 per cent. The majority of these responses were completed by the principals/partners of the firms surveyed, the individuals responsible for hiring. With three exceptions the responses came from men aged 35 to 60, so we can assume we are portraying the man's view.

Our survey results point to discrimination in hiring, salary and relative position in firms. There is a large discrepancy between the number of women and the number of men employed as architects. Of the 29 firms

responding, 12 employed women in architectural positions. Of these firms' combined total of 276 architects, only 23 were women: less than nine per cent. It was not surprising to find that 96 per cent of the respondents said that the majority of their co-workers were male. Only four per cent could respond that their office was staffed with an equal number of male and female architects.

Hiring of women in architectural positions has not been continuous. The first woman hired obtained her position in 1951. Then a large gap occurred until 1979 when women were again hired. In recent years the employment of women architects reflects the growing number who entered professional schools in the late 1970s as a result of the women's movement and other social changes.

Most of the women hold low level, low paying drafting positions. We found from the survey that eight of the 23 women were doing drafting work while nine women held lower management positions such as job captain, interior designer or junior designer. Four were in middle management positions such as project manager, and two were in upper management, including project architect or partner. In general, women held jobs of lower status, responsibility and financial reward. These jobs are detrimental because women become pigeon-holed in low level positions with little opportunity for advancement or for becoming registered.

In salaries, women again come out "low on the totem pole". The average salary for all architecturally related positions was \$24,000. Men had an average slightly over this total at \$24,750 while the average for women was considerably less at \$16,800. This differential reflects the lower pay of the drafting positions held by the majority of the

women compared to design or administrative positions.

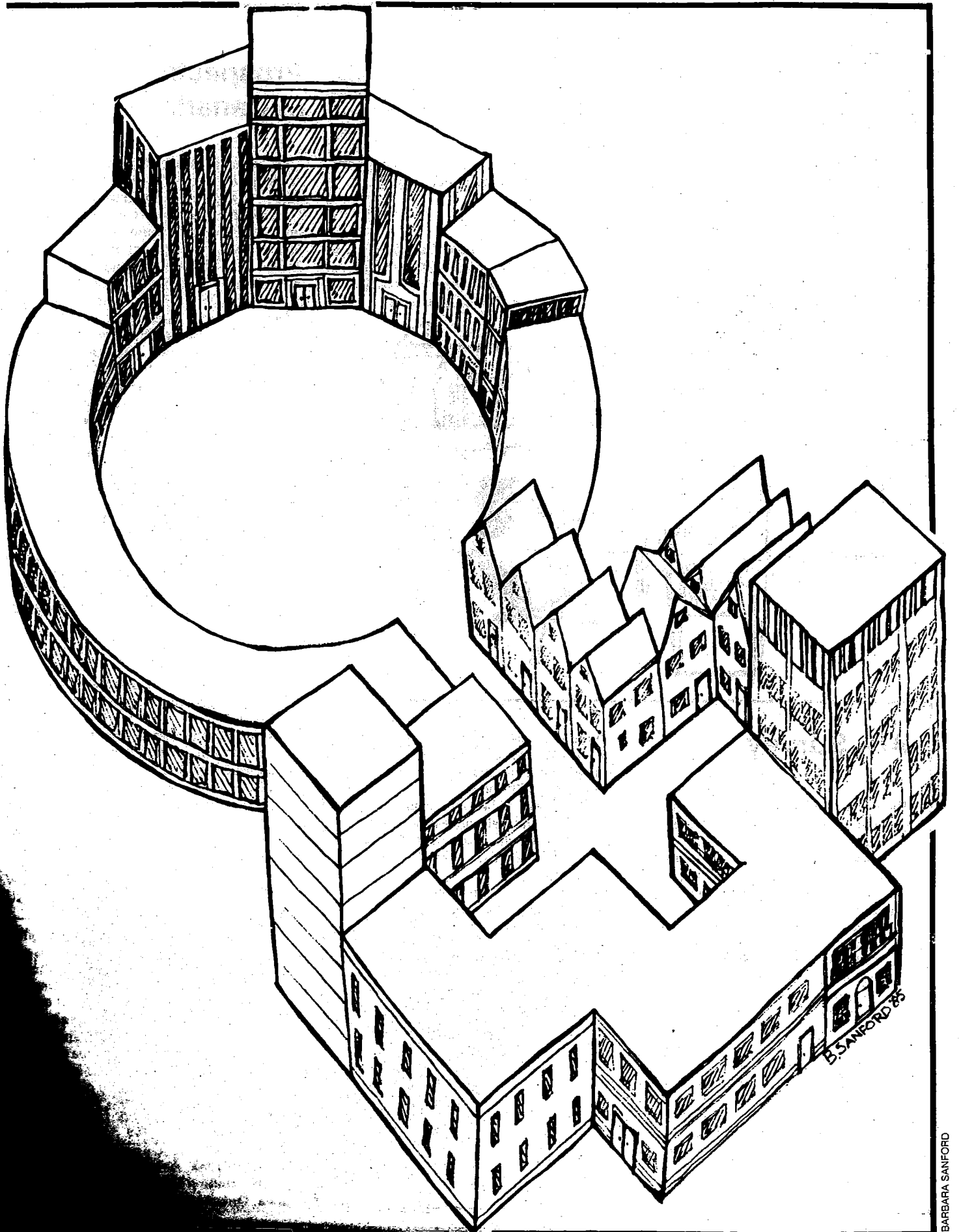
We discovered that many firms' official hiring policy and their actual hiring practices often differ. Only 31 per cent of the firms said they had affirmative action programs. Of these, approximately half employed women architects. Nearly every firm commented that hiring was based on ability, competence, skills and talent, and that gender did not influence the decision. Yet most firms did not employ women. Were qualified women architects unavailable to fill positions or were women overlooked, discouraged or omitted from the hiring process?

