

Mujeres en arquitectura: Proyectos

Ana María Pinzón*
 Andrea J Merrett**

There is always a danger in singling out work made by women architects. The risk is that they will be evaluated by using stereotypical ideas about women's talents and interests. Not surprisingly, women often object that their sex is highlighted within the context of their professional lives, but as Karen Burns has pointed out, drawing attention to the work of women in a profession that continues to put them at a disadvantage can be considered a political act. As long as women continue to be a minority in architecture and face barriers to their professional advancement, as long as the profession continues to be structured in ways that favor total dedication, long hours, and no allowances for a life outside of practice – structures which also harm men– then there will continue to be a need to separately acknowledge women's work.

These projects were chosen because they are designed by women: these are the only similarities.

With this in mind, we celebrate their diversity. Each undertaking demonstrates the architect's skills and sensibilities: their abilities to craft materials and space that surpasses the program's needs even though the challenges of specific locations and building cultures are vastly different.

The projects are located in countries scattered across the globe: Chile, Colombia, Estonia, Iran, Mexico, Tanzania, and Spain. They use a variety of building materials and techniques. They range from modest installations –the Pier by Siiri Vallner– that are low-tech, small scale interventions Burbucar car wash by Lina Toro– to ambitious commercial and civic projects –the Hotel del Viento by Cazú Zegers, the Tallera de Siqueiros by Frida Escobedo, and the Caramanta Educational Park by Ctrl-G– and then large-scale infrastructure such as the Tabiat Bridge by Leila Araghian. They even include community based design projects for women such as the KWIECO Shelter House by Saija Hollmén, Jenni Reuter, and Helena Sandman. From all these projects, we not only understand that that women architects are effectively changing the issue of sex in architecture, but, most importantly, that they are positively and inclusively changing the world we live in. 



1. Hotel del viento
2. La Tallera Siqueiros
3. Parque Educativo Caramanta
4. Detrás de escenas: no solo un lava-autos
5. El muelle
6. Puente Peatonal Tabiat
7. Casa de Refugio KWIECO

* Ana María Pinzón. Editora jefe A57. ana@a57.org

** Andrea J Merrett. B.Sc.Arch, M.Arch. Phd Candidate. GSAPP. Columbia University. ajm2167@columbia.edu

1 Karen Burns, "Who Wants to be a 'Woman Architect'?", *Architectureau*, May 29th, 2017, <http://architectureau.com/articles/who-wants-to-be-a-woman-architect/>. Originally published by Parlour, May 1st, 2012, <http://archiparlour.org/who-wants-to-be-a-woman-architect/>.