

IV Symposium on Architecture and Gender**Fielding Architecture: Feminist Practices for a Decolonised Pedagogy**

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University of Brighton (UK)

Area 3. Modes and sites of writing and research: Focusing on the institutional sites and frameworks in which architectural knowledge is produced and constrained, we reconsider writing and researching as spaces of action, production and contestation. How can we critique, challenge and re-propose modes of writing and dissemination?

PEDROSA, Patrícia Santos

ANTUNES, Lia Gil

ABSTRACT**THE W@ARCH.PT PROJECT AS FEMINIST RESEARCH**

The struggle against invisibility is one of the fundamental flags of the many feminist waves throughout history, whether in activism or in academia. The W@ARCH.PT project, *Female Architects in Portugal: Building Visibility, 1942-1986*, is affiliated to this self-exigency. W@ARCH.PT has two main objectives, complementary and reinforcing each other: to reveal “who?”, “when?”, and “how?” Portuguese female architects participated in the construction of the profession, and to construct a critical feminist vision according to the Portuguese context and aiming for alternative perspectives and praxis. The time period starts in 1942, when the first female architect, M.J. Estanco, graduates in Portugal, and it ends in 1986, a crucial year in Portuguese history. The country became a EEC member and it represents the massification of architecture schools. Between these chronological boundaries, major events of the Portuguese modern architecture history happened: the 1948’s Congress, the SAAL process, among others. Some theoretical feminist framework is revisited and tested in the history of architecture, around fundamental concepts like intersectionality (Crenshaw, 1989), situated knowledges (Haraway, 1988) and invisibility as oppression (hooks, 1984). The archiving work and oral collection of testimonies allow the understanding of Portuguese female architects’ roles in this time period.