Responses to our open-ended questions indicate some of the attitudes responsible for the small number of women hired. Many of the respondents gave traditional and stereotypical answers.

Some of the comments recorded exemplify these attitudes. One respondent said, "women are distracting to some of the men in an office." He added, "women leave to get married and have kids." Another said, "Men are ill at ease with women and an 'on guard' feeling exists among the male staff. The major problem was that women are distracting sexually."

One principal stated that his firm did not hire women because, "Workmen's Compensation laws made it a risk to hire women because of sexual harassment." In Michigan where this survey was conducted, these laws do not apply to sexual harassment (which is investigated by the Equal Opportunity Office of the state's Employment Commission).

In the technical area women are considered to "have less of an understanding of construction than men." They are credited, however, with "a greater colour and pattern



BARBARA SANFORD



understanding and ability of selection," a comment often used to relegate women to positions in interior design, graphics or rendering, and to exclude them from the challenging roles and the opportunity to develop expertise in other areas.

Commenting about the advantage of hiring women, one respondent said, "their presence cleans up the language in the office a little." Others answered that women are "hard working," "steady," "more dedicated," and "able to give attention to detail." No mention was made of skills or ability that supposedly serve as criteria for jobs.

We were greatly disappointed to learn that women had not achieved wider acceptance in the field from their fellow professionals. We learned that attitudes among male colleagues need to change drastically (and we hope, soon) for capable women to enjoy equal respect, equal pay and more professional options and opportunities.

*Rochelle Martin, Wendy Chamberlin and Sarah Haselschwardt are at the School of Architecture, Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, Michigan.*



CAROLINE PANG

## AIA Survey

The Detroit findings are also reflected in those of a 1983 survey by the American Institute of Architects:

Today's woman architect is younger, more likely to be married and less likely to be practicing in California, New England or New York than her 1974 counterpart — but she still encounters discrimination. These are findings from the AIA's soon-to-be-released 1983 update of the Affirmative Action Plan for the Integration of Women Into the Architectural Profession. The last AIA survey of woman architects was completed in 1974.

The overwhelming majority of the nearly 1,000 survey respondents stated that they have been discriminated against primarily in advancement, work assignments and salary. Yet, like their 1974 counterparts, they have not let discrimination alter their career plans. However, according to the survey, dis-

crimination has caused the woman architect to have self-esteem and confidence problems and has slowed her career progress. The 1983 woman architect is more likely than her 1974 counterpart to have worked continuously since graduation, to be a full-time employee and to be part of an architectural firm's upper management.

Certain professional characteristics have remained unchanged since 1974; architecture was her first choice as a profession, she has a bachelor's degree in architecture and she is more than twice as likely as her male counterpart to have a graduate degree.

Also, female architects are still more likely than male architects to work for a small firm and to be considered an employee rather than a principal, partner or associate. The average 1988 woman architect has 11 years experience and earns \$27,000 annually compared to \$40,500 for her male counterpart.

*From: MEMO, Newsletter of the AIA, January 1984*

## Prospects in Canada

A report just released by Labour Canada\* investigates the situation for Canadian women in architecture and urban planning. The report builds on two considerations: the small proportion of women in these professions in Canada (9 per cent of architects and 19 per cent of planners) and the growing discussion (see, for example, every issue of *Women and Environments*) of the adverse effect on women generally of standard architectural and planning practice.

Through interviews and statistics, the report describes in detail the training and employment-related characteristics of the two professions, as well as the professional participation and career experience of women.

Employment prospects are set within the "demand" context of the economic and social policy decision-making climate, and the kinds of public and private building investment that will occur. This strand is carried further by a discussion of the possible influence on the built environment of feminist analysis, and the attempts by women and women's groups to modify existing approaches to planning, housing and services.

### Some findings:

- Salary discrepancies between men and women are greater in planning than in architecture;
- Past architectural and planning practices have restricted women's entry in many subtle ways; efforts to deal with these problems are increasing;
- Child care responsibilities and discrimination are still identified as major barriers to equality and women's professional progress;
- Women in the profession are using collective response strategies to help their status as well as to influence standard architectural and planning practice to improve the environmental quality of women's lives;
- With declining investment in the built environment and tightening public employment, the future for professionals in these fields is hard to predict but indicates a need for re-aligning skills;
- Public policy approaches which emphasize social planning would provide a focus for women's employment.

\* *Employment Opportunities for Women in Architecture and Planning: Problems and Prospects*, prepared for the Women's Bureau, Labour Canada, by Fran Klodawsky, 1985. Available from: Publications Distribution Centre, Labour Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0J7.

May 17-18

**Housing Policies in the Eighties: Choices and Outcomes**

Sponsored by the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and the Institute for Policy Studies. The conference is designed to bring together individuals from a range of disciplines and political perspectives who are working in the area of housing policy.

Contact: Sara Rosenberry, Urban Affairs Program, College of Architecture and Urban Studies, VPI and SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061, USA (703) 961-6217

June 5-9

**Women's International Peace Conference**

at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS Canada.

The end of the Decade for Women, with its objectives of equality, development and peace, is quickly approaching. It is hoped that new directions for future peace actions will emerge from this conference.

Contact: Coalition of Canadian Women's Peace Groups: International Peace Conference, Room 9-10, Seton Annex, 166 Bedford Hwy., Halifax, NS Canada B3M 2J6.

June 19-23

**National Women's Studies Association Conference '85**

This year the conference will be at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Contact: NWSA 1985 Conference, Women's Studies GN-45, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 98195, USA.

August 14-17

**The Canadian Urban Experience — Past and Present** is the theme of this year's Canadian Urban Studies Conference in Winnipeg. One session is devoted to Women and the Urban Environment with special focus on the roles and impacts of women as urban activists, theoretical and structural perspectives, and women and the city.

