



# INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVE OF WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

IAWA Center News  
2015 - 2016  
No. 27/28



## THE IAWA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!

Through the vision of Professor Milka Bliznakov, the International Archive of Women in Architecture Center (IAWA) was established in 1985. Traditionally, women have been omitted from the history of architecture and from mainstream publications, resulting in their roles being undervalued and their contributions uncredited. To balance the historical record and account for its omissions, the Center teamed with the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries to bring to light the invisible participants in architecture and the related disciplines.

Now after three decades of commitment to this mission, the IAWA Center has created a significant program in celebration of the 30th Anniversary. The IAWA has fostered research and has greatly expanded its reach by broadcasting the mission and goals of this endeavor. As a result, while celebrating accomplishments, the IAWA has alerted the global design community to the urgency of this mission, attracting new collaborators and partners looking to the next 30 years by hosting the 18th International Union of Women Architects Congress (UIFA) as a benchmark event in July 2015. The congress theme **Contributing to the Constellation** captivates our imagination to advance the IAWA mission in sponsoring unique exchanges of ideas and creative thoughts.

In hosting the 18th UIFA Congress, the IAWA established linkages on a very broad scale with strong support from across the university along with corporate sponsors, the profession, professional organizations, and government offices. This provided an unique opportunity for students, professionals, educators, and industry partners to contribute and gain knowledge of contributions from around the world. A warm expression of gratitude goes out to all who supported this wonderful event.

The five-day congress originated with an opening day in Washington, D.C., travel through Virginia, continuing at Virginia Tech for four days filled with scholarly, professional, and creative activity. The event culminated with a three-day UIFA Post-Congress Tour through West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Virginia returning to Washington. With more than 90 delegates from 15 countries assembled from North, Central, and South America, Europe, Asia and Africa, the congress initiated correspondence between diverse groups of women, creating a lasting international network.

Donna Dunay, FAIA - Chair, IAWA



Dear Colleague:

*The scope of the archives will be international and will include work from the beginning of woman 's involvement in architecture in any capacity up to the present time....*

*It may take years to collect the works of women architects around the world, to catalog this material, and to make the archives available to scholars for research. Yet to begin such an undertaking we need the commitment of numerous women architects to help either by sending their work now or by promising to donate their archives later.*

*Please assist us in collecting a unique International Archive of Women in Architecture.  
Thank you in advance.*

Milka Bliznokov, Ph.D  
Professor of Architecture and Urban Design  
Excerpts from the first letter to solicit work for the IAWA, July 9, 1985.



To start the IAWA Milka Bliznakov wrote more than 1000 women around the world. Her card file holds the record of first women contacted.



Attendees view the International Archive of Women in Architecture in close-up in the UVA's special collections room.

# Tech archive appreciated by architects around the world

Milka Bliznakov's vision of honoring female architects was celebrated last week.

**By David Williams**  
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**BLIZNAKOV**— Representing nearly 100 countries, architects and architects gathered in Charlottesville for the 30th anniversary of the International Archive of Women in Architecture.

Among 40 participants of the 30th Congress of the International Union of Women Architects, the event was held at the UVA's special collections room. The event was held at the UVA's special collections room. The event was held at the UVA's special collections room.

Bliznakov, the first architect to be named in the name of the International Union of Women Architects, was born in 1926 and died in 2008. She was a professor of architecture at the University of Virginia. She was the first woman to be named in the name of the International Union of Women Architects.

Portrait of Milka Bliznakov.



Milka Bliznakov, the first woman to be named in the name of the International Union of Women Architects, in a photo from 1974.



Laura Battaglia, a member of the International Union of Women Architects, is shown in a photo from the UVA's special collections room.



Kathryn Albright, chair of the Virginia Tech Architecture program, is shown in a photo from the UVA's special collections room.



Solange d'Herbez de la Tour, founder of the International Union of Women Architects, is shown in a photo from the UVA's special collections room.

**ARCHITECTS**

A native of Bulgaria, Bliznakov petitioned Tech to start a special collection of female accomplishments in the field and send 1,000 letters asking women around the world to donate their work.

"The point being, since women are not mentioned in history, perhaps the materials are not available for historians to reflect or write. So a very direct idea--you collect these materials and let history do its work," Dunay said.

