

# Architect Writers

Alison SMITHSON

Denise SCOTT BROWN

Lina BO BARDI

Diana AGREST

Toshiko MORI

Madelon VRIESENDORP

Eva PRATS

Anne LACATON

Momoyo KAIJIMA

Farshid MOUSSAVI

Jeanne GANG

Mariam KAMARA

Hilde DE HAAN

Columbia University GSAPP Spring 2024  
Avery 412 Tuesday 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
Professor Hilary Sample, hms2155@columbia.edu

# Architect Writers

## Description

Taking stock of the architecture profession today, this seminar brings together a select group of architects who have written about their design work as a means to better understand the built environment while reflecting on the discipline and field of architecture as a whole. For the purpose of this seminar, it has been conceived with an inclusive title but with varying content meant to change from year to year. This year's focus will be on writings by women architects about their design work; their partnerships; and the making of buildings and books. While it is possible to argue over whether venues and platforms exclusively for women are needed, and how it is problematic to "insert the female figure into the male canon", it is certain that women's participation in the field of architecture is crucial yet remains underrepresented. Specifically, when it comes to the representation of ideas through writing and production of texts, women's contributions about their own design work appearing on bibliographies is scant. And questions about what architects do, in relation to writing, continues to be the idea that architects are atypical writers and as writers, unusual architects.

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Advocating that written ideas last as long as drawn or built ones; writing about architecture remains critical to an architect's education. So then how does an architect engage in multiple practices of architecture and writing? How do you as students work between writing and design?

The seminar invites students to intently focus on ten women architects from the twentieth and twenty-first century, from around the world, to examine their buildings, built work, proposal projects, installations, objects, design writings, lectures, as well as critical essays they wrote. This course draws upon the usual visual materials from architecture and art such as drawings and painting, to models and mock ups, but also includes other forms of representation through a variety of mediums -- videos, film, novels, interviews, conversations, short stories, to poetry, in addition to written primary materials and texts. How does history and theory intersect their work? Where does technology support their thinking? We will examine how they practice, with whom they work, and for whom they work. This seminar will engage in primary source materials about architecture and design work and writings, and focus secondarily on their biographies for the purpose of understanding their educational and career limitations

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and accomplishments. Examining buildings and writings in parallel as a way to understand the field of architecture and its creative culture up close, as well as the forms of representation, and the reach into the world are the focus over gender distinctions.

The seminar will ask several questions surrounding the work of these architects. As architecture is a profession, formal education is necessary to achieve the status of being a professional; what educational limitations were presented; what opportunities arose? Examine the intersection between a lack of education and achieving a professional status. What sources of influences can be identified? Did role specific models or mentors contribute to a career path? And in turn is the role of a mentor or model important? Was gender a consideration in seeking out education or professional opportunities? When looking at the design work, examine how it is done, did individual styles of designing or doing architecture influence or shape the work? When looking at the writing, how is the writing completed? Is there a style to the writing? Some of the writers are as well known for their buildings as their texts, but how did different types of achievements affect their work? Is design enriched by writing? If so, how? How does

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the role of collaboration impact their creative work? What kinds of practices are novel and can be attributed to them individually or in a collaboration? What areas or subjects have they advanced in the field? For instance, almost no subject is off limits to architects, be it aesthetics, color theory, engineering from social to climate, environmental, materials, structural, to the digital and representational, or beyond to urban planning, design or historic preservation. Where are the written texts published? Similarly, are there other venues for exhibiting work that enabled the architect writer to establish an audience? When does architecture become part of broader cultural conversation or public awareness and what role did these architects play in that awareness? Or what role does experimental architecture play? What critical knowledge is established in the design work versus writing about design? How are these two forms different? How does writing infuse practice? And vice versa? . . . If writing about a previously built project what could be said? Through these trailblazers and pioneers, we can think through the established domains of architecture in order to reframe its future.

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## Format

Each week, students will study select readings and sets of related buildings. Professor Hilary Sample will present six lectures about the built work, projects, and architectural ideas. Guests will join the seminar in a variety of formats. Each week, there will be a discussion about the architecture and readings from the syllabus.

