

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Donna Dunay, FAIA, joins a generation of architects who are helping expand our understanding of the diversity of architectural education. Thousands of students and practitioners have benefited from her teaching and scholarship through a deeper knowledge of the discipline of architecture. As chair of the International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA), she has been a central figure of a new community responsible for developing a scholarly and reliable record of women's contributions to the profession. This community includes researchers from other universities and undergraduate and graduate students who have participated in symposia, meetings and publications of the Archive.

To preserve these architectural records for future research and scholarship Dunay initiated and helped set the protocols through which the Archive now thrives. The IAWA - one of the only institutions of its kind in the world - focuses primarily on the work of pioneering women architects in jeopardy of being lost. The Archive has over 300 collections and strives to increase these holdings to fill gaps in geographic and cultural representations of women in architecture. Researchers use the archive as a critical original source of information for publications and exhibitions expanding the forum of architectural discussion. The IAWA Annual Research Prize, initiated and directed by Professor Dunay, attracts global participation. Awards for the Prize have been received from seven countries. The IAWA Newsletter, with a readership of more than 3500 around the world, serves as a platform to raise the level of thought and discussion in education and the profession to value architecture through the records of practice. The Archive, as an established educational and research institution enriches architectural curricula through engaged scholarship.

Further, diversity of outlook embedded in Dunay's teaching and writing situates the role of architecture in the civic realm to rescue community identity from a context of sprawl. Her book, *Town Architecture: Understanding a Virginia Town*, analyzes the dynamic forces shaping human settlement while linking practice to vital civic inquiry. This work received the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association Distinguished Planning Award and has been exhibited and presented to expand the curricula of architectural education providing the profession and public with a notable example of critical research that links architecture, planning, and community decisions. Professor Stanford Anderson, former head of Architecture at M.I.T. states in the book's introduction, "*Town Architecture* provides accounts of the history and identity of a town that is both replicable and operative. This study deserves to be seen as a model for the study and transformation of other towns." During the past ten years this research has served as the basis for a graduate course, "What Makes a Town?" In conjunction with her studio courses, Professor Dunay has been recognized with three University Teaching Excellence awards.

Throughout, Dunay's career can be described as inculcating an ethic of service to the greater community transmitted through architectural education. In addition to her university students, she is one of two leading faculty in *inside Architecture*, a unique summer course for individuals interested in pursuing a life of design. Her work is augmented by participation on the AIA National Diversity Committee, the 2009 National AIA Convention Educational Committee, the Virginia Society of the AIA Honors Committee, seven NAAB accreditation teams (chair of two), International Union of Women Architects Board as the US representative, and sustained activism for local awareness of architecture as community building. To demonstrate the efficacy of architectural action she initiated and managed a national design competition, "A Center for Civic Activity" calling for the integration of municipal institutions through architecture. Presently, Dunay is organizing a unique national competition that invites collaboration between developers and architects. By expanding the scope of architectural engagement, her endeavors have also resulted in three state awards of *Excellence in Architecture* from the Virginia Society, AIA.

Donna Dunay, FAIA is first and foremost a professor of architecture. As a teacher, she utilizes research and outreach to inform her students in the studio and classroom and advance the knowledge base of the profession. Her work encompasses the three university missions (education, research and outreach) and charges the educational experience with vitality and significance. As a leader, researcher, and educator bridging the academy and practice, three focus areas emerge:

Preserving architectural records of diversity establishes an international institution that searches and makes accessible critical architectural records for further research.

Advancing the Study of Human Settlements (the subject of Ms. Dunay's book, *Town Architecture*) explores the relationship of architecture, planning and town building.

Expanding the Scope of Architectural Engagement situates scholarship in action - formulation and management of a national competition; service on the AIA national diversity committee; NAAB (six committees, chair of two); three state AIA Excellence in Architecture Awards; 30 years of local activism for architecture as a civic activity and an ethic of service to the community.



IAWA Exhibition poster

PRESERVING ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS OF DIVERSITY

Donna Dunay, has advanced the history and richness of architecture by providing a forum for understanding the role of women architects in the profession. As chair of the International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA), Ms. Dunay led the organization from its development phase to an institution of national and international influence. During her leadership four symposia were held involving architects from eight countries; the IAWA Newsletter issued in 3500 copies annually is a primary source of information regarding women architects; the web site was established and receives hundreds visits per day; a data base containing information of early women architects was established; in addition to doubling its collections, the Archive has increased its endowment six fold; and a new international competitive program to further new research regarding women architects is offered yearly. Users from 118 countries and 30,322 internet addresses visited the IAWA online resources 282,128 times requesting 1115 unique web pages.

The IAWA

The IAWA—the only institution of its kind—focuses primarily on the work of early women pioneers in architecture. The purpose of the archive is to document the history of women's involvement in architecture by collecting, preserving, storing, and making available to researchers the professional papers of the first generation of women architects, landscape architects, designers, architectural historians and critics, and urban planners, and the records of women's architectural organizations from around the world.

The collection of work by both national and international architects has made the IAWA the largest single specialized archive of women in architecture and design. Under Ms. Dunay's direction a critical part of our history has been preserved for the profession. These collections are representative of a field of largely undocumented human endeavor archived in 1200 cubic feet of library space. The records of these pioneering practicing architects, designers, historians and educators expand the range of material available to researchers to more fully interpret the development of architecture nationally and internationally. Some highlights of the Archive:

- Records documenting the impact on America's built environment by women architects include:
 - Eleanore Pettersen, FAIA, New Jersey's first woman Regional Director, AIA
 - Alberta Pfeiffer, first woman graduate of University of Illinois, winner of AIA School Medal
 - Beverly Willis, FAIA, leader of an early firm working with computer-aided design
 - Norma Merrick Sklarek, FAIA, first African American Woman Architect licensed in NY
 - L. Jane Hastings, FAIA, first woman Chancellor of the AIA College of Fellows
 - Rosaria Piomelli, AIA, first woman dean of a U.S. School of Architecture, CCNY



Turkish architect measuring historic buildings

- Work from pioneering international women in architecture:
 - Yasmin Lari, first woman registered to practice architecture in Pakistan
 - Nobuko Nakahara, third woman registered to practice architecture in Japan
 - Louise St. John Kennedy, first woman appointed to the West Australia Board
 - Alison Smithson, founding member, Team Ten
 - Han Schroder, designer, grew up in the Schoeder-Rietveld House, Netherlands
 - Brinda Somaya, Designer of the Year in India, 2000
 - Danzansharayvn Tsevelana, Laureate Prize Project, Mongolian Union of Architects, and Laine Zimblar, first licensed woman in Austria
- *Women Who Could Not Vote: A Guide to the First Women Architects* (under contract University of Illinois Press), a book by Sarah Allaback draws upon Archive materials.

