

Summaries of articles

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SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES

Planning the Built Environment : How and Why It Concerns Women

Denise Piché

Architecture and planning form a vast multidisciplinary laboratory concerned with both practice and knowledge. Long blind to women, this laboratory has recently been influenced by various feminist schools of thought. Researchers, professionals and citizens are now exploring : the explanation of space according to gender relations, past and present actions of women on the environment, the experience women have of their surroundings, projects sensitive to women and to a more egalitarian society.

Traditional Domesticity and Feminine Sensibility : Bourgeois and Modern Aesthetics Within the Home

Carole Després

This paper is a feminist analysis of the critique of the bourgeois home by early twentieth century architects. The historical associations of the bourgeois interior with the « feminine » are examined, and the modernist urban and aesthetic proposals are reviewed and are evaluated for their potential in liberating women from confinement within the home. The modernists' rejection of the subjective discourse of bourgeois interior and its association with feminine sensibility is presented as their most important contribution to domestic reform.

Women and Public Spaces : Space Appropriation and Control Over Time

Irène Cinq-Mars and Charles Perraton

The comparison between women's and men's discourse on their use of public space reveals substantial differences. In this article, we have analysed the results of research conducted on two urban public spaces in Montreal under two related themes : space appropriation and control over time. It appears that men develop a global vision of these environments in which they play an active role and on which they exercise control. Women imagine what others do in these spaces, without imagining what use they themselves could make of them. The various temporal rationales imposed on women even constrain their dream life.

Visual Arts and Public Space : the Contribution of Micheline Beauchemin and of Marcelle Ferron in the 60's.

Rose Marie Arbour

This paper examines the work of Micheline Beauchemin and Marcelle Ferron in the context of Québec's socio-political and cultural changes in the sixties. It

shows how they re-appropriated traditional techniques and materials for the sake of a new public art and opposed the limitations imposed upon visual arts by the academy. The works they created questioned the traditional vision people had of women artists. Their large-scale creations in urban and architectural environments are far away of the stereotypes attached to women painters, namely small format, intimist visions, solitary and private work, decorative arts.

Mrs Ford and Space : a Feminist Examination of Suburbanization

Anne-Marie Séguin

By using notions borrowed from feminist analysis and works of the school of regulation, the author describes how fordism, historical conditions and social forces intervened in the development of postwar suburbs in the province of Québec. Women as a social group were central to the dynamics of social relations and to the ideology which led to the creation of the unfunctional residential suburb. This development, in turn, had a contradictory effect on women.

Women and Regional Grassroots Development : Research Perspectives

Dominique Masson, Marielle Tremblay et Pierre-André Tremblay

This paper explores some relationships between women and regional development. After a review of the two main approaches in regional studies in Québec, it presents the major findings of recent feminist research in international and regional development studies. It is argued that a sociological definition of « development » is needed in future research. Finally, the authors discuss their own conceptual framework for an empirical study of women's grassroots development experiments in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region.

Mechanical Space

Diane Lamoureux

Based on a survey of women's time strategies, this paper deals with the main factors which contribute to the organization of the domestic environment, with special reference to the birth of the first child. It also describes women's buying behaviour of domestic appliances and analyses how they conceive of their use.

Residential Choice, Professional Career and Familial Strategies : the Case of Educated Middle-Class Women

Jeanne Fagnani

This article presents the results of a study of residential choice as influenced by career decisions and family conditions of educated middle-class women. Forty women and twenty of their husbands in the Paris region have been interviewed. It shows that, despite necessary trade-offs, women are concerned with control of time because it has an impact on their capacity to invest in their professional lives, to conform to the « good mother » model and to preserve their autonomy.

However, the expressed difficulty in choosing either a suburb or a central city location is good evidence of a stress between their own interests and those of their children.

The Condition of Women Tenants : Discrimination and Harassment

Ruth Pilote

A survey of 297 women tenants in three central neighbourhoods in Montréal shows that many are victim of discrimination and harrassment. After the survey, the collective « Information-Ressources Femmes et Logement » got involved and developped a programme in order to inform citizens and public authorities on housing problems facing women tenants.

Municipal Politics and Everyday Life Environment

Ginette Busque

The *Fédération des femmes du Québec* has identified the municipal level as particularly relevant for some women's issues. In order to interest women in municipal politics and to encourage them to be candidates in local elections, the *Fédération* is proposing a special training programme where participants learn how the municipal system works.

Cities for Women and Feminist Planning

Denise Piché

At the turn of the century, challenging the conflict between waged and domestic work, feminists imagined innovative life settings. This interest in the built environment is taken up today by feminist planning. This paper presents some women's projects for changing the environment. It emphasizes the contribution of collectives in Toronto, Montréal and Québec; each develops visions of their own city and proposes ways of making it work for women.