Opened in 1985, today the collection is a joint program of Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the University Libraries...

The 30th anniversary of Bliznakov's project drew the interest of the Paris based UIFA, of which the Tech professor had been a member.

UIFA has held worldwide congresses every two to three years since it was founded by Solange d'Herbez de la Tour in 1963.

Typically, congresses have been held in capital cities such as Tokyo, Capetown, South Africa, Berlin, and Paris, but d'Herbez de la Tour said the 30th anniversary made Blacksburg the perfect place for part of this year's gathering.

The group, which comprises representatives from 15 countries on five continents, began its week-long event in Washington, D.C., and visited the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on Tuesday prior to spending three days at Tech.

On Wednesday they arrived at the IAWA archives, most of them seeing the collection for the first time.

"We all knew it existed, but nobody had seen it, so that's big," said Claire Bonney of Switzerland.

While looking through drawings and photos, they reminisced about the history of women in what is generally considered a male-dominated profession and about Bliznakov, who was a friend and inspiration to many of them.

Diane Elliott Gayer said she first remembered meeting Bliznakov at the UIFA congress in Capetown at the UIFA congress in Capetown, which was held in 1993, prior to Nelson Mandela becoming president.

"So we had long nights of political discussions...she'd be there with her cigarettes and drinking wine until the late hours talking about how women are going to change the world, and how we won't," Gayer said.

Some of the women found their own contributions within the collection, including drafting tools. L. Jane Hastings said she was gifted when she graduated from the University of Washington.

"...There was a time I would not tell people what I did. I would say, 'Well I draw lines and if I ever told them I was an Architect, they'd think I was lying. They wouldn't believe me,'" Hastings said. Today her firm, the Hastings Group, is credited with designing more than 500 buildings in the Seattle area.

Despite the widespread cultural shifts since the 1950's, many participants said they felt women were still underappreciated in the field of architecture and that added to the importance of the archives at Tech.

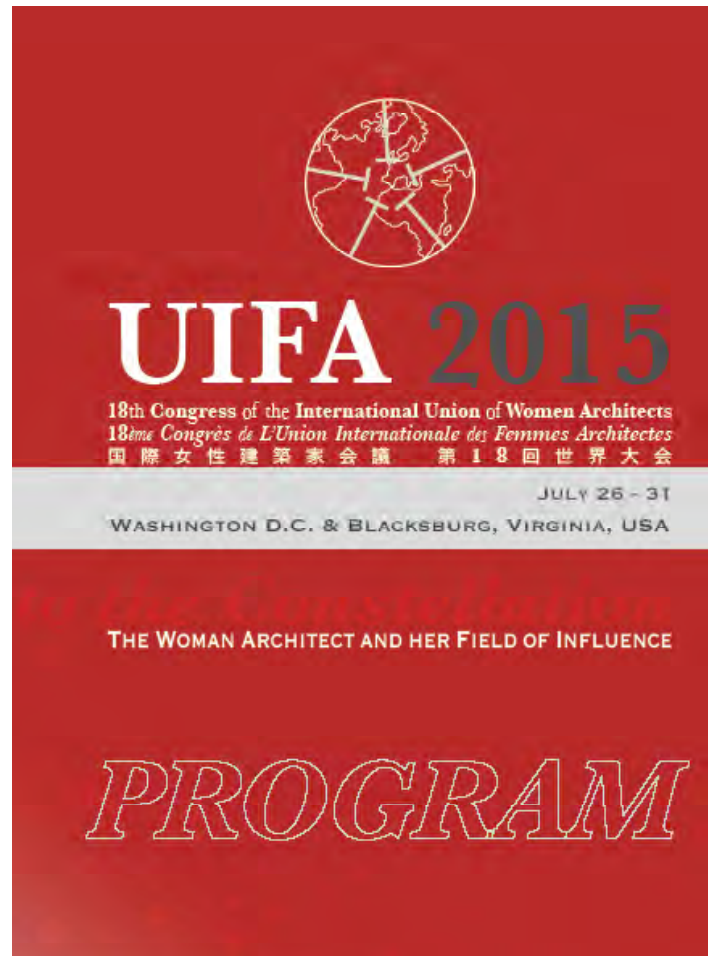
"It's extremely important I think because it's just recognition within our profession because you don't normally see that," said Laura Battaglia of Virginia Beach.