- Symposia
 - "Finding Women in Architecture," "Revolution from the Kitchen," Gunsup Rhie, Korea; "Mongolian Women in Architecture;" Ochirpureviin Sarantsatsral, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; "Collateral Damage: Russian Patriotic War Memorials," Anna Sokolina, Oxford, Ohio; "Building Information Modeling," Kristine Fallon, FAIA, Chicago, Illinois (2007)



Helena Koller Buchweiser, Row Houses, Austria

"Women in Architecture from Mid-Century to 2006," - lectures from Kristine Fallon, FAIA, Chicago; Lois Gottlieb, San Francisco; Junko Matsukawa-Tsuchida, Tokyo; O. Sarantsatral, Ulaanabaatar, Mongolia (2006)

"Education and Practice: Stories of the First Women in Architecture," featuring the AIA exhibit, *That Exceptional One* - Lectures from Evelyne Lange Jakob, Switzerland, Inge Horton, San Francisco, Joan Wood, AIA, Boston, Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, Hon. AIA, Toronto (2000)

"Contributions of Women Architects to the Man-Made Environment," Work from the IAWA representing diverse areas of practice (1997)

"A Decade of Commitment" - Lectures from leading women architects, Susana Torre, Cranbrook Academy, Solange d' Herbez de la Tour, Paris, Helga Schmidt-Thomsen, Berlin, and Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, Toronto (1995)

- A biographical database containing information about women architects throughout the world accessible through the IAWA website
- Archive collections housed in the university library are augmented by:
 - IAWA website and 30 links to other architectural organizations
 - Guide to the Collections in the IAWA
 - Online Inventories of IAWA Collections
 - VT Image Base: sampling the IAWA (1200 images on line)

Addison Search, IAWA books in the library's online catalog

- Over a dozen national and international traveling exhibitions are a part of the Archive collection including the AIA traveling exhibit "That Exceptional One." Through lectures and exhibitions Professor Dunay is a leading voice in international forums:
 - 15th Congress, Union Internationale Femmes Architects, Bucharest, Romania (2007)
 - 14th Congress, UIFA, Toulouse, France (2004)
 - 12th Congress, UIFA, Tokyo, Japan (1998)

Design Intelligence 2005 cites the IAWA founding in 1985 and nine IAWA holdings in Records, Rankings & Achievements – "Women in Architecture Timeline"

Milka Bliznakov Research Prize

A new program conceived and managed by Ms. Dunay expands the forum of architectural discussion. First offered in 1999, The Milka Bliznakov Research Prize is designed to increase the dissemination of recent architectural research by women. This annual prize, calls for original projects, research or scholarly work to advance the recognition of women's contributions in architecture. Now in the ninth year, the program has attracted a global audience of contemporary writers and researchers. The IAWA Jury, chaired by Ms. Dunay, awards the Bliznakov Prize to the project that best demonstrates important advancements in the recognition of women's contributions to architecture and the related design fields while encouraging the use and growth of the International Archive of Women in Architecture. Over 100 web sites across the nation and around the world list the prize results and/or announcement.

Highlights from the Prize include:

- Residential architecture of Elizabeth Chou Close, FAIA
- Work of Turkish women architects from the late Ottoman to the Early Republican era (1908-1960)
- A manuscript entitled, "Searching for Marion Mahony: Gender, Erasure, and the Discourse of Architectural Studies," Elizabeth Birmingham
- Research on Adrienne Gorska (1899-1969) - one of the few women of her era to hold an architectural diploma, (Ecole Speciale d'Architecture, Montparnasse, France), Claire Bonney, Switzerland
- *Building Security – Handbook for Architectural Design and Planning*, with a focus on women's safety, Barbara Nadel, FAIA
- *Heroines of the Space*, Carmen Espejel, Spain
- *Architekturstudentinnen der Weimarer Republic*, Isabel Bauer, Germany
- *Against All Odds: MIT's Pioneering Women of Landscape Architecture*, Eran Ben-Joseph, Holly Ben-Joseph and Anne Dodge



Marion Mahony



IAWA Newsletters

The IAWA Newsletter publicizes information about Archive holdings and new research around the world. Ms. Dunay directed, produced, and edited issues during her tenure as chair, as well as, writing articles in conjunction with the executive committee.

The IAWA Newsletter is sent to architecture schools, libraries and architecture offices throughout the U.S., and is available online at <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/iawa/news/>.

Highlights of yearly focus areas include:

- Innovative practices of American women architects
- Japanese women architects
- Archives from Romanian women in the practice of architecture
- The first generation of Swiss women architects
- Donated archives from Japan, Finland, Germany, Argentina, Romania, Croatia
- Archives from the work of women architects in Bulgaria

ADVANCING THE STUDY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Ms. Dunay situates her work within a context of cultural and social forces that inform and challenge the practice of architecture. She is an advocate of building community with architecture. Her investigations include the fabric of cities and the place of architecture in sustaining community. From her formative years with the Historic American Building Survey in Nashville and Milwaukee; to architectural and urban design practice in Denver; to her work in researching town settlement patterns leading to her book *Town Architecture*, she has presented the lasting importance of architecture in defining community identity. Ms. Dunay has made this research available to the profession and others in hundreds of public forums.

Ms. Dunay speaks, writes, and practices widely on subjects that address architecture in the civic realm. Her research regarding the integration of architecture and planning has been presented in major conferences:

- *Architectural Education and Market Forces*, New Delhi, India (2002)
- *Beginning Design Conference*, Puerto Rico (2002)
- *Congress for New Urbanism*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (2000)
- *EDRA Conference*, 6th International Meeting, Cincinnati, OH (1997)
- *17th International Making Cities Liveable Conference*, Freiburg, Germany (1995)
- *5th International Making Cities Liveable Conference*, Venice, Italy (1989)



Farmers' Market Study



Historic intersection marked by corner columns



Town theater 1938 - renovated 1995

Ms. Dunay gathers an audience outside the discipline to further the contribution of architecture. Highlights include:

- Presentations to the Mid-Atlantic Direct Farmers' Market Association included research that addressed regional markets and established a local farmers' market in Blacksburg, Virginia. This market has become a vibrant source of community interaction, economic development and urban activity.
- National *Liveable Cities Conference*, Charleston, SC, alerted town officials to the economic potential of farmers' markets.
- "Farmers' Markets as Town Events" - a study of farmers' markets as a cultural, social and economic exchange that provides an institutional anchor for community identity.
- Analysis and documentation of buildings and institutions that contribute to street identity culminated in Ms. Dunay's leadership in writing the "Blacksburg Design Guidelines for the Historic District." Three major projects of mixed use including housing have since been built in downtown Blacksburg, Virginia.
- The physical consequences of zoning. Projections from this study changed the direction of zoning in Blacksburg's Comprehensive Plan and influenced many projects to preserve open space, establish mixed uses, and balance the needs of development and preservation.
- "Patterns of building and open space configuration," The Comprehensive Plan was changed to recognize and preserve development patterns of the past while providing for future growth as an alternative to sprawl. Zoning protocols were implemented that encourage sustainable development.
- Research that challenges the regional consolidation of schools and argues for a greater role of public space and institutions in town and city centers.

Presentations and publications include:

Academy Street School in Salem, VA was saved from demolition, added to the National Register of Historic Buildings and renovated into apartments in the downtown. The conversion of Pembroke School into apartments for low-income elderly residents received the Governor's Housing Award.

"Education within a Town Structure" - *Paper City*, Peninsula Fine Arts

Center, Newport News, VA, featured in the Virginia Pilot and the Ledger Star

“Community and Learning Forum” - County Board of Supervisors, the School Board, and the Town Council; presentation of alternative proposals to prioritize attributes of a specific school site and possibilities for renovation.

“The Establishment of the Town Center” - historical documentation of the character of the town center in the formation of Virginia and Ohio towns from the 18th century. The geometry of street configuration, site orientation and culture as important determinants in the formation of town centers served as primary sources for the development of a university course, What Makes a Town?

“The Place of Learning”: Children in the Environment – an argument for schools within the town center. By presenting the environment as a teaching tool, public interaction such as a walk down Main Street to the post office with children in tow is captured as an important civic lesson.

To test and implement her ideas in the public realm, Ms. Dunay made visible the built heritage of her hometown by documenting distinctive physical characteristics. She analyzed and presented the town through identity and history for town citizens and public officials as a planning tool focusing on real conditions and relations. Her book, *Town Architecture*, resulted from her leadership regarding “The Townscape Master Plan.” The work serves as a model of architectural engagement. The book is recommended as one of two books by the University of California Vernacular Architecture & Landscape Architecture Resource Guide for researching architectural history.