## Requirement

The seminar's purpose is to create a more in-depth bibliography on architects' writings, and the goal of the seminar will be to double the size of the syllabus bibliography and identify additional architects who are practicing around the world. Students will also develop a list of questions for a questionnaire, and a list of architects to distribute the questionnaire to. Students will write a 1,000 word essay with no less than five images and five citations. On the last day of class we will have an exhibition of the materials and invite guests to join in the discussion.

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## Schedule

### Week 1 January 23 Alison and Peter Smithson: *Urban Structuring*

Smithson, Alison. *Urban Structuring: Studies of Alison + Peter Smithson*. Studio Vista / Reinhold, 1967.

Smithson, A. and P. Smithson, "An Urban Project: Golden Lane Housing. An Application of the Principles of Urban-re-identification", *Architects Year Book 5*, 1953, 48-55.

Smithson, A. and P. Smithson, Aesthetics of Change, in: T. Dannatt (ed.), *Architects Year Book 8*, London 1957

Smithson, A. and P. Smithson, Thoughts in Progress: the New Brutalism, *Architectural Design* 1957, no. 4, April, 111-113

Smithson, A. (ed.), CIAM Team 10, *Architectural Design* 1960, no. 5; special issue with contributions by J. Bakema, G. Candilis, G. De Carlo, J. Coderch, R. Erskine, A. van Eyck, G. Grung, A. Josic, L. Kahn, L. Miquel, C. Polonyi, J. Soltan, A. and P. Smithson, K. Tange, J. Voelcker and S. Woods.

Smithson, A., Byelaws for Mental Health, *Architectural Design* 1960, no. 9, September, 356-357  
Smithson, A. and P. Smithson, Fix, *The Architectural Review* 1960, no. 766, December, 437-439.

Smithson, A. and P. Smithson, Criteria for Mass Housing, *Architectural Design* 1967, September, 393-394.

Smithson, A. and P. Smithson, Density, Interval & Measure, *Architectural Design* 1967, September, 428-429

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Smithson, A. and P. Smithson, Signs of Occupancy, *Architectural Design* 1972, no. 2, February, 91-97

## Additional Reading:

Boyer, M. Christine, *Not Quite Architecture Writing around Alison and Peter Smithson*, The MIT Press, 2017.

Eisenman, P., Book Review: Ordinariness and Light by Alison and Peter Smithson, *The Architectural Forum*, May, 1971.

Eisenman, P., Robin Hood Gardens, London E 14, *Architectural Design* 1972, no. 9, September, 557-573, 588-592

## Week 2 January 30 Denise Scott Brown, *Having Words*

Brown, Denise Scott. *Having Words*. London: Architectural Association Publications, 2013.

Sanmartin, Antonio. *Venturi, Rauch & Scott Brown*. London: Academy Editions, 1986.  
Venturi, Robert, Denise Scott. Brown, and Steven Izenour. *Learning from Las Vegas*. Cambridge Mass.: The MIT Press., 1972.

*Venturi Rauch & Scott Brown Associates on Houses and Housing*. Londres: Saint Martin's Press, 1992.

*Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown: A Generation of Architecture*. Urbana-Champaign, IL: Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1984.

Brown, Denise Scott, and A. Papadakēs. *Urban Concepts*. London: Academy Editions, 1992.



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## Week 3 February 6 Lina Bo Bardi, *Stones Against Diamonds*

Bardi, Lina Bo. *Stones Against Diamonds*. London: Architectural Association Publications, London, 2012.

Bardi, Lina Bo. *Lina Bo Bardi*, Tokyo: Toru Kato, TOTO Publishing, 2017.

Bardi, Lina Bo. *Lina Bo Bardi: Drawings*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019.

## Week 4 February 13 Diana Agrest

eds. Diana Agrest, Patricia Conway and Leslie Kanes Weisman, *The Sex of Architecture*, Harry N Abrams, New York, 1996.

Agrest, Diana. *Agrest and Gandelsonas: Works*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 1995.

Agrest, Diana. *Architecture from Without: Theoretical Framings for a Critical Practice*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1991.

Agrest, Diana and Mario Gandelsonas. *Diana Agrest/Mario Gandelsonas: exhibition Jan. 2-30, 1981*, New Haven: Yale School of Architecture, 1981.

