

MORE: Expanding architecture from a gender-based perspective
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CONVERSATIONS

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

EQUAL SAREE

DAFNE SALDANA, HELENA CARDONA Y JULIA GOULA



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

On the one hand, bring new ideas and lines of work in the field of architecture and urbanism to walk towards more inclusive and sustainable cities. On the other hand, visualize urban and architectural practices, based on feminist worldviews, that have contributed to improve people's quality of life.

What are your expectations about MORE?

We hope it will be a space for meeting and discussion that brings together people from different places and professions where different experiences that enrich us mutually will be shared and where we can generate affinity networks for further collaboration in the future.

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?

All our work incorporate gender perspective. We work architecture and urban planning from a feminist perspective because it is our understanding of the organization of life and relationships between people and therefore also of the spaces and cities.

Equal Saree is a women architects collective that applies a feminist approach to architecture and urban planning. Equal Saree have led projects between research, training and social action in India, Morocco and Catalonia.

We have collaborated on plans for urban transformation boosting participation processes in which has been dealt mobility and sustainability as key factors for the development of everyday life. Currently, we studying the use of space during childhood and developing a methodology for gender analysis and intervention in playgrounds.

MARÍA NOVAS



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

The transformation of our habitat under the critical eye of gender perspective is a question of social justice; it means a challenge of progress to improve the quality of the place we live, and I strongly believe that the four lines of the congress are working on this very idea.

What are your expectations about MORE?

My expectations towards #MOREcongress are difficult to enumerate, but I really would try to make the invisible visible, to make contact with other initiatives, to meet new people and cultures, to share inspiring experiences and, ultimately as part of the Organizing Committee, to continue helping to create research spaces that could build just and fair societies in the future.

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?

From the beginning of my studies, I have been passionate about relations/intersections between architecture and gender, and because of this I founded together with my colleague Sofía Paleo Dexeneroconstrucción in Galicia in 2012. The goal of the collective is to approach gender perspective to architecture and society: www.dexeneroconstrucion.com.

María Novas completed a Degree in Architecture at the UDC (2011). She continued her training with the Master's Degree in Restoration and Urban Regeneration at the USC (2013) and at the Master's Degree in Applied Research in Feminist, Gender and Citizenship Studies at UJI (2014). She is a PhD Candidate at the PhD Program in Architecture of the University of Seville in the area of research "History of Architecture and Architectural Theory: Cultural Studies, Social Management and, the Creative City" and more specifically, in the subline of research in gender studies.

During this period, she has been involved in independent research, fostering personal and collective projects as Dexeneroconstrucción (2012); participating in collaborative international projects as Un día/Una Arquitecta (2015) or even working for public administration by means of incorporating a gender equality dimension into territories (2016).

Currently, she is working as a professional architect at Xarda - creative studio, and she is a co-founder of Argo Navis Job Network, a creative local hub and coworking space; meantime, she continues her studies in architecture and gender.

SERAFINA AMOROSO



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

I think that the interdisciplinary context of the initiative will bring together contributions from a number of different approaches that actually can stimulate and trigger a redefinition of the scopes of architecture, recasting its political commitments and questioning the obsolete framework of its disciplinary and methodological approaches to the built environment, with the aim of achieving a more equal, more secure and more environmentally sustainable society.

What are your expectations about MORE?

I hope that the space for dialogue propitiated by the congress would provide a fertile terrain and a common ground in which actors from different disciplines, combining both theory and good practices, could share and exchange experiences and points of view - providing solutions and suggestions to each other - about the issues that should be prioritized in order to enhance their own expertise and ability to implement gender-based strategies.

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 work, gender perspectives not only constitute an analytical or descriptive category, but also a critical attitude towards the inequalities and discriminatory effects that many components (including space) of our society had and continue to have on our daily lives. I have already spent many years working as an architect, and a number of events during my career prompted me to reflect, on the one hand, on people's way of understanding our profession and the role of the architect in society, and, on the other hand, on the way architecture should contribute to building our everyday environments and improving our daily lives. I have realized that something goes wrong when people's (above all women's) needs and expectations on both side (the users' and the architects') are neglected and/or misunderstood; hence, a paradigm shift is required on both side, beginning with (space) education. I have so far worked as an educator both with children and uni

versity students, constantly searching for new learning strategies that can incorporate gender approaches to space, on the basis of the fact that space education is an essential (teaching and learning) device for the formation of a more informed, active and responsible citizenship.

Serafina Amoroso is an architect who is currently working as a lecturer under contract in a second-year Architectural Design Studio at the School of Architecture of Florence and as a secondary school teacher. In 2006 she obtained a PhD degree in Architectural and Urban Design and in 2012 a Master's degree in Advanced Architectural Design from the ETSAM in Madrid. While attending both the PhD program and the master courses, she worked as tutor and teaching assistant within third-year Architectural Design Studios, national and international workshops. In 2014 she was selected to participate in the Visiting Teacher's Programme of the Architectural Association in London. She has recently obtained a Master's Degree in Applied Research in Feminist, Gender and Citizenship Studies. Her recent essays and papers, which reflect the development of her research interests (focused on the study of the relationship between education, gender approaches, urban and architectural environments), have been presented in several congresses and published in international journals (CLOG, Dichotomy, HORIZONTE, MONU magazine).

AMELIA VILAPLANA



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

I believe that feminism is a powerful tool to rethink our cities, examining the different dimensions involved in its construction. Many disseminated practices, as diverse as feminisms are, are already being developed by architects, researchers, artists... all around the world. MORE will provide a space for dialogue to gather them, to debate and to create a useful catalog. I hope it will also promote the creation of networks and affects, support and connivance for future works across disciplines and geographical borders between all of us. I hope it will contribute to creating an international community to cooperate in transforming the world from a gender-based perspective.