Contact: Canadian Urban Studies Conference, Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9 Canada. (204) 786-9409.

September 5-7

**Women and Offshore Oil**

Implications of offshore oil and gas development for women will be discussed at this international conference at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. The conference theme is two-fold: the offshore labour force, and implications for the family.

Contact: Dr. Jane Lewis, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Nfld. A1C 5S7 Canada (709) 737-6592.

October 28-31

**International Conference on the Status of Girls**

This conference, which is being organized under the auspices of La Fondation Marie-Vincent and l'Université de Montreal, will bring people together to share their views on the present and future status of girls. The main objective is to bring attention to the actual situation of young girls, and at the same time, their future as women of the 2000 era.

Contact: Bureau de la Conference, 6161 St Denis, 4ième étage, bureau 4.06, Montreal, PQ H2S 2R5 Canada.

October 31 - November 3, 1985

**Boundaries of American Culture**

is the theme of the Tenth Biennial American Studies Association convention in San Diego, California. Particular attention will be given to proposals in a number of areas including the arts (popular, high, and functional), and geography and ideologies.

Contact: Professor Martha Banta, Chair, American Studies Association Program Committee, Department of English, 2225 Rolfe Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024 USA.

November 8-10

**Women and Isolation**

The objective of this 1985 CRIAW conference is to explore the isolation of women as a result of geographical or social circumstances. A focus on the experience of rural and native women is encouraged. Tentative themes include: the phenomenon of isolation; the experience of isolation; making the connections to end isolation (e.g., networks, skills and information sharing, doing research, data, resources); and celebrating community.

Contact: CRIAW/ICRAF Program Committee Chair, Education 3088, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada S7N 0W0.

March 24-28, 1986

**International Conference of Women's History — Amsterdam**

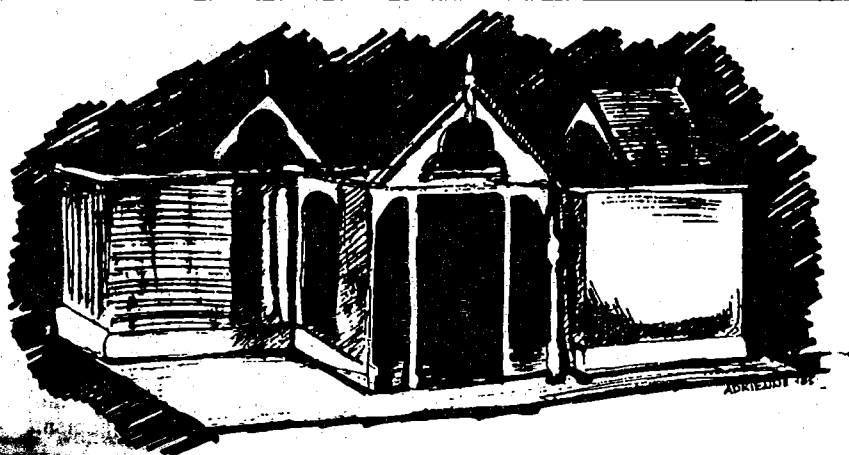
A variety of themes will be addressed at this conference including, women and work, and women and the third world. Proposals for lectures must be received by May 1, 1985.

Contact: International Conference of Women's History, p/a vrouwenoverleg geschiedenis Universiteit van P.C. Hoofthuis, Spuistraat, 34, 1012 VB Amsterdam, Nederland.

**"La Maison" — An Artistic Event**

The brainchild of five women artists from the Ottawa Valley/l'Outaouais, this piece of environmental art is being done on a stage set and a summer cottage. Inside the structure there are five areas, each designed by one of the artists in their own travelling dream home. The event will be held in Ottawa and will soon be heading to other parts of the province.

Contact: "La Maison", S.G. Taylor, Ottawa, Ont.



**The Land Before Her: Fantasy and Experience of the American Frontiers, 1630-1860**

Annette Kolodny  
Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1984. 313 pp.

Reviewed by LYDIA BURTON

Annette Kolodny's examination of women's writing about the American frontier from the mid-1600s up to the Civil War is a first-rate study of how women perceived and coped with new environments in the westward migrations of that period. Her sources were specifically selected "for the light they cast on women's developing literary response to the fact of the west" (xi), and the preface defines clearly the limits that this focus imposes on the topic of women's responses to emigration and landscape. Exploring fictional and non-fictional material of this early period meant that the women whose works Kolodny studied were literate and middle class: that is, they could write and could find time to do so. Many of those that wrote did so to inform or edify family or friends — or to publish for a general readership. The material Kolodny has scoured is generally not the stuff of the anguished or ecstatic journal, nor is it a treasury of new ideas and innovative response. But it is illuminating in themes and analyses that help us to appreciate how greatly women's inner needs were entwined with the social and economic expectations of their times, and how women interpreted universal feelings of commitment to relationship, nurturing, and community in contemporary, conventional terms.

Using the landscape as a symbolic rather than as a geographic entity, the author analyses the fantasies that permitted women to deal more (or less) successfully with male frontiersmanship, the male-fantasy-turned-reality that deals with the adventure of exploration and "conquest" — of moulding the landscape to some image of power, strength, and rightness (or righteousness). For many of us in the 1980s, this can be seen as a chauvinistic outlook on life in general. But there is, nevertheless, an excitement in opening frontiers of any kind that no one should view with cynicism. What is important in the endeavour are the values that we bring to these adventures and the quality of the cultural attitudes that we apply to them. These are matters that change with time, subjectivity and judgment. Kolodny views subconscious fantasies as "always (wearing) cultural clothing" (12). We bring with us to new "territories" our own biases and cultural conformities.