Land dedicated to Town as a result of study

Town Architecture is an important planning tool with complex information presented in a direct manner. The underlying principles promote its use as a comprehensive textbook. The book is used in both architecture and planning courses and was accepted as an addendum to the Blacksburg Comprehensive Plan through a town resolution. Research details that have prompted public and private improvements include:

- Downtown Main Street Elevations – a 1921 datum line with historical analysis, drawing, and photography
- Town Paths, a walking network that includes schools and recreation
- Entrances into town and university – legal, physical, and symbolic boundaries
- Historical collegiate entrances
- Recognition of the original town springs and streams –resulting in a reversal of the town’s policy of burying streams
- Dynamics of town and university of land use
- Town center – isolated institutional buildings identified as building blocks for creating physical identity
- Growth of town and university – cultural and social points of attachment
- Landmarks, unrecognized landmarks, and instances urban design



One of six original log cabins remaining in the downtown

EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF ARCHITECTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Ms. Dunay engages practice as a means to employ her research in the stewardship of human settlements in local, regional and national venues. She

has presented work at the State Convention of the AIA, and also to local boards, supervisors, town officials, and public organizations to advance the integration of architecture and planning.

She founded and leads a grass-roots open forum (Townscape) that meets monthly comprised of citizens-at-large and town officials. For over twenty years and in more than 300 public meetings, Ms. Dunay's research has drawn from community discussions regarding the relationship of planning and architecture. Her work includes the development of the Townscape Master Plan identifying greenways and off-road trails, neighborhood characteristics, preservation of open space, the institution of a downtown post office, urban density, public and private space, and effects of rental property. The Townscape committee proposed the establishment of a Town Architect and Landscape office. Much of this has been implemented:



Town Model



Entryway to campus
Civic Beautification Award

- Annual awards program offered over the past twenty-six years cites contributions of architecture, landscape, and planning and has become an institutional event
- Alternative scenarios of growth based on historical analysis of the town
- Town model was built and placed in the Town Hall for citizens to better understand spatial qualities and patterns of the town
- Town horticulturist position was established
- Entry portals and approach to the town designed and implemented
- Annual seminars presenting the town environment
- A national design competition was initiated

Ms. Dunay conceived, organized and managed a national competition that brought three separate government agencies into a collaborative effort expanding the scope of architectural engagement. Ms. Dunay convinced three governmental units to affirm an in-town location for the county library and utilize a national competition to capitalize upon combined building locations to create the town center. The national competition, "A Center for Civic Activity," received over 600 registrants and 210 entries from six countries and culminated with a public exhibition of all entries followed by a national traveling exhibition.

The competition centered on the design of a new library, and gathered the collective forces of neighboring sites for a civic identity - the police station, a landmark building, a public park, and the town hall. Competition participants received research and documentation of historical examples of civic cooperation in building; existing site situation and history; governmental and private properties; and institutional needs for the county, the library, and the town.



1847 drawing of Blacksburg

The original town plat of Blacksburg and subsequent town development as it related to a 19th century travel sketch was researched and presented to create an identity for the 10,000 distributed competition posters. Opportunities for architecture were seen nationally joining government officials and architects through design of civic identity.

Results of the competition include:



Jurors evaluate over 200 submissions

- Competition results were published in *Architecture*, *Progressive Architecture*, *Inform*, and *Competitions Magazines*
- Competition materials archived in the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal
- Competition exhibition shown at six locations across the country
- The winning design appended to the Town Comprehensive Plan
- The new library built on the proposed in-town site

- \$20,000 awarded to winning entries
- 700 Jury Reports distributed nationally
- Citizens and town officials informed of building design choices
- The public gained a view into the profession through the public process of the jury and the subsequent traveling exhibition
- The competition logo adopted by the town as its graphic identity

ACADEMIC SUMMARY

Donna Dunay has taught at each level in the architecture program in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech. She has taught more than a thousand students and presented her research to inform and enlarge the scope of architectural practice. Throughout her 30-year career, she has helped develop and nurture a nationally recognized curriculum consistently ranked in the top five by *Design Intelligence*. Within the dialectic of teaching and research, issues of the built environment have been made accessible to a large coterie of students. Professor Dunay has served on seven accrediting teams for the National Architectural Accrediting Board and most recently chaired the teams reviewing the College of Architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle, the Boston Architectural Center, and New York Institute of Technology.

Below is a recent unsolicited letter from one of Professor Dunay's former students. It is typical of the inspiration and confidence she imparted, even twenty five years later. The following pages give a brief snapshot of the candidate's teaching career.

Dear Donna,

I hope all is well with your teaching – I have been teaching for 20 years now myself! If you can remember, I had quite a challenge trying to decide between the paths of Art and Architecture. I eventually finished with degrees in both and a certification in K12 public education. For the last 15 years I have been teaching in an arts and technology middle school in Arlington, Virginia, where I have been permitted and even encouraged to design my own curriculum. When asked, the most accurate description I can give is that I teach industrial design with a very strong art emphasis. Turning 13 year olds loose with open ended design projects in a Cowgill Hall type of environment can be harrowing at times, but their energy and their ideas are captivating – this is what keeps me going and what feeds the creative process in my own work.

I finished the degree in Art in 1987 – 25 years ago! The alumni association has organized a weekend reunion for my class's year coming up the weekend of September 8th and 9th. There is a kick off wine reception on Friday, September 7th at 7pm at the Inn at Virginia Tech on Prices Fork Road. I would love to see you there as my guest and perhaps remember some old times. As is probably true for you and your professors, I hear your voice as I teach and sometimes your words even come out of my mouth! Like, "In a sense, it has become a thing." Or, "He's telling us a whopper!"

