

TRUTH BE TOLD: HERSTORY

Contrary to popular belief, the Vikings didn't wear horned helmets, Pocahontas never fell in love with John Smith, Napoleon wasn't that short, and Christopher Columbus didn't discover America. Erroneous facts perpetuate misconceptions, and false narratives result in collective confabulation.



[Drafting Room at Fed. Housing Admin. 1937 by Harris Ewing](#)

Fact: Women's roles and contributions to the design of the built environment were, and still are vastly simplified, largely diminished, unjustly overshadowed, or wholly omitted from history. However, history is colored by social convention, and reflects the embedded control systems that perpetuate the gender gap. The reality is that, despite sexism, racism, and Starchitectism, female presence and achievement in architecture and design is more significant than widely perceived. While putting human activity first, women have designed, created, innovated, developed, founded, constructed, maintained, and influenced all aspects of architecture practice, pedagogy, and preservation throughout history. The traditional invisibility of women in architectural history does not reflect their essential roles in the A & D professions, nor their contributions to pivotal movements.

Correcting our suppressed histories enables women to emerge as important players in our analysis of the past; it reshapes our understanding and collective memory; it adds lost voices to the record. By writing women into Wikipedia, our focus is broadened, enlightened, comprehensive, more nuanced, and accurate.

Who better than today's women in architecture and design (Wikipedians with expertise) to reconstruct the female dimensions of architectural achievement, and recover our record of authority and legitimacy?

Come to the [Association for Women in Architecture and Design](#) writing workshops, and become that Wikipedian with architectural and design expertise. Let's ensure the safe-keeping of our models, our collective female-SELF by changing the narrative, promoting that SELF, making it readily visible and accessible on Wikipedia. Join the #AWA+D #WikiD #edit-a-thons February 6th, March 5th, April 30th, and August 13 2016, as Despina Stratigakos writes: to "Unforget Women Architects".

Nina Briggs

Association for Women in Architecture + Design Archivist