



Delft University of Technology

## In Memoriam: Zaha Hadid

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# B

INDEPENDENT PERIODICAL OF THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT TU DELFT

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08



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Painting 'Zaha', 1978,  
by Madelon Vriesendorp  
see also p. 24 - 25

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## Editorial

# GENDER ISSUES

For the first time Bnieuws features a portrait of a woman on the cover. Why did we need miss Hadid's tragic passing to coincide with our 'gender issues'-theme for us to reserve the front page for her? Why can we not acknowledge women's contributions to the field of architecture on a daily basis instead of the occasional female-centric tribute?

Women are officially not overshadowed by men in BK City: we have a 50/50 ratio in the student population. Yet this is not reflected within the curriculum or in the hierarchy of our faculty. The all-female editorial team of Bnieuws has drawn together contributors – from students to tutors – to probe, examine, and explore the subject of gender issues.

We start with an article that cracks the facts and figures on gender issues and gender bias. From there we present a variety of opinion articles. One article details the effect of implicit gender bias, revealing how both men and women contribute to the limited representation of women in architecture. Another article raises questions of the meaning of gender issues for the architectural profession. The collective Grijze Ei wants us to reflect on a satirical flyer which has been making the rounds, calling out the all-male heads of chairs to respond. Do they dare?

Gender issues, or any issues around bias, are a tricky subject. One might even say a literal hot topic - apparently many people are afraid to burn themselves with it. In our search for answers and clarity we tried to make space for a wide range of opinions. Unfortunately, many of the people approached did not feel it was their place to give an opinion. This was especially the case for the men we approached.

That is a shame. Because we know it doesn't end here...it shouldn't. This Bnieuws does not have all the answers. We do want to give you all a push: turn on your mind and join the discussion. Slowly but surely things are changing, but only if we continue to reflect on how far we have come and where we want to go.



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Event / THE FUTURE OF THE IJSSELMEER REGION  
The Van Eesteren Chair kindly invites you to the third edition of the knowledge conference, so save the date!

Van Eesteren Chair / 17.06

Visit / KEUKENHOF

The international centre of bulb horticulture, Keukenhof presents 800 varieties of tulips in full bloom. A visit to the park will set you back €16, though a bike ride around the 'bollenstreek' is free of charge and also includes the polychrome and fragrant experience.

Keukenhof / 24.03 - 16.05 / keukenhof.nl

Expositie / WONEN IN DE AMSTERDAMSE SCHOOL

Wonen in de Amsterdamse School is een spectaculair overzicht van interieurontwerpen van de Amsterdamse School: meubelen, lampen, klokken, keramiek, textiel en grafische toepassingen als behang. De tentoonstelling bevat meer dan 500 bijzondere ontwerpen van onder meer Jaap Gidding, Michel de Klerk, Piet Kramer, Hildo Krop en Marie Kuyken.

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam / tot 28.08 / stedelijk.nl

Biennale / IABR 2016—THE NEXT ECONOMY

Chief curator Maarten Hajer and an international curatorial team will once again focus on the future of the city, investigating the relationship between urban design and tomorrow's economy. Student tickets for day visits (€10) and unlimited access (€28) are available online.

IABR / until 10.07 / iabr.nl

SAVE THE DATE  
17.06.2016

Facultaire Studentenraad

FSR



Toy / YOU CAN BE ANYTHING

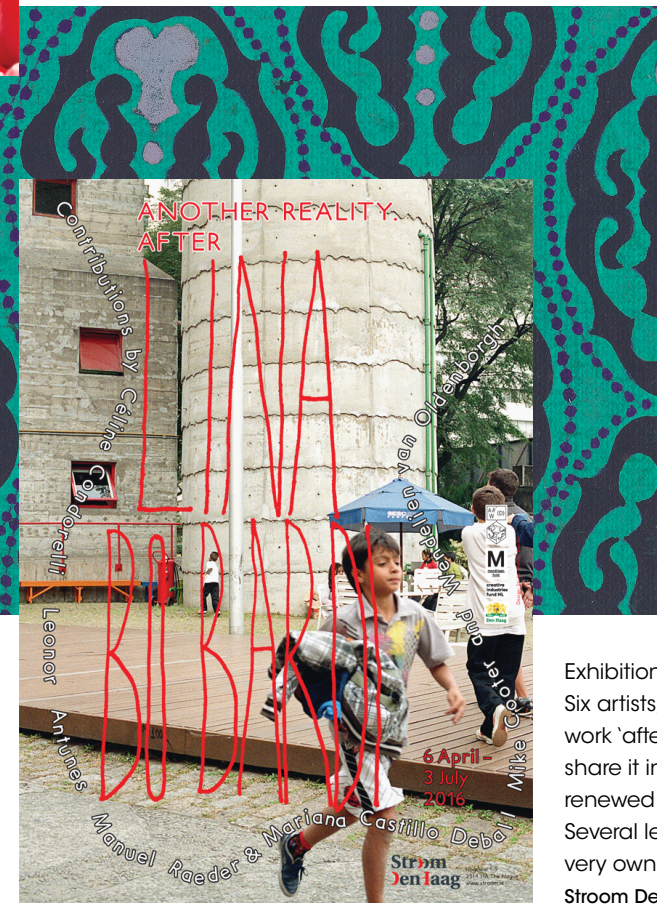
Once criticised for confirming gender-roles and advocating unhealthy anatomy, Mattel now encourages young girls to pursue a career in science, politics and architecture.

Inspiring reform or persistent stereotyping?  
Mattel / barbie.com/en-us/youcanbeanything

Stem / FSR & SR

Op 18 en 19 mei zijn er verkiezingen voor de Facultaire studentenraad. De FSR vertegenwoordigt de belangen van de student en praat mee over onderwerpen als de Engelse Bachelor. Aangezien de FSR een belangrijk orgaan is binnen de faculteit roepen wij alle studenten op om naast de Studentenraadsverkiezingen ook te gaan stemmen bij de FSR verkiezingen!

Met vriendelijke groet, de FSR / stem.tudelft.nl



WHAT DO YOU WANT NEXT TO IABR 2016

Exhibition / ANOTHER REALITY. AFTER LINA BO BARDI  
Six artists, inspired by her ideas and practice, create work 'after' Lina Bo Bardi: they quote and use her work, share it in spirit, idea, shape and form and give it a renewed urgency.

Several lectures will be hosted, amongst others by our very own professor emeritus Max Risselada.  
Stroom Den Haag / until 03.07 / stroom.nl

# FACTS & FIGURES

*Words & Graphs* Nadine van den Berg

Have you ever walked down the portrait hallway on the first floor of BK? Chances are that you have noticed something about these portraits. Namely, they are mostly men. 65 men and 7 women, to be precise. This does not exactly represent our faculty, where the bachelor in Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences recently reached a 50/50 ratio between men and women. Do we still have gender issues at BK? To find out, Bnieuws searched for the facts and figures on the subject. First we will take a look at the entire academic field. This way you get to know the facts about the overall situation, before we zoom in to the world of architecture and our situation at BK.

## Underrepresentation of Women in the Academic Field

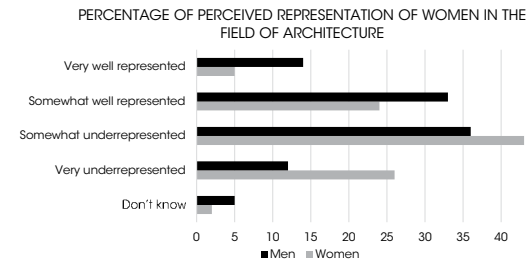
In almost all industrialized countries around the world, women are underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, in both academic and career aspects.<sup>1</sup> Whilst the number of women in science and engineering is growing, men continue to outnumber women, especially in the upper reaches of these professions. In elementary, middle, and high school, the same amount of girls and boys participate in maths and science courses, yet fewer women pursue these subjects as majors in future education. By graduation from university, men outnumber women in nearly every science and engineering field. But that's not all. Women's representation in science and engineering really declines in the transition from university to the workplace.<sup>2</sup> As long as women are underrepresented in the beta sector, a substantial number of intelligent, talented women will choose other subject areas in which to study and work. If given a chance, these might be women who could make important contributions to science or engineering. Also, scientific and technical undertakings can be improved by having a greater diversity of perspectives in the search for knowledge and solutions. The ability to see questions

and answers from many perspectives will help make scientific explanations more robust and complete.<sup>3</sup>

And how do women and men perceive gender inequality at their workplace? In a study of the University of Harvard in collaboration with the WomenCorporateDirectors, 4000 female and male board members of companies from sixty countries were questioned. 1 out of 8 people in management boards were women. Only 9% of male board members wanted to actively tackle gender inequality in the management of the company, while 49% of the female board members stood for an active procedure.<sup>4</sup>