Sincerely,

Jeff Wilson



International Archive of Women in Architecture

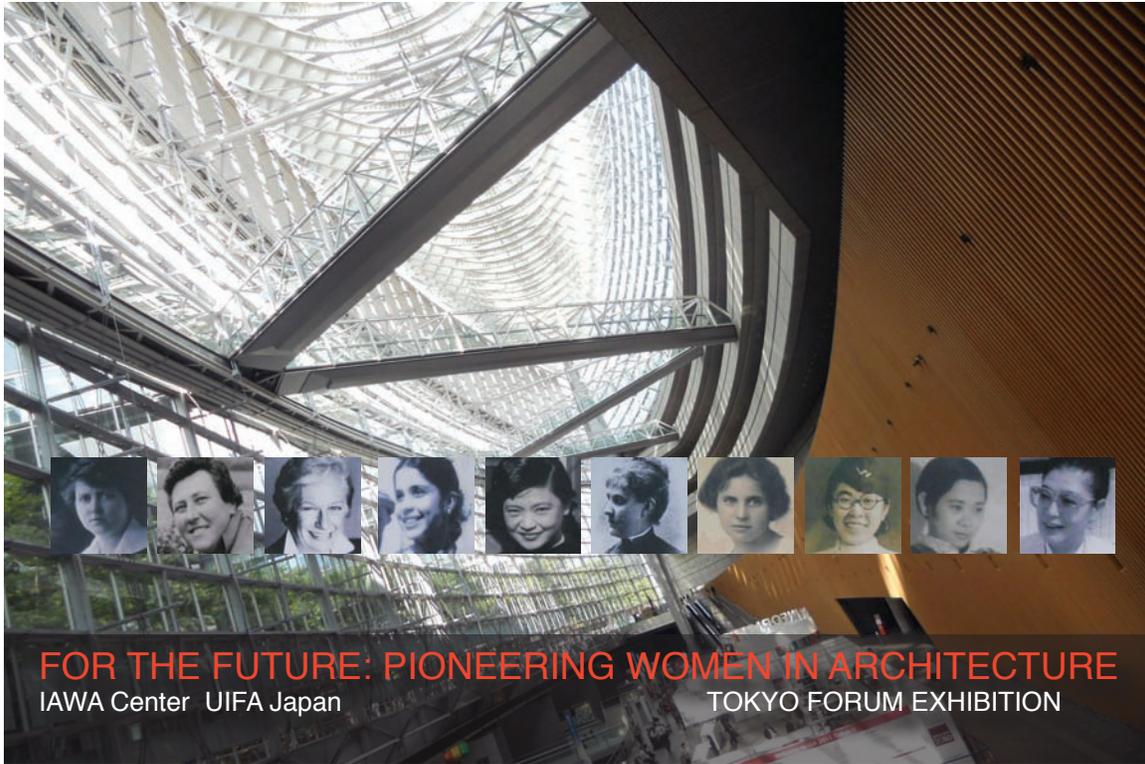


Above is the announcement postcard for the exhibition *Glass Ceilings*, curated by Professor Dunay from archive collections for the Virginia Center for Architecture in Richmond, Virginia. As part of that exhibition, a symposium was held regarding pioneering women in architecture. In that event, six of Professor Dunay's students presented their research on women they considered influential in their developing careers.

Pictured below are the students in Richmond with Professors Milka Bliznakov, Donna Dunay, Kay Edge, and Helene Renard.

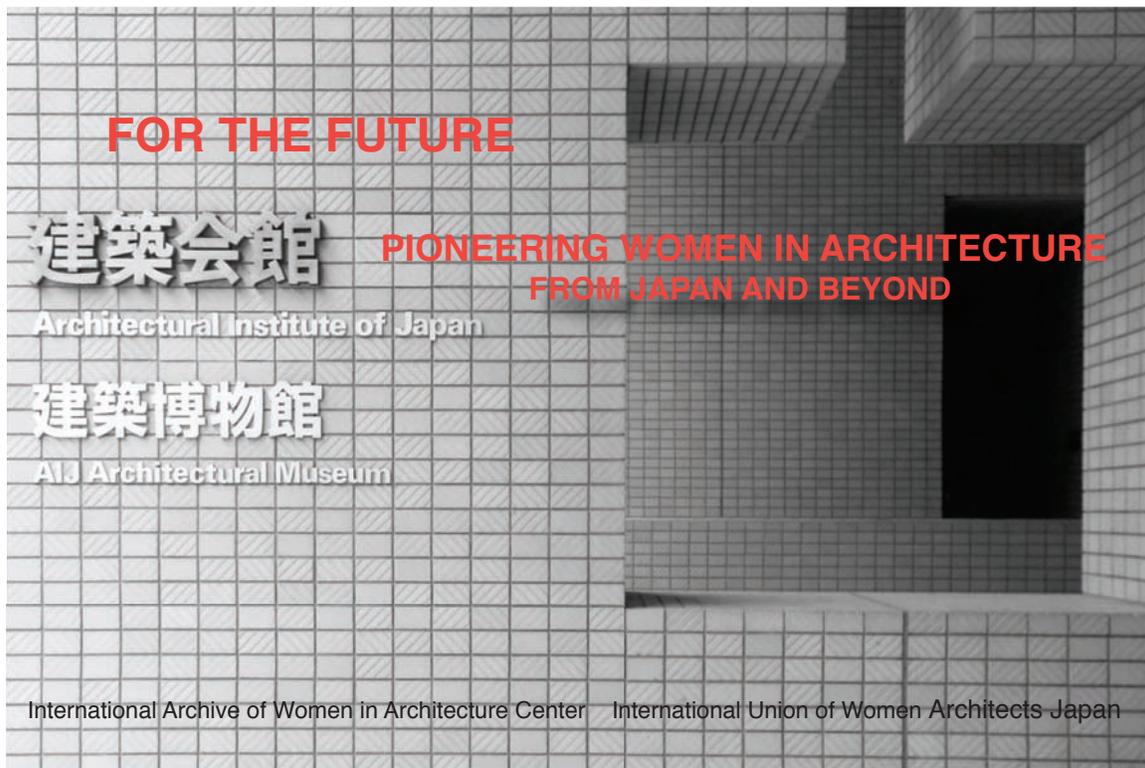


International Archive of Women in Architecture



An exhibition curated by Donna Dunay and Junko Matsukawa joined work from the archive collection and work from pioneering Japanese women architects. The exhibition was opened with a keynote talk by Professor Dunay and was presented in two venues - the Architecture Institute of Japan and the Tokyo Forum.

The exhibition will add work as travels to other venues which include Seoul, South Korea and Ulan Bator, Mongolia.



International Archive of Women in Architecture

The International Archive of Women in Architecture focuses primarily on the work of early women architects. It is now one of the most important repositories of its kind in the world. The IAWA is an organization and a collection and was founded to fill a gap in the historical record of women's contributions to architecture. Ms. Dunay's leadership as Chair positioned the Archive to attain a respected international reputation with increased holdings of pioneer women architects. The IAWA generates a variety of activities. Early in her tenure, Ms. Dunay initiated forums, lectures, and exhibitions along with the symposium *A Decade of Commitment*, to attract a new body of contributions. Archives include: Louise Mendelsohn(1894-1980) memoirs; Han Schroeder (1918-92) papers, 1950-92; books(1871-1903) by Clara Erskind

Clements Waters(1834-1916) from her personal library; Alison Smithson(1928-93) drawings, member of CIAM and Founding member of TEAM X. The Milka Blizanakov Annual Prize was conceived and is managed by Ms. Dunay. As a call for new scholarly work, it furthers the development of architectural research nationally and internationally and centers it in the United States.

Professor Dunay has organized several symposiums drawn from material in the archive. The most recent focused on Women in Architecture from the Last Century, featuring speakers UIFA Japan Chair Junko Matsukawa-Tsuchida, Kristine Fallon, FAIA, Frank Lloyd Wright apprentice Lois Gottlieb, and Ochirpureviin Saraantsatsral, Architect, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

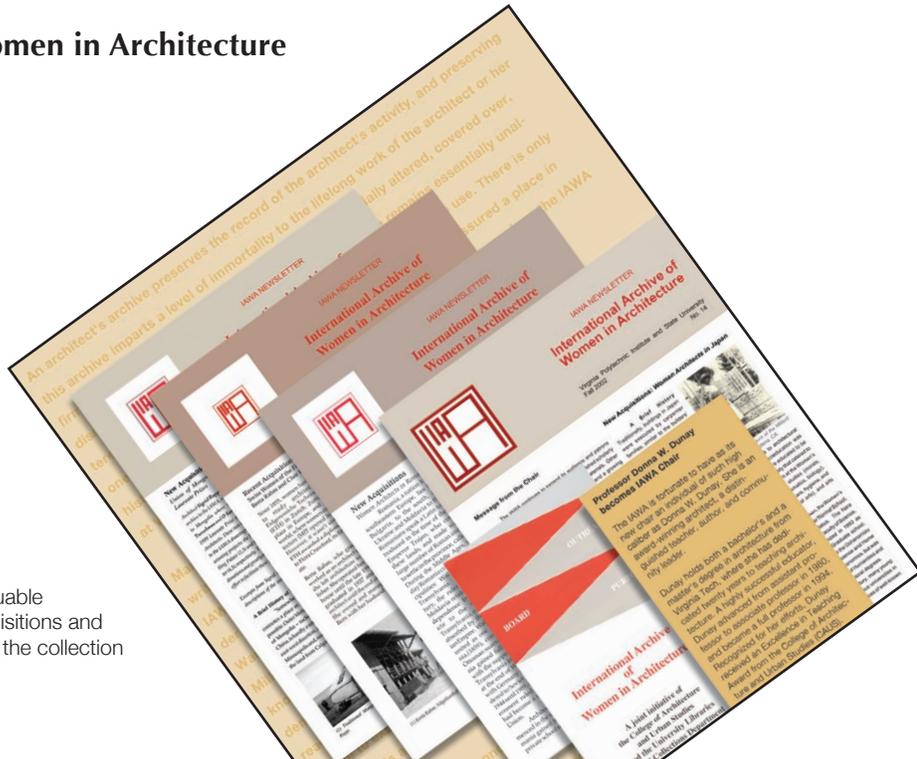


Lois Gottlieb, apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright, walks the audience through the plan of Taliesin West at the 2006 IAWA Symposium

