INTRODUCTION

Who is the architect you most admire? Is it a woman? Probably not. Then who is the women architect you most admire? And why? Or did you know a large enough number of women architects to make a fair decision?

Our purpose in writing this book is to present women architects and their work. It is to provide role models for women who are planning a profession in architecture. This material was first presented at two symposia: Cities of the 1990's: Women Architects Discuss Urban Issues, October 1989 and Current Works, May 1990. These conferences were organized by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Women and Architecture Association.

The work introduced at the conferences covers a diversity of ideas varying in subjects, goals, theoretical positions, and scales. Littenberg develops a master plan for a large urban area. In this, she examines the transition between public and private, between low-rise and high-rise and between urban renewal and preservation. Balmori focuses on the transition between the built and natural environments, developing a theory of landscape architecture. Her theory is then used in the treatment of public urban places. The next project, by Marshall and Kinoshita, deals with a public urban place specifically dedicated to women. It is a monument celebrating womens' accomplishments in America. The lakefront design project presented by Gusevich is also a monument of sorts. Hers is a monument to the city, providing it with a gateway on its lakefront. Lastly, two presentations involving education are brought forward. For Nelson, architectural education can be promoted by film and the fine arts. Her goal is to sensitize the public to architecture. From an educator's point of view, Cahn and Kooiker wish to make architecture more accessible to women in the architectural profession. They also elaborate on the status of women in society.

This tapestry of papers is followed by a panel discussion. The panelists include: Diana Agrest, Diana Balmori, Elizabeth Cahn, Cynthia Davidson (panel moderator), Miriam Gusevich, Ray Kinoshita, Pietra Kooiker, Barbara Littenberg, and Ann Marshall. The exchange generated throughout the discussion witnesses concerns regarding the status of women in architecture. In addition, it translates the awareness women have for human welfare.