

Caterina Franchini

## Foreword to Women Designers, Craftswomen, Architects and Engineers between 1918 and 1945

This open-access publication is the first in an e-book series titled Women's Creativity since the Modern Movement. It is devoted to the dissemination and enhancement of gender knowledge, arising from the activities of MoMoWo project, through the scientific community and beyond.

The MoMoWo partnership is grateful to the authors of this issue, who include scholars at every stage of their careers, and who represent an inspiring diversity of interests and accomplishments that testifies to the vitality of our project.

The topic of this e-book originated from the 1st MoMoWo International Conference-Workshop, "Women Designers, Craftswomen, Architects and Engineers between 1918 and 1945" held at the University of Leiden - Centre for the Arts in Society from 23 to 25 September 2015. This topic has generated widespread interest that engaged a wide community of scholars –including academics, PhD students and professionals– in proposing studies and referring experiences to be discussed and shared in the MoMoWo framework.

One of the main MoMoWo priorities is the mobility of participants and internationalisation of studies. This has encouraged international cultural cooperation among architects, designers, art historians, architectural historians, academics and professionals belonging to public and private institutions and has supported a research process for a common challenge on the gender gap in knowledge.

From the panels presented, MoMoWo's Scientific Committee invited presenters to step up the exploration of the boundaries of history and theory of architecture, engineering and design in order to publish the scientific articles you will encounter in the following pages.

The articles have been assembled by the curators in six sub-topics, namely: "Crossing Geographies", "Pioneers and Organisations", "The Home", "Representation", "Cases from Ireland to Finland", and "Examining Drawings as Practices of Architectural Design". You will be introduced to each sub-topic through a short text written by MoMoWo's team members.

The accomplishment of this publication is the successful result of MoMoWo's challenge to scholars and researchers throughout Europe and beyond to acquire an adequate knowledge of female achievements in the fields of architecture, civil engineering and design.

This challenge is not only a matter of research results, but also a way of conveying gender equality in the perception and reception of professions that have been and are still somewhat perceived as masculine. In fact, the inclusion of a gender analysis increases the social relevance of the knowledge produced in the fields of theory and history of architecture, engineering and design and their specialist professions.

Many people have worked enthusiastically and tirelessly to create this first issue that we hope will be an inspiring publication: the trustees of the MoMoWo project and of this book series, MoMoWo's local teams, and peer-reviewers who generously served the cause. Special thanks are due to Marjan Groot who has advised and assisted the authors in the early stage of this activity and to Helena Seražin for having coordinated the double blind peer reviewing, the editing and layout process.