WENA W. DOWS, AIA, ARCHITECT OF CULVER CITY CALIFORNIA, **LOIS GOTTLIEB** OF SAN FRANCISCO, A RESIDENTIAL DESIGNER AND AUTHOR. **LOUISE HALL**, LONG-TIME MEMBER OF AIA NORTH CAROLINA, TAUGHT ARCHITECTURE AT DUKE 1931-1973, AND MENTORED MANY ARCHITECTS AND SCHOLARS, **SARAH P. HARKNESS, FAIA**, FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ARCHITECTS COLLABORATIVE, **ANNA KEICHLINE**, ARCHITECT AND INVENTOR, FIRST REGISTERED WOMAN ARCHITECT IN PENNSYLVANIA AND INVENTOR OF THE K-BRICK. **YASMIN LARI**, FIRST REGISTERED WOMAN ARCHITECT IN PAKISTAN AND PRINCIPAL OF LARI ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS & URBAN DESIGNERS. **ELSA LEVISEUR** PRACTICED AND TAUGHT INTERNATIONALLY IN SOUTH AFRICA, CALIFORNIA, AND ENGLAND. **ELEANORE PETERSEN, FAIA**, FIRST WOMAN IN NEW JERSEY TO OPEN HER OWN ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE. **SIGRID LORENZEN RUPP, AIA**, GERMAN-BORN ARCHITECT, PRACTICED IN PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA. **HAN SCHROEDER**, DUTCH ARCHITECT AND PROFESSOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN AT THE NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY. **BEVERLY WILLIS, FAIA**, ARTIST, CRAFTSWOMAN, DESIGNER, AND NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECT. **ZELMA WILSON, FAIA**, ARCHITECT IN OJAI, CALIFORNIA. **LIANE ZIMBLER**, FIRST REGISTERED WOMEN ARCHITECT IN AUSTRIA AND LATER AN INTERIOR DESIGNER IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

International Archive of Women in Architecture

IAWA Newsletter provides valuable information about recent acquisitions and new research developed from the collection



The International Archive of Women in Architecture

Contribute to the IAWA

IAWA 20th Anniversary!

\$20,000 ASPIRES Grant Awarded

The International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA), established in 1985, is a joint program of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). The purpose of the archive is to document the history of women's involvement in architecture by collecting, preserving, storing, and making available to researchers the professional papers of women architects, landscape architects, designers, architectural historians and critics, and urban planners, and the records of women's architectural organizations, from around the world. The IAWA focuses primarily on collecting the papers of those who practiced at a time when there were few women in the field (before the 1950's). The IAWA collects this information to fill serious gaps in the availability of primary research materials for architectural, women's, and social history research.

The IAWA also collects books, biographical information, and published materials as part of its mission to act as a clearinghouse of information about all women in architecture, past and present.

IAWA COLLECTIONS

- Guide to the Collections in the IAWA
- Online Inventories of IAWA Collections
- Biographical Directory of Women in Architecture
- Search | Browse by name or by country
- VT Images: sampling the IAWA
- ADDISON Search IAWA books in the library's online catalog

IAWA GENERAL

- Milka Bliznakov Prize
- 4th Milka Bliznakov Prize (2003)
- Download Brochure for 2003 Prize
- 3rd Milka Bliznakov Prize (2002) Winner Announced
- Acquisitions: book purchases
- Exhibition of IAWA materials (1999)
- IAWA Newsletters
- "In the News" - articles about the IAWA in various newspapers

FOURTH MILKA BLIZNAKOV PRIZE

The Board of Advisors of the International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA) Presents this Annual Prize of \$1000 Following a Two Stage Process:

Stage One is an open review of proposals.
Stage Two is by invitation to finalists from stage one.

STAGE ONE: REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

A 500 word proposal with curriculum vitae must be received or postmarked by 1 September 2003. Electronic submissions are encouraged.

Proposals may include original projects, research, or scholarly work, which contributes to and advances the recognition of women's contributions in design. The board encourages proposals that draw upon or expand the IAWA collections and reflect upon the broader context of women's contributions in the field of design. The product of the work should be specified in the initial proposal.

Up to six (6) proposals from the first round of proposals. Authors of these selected proposals are invited to continue their work and submit their completed project to the jury for stage two of the competition.

Proposals for stage one should be sent to:
IAWA Executive Committee
ATTN: Donna Dunay, IAWA Chair, Milka Bliznakov Prize Committee
202 COWGILL HALL (0205)
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
ddunay@vt.edu

Information is available online at: <http://spes.lib.vt.edu/IAWA>

Special Collections Department University Libraries Virginia Tech

International Archive of Women in Architecture

Han Schroeder Architectural Papers, 1926-1998
14.0 cu. ft.
Ms87-064

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Han Schroeder was born in July 16, 1918 in Utrecht, Netherlands. Her artistic and architectural education began early, when her mother commissioned the architect Gerrit Thomas Rietveld to design what is now known as the Rietveld-Schroeder House, completed in 1924. For this house Rietveld employed the revolutionary concept of movable walls to make the interior flexible, thereby realizing the limits of space. Growing up in this house fueled Han's interest in architecture, and was the beginning of her friendship to Rietveld and her devotion to his ideas. With the encouragement of her family, Han developed her artistic talent, and worked with Rietveld and G. van de Gramelen on carpentry and furniture making in her teenage years. In 1936 she earned the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, and graduated in 1940 with the degree of Diplom Architekt.

1941-Kinderhuis Billenchen in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

She did not return to the Netherlands during World War II, but worked in Portugal (where she worked for the Red Cross and the Netherlands Embassy) and Great Britain. She returned to the Netherlands in 1946. From 1946 to 1949 she worked at the Museum of Modern Art in Amsterdam under W. Sandberg.

Beginning in 1949 Schroeder worked first as a draftsman and then as a personal assistant to Rietveld. During these years she experimented with materials and concepts of interior design.

Donna Dunay, FAIA with Milka Bliznakov announcing the Milka Bliznakov Award

Town Architecture: Understanding a Virginia Town

Town Architecture: Understanding a Virginia Town, a book that links the roles of architecture and planning, shows that every building stakes a claim on the public mind. It demonstrates that architecture comprises the building blocks of civic identity and responsibility. The research involves the cultural, historical and social forces that inform and challenge the practice of architecture. Demonstration is made that towns are a product of human actions, dependent upon a sound understanding of the present physical situation and an awareness of forces that shape the environment. The 161-page book contains illustrations, diagrams, and text that make critical information about settlements accessible to the general public. A rich photographic history is combined with a comprehensive set of analytical tools to identify and propose strategic actions for future development.

A part of this research includes a town model that contributes to a three-dimensional spatial understanding of development patterns playing an important role in decision making. This research was used extensively in the refinement of successive comprehensive plans and has served as a model for the study and transformation of other towns. Most present town development references this research. It is used as a reference by private and public agencies and as a resource text in architecture and planning classes at Virginia Tech and other universities. Subsequent research followed with articles demonstrating the importance of community situated institutions and the destabilizing effect of regional consolidation of schools. A series of brochures examines a case study of an in-town school and propose a method of evaluation (a report card) for potential new school sites.