Allen, Stan. *Practice: architecture, technique and representation*, London and New York: Routledge, 2003.

Agrest, Diana. *Architecture of Nature: Nature of Architecture*, Novato: Applied Research and Design Publishing, 2018.

Agrest, Diana. "Introduction" in *Places and memories: Photographs*, edited by Roberto

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Schezen. New York: Rizzoli, 1987.

Agrest, Diana, ed. *A romance with the city: Irwin S. Chanin*, New York: Cooper Union Press, 1982.

Agrest, Diana. "Landscapes of Vision" in *Not Architecture but Evidence that it Exists: Laretta Vinciarelli, watercolors*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998.

Agrest, Diana, ed. *Drawings by architects*, London: Institute of Contemporary Arts, 1983.

## Week 5 February 20 Toshiko Mori, *Immaterial/ultramaterial*

Toshiko Mori Architect. *Toshiko Mori Architect / foreword by K. Michael Hays*, New York : Monacelli Press, 2008.

Mori, Toshiko. *Materials, Fabrication + Performance*, Buffalo: School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo, the State University of New York, 2003. (already scanned as a PDF)

Toshiko Mori, Architect : observations / with contributions by Landon Brown, Charles Burke, Nicholas Weber, Andres Lepik, and Toshiko Mori ; editor, Cristina Steingraber. Berlin, Germany : ArchiTangle, 2020.

Mori, Toshiko, ed. *Immaterial/ultramaterial : architecture, design, and materials* / edited by Toshiko Mori. Cambridge: Harvard Design School in association with George Braziller, 2002.

Mori, Toshiko. "Foreword" in *Explorations: the architecture of John Ronan*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2010.

Mori, Toshiko and Greg Lynn, Thom Mayne, Lorcan O'Herlihy, Frank Escher and Rvi

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Gunewardena. "Pt. 5: Technology, Innovation, Materials" in *The American idea of home: conversations about architecture and design*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2017.

Mori, Toshiko. "Foreword" in *Japan-ness in Architecture* by Arata Isozaki, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006.

**Week 6 February 27 Madelon Vriesendorp, *Delirious New York***

Basar, Simon. *The World of Madelon Vriesendorp*. London: Architectural Association Publications, 2008.

Vriesendorp, Madelon. *Flagrant delit, or, dream of liberty*, Berlin: Aedes, 2008.

Vriesendorp, Madelon and Max L. Zarzycki. *Towards abundance: the delightful paradoxes of gender*, London: The Architectural Review, 2023.

Koolhaas, Rem. *Delirious New York: a retroactive manifesto for Manhattan*, London: Thames and Hudson, 1978.

Sigler, Jennifer, Ed. *SMLXL: Office for Metropolitan Architecture*, Rotterdam: 010 Publishers, 1995.

## Additional Reading:

Jacobs, Sam. "If At First You Don't Succeed, Cry, Cry Again...", *The Architectural Review*, February 2018.

<https://www.architectural-review.com/essays/if-at-first-you-dont-succeed-cry-cry-again-madelon-vriesendorp-on-being-written-out-of-history/10028475.article>

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Week 7 March 5 (Kinne Week)

Week 8 March 12 (Spring Break)

**Week 9 March 19 Eva Prats: *Drawing without Erasing***

Architectural Review Editors, “You leave the pages open near where you are drawing and it is very inspiring”: Flores & Prats’ AR Bookshelf,” 2020, in *The Architectural Review Podcast*, published by the Architectural Review, podcast, mp3, 45:07, <https://www.architectural-review.com/podcasts/you-leave-the-pages-open-near-where-you-are-drawing-and-it-is-very-inspiring-flores-prats-ar-bookshelf>.

Casares, Toni. *Sala Beckett, International Drama Center*, Mexico City: Arquine, 2020.

Miquel, Adrià. *Thought by Hand: The Architecture of Flores & Prats*, Mexico City: Arquine, 2014.

Flores, Ricardo and Eva Prats. “Flores & Prats [interview].” Interview by Adrià Goula. *Arquine: revista internacional de arquitectura* no. 82 (January 2017): 94.