As a result, the women who moved west

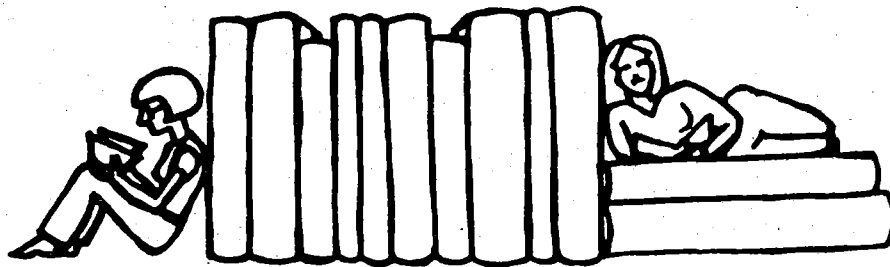
in the United States (and no doubt in Canada) in the early period of settlement designed their frontier with the standard images of their time. These were the traditional complement to male frontiersmanship: maintenance and nurturing of home and garden. Writers like Margaret Fuller (1810-50) recognized that the decision to go or stay in any place was made by men and that women followed, whatever their own inclinations or sentiments might be (121).

In their customary role as helpmates to men, they needed — we may interpret — to find ways to make unfamiliar and frightening landscapes they had not personally chosen both comfortable and manageable. This they did, Kolodny demonstrates, by transporting the concept and reality of the garden to their new environments. The writings of these women settlers — whether in letters, fiction, or promotional literature — emphasized the economy, familiarity, beauty and gratification that cultivating a garden (a symbol for nurture) could create. It was also a "landscape" over which women had almost exclusive control in a larger environment they often feared and could not shape. "I ask the reader," writes Kolodny, "to consider the social and historical contexts in which these women dreamed their dreams of a frontier garden and . . . to appreciate the psychological fortitude required to evade the power and cultural pervasiveness of male fantasy structures" (xiii).

Nevertheless, the fears and dissatisfactions women felt in performing drudgery in stark and confining conditions, in the dark and threatening landscape of the woodlands or in the less claustrophobic but isolated open landscape of the prairies, created responses that were not especially remarkable. Women were captive in solitary and often oppressive domestic environments, while their men exulted in the free spaces and exciting landscapes that were, to these frontiersmen, full of economic promise and personal possession. Women tamed their fears and their landscape with a familiar image. The focus on the garden fantasy was a successful survival mechanism.

Kolodny says she has "long ceased to lament the absence of adventurous conquest in women's fantasies before 1860" and instead thinks that the movement west might have been better served by the garden fantasy of women than by the "privatized erotic mastery" fantasy that drew the men (xiii). I cannot disagree, but my own fantasy is that some few women went west not only with courage and anticipation, but also with a determination that may have led them consciously to alter the traditional images of their past lives. These may not have been the "writing women" (middle-class white), and so their stories are perhaps lost forever. They would not have been conventional women, so that, if known, their stories would have been tampered with anyway, and history rewritten. Kolodny's discussion of stories about girls taken captive by Indians demonstrates how this was done in order to affirm the mores of the times: Christian religious and social virtue, fear of miscegenation, and the need to retain images of white women as genteel, unsullied, uncompromised, unassimilated, and consequently unadaptable. But there are examples to indicate that the captivity experiences of some women led them to alter their views of Indian life and of how to live in the wilderness. These captivity narratives are interesting because they show that not all experiences could be conventionalized into the acceptable views expected of women at the time. But this circumstance was exceptional.

Although the garden image/fantasy may not be a gripping one for modern sensibilities, we know it still in various guises (like fixing up the apartment or growing geraniums). In Kolodny's work, it also acts as a mechanism for discussion of other arenas in which women responded to traditional past and changing present. These include the transformation of the physical and social styles of cities, as well as the emerging difficulties attending the industrialization process and the development of suburbanization, land speculation, transportation systems and economic activity. These in turn lead to information about



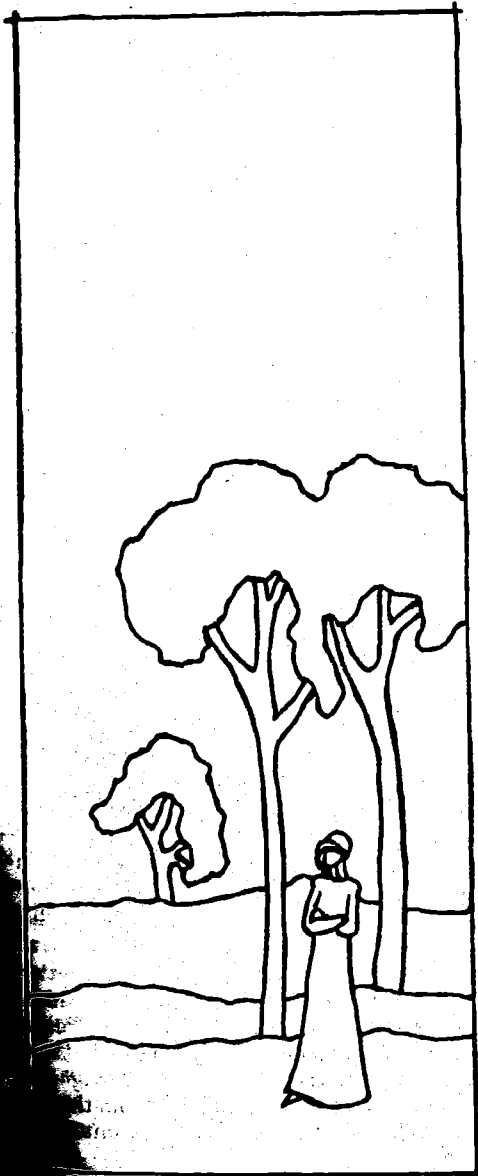
BARBARA SANFORD

CAROLINE PANG

class structure, poverty, the transplantation and adaptation of domestic building and furnishing styles, and how women's needs, wants and expectations altered as settlement became established. As these areas of life changed, so did the literary focus of writing women.