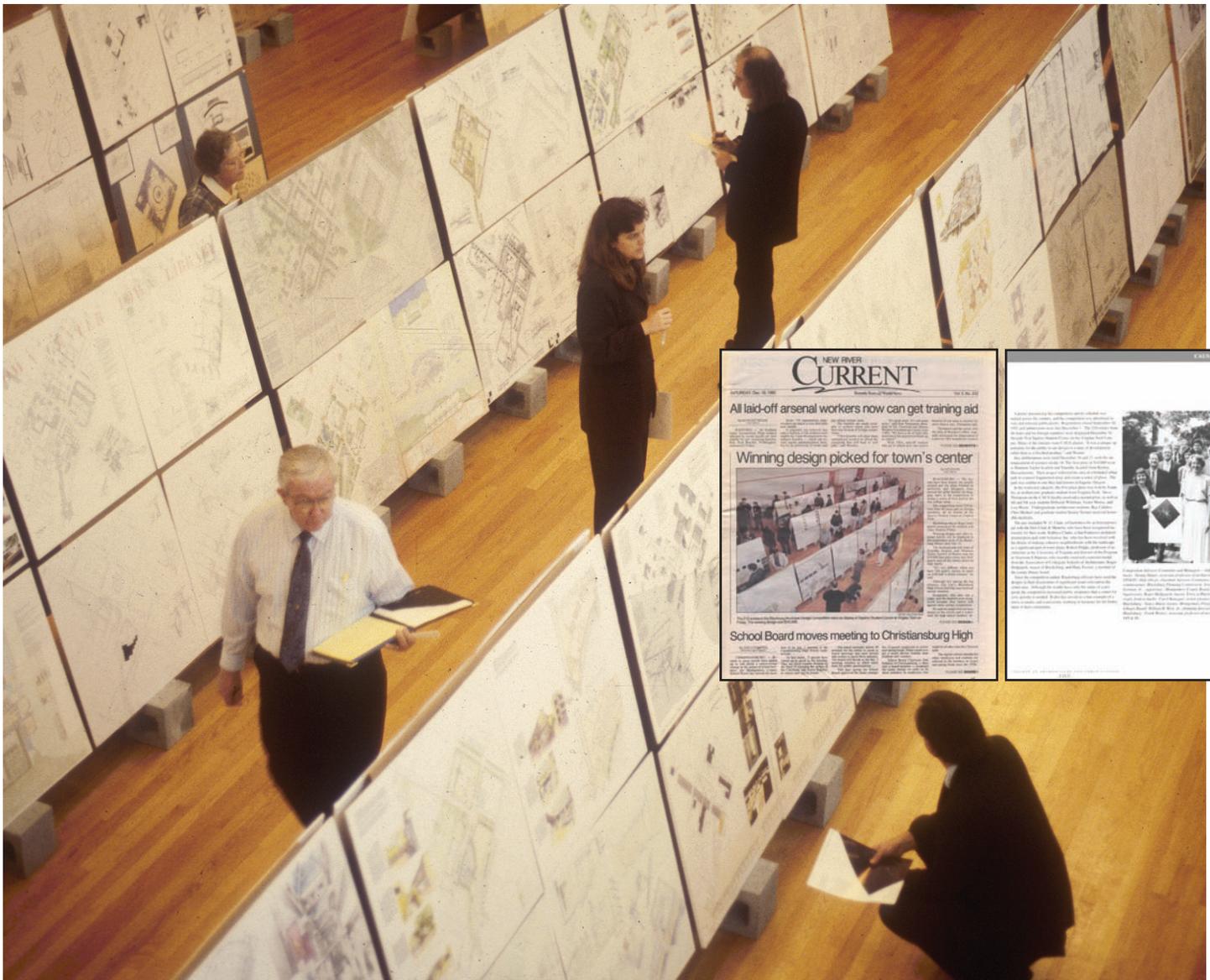


Center for Civic Activity Competition

A recognition of the town's urban problems resulted in a national design competition that dealt with issues prompted by the need for a new branch library. This effort, addressed through prior research in Town Architecture, suggested a built civic presence was needed to anchor the governmental activities. To convince town leaders, a logical link was forged between the construction of a single building and an urban design plan for the surrounding area with the aspiration of creating a center for civic activity. The Townscape Committee, a group whose charge was to carry out strategic actions set forth in Town Architecture, first recommended the idea for a competition. As chair of the committee, Ms. Dunay conceived the idea and convinced town officials of its value, designed all competition materials, nominated the jury, organized the local and traveling

exhibition, produced the jury reports, and served as media liaison. Presentations to the Town Council, the County Board of Supervisors, and the County Library Board galvanized public support and provided sponsorship for the effort.

\$20,000 was awarded with a first place prize of \$10,000. The competition resulted in the town and county building a library in concert with an overall plan of downtown development. The project also provides a model of intervention suggesting actions for other towns wishing to restore a civic identity. The competition package drew heavily on documentation and analysis from Town Architecture. The response of 592 registrations and the quality of the 210 entries indicate enthusiastic response to the framing of this research.



Judges W. G. Clark, FAIA, Robert Dripps, Kathryn Clarke, AIA, and Mayor Roger Hedgepeth evaluate over 200 entries;

House on a Corner

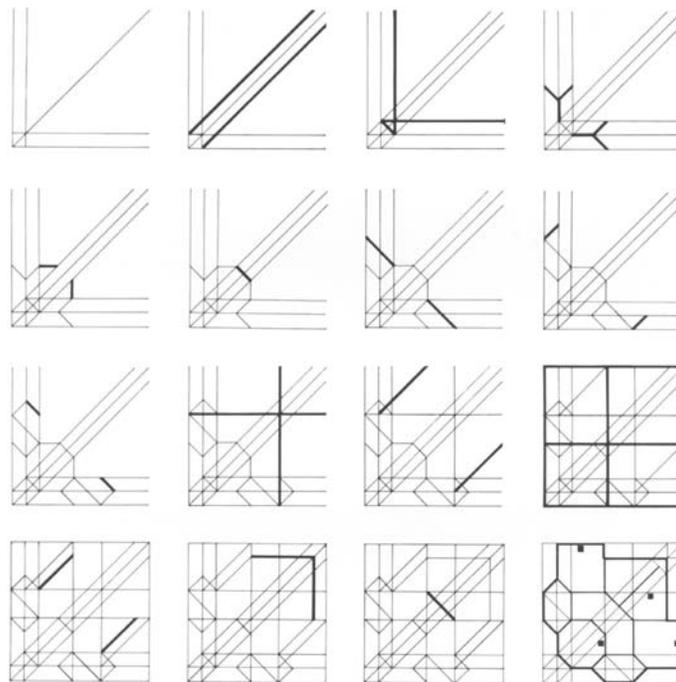
The renovation of this house helped re-established the fabric of positive street identity and neighborhood image. Set in a neglected historic area, it draws close to the historic roots of settlement and affirms the vitality of the residential core near the town center. Fully aware of the present, the work accepts the responsibility of architecture to respect tradition while improving the larger setting. Ms. Dunay's book, *Town Architecture*, served as a primary resource in her role as lead architect for the project.

The geometric construction of the plan relates the distribution of rooms to the larger scale of the town. The diagonal line of symmetry is contiguous with the diagonal of the original town plat. In renovating this dilapidated 100 year old structure, attention to this established order linked historic content with a new intervention while unifying the small and large scales.