Horton said she believed the archives also served in an important role in the future female architects.

"It's very important to bring it to the younger generation that women can be architects. When I started to study architecture it was always, 'That is not a job for women,'" Horton said.

Recognition and encouragement are available today largely because one woman asked a question more than three decades ago.

"Look at all these people here...that was Milka's doing," Bonney said.



**IAWA 30th Anniversary Collection**  
International Archive of Women in Architecture

**UIFA 2015 Program**  
18th Congress of the International Union of Women Architects

*Book of IAWA artifacts on commemorative plates  
presented to the 18th UIFA Congress Delegates*

*Contributing to the Constellation:  
The Woman Architect and Her Field of Influence*

# UIFA CONGRESS OPENING



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## Washington D.C.



+ AIA President  
Elizabeth Chu Richter



+ AIA Past President  
Helene Combs Dreiling



+ UIFA President - Solange  
d'Herbez de la Tour



**United States Capitol** the seat of the U.S. Congress completed in 1800. Atop the Capitol is the female alligorical figure, the Statue of Freedom.



**Library of Congress**, the largest library in the world, holds the collection of Charles and Ray Eames who advocated modern design to elevate everyday life.



**Kogod Courtyard** at the National Portrait Gallery by Foster and Partners and Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd.



**National Building Museum** inspired by Santa Maria degli Angeli, Rome. Architect Chloethiel Woodward Smith advocated the building become a national museum dedicated to the building arts.



**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**, realized through a national competition, winning design by Maya Lin.



**The Octagon**, the headquarters of the American Institute of Architects. AIA President Elizabeth Chu Richter and AIA Past President Helene Combs Dreiling welcomed the Congress here at the opening reception.



### The 18th UIFA Congress opened in Washington, D.C.

The Congress welcome was hosted by the American Institute of Architects in Washington, after visiting sites presenting work of women in architecture. The IAWA mission aligns with the congress theme - **Contributing to the Constellation** and **SAVETHESTARS!**

+ UIFA Japon President Junko Matsukawa,  
AIA President Elizabeth Chu Richter,  
IAWA Chair Donna Dunay



“It’s almost like a theater where the sandstone facade becomes the stage,” said **Kathryn Gustafson**, FALSA who led the design of the **Kogod Courtyard** interior.

Team members **Mary Katherine Lanzillota**, FAIA, partner-in-charge, Hartman-Cox and **Debra Nauta-Rodriguez**, FAIA, Project Executive, The Smithsonian presented the project scope.

## 30 X 30 DIGITAL EXHIBIT

Celebrating the first 30 years of the IAWA, this exhibit introduced 30 women from the archive through samples of their work. The exhibit presents exclusive images and information from the IAWA collections, offering a preview of papers and artifacts from the IAWA.

*Many years ago (from 1932 to 1937) I was a student [of] architecture at the Technical University of Vienna before coming to the United States. In my class there were only three women among 10+ men."*

MELITA RODECK  
(1914-2011)  
MILAN, ITALY





MELITA RODECK

BIRTHPLACE: ITALY

RESIDENCE: UNITED STATES

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND DISCUSSION

## Susannah C. Drake, FASLA



Susannah C. Drake is the Principal of dlandstudio pllc, an award winning multidisciplinary design firm of landscape architects, urban designers, sculptors, scientists and architects. dlandstudio's recent public projects include: the Brooklyn Bridge Pop-up Park, a temporary waterfront open space that attracted almost two hundred thousand visitors and the Raising Malawi Academy for Girls, Lilongwe, Africa.



## Jane Cady Wright, FAIA



Jane Cady Wright, FAIA, President and CEO of Hanbury is a 1980 graduate of Virginia Tech. Her firm specializes in Campus Planning and Design, the Arts, and Preservation. An active leader in campus planning and design, she has provided expertise on over 60 college campuses. She has been with the firm since 1984, and her firm has worked on many projects at Virginia Tech including the Campus Master Plan.