## Underrepresentation of Women in the World of Architecture

Now that we know women really are underrepresented in the academic field, especially in the beta sector, we can take a look at how this is linked to our world of architecture. The American Institute of Architects has released the results of a survey on diversity in the workplace, that was taken by more than 7500 professionals in the industry. The purpose of the survey was to investigate the careers of architects and observe how firm culture affects career

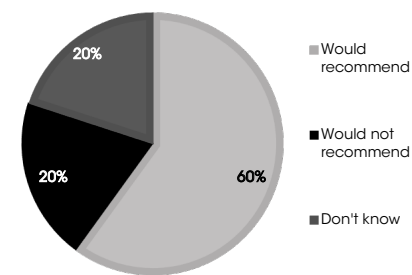


Graphic 1: Data retrieved from AIA (2016).

paths, depending on gender, race, and ethnicity. Graphic 1 shows that a total of 69% women felt that they were underrepresented, while 48% of men felt that women were underrepresented. Also, 54% of women said they are working for a firm that treats men and women equally, while 67% of men feel the same way about that. The women who felt being underrepresented in the profession of architecture were concerned about work-life balance, long hours which make starting a family hard, and a lack of flexibility.<sup>5</sup>

To give more insight in women in the field of architecture, The Architectural Review has released the results of the fifth annual Women in Architecture survey, providing insights into the experiences of 1152 women worldwide, but with a majority from the UK. To the question 'Has the building industry fully accepted the authority of the female architect?' only

## WOULD YOU RECOMMEND OTHER WOMEN A CAREER IN ARCHITECTURE?



Graphic 2: Data retrieved from The Architectural Review (2016).

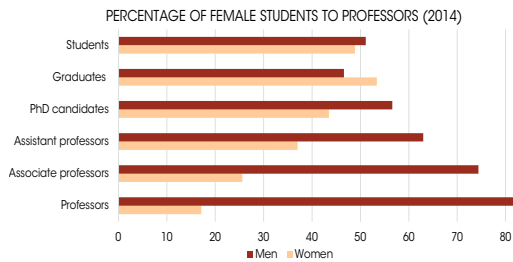
15% said yes, whilst 18% was unsure. And, alarmingly, 20% would not recommend a career in architecture to another woman, as seen in graphic 2.

A contributing factor to this attitude seems to be inequalities and perceived inequalities in pay between men and women. Around 40% of the participating women thought that they would be paid more if they were a man. 72% of women worldwide said that they have experienced sexual discrimination, harassment, or victimization during their career in architecture.<sup>6</sup>

## Underrepresentation Shown at Universities

Now, how are the statistics at Dutch universities and specifically at the TU Delft? To begin with, let us take a look at some results of the LNVH Monitor Vrouwelijke Hoogleraren 2015. Since 1990, the percentage of female assistant professors increased 2.5 times in the Netherlands, and the percentage of female associate professors 4.5 times. The percentage of female professors increased 6 times. However, the glass ceiling still exists. The higher the function within the scientific hierarchy, the lower the amount of women. With every step in the scientific career, the amount of women decreases.<sup>7</sup> From 2004 up to 2014 the average growth of female professors was 0.8% per year. If this growth stays consistent, 30% of the recruits from the professors-fte's at Dutch universities will be female in 2030. With 30% the critical mass is reached, which means that a group is large enough to change the internal political culture and policies. With the current growth, there will be a 50/50 ratio between female and male professors in 2055. But there already is sufficient potential within the group of female associate professors to follow up the retiring professors in the near future and reach the 50/50 ratio.<sup>8</sup>

In 2014 53,4% of graduates from Dutch universities were women. The next step in a scientific career is to get a doctoral degree. The amount of women decreases here and keeps decreasing with every successive function category, as shown in graphic 3.



Graphic 3: Data retrieved from LNVH (2014).

The results of 2014 show that out of all assistant professors, 1 out of 3 are women. For associate professors it is about 1 out of 4, and for professors, 1 out of 6 is a woman.<sup>9</sup> The percentage of female professors at different universities in the Netherlands are displayed in graphic 4. The lowest percentage is found at the University of Wageningen, with only 7,6% in 2014. The Open University is on top of the list with 26,1%.<sup>10</sup> Since 2003, when the function ordering according to the UFO was introduced, the percentage of female professors increased at all universities in The Netherlands.

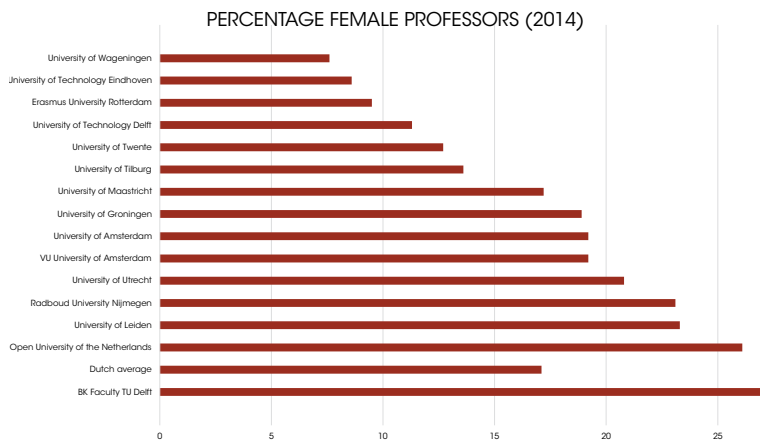
**Underrepresentation shown at the TU Delft and BK**

The TU Delft went from 3,1% female professors in 2003,<sup>11</sup> to 11,3% in 2014.<sup>12</sup> At our faculty we have 10 female professors to 37 male professors at the

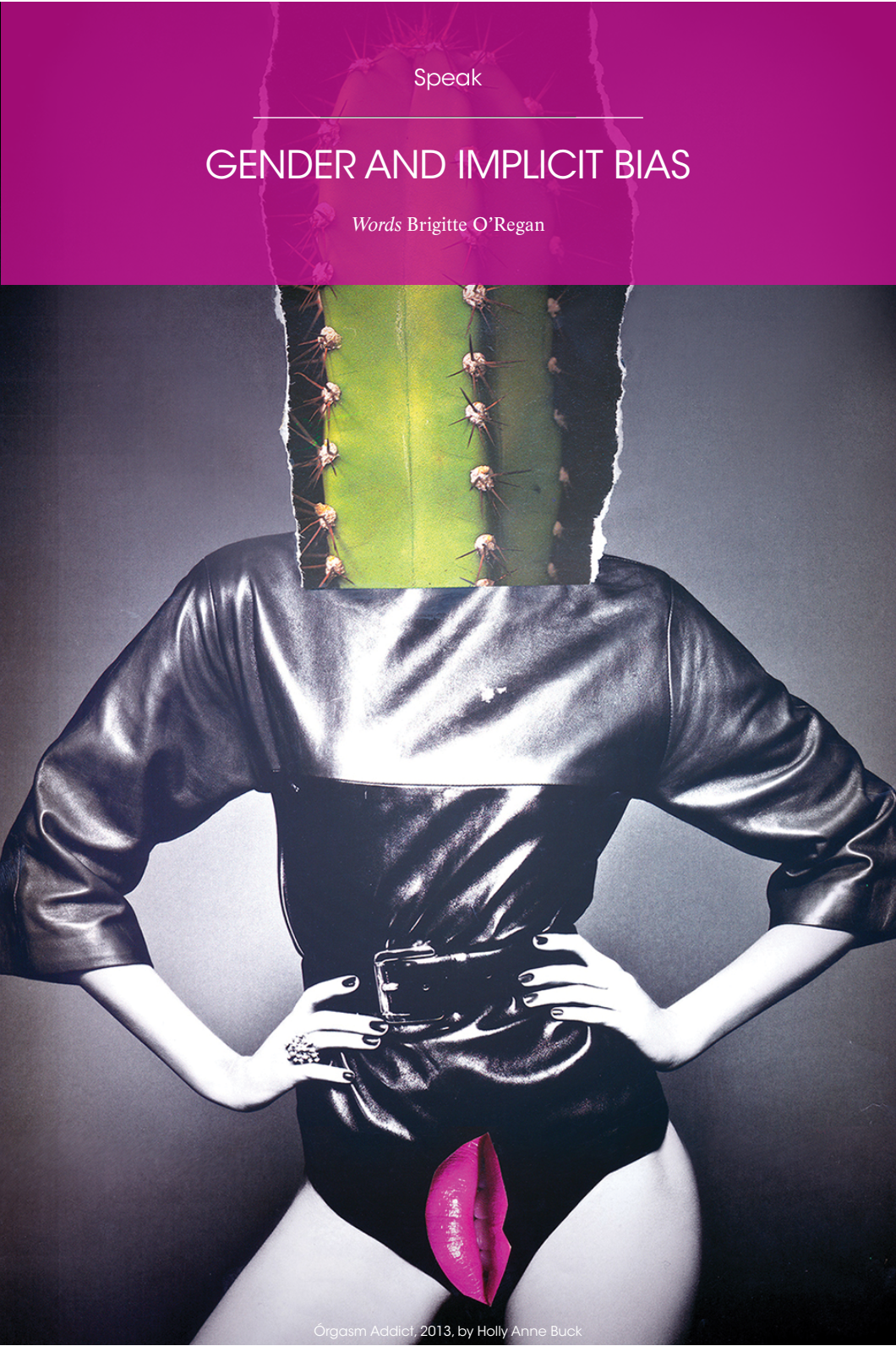
moment, which gives our faculty a 27% of female professors.<sup>13</sup> In 1975 the TU Delft only had 4% female students,<sup>14</sup> which has risen to 24% in 2014. And how is this at BK? From 32% female students in 2004 to 45% female student in 2014,<sup>15</sup> BK is the most women populated faculty at the TU Delft.