**Week 10 March 26 Momoyo Kaijima: *Graphic Anatomy***

Kaijima, Momoyo, Yoshi Tsukamoto, *Atelier Bow-Wow - Graphic Anatomy 2*, Tokyo, Toto, 2014.

Kaijima, Momoyo, Yoshi Tsukamoto, *Atelier Bow-Wow - Echos of Space*, INAX-Shuppan, 2009.

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Kaijima, Momoyo, Yoshi Tsukamoto, JA85 SPRING 2012, *House Genealogy Atelier Bow-Wow: All 42 Houses*, Shinken-chiku-sha Co., Ltd, 2012.

Escher, Cornelia, *Atelier Bow-Wow: A Primer*, Walther König, Köln, 2013.

Kaijima, Momoyo. *Meido in Tokyo*, Tokyo: Kajima Shuppankai, 2001.

Kaijima, Momoyo, Laurent Stalder, and Yu Iseki. *Architectural Ethnography*, Tokyo: TOTO Publishing, 2018.

Jennifer Sigler and Leah Whitman-Salkin, eds. *Architectural ethnography: Atelier Bow-Wow*, Cambridge: Harvard University Graduate School of Design: Sternberg Press, 2017.

## Week 11 April 2 Anne Lacaton: Tour Bois Le Prêtre

David Huber, *Artforum International*, "Beyond relief", USA, 2015, p. 344-347.

Speech : affordable housing, "Interview Anne Lacaton - More space, more light, more green : a new vision of social housing", Denis Bocquet, *Russie / Russia*, 2014, p. 238-252.

Reduce Reuse Recycle, Mathieu Wellner, *Allemagne / Germany*, 2012, *Anglais / English*, Muck Petzet - Florian Heilmeyer

Fernando Marquez Cecilia and Richard Levene. *Lacaton & Vassal, 1993-2015: horizonte post-mediatico*, Madrid: El Croquis Editorial, 2015.

Lacaton, Anne, Federic Druot, and Jean-Philippe Vassal. *Large-scale housing developments: an exceptional case*, Barcelona: GG [Editorial Gustavo Gili], 2007.

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Hasegawa, Go, ed. *Go Hasegawa: conversations with European architects*, Tokyo: LIXIL Publishing, 2015.

## Week 12 April 9 Farshid Moussavi: *Architecture and Micropolitics*

Moussavi, Farshid. *The Function of Ornament*, ACTAR, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2006

Moussavi, Farshid. *The Function of Form*, ACTAR, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2009.

Moussavi, Farshid. *The Function of Style*, ACTAR, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2014.

Moussavi, Farshid, Giulia Bravaccini, and Mary Crettier, eds. *Architecture & micropolitics: four buildings 2011-2022*, Farshid Moussavi Architecture, Zurich: Park Books, 2022.

Moussavi, Farshid. "Interview with Farshid Moussavi." Interview by D28. *Dimensions* 28 (January 2015): 162-165.

Moussavi, Farshid. "Architecture Is Like Sailing on an Unknown Sea." Interview by Izzy Kornblatt. *Architectural Record*. May 23, 2022.

<https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/15666-farshid-moussavi-architecture-is-like-sailing-on-an-unknown-sea>

Moussavi, Farshid. "Style and Substance: Interview with Farshid Moussavi." Interview by AR Editors. *The Architectural Review*. June 4, 2014.

<https://www.architectural-review.com/essays/style-and-substance-interview-with-farshid-moussavi>

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Moussavi, Farshid. "The Function of Style" (lecture, Harvard GSD, Cambridge, Massachusetts, September 3, 2015).

Moussavi, Farshid. *Architecture and Micropolitics: Four Buildings 2011-2022*, Park Books: 2023.

Moussavi, Farshid. *Project Interrupted*. London: Architecture Foundation, 2018.

## Week 13 April 16 Mariam Kamara: *Construction Magic*

Kamara, Mariam, "How we narrate our yesterday determines how we imagine the future of architecture" (lecture, MIT Architecture, Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 8, 2021).

Kamara, Mariam, "Atelier Masomi: Pedagogy, Practice and (Shifting) Possibilities" (Aga Khan Program lecture, Harvard GSD, Cambridge, Massachusetts, March 7, 2022).