## Kristine K. Fallon, FAIA



Kristine K. Fallon, FAIA, is a pioneer in applying information technology to architecture, engineering, and facility management since the 1970's. She founded Kristine Fallon Associates, Inc. in 1993 to focus on the use of information technology in the capital facilities industry. Fallon pioneered in the application of Electronic Data Management techniques to coordinate the efforts of large design and construction teams.



## Jane Hastings, FAIA



Jane Hastings, FAIA, studied architecture at the University of Washington, the only woman in a class of 200, graduating in 1952. She became the eighth woman to be licensed as an architect in the State of Washington. In 1974, she created the "Hastings Group," completing over 500 projects in Seattle. She became a Fellow of the AIA in 1980, and the first woman chancellor of the AIA College of Fellows in 1992.



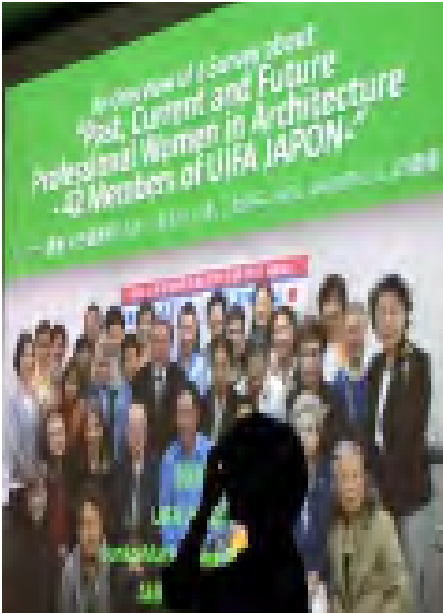
## Hahn Horticulture Garden Discussion

### *The New Tower in the 21st Century*

With the changing urban landscape, keynote speakers offered positions and defined prospects for high-rise living with congress delegates contributing ideas to further the dialog.

- + Femmes Batisseuses d'Afrique – Essesse
- + 18th UIFA Congress Delegates, UIFA Exhibition
- + Thomas Jefferson Academical Village
- + Hahn Horticulture Garden Discussion





+ UIFA Japon, Women in Architecture  
 + Milka Bliznakov Research Presenters  
 + Architectural Competitions – Espejel  
 + UIFA Delegates, Traditional Dress Reception