So we do see that the underrepresentation of women in the work field shows at our university. But the 50/50 female to male ratio we are used to having here at our faculty is not something that we will experience when we enter the work field in the near future. If you do not want to sit around and wait until the 50/50 ratio shows in the world of architecture, you can take action yourself to raise awareness. For example, you can find inspiration in the Athena's Angels. They recently replaced the 117/1 male to female ratio of the portraits in the Senate Chamber of the University of Leiden for a month with 99 portraits of women. With this action, the Athena's Angels want to raise attention for the importance of shaping opportunities for women in science.<sup>16</sup>

The sources for this article can be found on the online pages 36 - 37: [issuu.com/bnieuws](http://issuu.com/bnieuws)



Graphic 4.: Data retrieved from LNVH (2014) and TU Delft (2016).



Speak

GENDER AND IMPLICIT BIAS

Words Brigitte O'Regan

Orgasm Addict, 2013, by Holly Anne Buck

We know not what we do: sexism is pavlovian. Being (mis-) judged on sex alone, this article talks about gender and implicit bias, how it works, and what we can do.

Two years ago an open call went out to invite TU Delft architecture students to join in redeveloping old schools in Amsterdam Nieuw West. For me this was an exciting prospect, so I expressed my interest via email and showed up at the first meeting. Two men led the show, a practicing architect with his own small business, and a recent graduate as his assistant. The twelve student applicants who turned up were all women. Before anyone has a chance to introduce themselves the graduate assistant looks around at us like he is going to be sick, and remarks that he feels demoralized and disappointed that “only women” showed up. A little later he laughs, and cracks the joke trying to lighten the mood, “it must be because he is so attractive”, he says. The practicing architect also showed worry and disappointment about our gender, he certainly did nothing to refute his assistant’s comments and nods knowingly to show his agreement. They both look awkward and embarrassed. Before any student has a chance to breathe a word about their interests and qualifications the tone is set. It’s ‘only women’ so at the very least it is understood that the project now has less status than hoped for. Implicitly and explicitly we are told that we are worth less because of our sex and our sex alone. Woman or man. You are a strong person if you enter architecture education and manage to move past the first years. You have self-discipline and are highly motivated, you have to be. In my experience no woman wants to be valued on just being a woman or simply categorized that way. Personhood comes first, you want to be seen for yourself, the identity you choose, to be judged on your own merits, your differences, what you can do, and have achieved.

I wish the opening anecdote was the only time I had come across such prejudice and discrimination based on sex alone in my work experience and student life. I wish that it was just ‘me’ and not a broader problem. However, it is important to understand that this kind of discrimination happens even when people hold very strong egalitarian views. It can also be the case that people don’t even realize that negative discrimination is taking place, regardless of whether you are on the giving, or receiving end. Often, negative discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation is a result of unconsciously held ‘implicit biases’ (Jost, 2009; Saul, 2013). Implicit biases are strong in both women and men. Whether you want to recognize negative discrimination prevalent exists or not, it factually does, and it has very serious impact on the opportunities available to women, real wages in the professions women work in, and on how women are valued as people and as professionals.

Implicit biases are like unconscious habits, more like a bad posture than thinking. For instance, extensive psychological research shows that the exact same CV is much more likely to be judged as unsuitable if a female name appears on top (Steinpreis, 1999).

While funding and grant support for scientific research only reaches equitable distribution when the applications are made anonymous. This means that simply having a male name on the same report will make you more likely of being approved for funding (Wennerås, 1997). Also training in objectivity does not exempt you from bias, in fact it is proven that implicit bias increases when someone is primed for objectivity (Uhlmann, 2006). Despite some obvious physical differences, there is no neurological difference in the ability of men and women to think, reason, calculate and conceptualize (American Psychological Association, 2014; Fuentes, 2012; Mertz, 2011). However there remains an implicit, (and explicit) bias in most people to associate the fields of mathematics, science, engineering and architecture with men. There is now a wealth of qualified women with relevant education and work experience. However, the bias in favor of men still remains and this is directly reflected in the numbers of men and women in the field (Bouwnetwerk, 2006). Unequal pay for the same job still exists despite the legislation to prevent it. The higher up you go and the older you get, the greater the inequity of pay and representation (Smith, 2015). Tragically the effects of implicit, (and explicit) biases don’t stop there. When women start to be better represented in professions in which men previously dominated the entire real wage drops (Cain Miller, 2016)!

As such, with the growing number of women qualifying in our profession, I think we in the field of Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences should be on high alert. Tackling implicit bias is crucial now to improving the status of the profession as a whole. And it could be instrumental in putting a definitive end to the crisis of legitimacy architecture is experiencing in terms of remuneration along with social and inter-professional standing. When the talent and potential of women is allowed to truly evolve professionally our field as a whole will have also gained resilience through diversity and inclusion.

So what can we do? First we can look at how other professions and nations are dealing with implicit bias and learn from their success. We can conduct research into inequity in our own field [see page 06, red.], learn how implicit bias works and invent smart, specific solutions. As individuals, we can try to catch ourselves out, by self-educating and becoming conscious of negative stereotypes and implicit biases. We can show positive role models in our work and learning environments, in class materials and in the media. We can make sure we honor and represent work from groups that are usually overlooked. We can engage more bias conscious female and male mentors, and include anonymous screening processes wherever possible. We can approach all the professional organizations, institutions and businesses in the Netherlands and ask them to do the same. There is so much we as a culture, profession and a society have been able to achieve, we can certainly do this too.

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Brigitte O’Regan is a MSc student at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment and former editor of *Bnieuws*.

The sources for this article can be found on the online pages 36 - 37: [issuu.com/bnieuws](http://issuu.com/bnieuws)

## ISSUES

Words Piergianna Mazzocca

I am a female architect from Venezuela and when I saw the opportunity to contribute to this issue, I decided to take it. Firstly because of the theme: Gender Issues. Secondly because of the explanation for this choice: "The bachelor in Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences has an approximate 50/50 male/female ratio." Thirdly because one year and a half ago coming to Delft to undertake a postgraduate master at The Berlage and happy to leave a country where female architects can say a thing or two about gender gaps, I thought such things will not be an issue. In this text I am explaining each of these reasons one by one, ending with some questions that hopefully will find echo in some of you.

The Gender Issues are in fact an *issue*. I come from a country where the majority of students in the Faculty of Architecture are women, however after graduating, only few practice the profession. The ones that do so get a considerable amount of mansplaining in the construction site or during client meetings, from construction workers or colleagues. I know so, I have had my own share of it. That is why I can recognise a patronising tone, why I immediately jump out of my seat to make people notice, and why I count (always count) the amount of women in situations where I expect them to be present. Because of my counting obsession I immediately notice the 50/50 ratio.

Let me break the news to you, a 50/50 ratio only guarantees one thing, and one thing only: as much as good and bad architecture will continue to be built. Because in the end, it is not about how much women or men build, the fact is that "the world of architecture" should not be measured by ratios but rather by the quality of the work produced. However, I am not implying that there should not be equal representation in architecture –in academia, lectures, a panel of examiners etc. Because yes, it does matter. Is it not academically and intellectually rigorous to have as much diversity of opinions as possible? Is not a problem of representation a concern for architects?

And not without a tiny bit of bitterness I interpret the use of this ratio as a pad in the shoulder by a well intentioned fool. Its use somehow makes it easy for someone to avoid talking about gender – or race or power or privilege, or any other kind of subject that for some may be a matter of discomfort. These things must be talked about. I have many times encountered myself trying to explain the differences I see to someone who refuses to acknowledge divisions. What do I say to someone who, by repeating this ratio, declares the issue solved and ignores the ongoing struggles that still exist?

For me, this is a deliberate act to ignore history.