Kamara, Mariam, "Design can be a Powerful Tool for Good" (lecture, Design Indaba Conference, Cape Town, South Africa, 2019).

Kamara, Mariam, "STIR in conversation with Mariam Issoufou Kamara of Atelier Masomi." Interview by STIR. April 7, 2023. Video, 44:27.

<https://www.stirworld.com/inspire-people-atelier-masomi-s-urban-projects-contextualise-discarding-the-single-story>

Kamara, Miriam. "A Dialogue with Mariam Kamara." Interview by Kat Barandy. *Designboom* (September 2021).

<https://www.designboom.com/architecture/mariam-kamara-atelier-masomi-interview-09-30-2021/>

Kamara, Mariam, *Being an African Architect in Africa*, February 2017,

[http://www.ateliermasomi.com/blog/post\\_id-4](http://www.ateliermasomi.com/blog/post_id-4)

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Kamara, Mariam, *Construction Magic*, August 2017,  
<http://www.ateliermasomi.com/blog/xzerh4a3gx8nx28c2nw3kaat92c3mp>

Kamara, Mariam, *Mind shifts: Limited means can yield greater beauty*, March 2015  
<http://www.ateliermasomi.com/blog/22>

Week 14 April 23 Jeanne Gang:

Gang, Jeanne. *Reverse Effect: Renewing Chicago's Waterways*, Chicago: Studio Gang Architects, 2011.

Gang, Jeanne. *Reveal: Studio Gang Architects*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2011.

Gang, Jeanne and Greg Lindsay. "Designing a Fix for Housing," editorial, *The New York Times*, February 9, 2012.

Gang, Jeanne and Zoë Ryan, eds. *Building : Inside Studio Gang Architects*, Chicago: Studio Gang Architects in association with the Art Institute of Chicago, 2012.

Gang, Jeanne. "'Architects Can Help Cities Build Inclusivity' Argues Jeanne Gang." Interview by Berrin Chatzi Chousein.  
<https://worldarchitecture.org/architecture-news/ehmme/-architects-can-help-cities-build-inclusivity-argues-jeanne-gang.html>

Gang, Jeanne. "Introduction" in *Studio Gang Architecture*, edited by Studio Gang. London: Phaidon Press Limited, 2020.

Gang, Jeanne. "Assembly as Medium" In *Negotiated Terrains*, edited by Nina Rappaport and Heather Kilmer. New Haven: Yale School of Architecture, 2009.



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**Week 15 April 30 Hilde de Haan: *What happened to my buildings...?***

Haan, Hilde de. *De Deltawerken: techniek, politiek, achtergronden*, Delft: Waltman, 1984.

Haan, Hilde de. *De Spiegel: theatre architecture as a mirror of experience*, Amsterdam: Architectura & Natura, 2007.

Haan, Hilde de. *Een symfonie van zes gebouwen: architect Han Westelaken: architecten aan de Maas*, Amsterdam: Architectura & Natura, 2007.

Rohmer, Marlies. *What happened to my buildings...? Learning from 30 years of architecture with Marlies Rohmer*, Rotterdam: Nai010 uitgevers, 2016.

Haan, Hilde de. *The house Erasmus built: a profile of Dutch architecture*, Utrecht: Matrijs, Architect-Haarlem, 1990.

Haan, Hilde de. *Wood works Onix: architectuur in hout = architecture in wood*, Rotterdam: NAI Uitgevers, 2009.

Haan, Hilde de. *Architects in competition: international architectural competitions of the last 200 years*, London and New York: Thames and Hudson, 1988.

Haan, Hilde de. *Architecture in the Netherlands*, Rijswijk: International Information Department, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, 1991.

Haan, Hilde de. *Jo Coenen: from urban design to architectural detail*, Basel: Birkhäuser, 2005.

Haan, Hilde de. *Conservatorium van Amsterdam: architecture for the ear*, Amsterdam: Architectura & Natura Press, 2008.

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## Assignment No. 1

Design a display for a text.

## Assignment No. 2

Assemble texts by an architect.  
Scan book covers and drawings, as well as texts assembled as a PDF. Write a bibliography of ten primary and secondary sources.

Write a 1,000 word essay.

Due April 30, 2024.