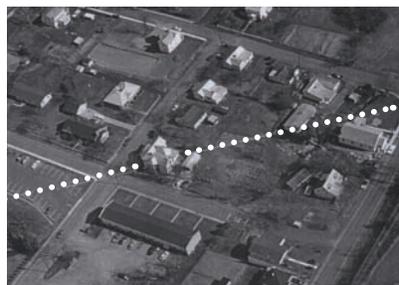
Situated on a corner of one of the original sixteen square blocks of the town (platted in 1798), this building occupies

a strategic location in the neighborhood and stands as a key to the identity and stability of the area. Interior changes involved the removal of walls and the construction of new interior elements in concert with the existing geometry. Flues were stripped of plaster to reveal the bricks originally made on site, and existing doors were reused in groups to renew the identity of the interiors. The new white walls enhance the geometric play of interrelated forms and serve as a foil for the warm light reflected off the original pine floors.

The sun porch on the southwest facade preserves the symmetry and identity of the corresponding entry porch. New wood and glass frames set behind the columns and balustrade provide closure. Wood screens in winter, and wisteria in summer filter sunlight, and grant enough privacy so that one may be at home yet sit in close proximity to the street. The renovation of the house has served to rejuvenate the neighborhood which has since be declared as an historic district.



Geometric reconstruction of the original plan



Line of symmetry of the original town plat (4 x 4 square blocks) is the house line of symmetry

House on a Corner



The octagon room, converted to a library, presents an element of formality in relation to the sitting room situated across the entry. Vertical natural light spills into the library from the ceiling opening in contrast to the horizontal focus of the fireplace.



Research from *Town Architecture* investigated elements of neighborhood identity and integrity. "House on a corner" was saved and renovated by Professor Dunay. The plan is a geometric construction, typical of architectural pattern books of the period (circa 1900).



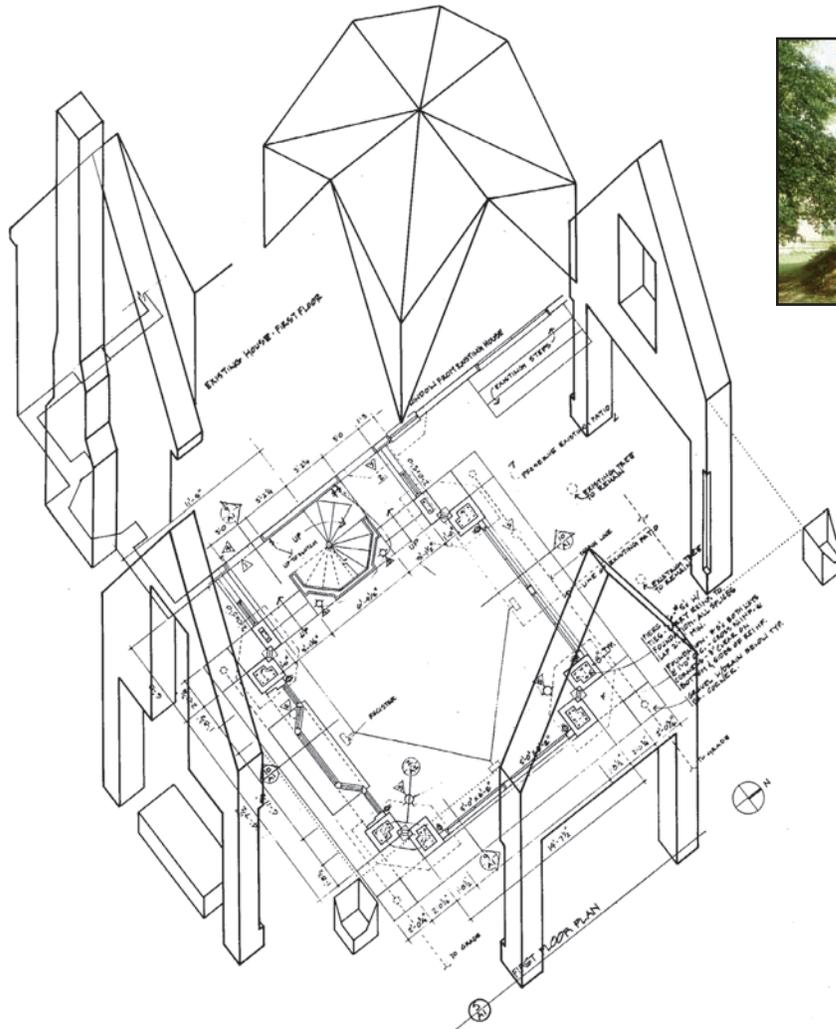
An Addition of Colonial Proportions

The colonial image of the existing house was seen by the clients as a point of stability and order. The addition of a master bedroom, sitting room, and a secondary stair centered on the clarification and differentiation of these sensibilities by interpreting and translating a part of the present home. Ms. Dunay engaged in lengthy discussions in order to understand the clients' fondness for historic architecture. The goal was to employ the architectonic properties of the existing south elevation as a touchstone of local memory without referring to historic representation. The resulting pavilion is composed of a masonry element rotated around the square plan. The upper cut in the south element, joining the bedroom window and the large sunroom opening, acknowledges the existing fireplace and culminates in a brick platform - a podium for a relocated bay window re-used at the client's request. A scupper at each corner continues and unites the steep roof slope of adjacent facades and eliminates the need for downspouts.

The corner slot windows formed by the adjacency of brick

piers act as counter points to the masses that mark the space. The exposed beams of the lower floor establish a limit to the square room while allowing a panoramic relation to the surrounding yard.

The construction is slab on grade, solid brick corner piers, and wood frame above. Typical suburban elements - the bay window, masonry flue, brick veneer facade, downspout, gutter, and gabled roof - were transformed to make meaningful relations. The client gained an awareness that, through order, desires and requirements could be translated into architectural terms. Aspects of colonial architecture were re-established in conditions such as the clarity of mass and volume. This realization allowed the project to be directed away from a simple expansion of the house to a pavilion as a destination, an expansion of the spatial content of existing rooms. The order of the articulated square gives this new room a qualitative distinction that serves as a measure to read the rest of the house in time.



Elements of the existing house were translated and rotated around a square to form the facades of the new addition

The order of the new construction is determined by an analysis of the existing context

inside ARCHITECTURE

Over its fifteen year history, *inside ARCHITECTURE* has served over 1000 high school students seeking insight into the world of design. The week-long summer course is an introduction into the ways designers think and work. This program cracks open the excitement and opportunities of architecture and related design disciplines. Modeled around the curriculums of the nationally ranked programs in the School of Architecture + Design, the course gives participants an intense look into the university setting and the workings of the design studio.

Donna Dunay, as one of two team leaders, has refined and amplified the unique faculty/student interchange to give young participants an educational experiences that simulates

college level involvement. Working with various materials and organizational principles, a basic understanding of design is linked to contemporary works of architecture and the related fields of industrial design, interior design and landscape architecture. Here students explore the intuitive, problem framing modes of design. Emphasis is placed on formulation new visions and the richness of ambiguity through conceptual thinking.

Below, as students draw the city of Venice after reading passages from Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, Dunay explains some of the city's historical facets.



Studio life and projects from *inside ARCHITECTURE*

Student Work

Donna Dunay's efforts emanate from teaching. Present involvement includes first year studio, fifth year studio and a graduate lecture course What Makes a Town. She situates the exuberant interest of young students willing to take risks against the maturity and determinism of the more mature individual nearing graduation. From this engagement a genuine forum of interaction emerges as a normative activity in which peers of different levels teach others. The goal is to make the educational experience holistic and vital.