Continuing this, I enter my third point. There are in fact many ongoing struggles. One of the first differences I encountered here compared to Venezuela was that the gender gap wasn't as obvious and as evident as in my home country. Most of the time it was hidden between an uneven representation of women in an examination board or in a lecture series and in the amount of times cars were used as allegories to something that resembles architecture (for me cars are cars, buildings are buildings). In one occasion a female student-colleague was advised to tone down her very critical, cynical, and humorous project. Because I found out that a woman can be critical, but not too much! A woman can be cynical, but not too much! A woman can use humour, but not too much! Otherwise she will upset her all-men-panel of examiners. But then don't we admire male architects when they are critical, cynical and humorous? Even consider them brilliant? Which is something I consider my friend to be.

Let me finish with one last thing. One of the most amazing things I learnt in my postgraduate studies was precisely on the day of that all-men-panel. When asked about what my project is about, I answered: "My project seeks to raise questions. For example, why is there no woman in this panel?" After a disastrous examination, a tutor tells me a very valuable thing: "the best way to talk about these things, given that you are after all an architect, is through architecture."

That is why I wish to end raising three questions: What are the spatial forms of these differences, of these issues, that we as architects keep perpetuating? Is there something that architects can do in order to answer these questions? Or better, for once and for all go all in for equal representation?

This is what drives my intellect, not car fantasies.

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Piergianna Mazzocca is an architect and graduate of The Berlage.



# GENDER BIAS SURVEY

By Lotte Dijkstra & Kseniya Otmakhova

To further explore the topic of gender issues at BK City, Bnieuws approached several teachers, tutors, and professors. Most of the approached staff did not feel it was their place to give an opinion on the matter. However, we found three people willing to answer some of our questions on gender issues at the faculty.

## **Donya Ahmadi**

*PhD-student OTB*

### **Gender Bias at the Faculty**

“Gender bias is oh-so-present in this faculty, in TU Delft and in Dutch academia as a whole. For starters, look at who occupies the highest ranks in academia (read: very male and very pale). I’m sure DEWIS [Delft Women In Science, see page 30, red.] will be happy to provide you with TU Delft stats, should you wish to obtain them. I also do not think we should be talking about gender without acknowledging how much religious, cultural and ethnical background (among many others) impact how we are perceived in the academic environment (by our superiors, by colleagues, fellow academics and even students) and how our competence is judged.”

### **Is This a Bad Thing?**

“Yes, because it is a bias. Because it is unjust and it helps keep in place structures of oppression in wider society (hetero-sexism, racism, and Islamophobia to name a few). And on a personal, every-day level, it is dehumanizing and incredibly consuming to work in an environment where you constantly feel like you’re perceived as incompetent, as too weak, too emotional, too ‘subjective’ to be taken seriously. There’ve been wonderful contributions on this subject by feminist intellectuals in the Netherlands like Philomena Essed, Gloria Wekker (UU), Halleh Ghoreishi (VU).”

### **What is the Meaning of Gender?**

“First and foremost, gender is a construct. It is acquired (as it is performed). Now I am by no means signalling that there are no biological differences (as there are and it is crucial not to erase them) but they need not define our positions in society in the way they currently do. The positioning of women in society as inferior and as weak (as that of people of color, of the disabled, of transsexual people, of the poor or more likely the intersection of some or all of these) is a result of structures of powers created, maintained and promoted by systems such as hetero-patriarchy, class-elitism, and

neo-colonialism. Also when we talk about gender as a dichotomy (as opposed to a spectrum) we erase a large group of our students, our colleagues, our loved-ones who are not of one gender or the other, who by birth or by choice do not fit in any particular box and as a result are subject to violence on a daily level in and outside of the academic environment. The problem is systemic, let’s acknowledge and talk about it as such.”

## **Carola Hein**

*Professor History of Architecture & Urban Planning*

“Walking the corridors of our beautiful building, we encounter portraits of numerous architects. While their names are not listed near the panels, it is evident that most of them are male. Similarly, the names of architects on the walls near the library are male and we can guess that most authors of our famous chair collection are equally male. Exploring the history of architecture as it is taught in books and lectures, provides a similar picture that is only starting to change in the early 20th century. Women studied at the Bauhaus and became well-known. Grete Schuette-Lihotzky designed the Frankfurt kitchen. Often, women architects who rose to global fame were part of a “power couple”: while Denise Scott-Brown always emphasizes her own contributions, her name is closely associated with that of her husband Robert Venturi. Similarly, the husband and wife leaders of New Urbanism, Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberg are often named together. Some women have risen to global fame, the recently deceased Zaha Hadid is certainly among them and some of them are praised in books and articles. Gender balance seems to have been achieved in the student population at Julianalaan 134, but that is not the case among the faculty, which has fewer female than male professors. So, it remains important for students at the faculty to reflect upon the role of women as architects, as patrons, as engineers and to ponder how women are received on the building site or in the architectural office or in the studio and whether gender matters and to actively promote gender balance.”

## **Robert Nottrot**

*Coordinator & Teacher Explore Lab*

### **Gender Bias at the Faculty**

“The entirety of our existence is based on perceiving differences, the relativity of all things. Our senses aren’t capable to observe absolutely, but only determine differences. Somewhat colder or warmer, faraway or close by, heavy or light, etcetera. Something is different. These differences are approached in an objective, critical, comical or hateful manner. Difference can be either alluring or repulsive. Difference can cause changes in our behaviour both unconsciously and consciously. The physical and mental state of transmitters and receivers codetermine how one deals with the differences.

Sexism is the way of evaluating someone based on their gender. Feminism is a movement that critically perceives inequality between men and women. Feminism is the response to sexism, but it can also provoke sexism. I think that gender bias occurs everywhere, therefore also at our faculty. Presumably only in a subtle way, since distressing cases barely come to my attention. The situation where a female student, bothered by physical and/or mental instability, breaks down in tears and thereupon tempts a male teacher to paternal or protective treatment, isn't unimaginable. The other way around, male students who appeal to maternal feelings of women, could be imaginable. How much this actually conduces to unequal treatment, is hard to determine. And the fact that I introduce these examples is maybe a little suspicious. These cases can also occur at the workspace between the employees and employers.

I hope and assume that evident, unfair, unequal treatment in our faculty will come to light and will be rectified. I, as a coordinator of the BSc3, once didn't include a teacher in the team anymore, after complaints from teachers and students about sexist remarks. However, this same teacher was praised and beloved by other people. I'm uncertain about the smaller nuances. For example, does a 'skin showing dress' influence the grade of a graduate? And who is to blame? The girl that possibly deliberately chose to wear that dress? The teacher that takes offence at it? What is the influence of a headscarf? Or presenting with your hands in your pockets?"

#### Is that Worrisome?

"There's always unequal treatment. Not only between different genders, but also between people in general. This isn't alarming, as long as it's due to the differences in knowledge and science. The fact that we're aware of difference is the foundation whereupon we make our choices. It goes wrong when difference in quality is connected with

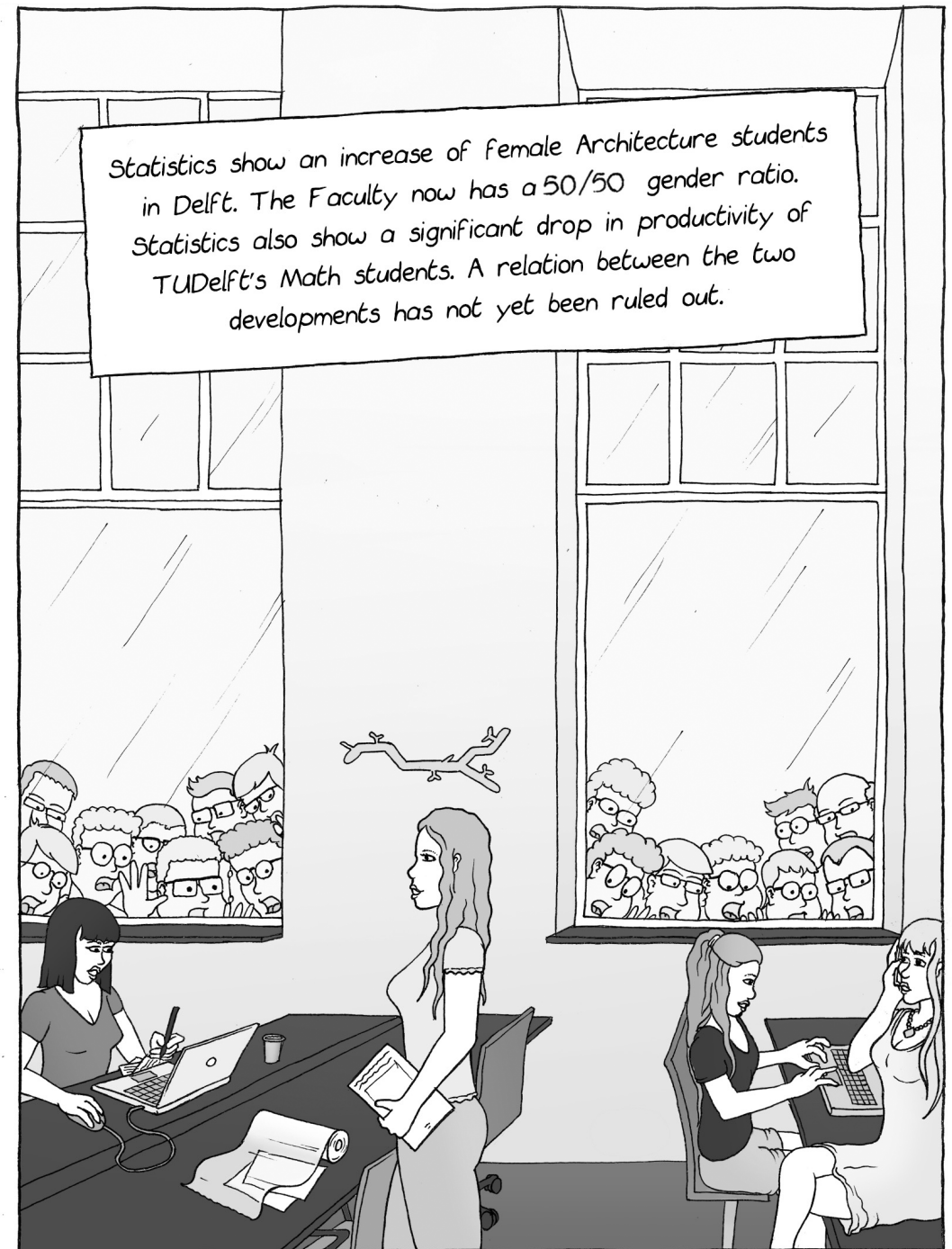
prejudice, fear or facts that aren't relevant. No human is the same. In what degree people in general have female or male characteristics, is varied and can't be naturally seen in one's physical appearance."