This scholarly, well-documented book about women's emotional and psychological responses to westward migration and settlement helps us understand the strategies of accommodation that women developed in their journeys into uncharted and uncertain "territories", both physical and otherwise. We are still journeying.

*Lydia Burton is a freelance book editor in Toronto who sometimes writes about women and fiction, and also about urban neighbourhoods.*



## Geography and Gender

### Women and the Environment

Special issue of *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography* 16(3) 1984. Edited by Suzanne Mackenzie, Jo Foord and Myrna Breitbart.

This stimulating issue includes a wide range of articles concerned with women and geography, from Mildred Berman's very readable (and inspiring?) "On Being a Woman in American Geography: A Personal Perspective" to Myrna Breitbart's discussion of "Feminist Perspectives in Geographic Theory and Methodology". The authors of the articles bring together knowledge of Canadian, American and British studies. A majority of the articles are written from a socialist feminist perspective. A few of them have been published elsewhere.

In the "Editorial Introduction" Suzanne Mackenzie makes clear the evolution of feminist research (as she has also done for this magazine, *W&E* 6(3) Fall 1984, "Catching Up with Ourselves") to readers of *Antipode* who may not be familiar with the subject. She outlines a clear starting point, the underlying assumptions of work on women and the environment, for such research in geography. "The aim of the research has been to define the nature and the parameters of these differences [between men's and women's lives] and to study their implications." (p.5)

Other contributors deal with a variety of issues raised by these differences. Gerda Wekerle presents some research on women's urban experiences in "A Woman's Place is in the City," and argues that major changes are needed in land use patterns in cities. Sue Brownhill, "From Critique to Intervention: Socialist-Feminist Perspectives on Urbanization" and Jane Lewis, "The Role of Female Employment in the Industrial Restructuring and Regional Development of the Post-War United Kingdom" use British examples to explore women's experiences. In "The American Family goes Camping: Gender, Family and the Politics of Space" Margaret Cerullo and Phyllis Ewen discuss gender divisions in one leisure activity. The issue also contains a review essay by Jane Darke that discusses four recent volumes concerning women and the environment.

The introduction states: "Our hope and expectation, as editors of this special issue, is that a serious consideration of the relationships between gender and space . . . will continue to emerge . . ." (p.8). This issue is a very good contribution to studies of women and environments.

*Antipode* is available from P.O. Box 339, West Side Station, Worcester MA 01602 USA. Annual subscriptions: institutions \$27 in USA, \$30 foreign; individuals \$12 in USA, \$13 foreign. This special issue is \$5.00.



### Comparing the Sexes on Spatial Abilities: Map-Use Skills

Patricia P. Gilmartin and Jeffrey C. Patton

In: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 74(4) 1984: 605-619

The paper summarizes psychologists' views of spatial skills, and reports on five map-use experiments. The main sex-based differences were found in the younger age groups, where boys' performances were superior to girls'. Among college students, results were almost identical for males and females. The results suggest that psychologists' findings on sex-based and developmental patterns in spatial abilities may not be directly transferable to geography.



### Better Cities, Lower Costs

Papers and Proceedings of the International Federation for Housing and Planning Congress in Lisbon, 1983

Among the papers presented to the Working Party on Women's Perspectives in Planning are: Saar Boerlage and Ina Klaasen, "The Role of Regional Planning in the Netherlands in the Struggle for an Emancipated Society"; Marijke van Schendelen and Mieke Verloof, "The Average Family: Keystone and Buildingstone in Dutch Housing and Planning"; Henriette van Eys, "Urban Accessibility: Quality Improvement and Cost Reduction in Urban Transport"; Josephien van Wijk, "Women's Emancipation and Urban Planning".

The complete *Proceedings* can be ordered from IFHP, 43 Wassenaarseweg, 2596 CG The Hague, Netherlands for 60 Hfl, plus 12.50 Hfl postage.

## Design

### Shaking the Foundations: Feminist Analysis in the World of Architecture

Pauline Fowler

In: *Fuse* 7(5) February 1984: 199-204

Fowler analyzes mainstream architecture as an expression of the hierarchical value and power systems attaching to the concept of "public and private" spheres. She challenges this system's relegation of domestic architecture to a position of no importance within the profession, and urges its prioritization as well as the acceptance into architecture of vernacular design and traditions, and of lay, or "user," opinion.

### A Woman's Touch: Women in Design from 1860 to the Present Day

Isabelle Anscombe

London: Pluto Press, 1984, £14.95, Published in New York by Viking, \$20.

"The history of the major design movements since the late 1860s, when John Ruskin and William Morris put forward the theory that a nation's design and architecture reflect its social and political health . . . (has) been almost exclusively about men's roles in these movements." Women's artistic achievements have been belittled also by the notion that interior design is a natural extension of a woman's role, that women are expected to use their "touch" to transform a house not only into a home but into a monument to "good taste."

Anscombe concentrates on the contributions that women designers have made, through the major design movements of both Europe and North America, to the modern house and its furnishings.

### Mary Colter: Builder upon Red Earth

Virginia L. Gratten

Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Press, 1980

Mary Colter was the designer of Bright Angel Lodge, Phantom Ranch and a number of other structures at the Grand Canyon which are sensitive both to the Southwest Indian heritage and the natural environment. She also completed other architectural and interior design projects for the Fred Harvey Company in the American West. This paperback treats her life and work.

### Women, Design and the Cambridge School

Dorothy May Anderson

PDA Publishers Corp., 1725 East Fountain, Mesa AZ 85203. \$15.95

Subtitled "A History of the Smith College Graduate School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in Cambridge," this is the first published history of the Cambridge School. It covers the period 1915 to 1942, when women were just starting to move into a working world still dominated by men.



