

Women and the Experience of/from the Outside: Peripheral Visions of Spanish Architectural Culture (1978-2008)

From the analysis framework of the research project “A Situated View: Women’s Architecture in Spain from Peripheral Approaches, 1978-2008” funded by the Valencia Regional Government (AICO/2021/163) and based at the University of Alicante Institute of Gender Studies Research (IUIEG), a new special issue on architecture is being produced. Building upon the previous monograph issues—17 (2011) and 32 (2018)—that *Feminismo/s* has devoted to studying this cultural field from gender perspectives, the aim is to delve deeper into the plurality and singularity of women’s contributions to Spanish architecture over the period of the first democracy generation.

There are fundamentally two major axes that articulate this new monograph. Firstly, the time spanning the democratic restoration in 1978 to the 2008 economic crisis, a period of social and cultural upheaval that ultimately subverted the value system, the hegemonies, and the traditional ways of conceptualizing architecture in Spain. The fact that these years are marked by the gradual incorporation of women architects into all professional, academic, institutional, administrative and media spheres of architecture will also allow us to reflect on the extent to which the ways that women have appeared in one of the most paradigmatic and impermeable disciplines of modernity contributed to decentering its own hierarchies.

The second axis to this issue is the very notion of periphery from which women have resisted their isolation, dissented from prevailing discourses and modernist ideals, introduced new priorities in the public debate, and offered alternatives to the patriarchal epistemology of the country’s architectural agenda. Consequently, we would speak of a broad understanding of the *outside*. We mean those remote or subordinate territories peripheral to the centres of production of architectural culture and, therefore, we take into account those non-canonical geographies, fringe areas or outer bounds of the architecture system in which, precisely because of their distance to the main educational, editorial, or decision-making hubs, women have been allowed to enter and occupy certain positions at the cost of their visibility and recognition. But we also mean outlying topics, less-considered knowledge, and supposedly minor activities such as landscaping, restoration, or interior design. In addition, we refer to those inside/outside porosities through which women architects have managed to establish effective alliances among their practices and with other disciplines, build affective collaborations, develop new creative formats, and open up more sympathetic and caring ways of working with others.

We welcome submissions on case studies and comparative analyses addressing not so much *what* women architects have produced in this period, but rather *where* and *how* their achievements have been realised. We are particularly interested in exposing how women have confronted those prejudices produced specifically by distance and difference, and thus the disdain and/or indifference towards their work. In other words, we encourage authors to investigate the irruptive/disruptive agency of women and their resilient experiences as new voices arisen from the *outside*. Likewise, our purpose is to debate the role of women in the weakening of the exclusive and discriminative centralities supporting the architectural paradigm prior to the impact of the fourth wave of feminism. In short, we invite contributors to consider the periphery not only as a critical exteriority, but as the true place for encounters, relationships, and connections and, therefore, to explore the opportunity to situate yourself on the margins to rethink contemporary architecture, a matter as relevant as it is urgent and inexorably linked to the challenges and commitments of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.