#### Differences Between Men and Women

"Many things are said about the differences between men and women in the world of architecture. Women would be more precise and have more discipline, while men would want more spectacle. Moreover, there are many rumours about our homophilic colleagues and students. I claim that if we would only look at the qualities, then we should give all qualities in our work field a place. If we want that architecture connects with the residents of our products, then it seems logical that the creators of these products are, to a certain extent, a representation or reflection of the diversity of the residents."

# 50/50

JAMAL VAN KASTEL



# WHO INSPIRES YOU?

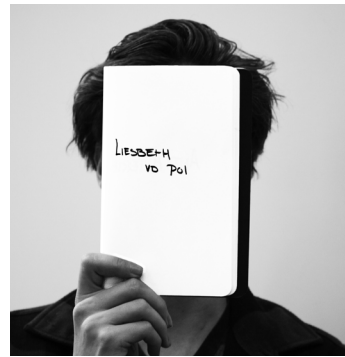
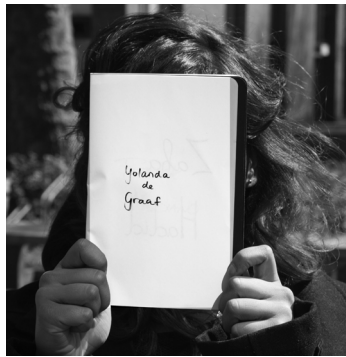
Words & Images Catherine Koekoek & Charlotte Ros

Various articles claim that the lack of female role models is damaging for the career success of women and girls [see page 6, 30, red.]. In search for female role models, we asked the people of our faculty: who inspires you?

Expecting more male than female inspirators, the received answers were surprisingly egalitarian. Notable were the large number of inspiring mothers, the high rate of personal rather than intellectual inspirators, and the relatively small number of architects mentioned. Of course, the answers we received are partly influenced by our choice of interviewees. We did not interview the men in suits

from the real estate career day for example, although it might have been an interesting opportunity.

All in all, asking people about their inspirations proved to be an inspiring exercise. Carrying on this conversation is highly recommended. Let's start by asking: who inspires you?



## Cherryl

Jolanda de Graaf is Cherryl's boyfriend's mother and has an important job in healthcare, even though you would not say so at first sight. She has fought hard to get this far, which inspires Cherryl: "In Real Estate, I not only have to prove myself because of my age, but also because I'm a 'girl'. Once they asked if I was there to serve the coffee, just because I was the only woman in the room."

## Davoudi

After explaining what makes the active pessimist Elon Musk so inspiring, Davoudi quickly told us women are equally inspirational when we mentioned the gender issues topic. "Lina Bo Bardi is a pure humanist. Her work is not about a brand, but about pure social improvement. This is not about gender: she is really inspirational in general!"

## Ciro

Upon our question 'who inspires you?', Ciro mentioned Liesbeth van der Pol, architect and owner of Dok Architecten. "She is a leading woman within the Dutch practice of architecture. Also, I have never been as intimidated by someone I work for." We did not mention the gender issues theme beforehand.



## Jani

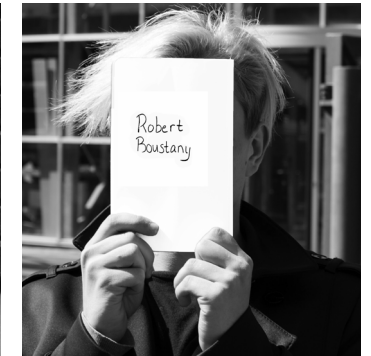
Five years ago Jani's best buddy, Christoffer van Tongeren, died after a period of illness. Despite knowing he only had a short time to live, Christoffer never gave up and did everything he could to live his life to the fullest. He showed Jani what is important in life, just like his grandmother did (an adventurous artist with an epic life). Ask Jani for the full story!



## Veerle

Although it is interesting to talk about your inspirations, the answer was not so easy for everyone we met. "Should it be an architect?" Writers are Veerle's main inspirators: Patrick Modiano for example.

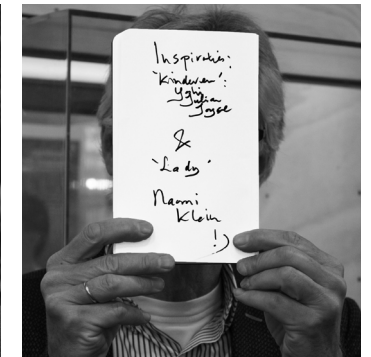
"I don't know any female writers who inspire me. Not that I mind, it just happened to be this way."



## Martijn

"Robert Boustany, my yoga teacher, is the living proof that your body does not have to fall into decay after 60 years. You are never too old to learn."

Martijn himself teaches yoga lessons as well, you can join BK Relax for one of his classes every Tuesday from 12:45-13:30, Room C.



## Doriene & Sophie

Doriene and Sophie honestly admitted that they are not inspired by anybody. If they need references, they just google for new inspirations.

We have found more people responding this way. "We just don't really have a role model, or someone who inspires us. Is that a bad thing?" Good question!

## Gawein

We asked Gawein whom he considers inspirational and he answered Fresku [the Dutch rapper]: "He tells me how to deal with life and how to fulfill your role as a man." What does it mean to fulfill your role as a man? "To stand for what you believe in. Not to wait for happiness to find you, but to work hard towards your dreams." We agreed that this might not only be a man's role to play.

## Jack

Many students were inspired by their parents (especially mothers) but Jack named his children: "One is a musician, the other filmmaker and the third a teacher. Their creativity, energy and uniqueness is what I find inspiring." Asking for female role models, he mentioned his wife, and Naomi Klein. "She addresses the madness of today's world, in a critical but constructive way."

# REBELLIOUS POSTER

Words Het Grijze Ei

Image Anonymous

On April 25, a rebellious student spread the satirical poster below throughout BK City, informing the Faculty about some supposed habits of six heads of Chairs. We find it refreshing to see this critical reflection on the quality of education at this top-ranked university.

## WHICH STUDIO WILL YOU CHOOSE? (OR WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR?)

COMPLEX PROJECTS

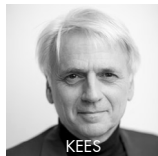
THE WHY FACTORY

DWELLING

PUBLIC BUILDING

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

HYPERBODY



KEES

MAKE BOOKLETS FOR MY FIRM. COLLECT PIE CHARTS, GRAPHS, TIME LINES AND MAKE THEM LOOK NICE SO THAT I CAN USE IT TO PORTRAY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT COUNTRIES AND CITIES THAT I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE ABOUT.

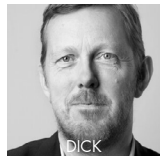
THE STUDIO COMES WITH A NICE VACATION...YOU SEE, I MUST MAINTAIN A TAN.



WINNY

ALSO MAKE BOOKLETS FOR ME. IMAGINE FAR-FETCHED FUTURES THROUGH THOUGHTEXPERIMENTS FOR THE SAKE OF DOING THOUGHTEXPERIMENTS, NOT FOR THE FUTURE. COMBINE ELEMENTS OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT THAT DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER AND MAKE IT LOOK NICE.