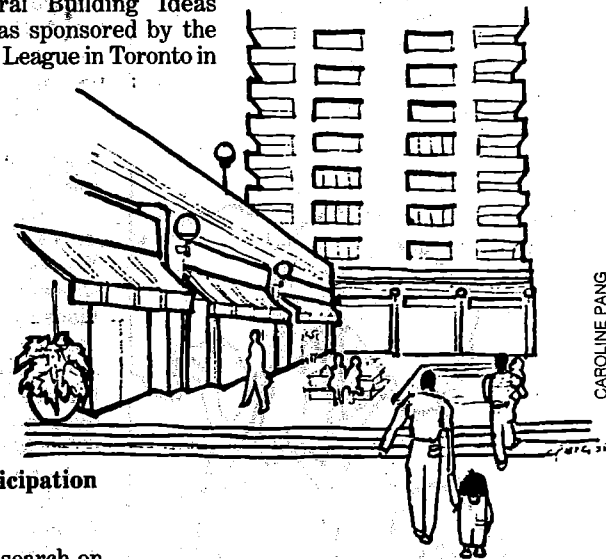
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### Designing Dissent

Brenda Millar

In: *Fuse* 7(5) February 1984: 205-208

Millar discusses issues that were raised by the Women's Cultural Building Ideas Competition which was sponsored by the Women's Architecture League in Toronto in the fall of 1983.



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## Employment and the Family

### From Sun to Sun: Daily Obligations and Community Structure in the Lives of Employed Women and their Families

William Michelson

Totowa NJ: Rowman and Allenheld, 1985, 180 pp, \$28.95

The book is concerned with what is different in the lives of employed mothers and their families, the conditions under which daily life takes place, personal outcomes and how communities can adapt to ease daily routines. The ramifications and interrelationships of outside jobs, household activities, community structure and individual behaviour in the lives of employed women are explored in depth with extensive data on over 500 families in Metropolitan Toronto.

### Determinants of Fathers' Participation in Family Work

R.C. Barnett and G.K. Baruch

Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, Working Paper 136, 1984, 45 pp, \$4

One of a number of Working Papers which report on the Center's research on changing male roles, including fathers' participation in family work (child care and home chores). The research program is described in the Center's Research Report 4(1) Fall 1984, a free publication, which together with the Working Papers, is available from Publications Dept, Center for Research on Women, Wellesley College, Wellesley MA 02181, USA.

### Unemployed Fathers: Parenting in a Changing Labour Market

Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, 1985, \$8

The study explores some implications of changing employment patterns which produce increasing numbers of families where the mother is employed outside the home while the father of their young children is unemployed. Available from the Council at 185 Bloor St. East, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3J3.



## Third World Women

### Women and the Environment in the Sudan

*Edited by Diana Baxter*

Environmental Research Paper Series No. 2, Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Khartoum, PO Box 321, Khartoum, Sudan. 145 pp, \$10

The papers in this volume were presented at a 1981 workshop in Khartoum. Baxter's introduction provides a clear analysis of the downward spiral which traps women in their low social and economic position. The other two dozen or so papers are grouped into sections on Women and the Social Environment; Women, Water and the Environment; Women and the Living Environment (including energy and deforestation); and Women and Food (agriculture and nutrition).

### Women and Shelter

*M. Sorock, H. Dicker, A. Giraldo, S. Waltz*

Occasional Paper Series, Office of Housing and Urban Programs, Agency for International Development, Washington DC 20523, USA.

An analysis of the results of an AID sponsored study in Paraguay, Honduras and Tunisia in 1981-82. Low-income women in all three countries face huge obstacles both in access to shelter and in making their needs known; migration from rural villages to urban slums has a particularly harsh effect on women.

### Women in Socioeconomic Development: a Bibliography

*Beverly R. Phillips and Staff*

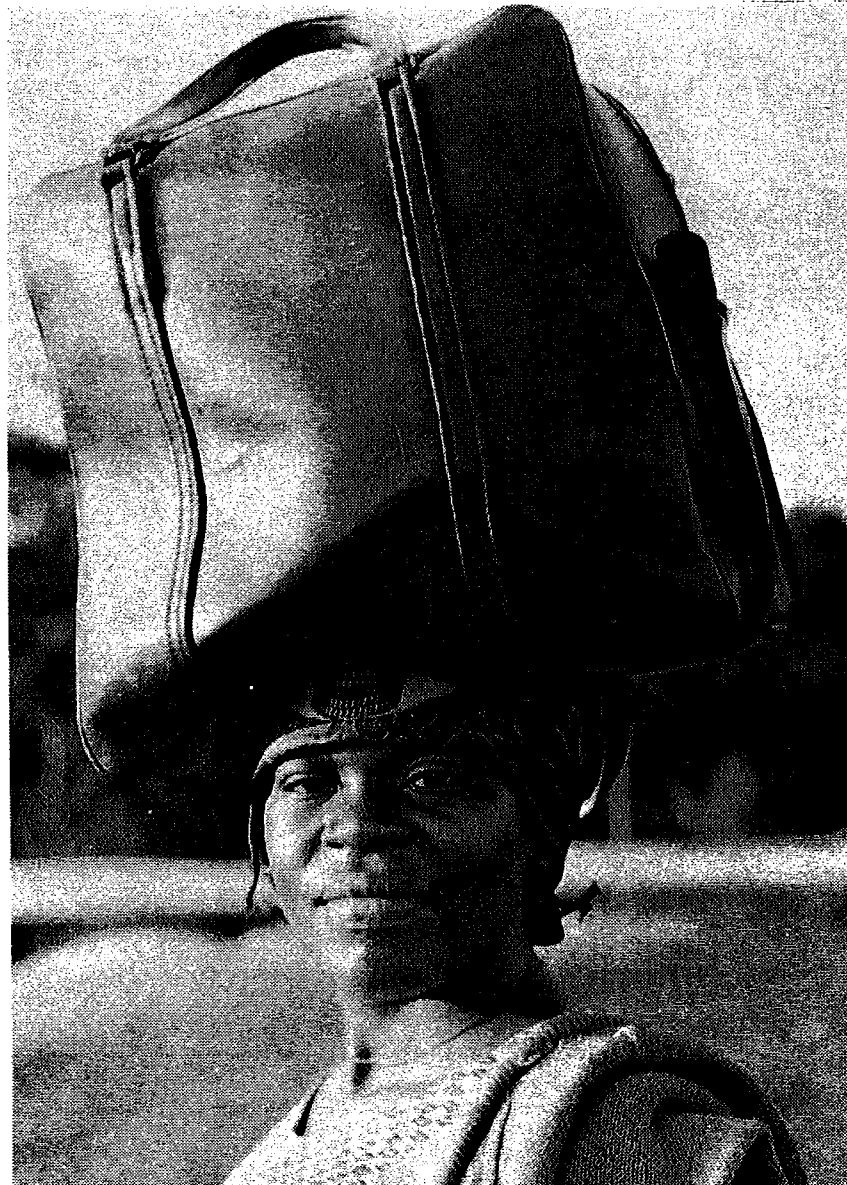
Land Tenure Center Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI 53706, 1983.

