

Design Drawings\_Women in Architecture: From Sources of Inspiration to Protagonists on the Architectural Scene

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**SYMPOSIUM 2018**



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WOMEN'S CREATIVITY SINCE  
THE MODERN MOVEMENT



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# WOMEN'S CREATIVITY SINCE THE MODERN MOVEMENT (1918-2018): TOWARD A NEW PERCEPTION AND RECEPTION

MoMoWo Symposium 2018  
Programme and Abstracts of the International Conference

Edited by CATERINA FRANCHINI and EMILIA GARDA



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

**MoMoWo Symposium 2018.  
Women's Creativity since the Modern Movement (1918-2018):  
Toward a New Perception and Reception.  
Programme and Abstracts of the International Conference**

Politecnico di Torino, Campus Lingotto | 13th–16th June 2018, Torino, Italy

**EDITED BY**

Caterina Franchini and Emilia Garda

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## Women in Architecture: From Sources of Inspiration to Protagonists on the Architectural Scene

**Rossana Netti**

Polytechnic of Turin, Department of Architecture and Design | Italy

Speaking of architectural drawing and “female,” the first image that comes to mind, is that of a woman seen as an infinite source of inspiration that always attracts and conquers the male universe. A real morphological quote, which is read and reinterpreted in many fields, from painting to sculpture, up to architecture.

In fact, in every age, precise relationships can be found between the shape of the human body and the architectural styles. Vitruvio, in his *De Architectura* treatise, provides a particular interpretation of the shape of the Greek column, comparing that of the Ionic order to the female figure. Even Leon Battista Alberti, in his *De Re Aedificatoria* treatise, argues that the beauty of architectural work is a factor to be sought in comparison with female beauty. In other cases, the evocation of the female figure has become part of the architecture with the actual presence of its aspect. This makes us understand how much the female model has always been the object of analysis and study, in an attempt to achieve perfection and elegance in formal synthesis, but also other aspects related to the message that the same architecture wants to transmit (Erik Forssman).

Even today, the woman is a source of inspiration in various fields, not merely as a materialisation of her overall image, but also through her characteristic forms, which continue to be cited in the most varied architectural compositions. Many stylistic solutions of Liberty are a pretext to mention the female figure in its grace, elegance and sensuality. At present, it is indispensable to investigate the new role that women play in society and working environment. Therefore, the “architecture” and “female” pair enhances the work of all the women who have succeeded to get the role of absolute protagonists in the architectural field, both in past and recent times such as Lina Bo Bardi, Gae Aulenti, and others. Women who have passed on the “other side of the sheet” and who, with a pencil in their hand, have become themselves creators in a sector that for many years has been exclusively for men. It is through analysing their way of “draw” that we can better understand their thinking and discover the reasons for their affirmation on the architectural scene.

### keywords

architecture | cultural heritage | drawing | female | woman's role