IF YOU CHOOSE REALLY NICE COLORS FOR YOUR GRAPHICS, I CAN GIVE YOU AN INTERN SALARY TO DO THE SAME WORK IN MY OFFICE. LAST BUT NOT LEAST: DO NOT FORGET THE TOMATO'S ON THE CEILING.



DICK

I WILL COME IN THE LAST DAY OF STUDIO TO GIVE YOU A GRADE AND TALK ABOUT SOMETHING UNRELATED.

SHOW REFERENCES FOR EVERY ARGUMENT, BECAUSE TRYING OUT NEW IDEAS IS FOR FOOLS. YOU KNOW WHAT? LET'S JUST TALK ABOUT VILLA 4.0 OR THE DUTCH EMBASSY IN ETHIOPIA.



MICHEL

I AM NOT COMING IN, NOR AM I INTERESTED IN YOUR WORK.

DO NOT DISTURB, CALL OR E-MAIL ME ON FRIDAYS! THE OFFICE IS CLOSED TOO!



TOM

I WILL INVITE HIGH PROFILE ARCHITECTS WHOM'S WORK YOU HAVE TO WORSHIP AND IMITATE FOR A WHOLE SEMESTER. TAKING THIS STUDIO IS LIKE GETTING ON A PLANE THAT NEVER LANDS.

PROJECTS IN THE REAL WORLD ARE OVERRATED. WORDS ARE GOING TO SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS. REALM. COMMON. RETROACTIVE. VIS A VIS. JUST MAKE...SOMETHING!



KAS

DJING IN ARCHITECTURE. PUT TOGETHER SOME SOUNDS AND LET THOSE GRASSHOPPER SLIDERS GO CRAZY.

WHATEVER. NO-ONE EVER LISTENS TO ME AND I AM ALMOST RETIRED!

ALSO: DO NOT FORGET TO ENROLL FOR THE MANDATORY COURSES! WATCH LECTURES THAT DO NOT RELATE TO THE MATERIAL AND THEN LEARN THE TESTS OF THE PREVIOUS YEARS BY HEART. WE ALL RECYCLE!

Is this action just an outburst of personal frustration, or can one find truth in these observations? What about the other studios? Why are all these professors white and male? What do the heads of chairs think about the comments in the poster? Let's debate and find out!

We dare the heads of chairs to respond in next Bnieuws. Students, teachers, and professors, please feel free to share your thoughts with us as well.

hetgrijzeei@gmail.com



“The door handle is the handshake of a building.”  
- Juhani Pallasmaa



Zaha Hadid

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## NOT YOUR DIVA

*Words Daphne Bakker*

The sudden death of Zaha Hadid has left the world of architecture reeling. She had such a dominant presence, that it will be a long and painful process to accept the fact that she is no longer among us. There simply wasn't any other architect of her stature, she was a larger-than-life personality.

She was a contradiction in many ways: an Iraqi-born woman in a profession that has traditionally privileged white men, and a visionary in a field that is built on compromising one's ideals. She was honored with architecture's highest honors – a Pritzker Prize and a gold medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects – and received commissions from all over the world. However, she was also guilty of architecture's vices: a signature style so uncompromising that it required massive amounts of material, manpower and capital to realize.

If controversy seemed like an integral part of her life as an architect, it's because her designs are inherently dramatic. Smooth undulating curves and sharp edges with jut out into space, her architecture suggested motion - it was never static. She once explained her idiosyncratic designs thusly "People think that the most appropriate building is a rectangle, but the world is not a rectangle."

Hadid should have lived a couple more decades in which to challenge us with new shapes and with her dazzling intellect. Instead she passed away during the peak of her career and we can only wonder what she had in store for us.

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# ZAHA HADID

Words Susanne Komossa & Martin Aarts

Zaha Hadid passed away March 31, only 65 years old. This is much too early considering the fact that she started building around the age of 50.

Zaha and the Faculteit Bouwkunde will always be connected since Rem Koolhaas introduced her there during the late 70's. At that time he taught at the Architectural Association (AA) in London and at the Delft Faculty of Architecture, where the history department, Jan van Geest had offered him the opportunity to lecture on his book *Delirious New York*, which just had been published.

We, as students, first met Zaha while she presented her graduation project 'Malevitch's tektonic' at the AA - Rem had invited us for an excursion to London and visit the AA to see his 'Arabian Princess', i.e. Zaha. Her work, especially her drawings were absolutely beautiful. Her approach was radical and so was she. In fact already then, she was a legend. There was no doubt about that in the way in which she presented her final project. See the illustration Madelon Vriesendorp's 'Sketch for Zaha' depicting Zaha with her final project.

After graduation, in 1983, she won the Peak of Hongkong Competition with a Design for a hotel and leisure club. We had never seen such architecture before; her work and drawings had become even more stunning. After being notified as a price winner, she laconically commented 'I wonder if they still want me when they see me'.

Subsequently, during the 80's and 90's Zaha regularly visited Delft. If we remember correctly, she also lectured within the Stylos lecture series in front of a completely packed lecture Hall A of the former faculty building. The Stylos lectures were absolutely famous, here also Peter Eisenman presented his analysis of Casa del Fascio by Terragni and vehemently commented on the work of Peter and Alison Smithson.

Later on, during the 90's Zaha arrived as a visiting critic, for example in the Delft Gender Studies MSc 1 Design Project. In this project usually women architects were invited to reflect upon students' work and we recall her leaning back vis-à-vis Jacob van Rijs' project, who later was co-founder of MVRDV, commenting 'I see some talent here...'. Probably this is what it is all about, Zaha had an extra-ordinary talent for drawing and architectural design. Madelon Vriesendorp painted 'Zaha', showing her in the year after her graduation in a De Chirico like way with the tools of an architect in her hands and after she had conquered a dull high rise tower, which lies on its side. With other words, she did not only refuse architectural conventions but in addition, to make any kind of concession.

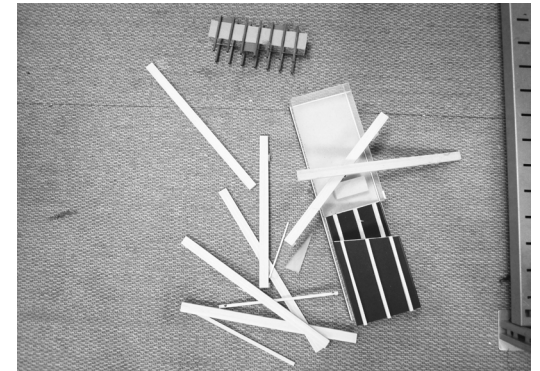
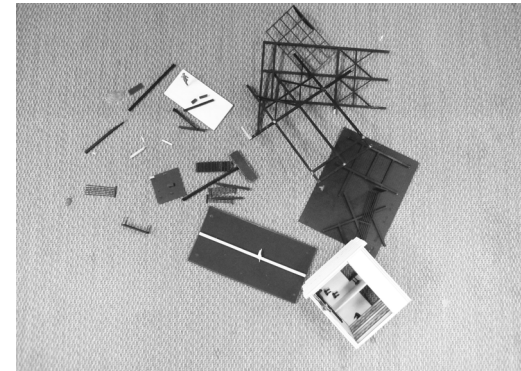
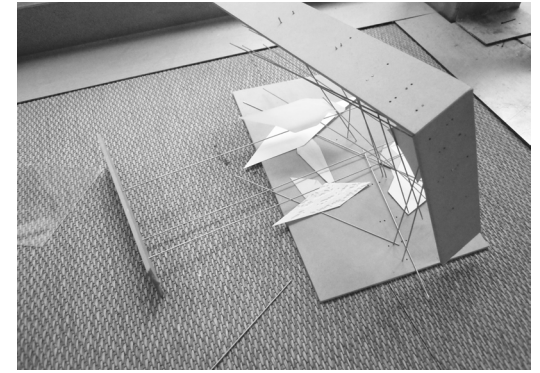
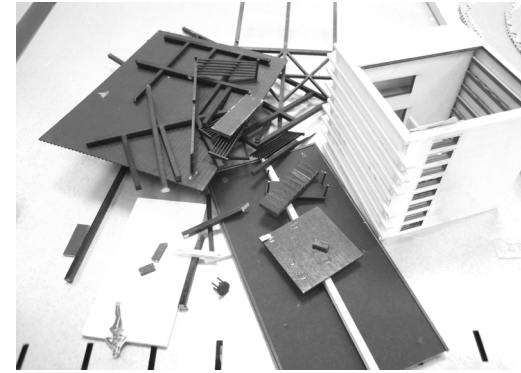
Notwithstanding the lack of commissions to build, she conceived her architectural work with utmost precision and patience. As a consequence, she remained largely a paper architect before her 50th birthday. However, as a so-called paper architect, she was able to build a complete, significant architectural oeuvre. Finally, it needed a Pritzker Prize to gain enough trust and reputation to be commissioned buildings and, after 2004 she was able to realize a vast number of projects till today. This has been way too short: we have really lost some talent here...