This extensive bibliography was not formally published and is at present only available via Interlibrary Loan.

### SINA (Settlements Information Network Africa) Newsletter

Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the highest proportions of female-headed households in the world; women have had to take on more traditionally male jobs, more subsistence tasks in rural areas. Half, often more, of the people applying for plots in low-income housing schemes in 1981 were women, yet sometimes law or custom is against their getting land, some kinds of jobs, credit and other help.

Most of the projects that SINA members



CHRIS SCHERBARTH

work on in the region address the special needs of women in some way. SINA holds training workshops for members, publishes the newsletter which is a medium for exchange of information on people, problems and resources, documents and possible solutions.

Contact: Diana Lee Smith, editor, *SINA Newsletter*, Mazingira Institute, PO Box 14550, Nairobi, Kenya.

### Women and Property Rights: a World View

*Fran P. Hosken*

In: *Women's International Network (WIN) News* 10(3) 1984: 9-12.

Women represent 50 per cent of the adult world population and a third of the official labour force; yet they own less than one per cent of world property. Hosken reviews briefly the situation in both industrialized and developing countries, and proposes a

world-wide study of existing land ownership laws and practices. A program proposal is available from WIN News, 187 Grant St., Lexington MA 02173, USA.

### Women in Development: a Resource Guide for Organization and Action

ISIS Women's International Information and Communication Service  
Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1984, 225 pp, \$14.95 (paper)

This well-illustrated reference work provides a feminist analysis of the "Women in Development" concept, with critical overviews of the issues and literature, and examples of how women are organizing in the areas of multinational corporations, food production, appropriate technology and income generation in rural areas, health, migration and tourism, education and communication.

## Women in Agriculture

### The Farmer Takes a Wife: A Study by Concerned Farm Women

Giselle Ireland

Concerned Farm Women, Box 457, Chesley, Ontario N0G 1L0, 1983, 100 pp.

The current economic crisis gripping agriculture has provoked a variety of responses in the farming community in Ontario. One of them has been the emergence of a farm women's activist group, Concerned Farm Women. The organization's book, *The Farmer Takes a Wife* is a result of a surveying project which focussed on the psychological and financial stresses experienced by farm families. It is also a book about the farm women in Grey and Bruce Counties; how the financial crisis has affected them, their roles on and off the farm, and their views of themselves and their future. Although the research focussed on one area of Ontario, the author believes that the study's findings will strike a response in farm women across the country.

### The Invisible Farmers: Women in Agricultural Production

Carolyn E. Sachs

Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Allenheld, 1984, 153 pp, \$29.95

Interest in the role of women in agriculture is rapidly expanding and it isn't limited to the Canadian experience. Sachs investigates the extent of participation by women as farmers, wage labourers and subsistence producers. Throughout the book, the author stresses the changing structure of agriculture and the pervasiveness of domestic ideology on the farm. One important chapter deals with women farmers, a group which are usually overlooked or invisible in studies of farming in the US. Individual case studies give the reader insight into the experiences, conditions and problems that these women face everyday.

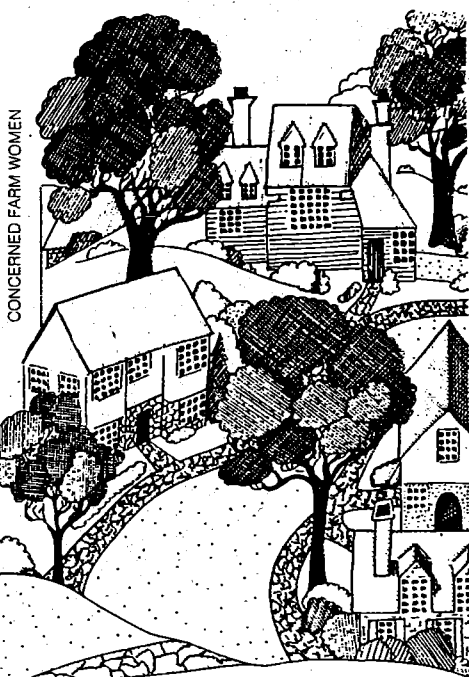
## Help!

Marjorie Burr is looking for slides or photographs of American Indian women in agriculture, to be used in a presentation to recruit young Indian women into agricultural careers. Contact her at Indian Resource Development, Box 3IRD, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces NM 88003, USA.



## Women Architects

Diane Barry has begun a slide collection of buildings designed by women architects. Contact her at 2498 Cole St, Oakland CA 94601, USA.



