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**Cover photo: Women of Architecture program, "Architecture and the Great Recession," held on March 9, 2012, in collaboration with the National Building Museum. From left to right: Cathleen McGuigan, Editor-in-Chief, Architectural Record; Sheila Cahnman, Group Vice President/Regional Healthcare Leader, HOK; Claire Weiss, Principal, WXY Architecture + Urban Design; MaryAnne Gilmartin, Executive Vice President and Director of Commercial & Residential Development for Forest City Ratner Companies, and Mara Liasson, National Political Correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR).**
On occasion, I am asked what the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation (BWAF) does and why it is important.

The Foundation is a national research and educational not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization working to change the culture of the building industry so that women’s work is acknowledged, respected, and valued. The National Endowment for the Arts leadership has called the Foundation’s Collection in its online archive of American women contributing to the built environment, a national cultural resource.

Women have contributed to the built environment for over a century. The history of women’s past contributions to the built environment has been for the most part, invisible. But women have played an important role in shaping the built environment despite great odds. When rescued from obscurity, their exceptional work provides valuable historical role models for young women and men in the architecture and engineering professions.

Researchers and educators can use the Collection housed in the Foundation’s Dynamic National Archive (DNA) for their work and classroom curricula. Women’s legacies that were lost to history are gaining their rightful presence in the historical narrative. Buildings created by significant women architects can now be identified—enabling more to be preserved. Subsequent generations of women will have role models to inspire their own professional dreams. New audiences will discover and use this resource, changing their views of women’s achievements in the built environment.

In architecture and engineering schools, women are excelling and receiving more degrees than men. But women in the building industry remain an under-utilized resource.

The glass ceiling has been broken, but the labyrinth persists. Many top professional awards annually recognize designs by women. In professions such as law, medicine and business, women have successfully ascended the ranks and made notable contributions; the building industry lags (embarrassingly) far behind.

In collaboration with representatives of the nation’s largest global AEC firms, whose combined staffs represent roughly 100,000 professionals, of which 15,000 to 20,000 are women. BWAF’s Industry Leaders Roundtable program presents research that focuses on the business case. Participating firms include AECOM, SOM, Perkins+Will, ARUP, HOK, Weidlinger Associates, and Buro Happold, among others. The inclusion of executive women’s leadership adds to the bottom line in both innovation and profit.

BWAF’s work succeeds. Join us, support us, as we celebrate our tenth anniversary.

Beverly Willis, FAIA
Founder and Chair
Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation
Programs

The Collection and the Dynamic National Archive
The Dynamic National Archive, a publicly accessible, wiki-style online archive, now contains the names of more than 1,100 American women. In 2012, the Foundation received a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create the Special Collection of Women of 20th-Century American Architecture, to reside in the Dynamic National Archive (DNA). When completed in 2013, the Special Collection will contain full profiles of 50 women architects, born before 1940, which will be selected by a jury of preeminent historians, researched with peer-reviewed data, including biographical information and lists of buildings and projects, along with images, links, and geo-mapping. Over time, with additional financial support, the Foundation intends to enlarge the Special Collection and add others.

Industry Leaders Roundtable
The 2012 Industry Leaders Roundtable Retreat — Powering Up: Building the Business Case — was held on October 3 and 4 at the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund at the Rockefeller Estate in New York. The Roundtable program, begun in 2010, is a call to action for the building industry. The annual program presents research about innovative business concepts and initiatives that can help move high potential women in the industry into key decision-making roles where they have an opportunity to change the gender culture of the firm. Principals and/or partners of some of the world’s largest architecture, engineering, and construction firms, such as AECOM, SOM, ARUP, Perkins+Will, HOK, Weidlinger Associates, Buro Happold, and Thornton Tomasetti, participate. The aggregated professional staffs of these global firms are estimated at roughly 100,000 of which approximately 15,000-20,000 are women.

Museum Programs
The Foundation leads public conversations at museums across the US, such as the Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim Museum, and the Milwaukee Art Museum. Since 2006, the National Building Museum (NBM), Washington DC and BWF annually jointly present the Women of Architecture Series during March, Women’s History Month. On March 8, 2012, NBM and BWAF presented Architecture and the Great Recession, a panel discussion moderated by Mara Liasson, National Political Correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR). Panelists were Cathleen McGuigan, Editor-in-Chief, Architectural Record; Sheila Cahnman, Group Vice President/Regional Healthcare Leader, HOK; MaryAnne Gilmartin, Executive Vice President and Director of Commercial & Residential Development for Forest City Ratner Companies; and Claire Weisz, Principal, WXY Architecture + Urban Design Studio. Over 200 attendees filled the Great Hall for the event. On April 20, at the Detroit Institute of Arts, BWAF co-produced with AIA Detroit, “Women in Design,” a film screening and panel discussion that included Wanda Bubiski.

Film Library
The Film Library was initiated in 2009 when Beverly Willis wrote and directed the film “A Girl is a Fellow Here: 100 Women Architects in the Studio of Frank Lloyd Wright” as part of a program that celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Guggenheim Museum. It has been extraordinarily successful, having been screened in over 28 states, several museums, appeared in four films festivals and premiered in five European countries and in Asia. Other films include The Radiant Sun: Designer Ruth Adler Schnee, written and produced by Ronit Eisenbach and directed by Terri Sarris; and Eames: the Architect & the Painter directed by Jason Cohn and premiered on American Masters, PBS, December 18, 2011; in production: Lisl Close: A Life in Modern Architecture, research for pre-production phase by Jane King Hession; and a suite of 15-minute films: The Artist, The Architect, and Built for Ballet, about discrete phases in the career of Beverly Willis to be packaged in one DVD.