Speak

# DE GITZWARTE KANT VAN BK BEATS

Door Peter Koorstra

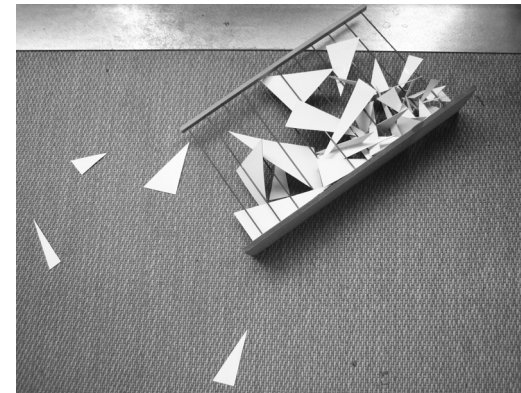


## “WIJ NOEMEN DIT: RESPECTLOOS”

Tijdens het recente BK Beats [vrijdag 22 april] zijn er op de entresol oost in de Zuidserre vernielingen aangericht. Prachtige werkstukken van studenten die klaar stonden om geëxposeerd te worden zijn opzettelijk met veel geweld vernield.

Onbegrijpelijk en respectloos. De foto's spreken in dit geval boekdelen.

Wil je helpen de schade te herstellen? Neem dan contact op met de afdeling Vormstudie!



Artifact

## EVERYTHING IS BLUE

By Roberto Rocco

As you undoubtedly know, cities are made of much more than buildings and infrastructures. People make cities, but cities have a strange way to shape people as well. Cities are gigantic and complex artifacts made up of other smaller artifacts and the stories attached to them.

Cities are artifacts to which we attach stories and meanings, as Italo Calvino illustrated in his magnificent book “Invisible Cities” (1972). The point of Calvino’s Invisible Cities is to show that cities are made of several layers of meaning attached to artifacts and stories. One of the artifacts that are omnipresent in Dutch cities is the Albert Heijn plastic bag with its special brand of blue and its recognizable logo.

Perhaps you can’t see anything much “urban” in an Albert Heijn bag, but what I see is an object that has an extraordinary visibility and life in the public and private spheres of our lives in The Netherlands, and an artifact that adorns many of the stories of my life in this country. From the bags that I fill with garbage, to the bags that I fill with bottles of wine to take to parties, on to the bags I fill with clothes for refugees. Not to mention the covers for my bicycle seats. They are also the bags I always forget when I actually go to the supermarket and have to pay 25 cents for a new one.

Few other daily artifacts symbolize the prosperity and the middle-class solidity of this country so well. But this has a price. According to the Earth Policy Institute, over 1 trillion plastic bags are used every year worldwide (2 million per minute), generating a tremendous threat to the environment. 80% of those bags are used in Europe and North America.

I agree it is difficult to create an emotional bond to a plastic bag, but every time I arrive at Schiphol airport, the sight of Albert Heijn bags everywhere soothes me into believing I am back in The Netherlands, maybe back INTO The Netherlands, with its wonderful order, comforting homogeneity and its optimistic faith in progress.

Roberto nominates Robert Nottrot as Artifact’s next contributor.





# OOPS, AN ALL-MALE PANEL

Words Delta; Roberto Rocco Images Jane Jacobs 100 Conference

Speak of the devil: when Brieuws addresses gender issues at the Faculty, Tumblr-page 'Congrats, you have an all-male panel' has chosen to highlight the absence of female keynote speakers for the Jane Jacobs 100 Conference. Coincidence? Or might there be a larger issue at hand in the entire academic field? Whichever is the case, our colleagues from Delta reported on the issue and were kind enough to let us republish their piece. Roberto Rocco, one of the organizers of the conference, wrote an explanation on the origins of their all-male panel, the implications, and their search for solutions.

## Delta

*Independent Student Newspaper of the Technical University Delft*

The conference is to be held May 24 - 25 in the TU Delft Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment (BK). It will celebrate the contributions of renowned urban thinker Jane Jacobs, and all four of the key-note speakers are men - although women may submit an abstract, and pay for the privilege of presenting. The conference claims to celebrate her legacy and relevance in the 21st century, however the Tumblr post questions whether her legacy really consists of all-male experts. Professor Marja Elsinga, chair of Delft Women in Science (DEWIS) and professor at BK called this panel "a bit embarrassing". Dr. Saara Särmä, feminist researcher and founder of the Tumblr which featured the conference told Delta that a conference celebrating the legacy of a woman with an all-male panel shows that "something has gone terribly wrong".

Could it be that there is a dearth of qualified female academics? Simply put; no. Särmä explains that there are "plenty of talented and qualified women whose work and experience is not recognized". Elsinga believes this often happens when organisers, often male, invite their colleagues or 'known' experts, also often male. She spoke about how people's unconscious biases (the implicit assumptions made based on one's gender), a topic discussed at the DEWIS symposium earlier this year, may play into this. Särmä also refers to our gendered notions of expertise, stating, "I like to draw from Sara Ahmed's arguments and claim that expertise seems to 'stick' to the body of middle aged (and older) white men and slip away from the rest of us." She emphasizes that no-one, herself included, is immune to internalised assumptions about gender however this type of thinking needs to be addressed and challenged to allow any real change.

Both women firmly believe in the importance of having women represented at such events not only to recognize their achievements, but because of the message it sends other women. Särmä believes all-male panels send out the message to women that "you are not welcome in this space and your work does not count". Elsinga also told Delta that having women represented at events encourages female students, PhDs and junior staff members to think "well, I can also do it!" Elsinga believes discourse on campus around the issue could help stimulate change, and Särmä said, "We need to see beyond the usual and broaden our notions of whose expertise counts."

This article was previously published in Delta on April 28, 2016: [delta.tudelft.nl/article/the-notorious-all-male-panel-come-to-tu-delft/31542](http://delta.tudelft.nl/article/the-notorious-all-male-panel-come-to-tu-delft/31542)

## Roberto Rocco

*Assistant Professor Spatial Planning & Strategy,  
Department of Urbanism;  
Co-organizer of the Jane Jacobs 100 Conference*

American-based website "Congrats, you have an all-male panel!"<sup>1</sup> has recently shamed the "Jane Jacobs 100" Conference, to be held at BK on May 24-25<sup>2</sup>, for having only men among its keynote speakers.

The website documents "all-male panels, seminars, events, and various other things featuring all male experts". Their goal is to shame a male-dominated academic world into accepting that there is an absurd gender bias. "Experts" are often Western, white, Christian, middle-aged males. Women and others who do not fit the mould are often expediently relegated to the background and "invited to pay high fees for the privilege to listen to those experts".

How very embarrassing that Jane Jacobs, the woman who gave one of the most important contributions to

urban studies in the 20th century, should be celebrated in a conference featuring four white middle-aged men as keynote speakers.

Jacobs was denigrated as a "housewife" and told to go back to the kitchen by Robert Moses, the idealizer of New York's freeways and parkways, notorious destroyer of neighborhoods and builder of racist bridges, Jacobs's nemesis. Without ever being elected for public office, Moses reigned over New York's urban planning for several decades. He frequently relied on "assertions of expert knowledge unavailable to the general public and the skillful manipulation of civic processes"<sup>3</sup> to achieve his goals.

'Expert knowledge' is certainly important, but it often fails to recognize the knowledge of those who are not entitled to have a voice: women, children, the elderly, gays, blacks, and others who have 'alternative' ways of looking at the world.

As it turns out, the website is completely right to shame the conference. Yes, I would know, since I am one of the organizers. Let me explain why I think they are right.

The shaming is both a political act and a practical one: it forces us to review our attitudes, our ingrained biases and to act upon them.

## "PUBLIC SHAMING IS A WAY TO STIR PEOPLE INTO ACTION"

Being one of the conference organizers,<sup>4</sup> I know we did our best to find women speakers. We had a list of potential speakers, which included a number of women. We also made a widely publicized call for ideas. We hoped for speakers to present themselves or to be named by others. Admittedly, few female names came forward. The names on our list were all unavailable for the dates of the conference. But these



## Track leaders

### Track 1: Jane Jacobs, ethics, and the just city



**Dr. Claudia Basta is senior Assistant Professor at Wageningen University.**

Claudia Basta is co-chair of the Thematic Group 'Ethics, Values and Planning' of the European Association of Schools of Planning (AESOP) and member of the Human Development and Capabilities Association (HDCA) of Nobel Prize laureate Amartya Sen. Her main interests gravitate around planning theory in relation to the themes of social (in)equality, social justice, and the relation between urban spaces and human capabilities. She is the Editor of *Ethics, Design and Planning of the Built Environment* (with Moroni S., 2013, Springer) and of numerous contributions on the ethics of spatial planning.



