

Summaries

Ludovica Scarpa: **Enduring City, Beautiful City**

Why do old urban areas challenge human proportions less than urban areas created after architects and city planners turned to New Architecture in the 1920's, a form which has lasted until today? Ludovica Scarpa, from Venice, who has her second residence in Berlin, tries to find the source of her feelings for this city by looking for the answer to the question of who constructed these modern cities where functional areas are often separated from each other. In the current demand for an "enduring city" she sees a chance for people to realize the advantages of the "dense city" with its short distances, a social mixture as well as a mixture of commercial structures. In times of diffuse power, creative thinking, initiative and responsibility of the new society could lead to a new ethic in city planning which takes the comfort of the citizens in their environment into account. This also means taking a critical look at the rather intangible idea of "beauty".

Barbara Kreis: **"The Woman as Creator?" – Between domestication and urban challenge.**

Who does public space belong to? Who changes the city? "Those who don't like it." A trip through history shows how women, directly dependent upon their corresponding role in society, have been almost completely driven out of public space. From pre-industrial time when public space was working space for men and women alike, in the French Revolution when women too used public space to force social change. With the industrial division of labour work and living were both transferred indoors. The street became a thoroughfare for the free, mobile man, the European city a product of the separation of the sexes. However, the city today offers chances for women whose new interest in the city is perceptible. Women who draw their energy from the conflict between tradition and innovation can contribute to cities in which beauty, feeling, sensuality, fantasy, chaos and multiplicity all find a place.

Ursula Mölders: **In Favour of a Living City – Immigrants participate in city planning in Solingen**

When the Solinger city was renovated in the early 90's immigrant women were asked about their needs and for their ideas. Since many of the foreign women living in Solingen had not had any experience with public involvement, new forms of public involvement had to be found. The results of the survey showed that immigrant women have the same needs and wishes as their German counterparts. However, they often feel watched in public and discriminated against in shops when they look different from the German women.

Kathrin Golda-Pongratz: **La Lima de las mujeres – The Lima of Women. Forms of female expression in the metropolitan area of the Peruvian city.**

What role do women play in the metropolitan Lima area? Women there have acquired a relationship to the city and changed it in recent years: with protest marches against the dictatorship and symbolic acts such as the public ritual of washing the national flag which they saw as dirtied by the politics of President Fujimori.

Women develop initiatives in an informal underground economy, selling their homemade foods on every street corner. They organize committees in order to collect and distribute food in certain areas and they take measures to make public areas more livable - for example when they dig out little gardens in the wasteland of their district.

Alexandra Czermer: **Children in the Middle of Life – a proposed solution for creating a practical equality.**

The author and architect shows how, using a new structure of living and work centers, new solutions can be found for the basic conflict many women face - having to decide between career and family. The integrated project "Multivita" builds a generation spanning community as a residential area which enables people from many walks of life to live together, supporting each other.

Gisela Vollmer: **Women plan their daily environment**

In Switzerland in recent years the equality between man and woman in politics has become more strongly anchored. The architect and city planner who was part of the project herself shows how women in the city of Bern successfully contributed to active city politics and to the concrete remodeling of an area in an attractive part of the city but one which was beset by various problems. Examination of the residential area shows how the daily environment of the residents consists of a sensitive mixture of architectural, traffic, economic aspects. In active civil action they influence the construction and the safety of the public space and fight for the survival of the local shops.

Elisabeth Meyer-Renschhausen, Renate Müller: **Agriculture in the City. About Kitchen Gardens and Their Usefulness**

Throughout the world there is an increase in a new kind of "wild" city agriculture, be it in Africa, Asia, Latin America or New York. After phases of tolerance and of persecution of such gardens as harmful to the modern cityscape, they are being increasingly recognized by the city authorities - as an essential possibility of providing food and keeping social peace. This is no new historical phenomenon as the development in European cities since the 19th century and in the eastern European states of communism and post communism show. The most important demand of African women at the World Women's

Conference in Peking was the right to access to tillable land and security for the necessary kitchen gardens. For many people in countries in the south, securing food means first and foremost: the right to a piece of land and legalization of city agriculture.

Meike Spitzner: **Endurance and Social Relationships of the Genders - Problems and alternatives to androcentric concepts and dimensions in economics, ecology and socialization**

The request for lasting paths of development in traffic policy or the "endurance of the city" in general, must lead us to take a closer look at the term endurance from a gender specific - gender non-hierarchical perspective. Four dimensions are examined as to their endurance: ecology, institutions, social aspects and economy. Critical examination shows that our society today places most emphasis on the economic aspects and here most particularly on labour and supply aspects. Even ecological and social aspects are judged on economic criterion. Responsibility for the general welfare has been neglected and given little importance. Future oriented and enduring perspectives make gender neutral views in our developmental concepts necessary.

Franziska Eichstädt-Bohlig: **City for Women – Women for a livable city**

The crisis in city development is an indication that a new direction in men's thinking is needed but also in women's thinking. Franziska Eichstädt-Bohlig clearly shows the vicious circle of problems which lead to the ruinous settlement of our landscape, which make cities less friendly for people and finally make our everyday life more and more strenuous. Active women are needed who among other things through recollection of their earlier feminine strengths of protecting creation and supporting life, fight for a change in the direction city planning policy is taking.

Monika Kunz: **Women in Planning – www.srl.de**

The specialist group Women in Planning ("Frauen in der Planung") is a sub group of the Organization for Urban, Regional and State Planning (Vereinigung für Stadt-,Regional-und SRL e.V.) in Germany. In a summary Monika Kunz reports about the main focus of their work up to the year 2000.

Gisela Vollmer: **P,A,F (Planning, Architecture, Women) – www.goodlinks.ch/paf**

The Swiss organization was founded in 1994. It serves to advance equality for women in all areas of architecture, building and planning.

Übersetzung: Lori Childs-Körner

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