Event
To mark its 10th Anniversary, BWAF presented A View From the Future featuring speaker Edie Weiner, President of Weiner, Edrich, Brown, Inc.–a leadership forum breakfast event for the building industry held on June 5 at CUNY Graduate Center. The forum included guest panelists: Jane Chmielinski, Moderator, AECOM, Michael De Chiara, Zetlin & De Chiara LLP; MaryAnne Gilmartin, Forest City Ratner Companies; Jurij Parasyczak, IBM Research; and Ana Bertuna, Related Companies. There were over 240 attendees.

Collaborations
BWAF believes that knowledge is a key catalyst in changing the culture of the building industry. BWAF remains committed to supporting, commissioning and disseminating both original and curated research, of which the most recent includes the following listing of publications (both print and digital), films, and research projects:

**Publications**


Penick, Monica M. *The Pace Setter Houses* (forthcoming), based on "The Pace Setter Houses: livable modernism in postwar America." (PhD. Diss., University of Texas at Austin, 2007).


**Digital**


**Film**

‘A Girl is a Fellow Here’: 100 Women Architects in the Studio of Frank Lloyd Wright. Directed by Beverly Willis, FAIA; premiered at the Guggenheim Museum, New York, June 2009.

http://www.amazon.com/Women-Architects-Studio-Wright-Fellow/dp/B002P3LPYU

“Eames: the Architect & the Painter.” Directed by Jason Cohn and Bill Jersey; premiered on American Masters, PBS, December 18, 2011.


“Lisl Close: A Life in Modern Architecture.” Research for pre-production phase by Jane King Hession.


**Research & Scholarly Papers**


Imbert, Dorotheé. *Telesis and Geraldine Knight Scott.*


Gregory, Alexis Denise. *Obstacles to Professional Achievement Affecting Women in Architecture in South Carolina.*

MacDonald, Christopher and Kevin Alter. *Unreconstructed Modern: Three Houses by Judith Chaffee.*

Tigerman, Bobby. *Florence Knoll, the Knoll Planning Unit, and the Making of the Modern Office.*

Zipf, Catherine. *A Female Modernist in the Classical Capital: Chloethiel Woodard Smith and the Architecture of Southwest Washington, DC.*
Outreach

• Attended the Building Trades Employers’ Association (BTEA) Breakfast, January 19.

• Attended the first organizational meeting of ten New York women’s organizations in the Building Industry on February 14. The second gathering on May 8 resulted in the formation of the Council of Women’s Organizations of the New York Building Congress, with the aim to empower women in the building industry in the NY metropolitan region.

• Helped plan for Women in Design dinner on February 28, at FXFowle. Sylvia Smith, Senior Partner, and Audrey Matlock, hosted.

• Attended the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA@100) Centennial Annual Meeting, in Boston, March 1-3.

• Met with active members of the Women’s Group of the Boston Society of Architects, and discussed possible collaborative programs with BWAF.

• Engaged with ACSA’s Women’s Leadership Council; Wanda Bubriski spurred discussion of curricula innovations regarding gender that could be promoted through ACSA; Donna Robertson will be ACSA President starting in 2013 expressed interest in implementing during her presidency a women’s platform.

• Participated in the March 21 & 22 Feminist Practices Series at Van Alen Institute; Wanda Bubriski assisted with programming and introduced BWAF Fellows, Susan Morgan and Gabrielle Esperdy.

• Co-produced and co-sponsored, a film screening and panel discussion which included Wanda Bubriski, at Detroit Institute of Art, April 20; other sponsors included AIA Detroit, Society of Architectural Historians.

• Joined the New York Building Council as a non-profit member.

• In April submitted an application for membership to NCRW Member Centers, a consortium of about 124 centers, institutes around the country. BWAF was accepted for membership and is the single organization/entity representing the building industry.

• Was recognized at Women’s eNews Gala, on May 3 at Essex House with Beverly Willis being honored as one of the 21 Leaders for the 21st Century, and recognized by MC Eve Ensler, as a “catalyst for changing the culture.”

• Attended the Women Builders Council inaugural annual conference “Building Up and Moving Forward in New York” on May 22 at Columbia University.

• BWAF received press generated from A View From The Future through media including The Huffington Post, Architectural Record, The Architect’s Newspaper, DesignIntelligence, & more.

• Beverly Willis presented a talk during the late summer at Perkins + Will and screened the film, “A Girl is a Fellow Here.”

• Participated in NYBC Council of Women’s Organizations’ inaugural meeting. BWAF became a charter member and trustee Porie Saikia-Eapen was elected council chair.

• In October, at Roger Williams University, School of Architecture during Homecoming Weekend – Beverly Willis engaged the alumni audience in a film screening and presentation.

• During late October, Willis spoke to the Architect of the Capitol and its top executives.

• BWAF announced the National Advisory Council for the NEA project, which included preeminent architectural historians from across the U.S. and Canada.

• In late November, BWAF attended the Yale Reunion for women alumni of the School of Architecture, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Sonia Schimberg Award. Founding Director, Wanda Bubriski, was keynote speaker.
The Foundation is grateful to the individuals, corporations, and foundations, which financially supported us in 2012.

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