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WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Historically dominated by men, the field of architecture has seen significant contributions from women, particularly in the educational sector. In the Republic of Moldova, female architects have played a crucial role in transforming architectural education, overcoming societal barriers to inspire and mentor future generations. This paper explores the impactful careers of notable Moldovan women in architectural education and their enduring influence on the profession.

Key words: architectural education, architecture graduates, women in research, female designers, gender equality.

INTRODUCTION

The architectural profession has traditionally been male-dominated. However, women have increasingly made their mark, especially in education, where they have driven innovation and inclusivity. In the Republic of Moldova, female architects have significantly contributed to the evolution of architectural education, shaping curricula and fostering new generations of architects.

PURPOSE

This study aims to highlight the contributions of prominent Moldovan women in architectural education [1], examining their roles in academia, their influence on architectural practices, and their efforts to promote gender equality within the field.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pioneering Women in Moldovan Architectural Education. One of the most respected figures in Moldovan architectural education was Nina Iamșcicova (1939–2021). With over four decades at the Technical University of Moldova (TUM), she mentored hundreds of students and played a pivotal role in modernizing study programs. Her innovative methodologies and encouragement of creativity earned her numerous accolades in teaching and research [4].

Svetlana Oleinic has dedicated more than 40 years to architectural education and is recognized for integrating digital technologies into the learning process and promoting an interdisciplinary approach. As a professor at TUM, she has coordinated educational projects that incorporate new trends in architecture and urbanism, preparing architects to meet contemporary challenges. In 2021, she defended her doctoral thesis on "Compositional and Artistic Techniques in the Architecture of Modern Administrative Buildings in Chișinău".



Tatiana Buimistru is esteemed for her expertise in color theory and architectural aesthetics. With extensive experience in research and teaching, she has published numerous academic works and deepened the understanding of color's role in architecture. Beyond her work at TUM, she has coordinated artistic projects and organized exhibitions highlighting the importance of visual expression in architecture.

Tamara Nesterov is both an admired educator and a respected researcher in Moldovan architecture. Her work focuses on studying the country's architectural and urban heritage, with over 120 scientific papers and 10 monographs to her credit. She has received multiple academic awards and participates in various international urbanism and architecture commissions, contributing to the promotion and protection of national architectural heritage [5].

Silvia Apostol is a renowned mentor and researcher who has combined academic work with involvement in practical architectural projects. She has published essential studies on modern architecture and sustainable techniques, serving as a significant voice in discussions about urban development in the Republic of Moldova. Through international conferences and collaborations with foreign experts, she has introduced innovation and increased visibility to Moldovan architecture.



Fig. 2. Women in architectural education at the TUM (1975-2024).
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Women as Professors and Mentors in Architecture. As more women have entered the field of architecture, many have pursued teaching careers, significantly influencing how architecture is taught. Renowned professors like Denise Scott Brown have impacted architectural design and educational philosophy, advocating for a more inclusive and interdisciplinary approach. Today, many top universities have female professors leading departments, shaping curricula, and developing educational strategies. Figures like Odile Decq, who founded her own architecture school (Confluence Institute), demonstrate that education can be reimaged to encourage creativity and experimentation.

Promoting Gender Equality in Architectural Education. Numerous initiatives today support women in architecture, including scholarships, mentorship programs, and organizations like "Women in Architecture" and "Arquitectas." These efforts



help eliminate barriers and create equal opportunities for women wishing to contribute to architectural education and practice [4, 5]. In the Republic of Moldova, female architects have profoundly impacted education and research, modernizing university curricula and promoting high academic standards. Their teaching and scientific work have shaped the future of architecture and opened new opportunities for young professionals. Today, their role remains essential in developing quality education focused on innovation and sustainability.

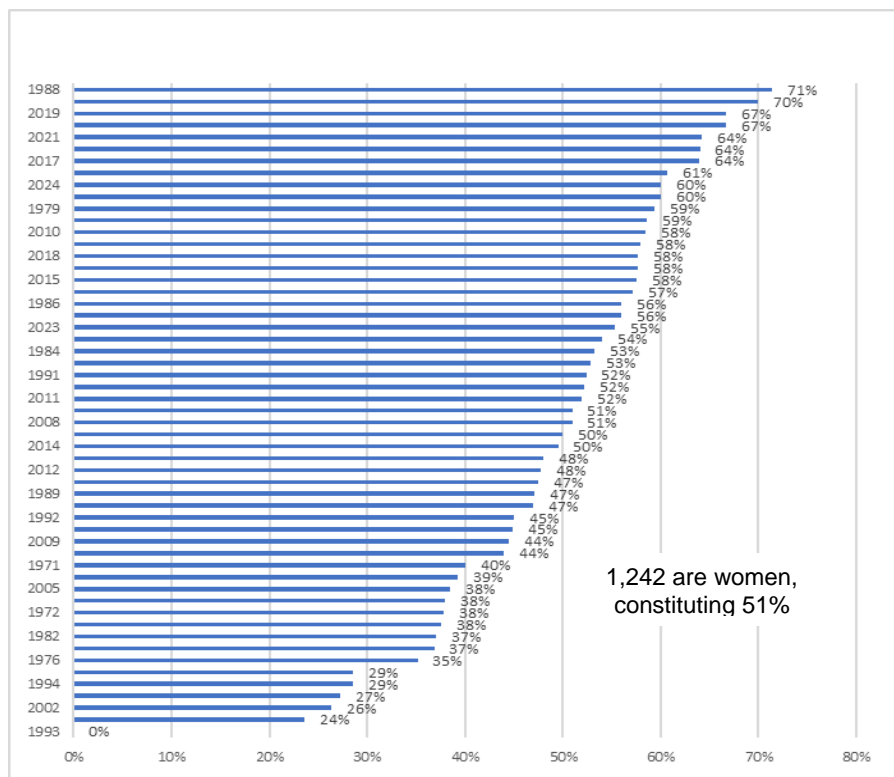


Fig. 2. Gender Distribution and Graduation Trends in Architectural Education at the Technical University of Moldova (1970-2024)

CONCLUSIONS

Over the decades (1970-2024), the Technical University of Moldova (UTM), Faculty of Architecture (FUA), has trained a total of 2,435 architects, across 55 cohorts, of which 1,242 are women, constituting 51% [6].

Between 1970 and 1980, the total number of graduates gradually increased, reaching a peak around 1980 with a total of 66 graduates. After this period, a



significant decline is observed until the 1990s, followed by a relative stability between 1990 and 2005, when the number of graduates remained quite constant and low. Starting from 2008, the number of graduates increased rapidly, reaching a peak around 2013 with 136 graduates. After this peak, there has been a gradual decrease until 2024.

Despite ongoing challenges, women continue to shape architectural education through teaching, research, and mentorship. Their contributions enrich the field and inspire new generations to create a more equitable and innovative environment in the world of architecture.

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ТРОНЧІУ С.

ЖІНКИ В ОСВІТІ АРХІТЕКТУРИ РЕСПУБЛІКИ МОЛДОВА

Внесок жінок в освіту архітектури Республіки Молдова мав значний вплив на формування нових поколінь архітекторів і на дослідження в цій галузі. Ця стаття висвітлює видатну діяльність жінок, які відіграли ключову роль у розвитку архітектурної освіти, через викладання, дослідження або наставництво, формуючи таким чином майбутнє архітектури в країні.

Ключові слова: освіта в архітектурі, жінки в дослідженнях, академічне наставництво, вища освіта, професійний розвиток.