CONCERNED FARM WOMEN

## Women and Housing

### Women and Abandoned Buildings: a Feminist Approach to Housing

Jacqueline Leavitt and Susan Saegert  
In: *Social Policy*, Summer 1984: 32-39

Tenant Interim Lease (TIL) is a program of New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and allows tenants to manage their building, abandoned by the landlord to City receivership, under an 11-month lease leading to ownership. The authors saw the tenant co-ops not as models of housing but as models of human survival, and believed that low-income women would seize the co-ops as a way not only to preserve their own homes but as a means to make a "more homelike world." Their survey findings tend to support this: "Rather than focussing their energies mainly on the maintenance of a family and private homes, these women extend their care outward to the building and its residents and often . . . the community."

### The Unsheltered Woman: Women and Housing in the 80s

Edited by Eugenie Ladner Birch

Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University, 1985, 346 pp, \$14.95

How to define gender-related needs, how to plan projects and programs, and how to design implementation strategies: *The Unsheltered Woman* relates the effects of the demographic revolution on housing policy and practice, contributes to the literature on affordable housing, and adds to the mounting evidence and policy implications of the gender gap.

Order from: Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University, PO Box 489, Piscataway NJ 08854, USA.

Two short articles on women and housing in Canada:

At a time when Canadian housing programs are under federal review, Gay Alexander ("More than just a Roof over our Heads", *Status of Women News*, December 1984) pleads the case for a continued and improved non-profit and co-op housing program, the program with most potential to respond to women's housing needs.

Glenda Jowsey in "Spaces: Building in a New Direction" (*Herizons*, August 1984) discusses how housing, and policies and attitudes on housing, do not fit the way that women live.

# The Women's Research Centre in Vancouver

The Centre was established in 1976 to work with women, primarily from community-based groups, who do not normally have access to research facilities, and who need help in acquiring information and skills in order to take effective action on issues of concern.

Women define the research and conduct it themselves, with the Centre providing training in the development of methodology, interviewing and data collection, and other assistance as required. The emphasis in the research is on developing a descriptive account of *how* a problem or issue is experienced by women as the basis for analysis and strategy development, a process which contributes to the transformation of problems as personal or individual to recognizing them as political, economic and social. Finally, women own the research they undertake with the Centre. They are therefore able to put the information and analysis that is generated into future social and political action, thus strengthening their effectiveness beyond the life of any one research project.

The Centre also initiates research that subsequently involves or becomes of interest to other groups, such as its work on economic development and wife battering. It has worked in both these areas with women in a wide range of community groups, from women's centres and women's studies programs to transition houses and emergency shelter committees, as well as with government agencies.

WRC is funded by an operations grant from the Secretary of State Women's

Program, and receives grants or contracts from federal, provincial and municipal agencies for specific projects. It has researched and published on a wide range of issues including wife battering, economic development, daycare, sexual harassment and how to do community research; current areas of work are violence against women (and sexual abuse of children), self-evaluation for women's organizations, and women and economic development. This last area builds on WRC's previous community research and socio-economic impact assessment projects. WRC has found that most existing material focusses on economic theories rather than women's actual situations as the starting point for analysis, with the result that women are included — if at all — as an additional rather than a central concern, or the impact on them is seen in terms of social service cutbacks almost exclusively.

Among WRC's previous publications which will be of particular interest to readers of *W&E* are: *A Review of Munroe House — Second Stage Housing for Battered Women* (1980, \$2); and *Beyond the Pipeline: a Study of the Lives of Women and their Families in Fort Nelson and Whitehorse* (1979, \$6).

Subscriptions to the Centre are available at \$10 a year; subscribers receive copies of new publications (a list is available on request).

Contact: Women's Research Centre, 301-2515 Burrard St, Vancouver BC, V6J 3J6.



## Peace

### How do people perceive peace?

How do they make peace? Does peace-making differ by culture? By gender?

Will you answer a questionnaire on these issues, or be willing to be interviewed?

Contact: Alice Wisner and Barbara Roberts, 100 Harris St, Guelph, Ontario N1E 5T2.

**The Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice**, the Seneca Encampment in Upstate New York, has decided to become a permanent campground for women's peace work.

It provides a safe, legal space for all women to challenge a patriarchal world's most gross expression — the nuclear arms race. Help is needed, in cash or kind.

Contact: Seneca Encampment, 5440 Rt. 96, Romulus NY 14541, USA.

## — in print —

## Resources

**Women in Canada: A Statistical Report** documents the status of women over the last 15 years. Up-to-date statistics show the situation of women's income, employment, education, family situation, criminal victimization, etc.

Available from: Publication Sales and Service, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6. Cat. 89-503. \$25.

**National Clearinghouse on Family Violence** has prepared a directory of counselling, information/resource/referral and legal services available for battered women.

Contact: the Clearinghouse, Social Service Programs Branch, Health & Welfare Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B5.

### **Battered Women's Directory**

Edited by Betsy Warrior

The latest edition of this comprehensive directory of shelters, services and educational resources for battered women and service providers in the USA is now available. The 300-page volume includes over 2,000 entries arranged in geographical order, and information on initiating hot lines, facilitating support groups and shelter procedures. It also contains a bibliography of other resources, as well as historical and theoretical articles on the issue of women's abuse.

Available from: Directory — T. Mehlman, Box E-94, Earlham College, Richmond IN 47374, USA. Cost to individuals is \$10; \$15 to institutions.

### **Directory of Selected Women's Research and Policy Centers**

The 24-page directory highlights activities and research directions of 28 women's centres in the US.

Available for \$4 from: Women's Research and Education Institute, 204 Fourth St, SE, Washington DC 20003, USA.

**Women in Canada: A Bibliography, 1965 to 1982** is now available from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. It was compiled by Carol Mazur and Sheila Pepper. To obtain a copy, send \$19.95 to OISE Press, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1V6.

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