What are your expectations about MORE?

MORE is conceived as a multidisciplinary forum, in many ways. Promoting a dialogue between practitioners and researchers coming from different disciplines related to the construction of space, facing this construction in its different scales and dimensions (cities, objects, humans and not humans), and gathering “technicians”, managers and users. MORE will be a meeting of people coming from different places, exchanging what we know and what we don’t know, believing that there is no a unique place for real knowledge, nor a unique way of acting. The more exciting possibilities may not be in those categories (we try to gather and bring to the conference) but in the spaces in between. Exploring them can expand work frames. Adding the fact, that the gender perspective usually is a personal perspective and has personal implications, I think more will be a space for exploring desire. I think it is quite a feminist strategy to conceive architecture and that it will be MORE than a conference.

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?

I try to work towards both an affective appropriation of space and unbuilding some mythologies perpetuated in architectural spaces that predefined our vision of the world (and of ourselves) in order to build other ones and to be conscient that we can build many others. In that aim, I work from a multidisciplinary approach to meet technical work, with cultural work and art strat

egies. I develop many projects with interdisciplinary groups and I cultivate multidisciplinary in my own personal trajectory.

The Ateneo project dealt with symbols and mythological thinking to create a new complicity between people coming to the Ateneo and the building. The Ibi sports center entrance expanded the sports center playground to offer it free to the city beyond the limits of the center. We took elements drawn from the imaginary of sports and subvert them to create an accessible and non-competitive space. In Proyectos 0 Design Studio, the use of role playing as a strategy for approaching architecture aimed to visualize that we construct both ourselves and our surroundings in the same maneuver.

I think that gender approach in a technical work brings a strong personal (and thus emotional) dimension. Deleuze said that desiring is building a landscape, expressing that desire goes always in multiple directions, but it would be beautiful to take it here in a literal sense.

Amelia Vilaplana is an Architect (Universidad de Alicante), holding an MA in Critical Theory and Museum Studies by the Universidad Aut3noma de Barcelona and the Independent Studies Program (PEI) of the MACBA Museum in Barcelona, tutored by Paul B. Preciado. As an independent researcher, her work focuses on urban and architectural research with a post-feminist approach, using art and technology as tools to promote social participation. She is a co-founder of Vilaplana&Vilaplana studio where she develops architectural and landscape projects permeable to her research work. She has been an Honorific Teacher at the University of Alicante (2012), and contributor to the MACBA on different projects. Her curriculum vitae includes winning the Pasajes-iGuzzini Architectural Award and Lamp International Award and the competition to renovate the entrance of the historical Ateneo building in Madrid. Her work has been published in several scientific and professional magazines and books.

LAURA ANDREINI



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

Sharing experiences, information, research and knowledge.

What are your expectations about MORE?

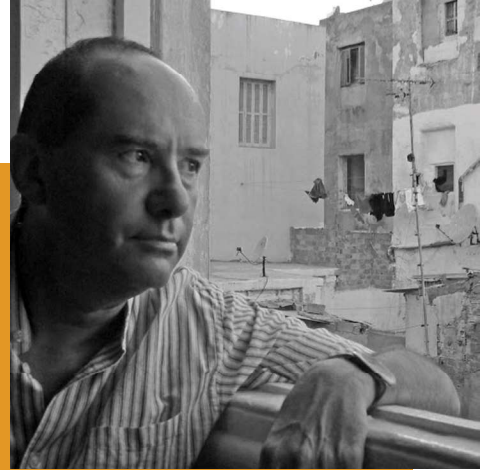
Learn more and more.

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?

Gender Perspectives has always been part of my life and my work. Knowing and highlighting differences promote equal rights and equal opportunities in society.

Associate professor of Architectural and Urban Composition at the University of Florence. Deputy editor of "Area. Rivista internazionale di architettura e arti del progetto", and managing editor of Forma publishing house. Co-founder of Archea Associati (1988), as part of the firm she designs and researches in the architectural and industrial design fields. Recent works include the new Antinori Winery in the Chianti Classico region, winner of the Arch-Daily Building Award 2014, the Yanqing Grape Expo and the Li Ling World Ceramic Art City in China, the Colle Loreto residential complex in Lugano, and the façade of the new stadium in Udine.

SAVERIO MECCA



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

MORE can contribute to Opening minds to different points of view and letting new design knowledge and sensitiveness in relations to nature and human diversity.

What are your expectations about MORE?

I expect that MORE will promote awareness of a gender-based design vision and support synergies between participants 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?

I try to support gender-based vision as one of the means for improving a radically new relation between architecture and nature in the anthropization process of earth and saving the cultural and biological diversity. career, as reflected in the brief curriculum vitae below.

Saverio Mecca, architect and full professor of Building Production is the Dean of Department of Architecture DIDA of University of Florence since January 2013 and before Dean of the Faculty of Architecture since 2009 , he has been professor at University of Calabria and at University of Pisa. He is working actively in academic research on construction management and local and indigenous architectural heritage and architectural design. In more recent years, he has been working actively in European projects on vernacular architectural knowledge systems and in training in graduate courses and post-graduate courses in the mediterranean regions. He has been partner of several EACEA project as VerSus, Vernacular Heritage and Sustainability and he coordinated a European project on earthen dome villages of Northern Syria.

He is operating now to create a new School of Architecture at Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes (Morocco) started on 2016 among the Scientific Cooperation between Morocco and Italy.





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