**Research**

**Kyung Sook Choi**  
*Constant Studying and Advising on the Architectural Plan of Child Care Centers*

**Amélie Essesse**  
*Femmes Bâtisseuses d’Afrique et Conservation du Patrimoine*

**Junko Matsukawa-Tsuchida + Dr. Akiko Nakajima**  
*Past, Current and Future of Professional Women in Architecture*

**Paola Zellner Bassett**  
 30x30

**Practice**

**Kristine Fallon, FAIA**  
*Centrality of Information to Building*

**Diane Gayer**  
*Learning from Place: Examples of Environmental and Community-based Architecture*

**Pilar Méndez**  
*WoCO (Women of CO Architects): Conversations on diversity, equity and mentorship*

**Dr. Anna P. Sokolina**  
*City by a Woman: Architect Alexandra Pavlova*

**Prof. Ingalill Wahlroos-Ritter**  
*Architectural Agency: Recrafting Boundaries of Exclusion*

**Education**

**Carmen Espejel**  
*Architectural Competitions – Espejel - FISAC Architects*

**Historical + Contemporary**

**Un Dia Una Arquitecta**  
*A revision of the consolidated written history*

**Inge S. Horton**  
*Honoring Our Legacy*

**Akiko Nakano**  
*The Silent Form Contribution*

**Dr. Maria Urma**  
*A woman architect - an important figure in the Romanian architecture between the two world wars*

**Sam Winn**  
*Preserving architectural records: a look inside the archives*

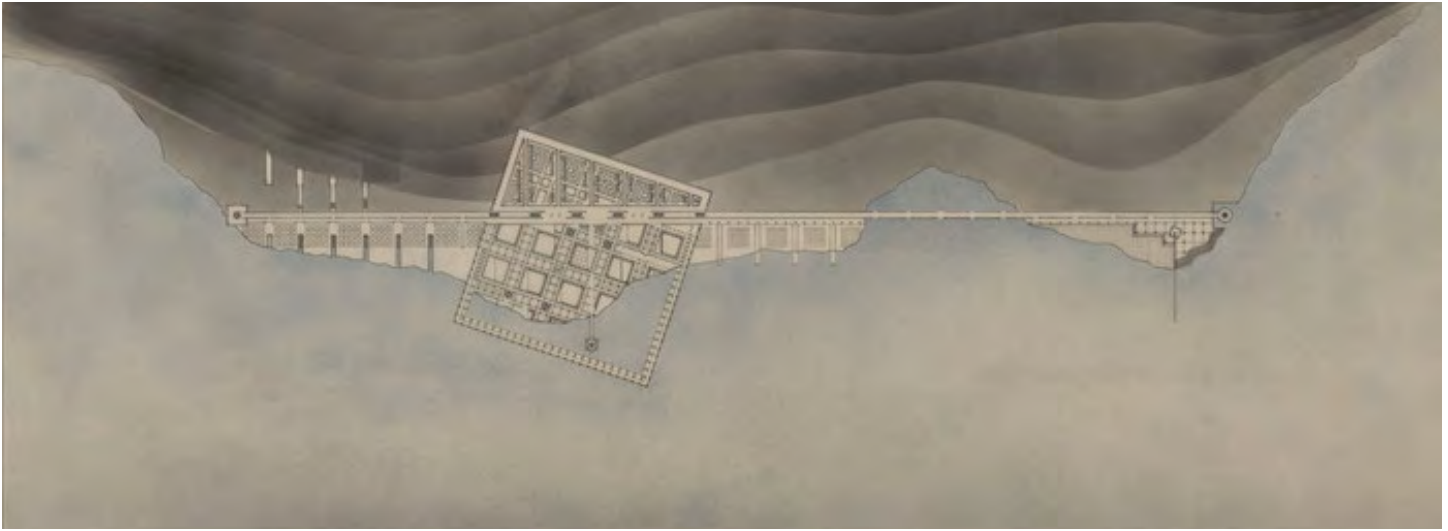
**Milka Bliznakov Research**

**Prof. Claire Bonney**  
*Adrienne Gorska and the Villa Dr. Pastor*

**Sarah Rafson**  
*CARYATIDS: Chicks in Architecture Refuse to Yield to Atavistic Thinking in Design and Society*

**Meredith Sattler**  
*Digital Territories: Willis’s CARLA Platform*

# NEW IN THE ARCHIVE



+ Carmen Espejel, Thesis project  
 + Graciela Schmidt, research about women city makers of Rosario, Argentina  
 + Amélie Essesse, Women Builders of Africa

+ Jane Hastings, UIFA scarves collection.  
 + Jane Hastings, lettering set.



The 30th Anniversary of the IAWA has been transformative. In addition to the activities established since 1985 in pursuit of collections, the past year has brought a focus to celebrating the IAWA's history, while establishing a new vision for the future. The *New Vision* harnesses the current digital landscape with the strength and expanse of social networks to broadcast the IAWA mission. Unique in the world as the physical repository for the original works and papers of women, the IAWA invites study to forge history. The Center, therefore, promotes the work of women as an active and enlarging support structure

for researchers, historians, and other organizations. Efforts in this anniversary year centered on extending the network in conjunction with organizing the 18th UIFA Congress. Increasing the collections through education, publication/dissemination, and promotion included the development of the *30th Year IAWA Book*, *30 x 30 digital exhibit*, IAWA Special Collections Open House and Exhibition, *For the Future* travelling exhibition, the *Milka Bliznakov Research Prize Award* and *The New Visual Archive Portal*.

+ Opening Reception, AIA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.  
 + Playwright and actor, Libby Skala after her performance "Lilia" at the Lyric Theater  
 +UIFA Japon President, Junko Matzukawa and UIFA Delegates presenting future ideas

+ UIFA Delegates at Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
 + Virginia Tech President Timothy Sands welcomes the 18th UIFA Congress  
 + Post Congress Tour at Kentuck Knob, Pennsylvania

# COMMORATIVE ARTIFACTS OF THE ARCHIVE



+ IAWA 30th Anniversary commemorative postcard set



+ 18th Congress UIFA delegate packet



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University Libraries

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<http://spec.lib.vt.edu/iawa> (540) 231-5383

Virginia Tech Special Collections (540) 231-6308

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