

Summaries

Kerstin Dörhöfer: Living 2010 – contributions of women architects

The type of post-war house building which was solely to meet the demands of the classic nuclear family has largely lost its functional basis. Other forms of living (together) require flexible planning, though strict economic considerations still play a vital part. Thoughts of women planners from the 1920s (Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky), who had to respond to social change in a creative way, provide links to the topic of house building by women today. In projects of building-exhibitions of the 50s and 80s as well as in building competitions in the 90s women have gained influence on changes. Their contributions have one thing in common: They are social architecture which does not exclude aesthetic aspirations.

Ruth Becker: Women's Living Projects in Germany – an Overview

In Germany the 90s were a prime time for housing projects for women. The projects resulted from the autonomous women's movement of the 70s. In the section of women's studies and housing in the department of environmental planning of the university of Dortmund a survey was held which resulted in an exemplary documentation of housing projects for women, which had been planned or realized in the years 1978 – 1998. The projects differ according to their aims and concepts. One form of women's living together are residential buildings created by women for women, which are run by women and have the aim of promoting the self representation and living together of women. A second group are housing projects for single parents. Their aim is creating residential room for this disadvantaged group which enables its members to support each other in their daily lives. In contrast to the first group of projects the second group is not solely restricted to women. Only three of 44 projects are residential projects for senior women. House-building, which enables senior citizens to live autonomously, is an important topic for the future. The number of this kind of projects realized is probably so low, because the other two projects include older women, who prefer living together with members of other generations. A fourth group of projects are flats and houses in which the special needs of women have been considered in a particular way. This type of house building very often results from competitions in the 90s. They carefully meet clearly formulated criteria and have also led to changes in communal house building.

Margrit Hugentobler, Susanne Gysi : Being at home in one's home? Living in houses and flats from a women's perspective

This contribution deals with perspectives and experiences of women in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, all concerning the topic of living in one's home. Women spend much more time in their homes than men – they are experts in living there and as such they were questioned. How women judge their living situation depends not only on the qualities or deficiencies of their respective homes, but on the environments as a whole, the question to what extent it is possible to relate various spheres of life – work/household work/family – depending on the women's respective forms of living and stages of life. Only when women – as experts on living – have a word in professional discussions, the quality of houses and flats and their environment can change in a positive way. From their findings the authors develop first steps to an approach to living, which takes into account various living conditions of women.

Susanne Falge, Theresia Maria Mattes, Karin Merkl: Women-friendly living in council housing – a model for the future?

On the basis of a survey within the project "Women-friendly living in council housing" in Nuremberg-Langwasser the authors compare planning goals and aims achieved in the project, 18 months after the participants moved into their flats. The women asked gave their opinions in a critical and constructive way. Conclusion: "women-friendly" must mean "family-friendly".

Ruth Balden: FrauenWohnen eG

This contribution describes the foundation and development the co-operative FrauenWohnen eG (WomenLiving registered company) in Munich, which links up with the movement of the beguines and women's co-operatives at the beginning of the 20th century. At present the co-operative is trying to find a suitable site/property, which should be situated in a developed neighbourhood with good infrastructure.

Marisol Dalmazzo Peillard: Financing the acquisition of houses by women as heads of households

In its constitution of 1991 Columbia guarantees its citizens living conditions fit for human habitation and acknowledges the right to a suitable home as a basic right. However, especially for women as heads of households it is very hard to find the financial resources for buying flats. Lengthy formalities or guarantee conditions which can

hardly be met very often prevent women from using public credits and force them have to get into debt in different ways. Since living in a suitable house is very essential for the women, and women play an important role in all decisions in their quarters, building policies have to realize that women are an important target group, so that comprehensive solutions to the problems of equality and living in the cities can be found.

Maria de Betânia Uchôa Cavalcanti-Brendle: Women as builders - self-constructed houses in Olinda, Brazil

In this contribution the village "Vila das Mulheres Preiras" is described, a settlement planned and constructed by women – illiterates, lonely mothers, migrants from the rural areas of Pernambuco – in order to overcome the inefficiency and incompetence of government structures in creating basic housing conditions. Incredible personal commitment and permanent political pressure of women's organizations is necessary to improve the housing situation of poor women. On the other hand projects of the kind mentioned enable women to become aware of their own strength and their rights as citizens.

Elisabeth Sieber: WOMAN+SPACE in the region of Nuremberg/ Fürth/ Erlangen

FRAU+RAUM (WOMAN+SPACE) is an association of 100 professional women with the aim to influence the criteria used in town planning and architecture in a way that women's concerns are realized and demands of women in various phases of their lives are met.