

## MORE: Expanding architecture from a gender-based perspective

### III International Conference on Gender and Architecture

UniFi - School of Architecture (DIDA) - Florence, Italy

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What do you think can be the main contribution of MORE than cities/objects/humans/academia to gender-based perspectives and strategies?

With the conference themes framed under the umbrella of “MORE than...,” conference participants are being prompted to think outside of the dominant “master” narratives, and to consider a much more pluralistic view on architectural issues. Opening up the discussions to different points of view will not only allow for new, emerging knowledge to surface, but it will also enable new voices to be heard.

What are your expectations about MORE?

As an American architect and academic, I am interested in learning more about gender-based perspectives in architectural discourse and practice in Europe, and am excited to be part of discussions that span across nationalities, continents, and cultures. Given the four well-defined themes, I expect that we will find productive synergies between participants, as well as uncover potential for future collaborations.

How do you incorporate gender perspectives into your work? What works in your career do you consider to have best complied with a gender sensitive approach?

In my research and practice, I am interested in confronting ecological challenges through creative means. Specifically, I am currently exploring ways to incorporate cross-species habitats into the built environment. My preoccupations with non-human species and post-human discourses have led to interests in fundamentally rethinking the notion of the urban subject, and particularly how we can define “inclusivity” today. In an urban environment, animals are typically considered to be “outsiders,” or unintended occupants, and are therefore often excluded from architectural consideration. They are inhabitants that are unwittingly affected by architecture and contend with its consequences, yet they do not have a voice in its processes. In thinking about these issues, I approach architecture as a form of advocacy, a vehicle for addressing notions of inclusion/exclusion and overlooked subjectivities. Along these lines, I have been very interested in exploring alternative forms of practice that do not necessarily rely on conventional hierarchies and relationships between architects and clients. Recently I co-edited a book, *Beyond Patronage: Reconsidering Models of Practice*, which examines different forms of empowerment and strategies to enable practices.



*Joyce Hwang, AIA, NCARB, is the Director of Ants of the Prairie, an office of architectural practice and research that focuses on confronting contemporary ecological conditions through creative means, and an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, School of Architecture and Planning. She is a recipient of the Architectural League Emerging Voices Award (2014), the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Fellowship (2013), the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Independent Project Grant (2013, 2008), and the MacDowell Colony Fellowship (2016, 2011). Her projects and writing have been featured in international and national publications including Good, Curbed, Praxis, Azure Magazine, Architect Magazine, Green Building and Design, AV Proyectos, Bracket, MONU, Volume Magazine, and Next Nature. She is a co-editor of the book Beyond Patronage: Reconsidering Models of Practice, published by Actar.*

*Joyce is a registered architect in New York State, and has practiced professionally with offices in New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Barcelona. She received a post-professional Master of Architecture degree from Princeton University and a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University, where she received the Charles Goodwin Sands Memorial Bronze Medal.*