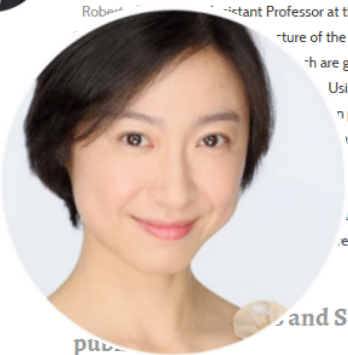
**Dr. Thomas Hartmann is Assistant Professor at Utrecht University.**

Dr. Thomas Hartmann is assistant professor at the Dept. H Spatial Planning of Utrecht University. One of his focal areas is a specialisation in aspects of justice and ethics in the city. He is affiliated with the Czech Jan Evangelista Purkyně University (JEP) in Brno and he was in 2015/2016 guest professor at the University of Geography and Regional Research, where he taught on "Justice in



**Dr. Roberto Rocco is Senior Assistant Professor at the Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft.**

Roberto Rocco is Assistant Professor at the Section of Spatial Planning and Architecture of the Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. His research interests are governance, social sustainability and urban planning. Using those concepts as frameworks, he has published on urban planning processes in the developing world and is currently editing the "Routledge Handbook on Urban Planning". 10 cases around the world are analyzed by Roberto Rocco. Informal urbanization influences access to public spaces. He holds a Master in Urban Planning by the University of Delft and a regional planning by the TU Delft. More information on his research can be found on his website.



**Dr. Agustina Martire is lecturer in Architecture at Queen's University Belfast (QUB).**

Agustina has studied architecture at the Universidad de Buenos Aires. She is specialised in urban history and theory. She received her PhD at TU Delft on the history of Urban Leisure Waterfronts and has worked as a post-doctoral researcher in UCD Dublin. She is currently leading an international project on the analysis of streets as public spaces, from a multidisciplinary perspective, which sheds light on the way urban spaces are used and represented. She runs a design studio unit in MArch



internal organizational issues are irrelevant in the bigger picture. Nobody is interested in excuses.

The problem is not only our lack of insight. Despite our good intentions (for as they say, the road to hell is paved with them), gender bias is a structural problem. It is real and it affects us deeply. Public shaming is a way to stir people into action. It certainly woke us up and taught us a lesson. Public shaming is a valid strategy to assert an agenda of political correctness.

Of course the public shaming annoyed me. Political correctness is 'annoying', because it always gets us by surprise and it often does not make sense to us in view of the image we have of ourselves. It is supremely difficult to put yourself in someone else's shoes and to understand the hurdles they face in their daily lives. Bias is often ingrained in the way we see the world. Few people consider themselves racist, yet structural racism is everywhere. How is it possible?

Despite being annoyed by it, I am a great believer in political correctness. Political correctness saved my life. As a gay man growing up in macho-dominated Latin America, the language of political correctness gave me the tools to defend myself and to face abuse with dignity. Yes, I have just used the "Latin American gay card" and I am sure you find that slightly annoying and opportunistic.

Only for me this is not a 'card'. This is who I am. Despite being privileged in many other areas, I know the snags of my own identity. Often, when I have told others about those snags, they thought I was moaning. Nobody likes a moaner, so of course I shut up. That is what women, ethnic minorities, religious minorities, LGBT people often do (even in tolerant Holland). They shut up because they do not want to be seen as troublemakers, whiners, or opportunists. What is even worse: they often identify themselves with the dominant discourse. Some people think they are hold back because of their own limitations. They do not see the structural biases and may even criticize

those who do. But when those who feel hold back by bias do speak up, those at the top of the food chain often do not believe them or think they are annoying.

That is why strategies like public shaming are valid and necessary. They shake us up against our will and shed light on our invisible biases.

It is widely recognized that there is a gender bias in academia, and TU Delft has been doing a lot towards correcting it. Yet some morons still organize international conferences that don't feature women among their keynote speakers.

I am not trying to deflect attention from my own mistakes. I am trying to put them in perspective and into context. I apologize unreservedly for having an all-male panel in this conference. We are currently trying to correct our mistake. I do hope that we can still celebrate Jane Jacobs, an amazing woman who contributed so much for our understanding of our cities.

I am utterly happy biases are finally being discussed in a serious and passionate way in our faculty. And I am pretty sure no one will dare to organize any conference with an all-male panel in this faculty ever again.

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You can still register for the Jane Jacobs 100 Conference on May 24 - 25. For an overview of all speakers, including the few women, visit [janejacobs100.co](http://janejacobs100.co)

The sources for this article can be found on the online pages 36 - 37: [issuu.com/bnieuws](http://issuu.com/bnieuws)

# EXPERIENCING ENGLISH LANDSCAPES

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From April 10 to April 15, 2016, the master track Landscape Architecture organized a 6-day long fieldtrip to England. Places visited ranged from London to Heligan, almost the whole of south Britain, and contained an extraordinary variety of landscapes. With this review of our trip we want to share our experiences and lessons learned with the BK Community.

The preparation work started three months before the excursion. A committee was formed to arrange the VISA application, planning, hostel reservation, etc. Students participating in the excursion made a booklet explaining all projects to be visited. During the excursion, we visited British natural, cultural, and urban landscapes as well as various typologies of projects, including gardens, parks, and urban planning.

On the first day near London, we experienced Welwyn Garden City. The result of this second project of Ebenezer Howard is much closer to the true meaning of the concept of the Garden City. Whereas Letchworth, the first one, ended up as a moneymaker for developers. As the example of the urbanism theory 'Garden City', Welwyn Garden City shows how these thoughts were put into practice. The outcome is a small town with plentiful green lanes and streets. In Kew Garden, we experienced numerous different plant species combined with a subtle spatial sequence. Kew Garden forms a remarkable tapestry of space and plants and is the largest example of the collecting of anything exotic that the British did during their period of world reign. Later that night we arrived at our first hostel in Swansea. A beautiful English villa with paneled walls and ceilings in dark wood, a true English atmosphere.

On the second day we left the hostel for a hike along the British west coast. Prior to the hike, a workshop was given by the National Trust explaining the erosion problematic of the coast and how this is dealt with to protect the natural offshore. A landscape is always dynamic and at the coast where sea and land collide this is even stronger the case. We started our hike in Charmouth and walked to Seatown under a sunny blue sky. Mountains as half sunken tables, grand views over the Atlantic and a patchwork of landscape with cute sheep looking at us formed our magnificent view. The mixed smell of grass and sea...

The third day the bus drove all the way to the most western point of our journey, arriving at Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan. Eden Project is a series of man-made habitats mimicking tropical jungles and Mediterranean landscapes arranged in an old quarry. The Lost Gardens of Heligan are botanical gardens with a mysterious history as well as a mysterious space. In this small garden many different variations of landscape can be perceived. The garden skillfully intertwines its interior with the surrounding landscapes, thus natural and artificial landscape are combined. On the road to Bath, the bus made a short stop at Dartmoor where a splendid British landscape with meadows, hills and rocks could be

Rainforest Biome of the Eden Project

Jungle Garden in the The Lost Gardens of Heligan >

experienced. The granite rocks are the very old remains of a mountain range which formed the edge of the shallow Jurassic sea. Some of us climbed the steep rocks and felt king of the world.

On the fourth and fifth day, settling down in Bath, projects in the vicinity were visited including Stourhead, Rousham, Stonehenge, the Bath Crescent, and the Roman Baths. Stourhead and Rousham are two of those exemplary classic English landscape gardens. The carefully crafted picturesque view in Stourhead and the subtle cinematic spaces in Rousham are both astounding. Stonehenge, Bath Crescent, and the Roman Baths are all heritage projects to some degree. Looking into the projects, we got an overview of how they relate to the surrounding landscape and the identity of Britain. On the way back to London, the bus stopped in Oxford.

On the last day in London, we were free to visit places of choice. Hyde Park, St. James Park, Regents' park and Jubilee park were suggested,

but some of us went into the city of London where an amazing process of new building projects are juxtaposed on traditional neo-classical buildings. Glass and steel high-tech facades crawl over buildings of centuries ago. The everlasting sounds of jackhammers of construction workers overpower all sounds while traffic tries to push its way forward. After seeing landscape for a week, this organism called London presents itself as yet another fantastic landscape.

## Impression

During the fieldtrip, the 'Delft Method' (read a landscape in natural, cultural, and urban layers) was applied to understand the English landscape. Instead of just reading or hearing about something famous we were able to experience it. This makes a much stronger lesson than any textbook.

For a PDF-version of the Excursion Booklet, comments, or questions, contact the editorial board: [bnieuws-bk@tudelft.nl](mailto:bnieuws-bk@tudelft.nl)

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Student life is not all there is. What do you do after you leave the Faculty each day? And what will you do when you graduate? Explore the options with us next month!

# SOURCES

## Facts & Figures

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