A proposed landscape of dwelling, the thesis project by Charles Collins, demonstrates the solution to the conditions of a 24-acre Market Place Shopping Center. This project was elevated to the second stage of the DEAD MALLS national competition sponsored by the Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design. A development strategy detailed as part of the process included the introduction of 100 residential units with environmental features

encouraging sustainable development, innovative site planning, building components, and material analysis.

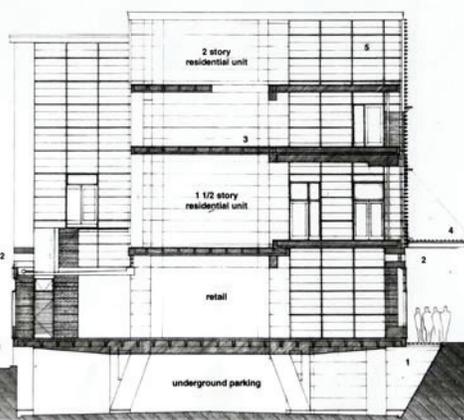
The following projects by other students are examples of work that begins in first year discussions and advances through the program to fifth year with a research direction established and implemented by the student. The seminar What Makes a Town? prompts students to propose and complete research projects funded through the college core research program. Seminar studies in town and city urbanism suggest that the thesis year can be an intense investigation of environmental issues related to redevelopment and dwelling, conflicts of automobile and pedestrian movement, and rapidly declining economic viability.

AN ORDER IN THE OPENING FROM THE RURAL TO THE CITY

*NEGLECTED SITES AS
AMBASSADORS OF
GARDENING*



sectional components
1 light and ventilation wall
2 reinforced conc. perimeter beam
3 raised concrete floor system
4 suspended steel ceiling
5 transparent wall system



TRANSPARENCY IN THE URBAN CONTEXT

BUILDING TYPES AND USES

building section thru
middle unit

Transparency in the Urban Context

Student Work

Strip retailing developments

common in the United States since the 1950's, have created critical zones in almost every city and town in the United States. The commoditized style of development is pervasive and homogenous to the extent that it can be typified. In these developments, characterized by big box retail stores and shopping malls with massive amounts of surface parking, scale conflicts abound.

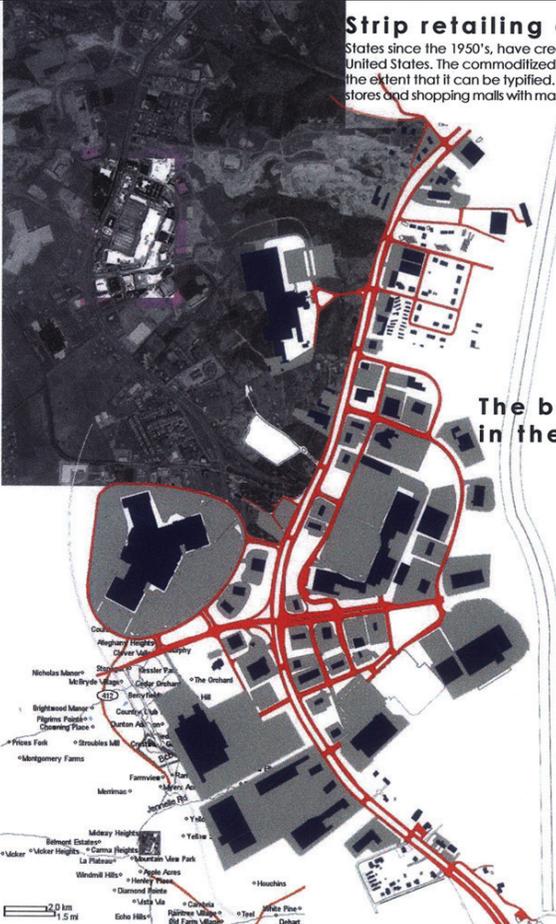
Single use zoning driven by a dependency on individual automobile ownership has created a situation in which the automobile rather than the individual shopper generates the scale of retailing. High traffic volume street systems connect seas of parking, largely devoid of human life after business hours. This scale discrepancy is manifest in the relationship of movement systems and pedestrian movement is considered only from parking spot to the door of the store, and within the store. There are generally no formal pedestrian connections between stores. Without an automobile, pedestrians are isolated and vulnerable to injury or death.

The scale of strip development is also in discord with the scale of environmental conservation.

The built masses do not dwell in the landscape.

The only consideration of site is in the amount of grading necessary to flatten the site sufficiently, and the connection to the highway. Each retailer has formulated a style of building that is constructed on every site, independent of geography or local culture. An understanding of the particulars of site and place is replaced by equations that minimize investment and maximize profit. The land is sealed by the impermeable surfaces of parking lots and gigantic building masses, disrupting the natural filtration of rainwater. These surfaces absorb the sunlight, creating localized heat islands that impact natural microclimates. Enormous amounts of land are used for single functions, leading to an ever expanding amount of urbanization and deforestation.

Strip mall development is the product of a nomadic global village that changes location in response to market figures and economic stimuli. Despite the temporary nature of the retail marketplace, the strip development leaves a permanent mark on the landscape. New development seeks fresh, unbuilt land, leaving a trail of ruins behind. The United States is littered with these dead and dying shopping malls in numbers that are constantly growing.

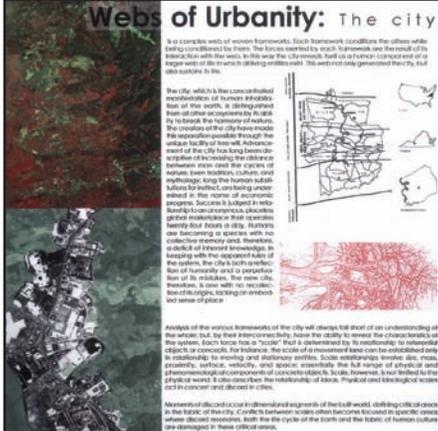
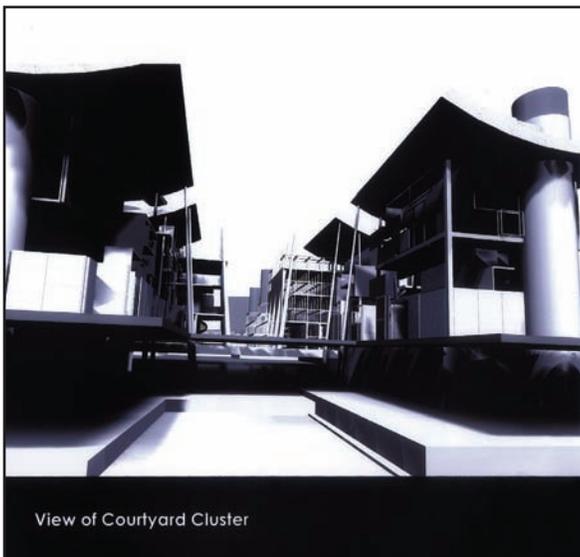


DEAD MALLS AND WHAT CAN BE DONE

Webs of Urbanity: The city

is a complex web of woven frameworks. Each framework conditions the others with varying conditions for form. The focus seemed to reach for network use the result of its search for the web. In this way the framework had to be a large component of a larger web of the world (being urban) and this web not only generated the city, but also the world.

The city, with its three-dimensional concentration of human activities, is a web of the earth, distinguished from all other organisms by its ability to transcend the boundaries of nature. The creation of the city has made the separation possible through the unique faculty of human intelligence. The separation of the city from the natural world is not a simple matter of distance. Humans have used the cycles of nature to create cities, and in the process, they have created a new world. The city is a web of human activities, and in the process, it has created a new world. The city is a web of human activities, and in the process, it has created a new world. The city is a web of human activities, and in the process, it has created a new world.

STUDENT WORK: DEAD MALLS COMPETITION
LOS ANGELES FORUM FOR ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN