

Building Connections: Networks Past, Present & Future (Blacksburg, 20–21 Mar 25)

Blacksburg, VA (USA) / online, Mar 20–21, 2025

Elizabeth Keslacy, Virginia Tech

The IAWA Center (International Archive of Women in Architecture) announces the program for its 2025 Symposium: Building Connections: Networks Past, Present and Future.

Taking place in-person in Blacksburg, VA and online, the symposium celebrates and uncovers networks of women in architecture, historically, today, and speculatively. Five paper sessions will address topics such as the individuals, organizations, and publications that underwrote networks of professional female architects, and will feature a panel featuring recent Milka Blisnakov Research Award winners, as well as roundtable of contemporary practitioners building networks today. The keynote talk will be delivered by notable architect and urban designer, Hansy Better Baraza, co-founder of Boston-based Studio Luz.

// Programme //

I Thursday March 20

09:30 am | Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:00 am | Roundtable: Networks in Action

Feminist spatial Practices: A Global Network and Community to Celebrate Diversity in Architecture and Design

Virginia, Renske, Abri, & Bryony

Nuestras Arquitectas: Building and Expanding Networks to Document and Highlight Women in Architecture

Inés Moisset & Carolina Quiroga

I Am Not a Self-Made Black Woman Architect

Ntetleng Orepa Mosidi

Riding the Vortex

Kathryn Prigmore

Lynda Simmons

A+W NZ Timeline – Filling Gaps in the Architectural History of Aotearoa New Zealand

Begdid Laguerre

Bridging the Gap: Expanding Mentorship Networks Beyond Cultural Identities

11:00 a.m. | Q&A

Panel discussion (25 min)

12:15 | Lobby Talk: 1x1 Japan in the Lobby, Cowgill Hall

01:00 p.m. | Lunch Recess

02:00 p.m. | Keynote

Hansy Better Barraza

On Connections and the Collective Commons: Reclaiming Women's Authorship in the Built Environment.

3:45 p.m. | Paper Session 1: Publications as Networks

Kathleen James

Chloethiel Woodard Smith: Supported by a Sisterhood of Journalists

Chakrabortuy Manon

Some Leads to Trace the Positions of Women in the Discursive Network of Architectural Criticism from the 1930s to the 1990s in France

Knockaert María Soledad Larraín Salinas & Sara Margarita Toledo Durán

Published, Female Architects as Authors. The Case of the Magazines AUCA and CA Between 1965-1989 in Chile

4:30 p.m. | Q&A

Panel Discussion (25 min)

5:30 p.m. | Reception at the Art+Architecture Library

| Friday, March 21

09:00 a.m. | Paper Session 2: Building Connections through Organizations

Inês Leonor Nunes

From Lorna Wright to Minnette De Silva: The Women's Networks Behind the Watapuluwa Housing Scheme in Sri Lanka

Laura Hindelang

Fraternité: Networks and Spatial Activities to Improve the Lives of Women in 19th-Century Switzerland

Helena Mattsson & Arram Eckerbom

Acting Against Exclusion: The Swedish Network ATHENA and the Athena Houses

Veronique Boone

The Network of Women Architects in the International Council of Women – A Shared Commitment on Architecture (1919-1970)

Carolina Quiroga

Women's Advisory Committee VAC: The Heritage of Feminist Networks in Dutch Architectural

Modernity

10:30 a.m. | Q&A

Panel Discussion (25 min)

11:00 a.m. | 40x40 Venice Exhibit Preview & Archive Tour

12:00 | Lunch Recess

01:30 p.m. | Paper Session 3: Network Builders

Entre Líneas: Manola Ogalde & Barbara Rozas

An Island of Infinite Bridges: Chile's International Dialogues by Women in Architecture Before the Eighties

Apolline Vranken & Elisabeth Gérard

The Networks of Simone Guillissen-Hoa (1916-1996): From Communist Resistance to Feminist Advocacy

Veronique Boone & Johanna Sluiter

Flying Out: The Informal International Network of Women Architects from 35 rue de Sèvres

Alexandra Staub & Clarissa Albrecht

Who is an Architect? Building for Women, with Women.

2:30 p.m. | Q&A

Panel Discussion (25 min)

3:30 p.m. | Building Networks through the Archive: The Milka Bliznakov Research Prize

Lori Brown & Karen Burns

UIFA and networks of solidarity

James Heard

Ojai's Pink Moment: Zelma Wilson and Regional Planning During the 1960s in Southern California

Fabio Marino

Liane Zimble's Architectural Journey: Questioning the Interior Decorator Cliché from Vienna to California

Eva Alvarez & Carlos Gomez

Building Connections Through Feminist Editorial Work: The Contributions Of Barbara Goldstein And Susana Torre

04:30 p.m. | Q&A

Panel Discussion (25 min.)

Click here for the full program:
https://iawacenter.aad.vt.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025_IAWA-SYMPOSIUM-SCHEDULE_3-6-25.pdf

ArtHist.net

Attendance is free, but registration is required:

<https://viriniatech.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=LHuz1kMmZxAECHrPeIW9eQ%3D%3D>

Reference:

CONF: Building Connections: Networks Past, Present & Future (Blacksburg, 20-21 Mar 25). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 10, 2025 (accessed Mar 25, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/44755>>.