

JUST ARCHITECTURE

AN ARCHITECT'S INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST LITERATURE



Architecture and built environment



Lund University

WELCOME

Feminist school of thought has throughout contemporary history been a productive and critical interference with the kind of architecture we write with a capital A. To quote Katarina Bonnevier¹, “the risky practice of challenging convention [...] is at heart of feminist scholarship”. Hegemonic and canonical understandings of Architecture oftentimes present the practice as either a type of technical engineering, a part of the rationalist science paradigm, or as an art form independently created by the male genius artist. Female and queer presence as well as reproductive and collective understandings of architecture presents an outright challenge to such hegemony². Feminist contributions have emphasized situatedness and embodiment as a way to counter perceptions of an objectively right design that has no flaws³. With such an approach, architectural agency cannot only be found in professional practice but also in intersections with theory, art, and public everyday life⁴.

This introductory literature list aims to present feminist interference with canonical Architecture to a wider audience of students and teachers at the school(s) of architecture. From Judith Butler’s Gender trouble⁵ to Hélène Frichot’s⁶ call to use theory as a tool to trouble Architecture, and Elke Krasny’s⁷ suggestions that care can trouble hegemonic, canonical, Western and modernist perceptions of Architecture – many feminist references help us with the important act of “troubling”. Adhering to Sara Ahmed’s⁸ important call to be brave and relentless enough to act as killjoys, those who kill the mood by offering some hard facts and alternative perceptions, we hope that this literature list will offer both comfort and discomfort for those brave enough to enact trouble in a canonical setting.

2023-08-16

ABOUT THE LIST

This literature list was put together during 2021 to 2023 by JUST ARCHITECTURE (the group for equality, equal treatment and diversity at the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, LTH, Lund University) in collaboration with the Library of Architecture and Design at LTH. The list is directed towards students, teachers and employees at the School of Architecture (and perhaps beyond) and aiming to be a broad introduction to literary pieces which produces architecture as a relevant matter for intersectional⁹ feminist theory and practice - and intersectional feminism as a relevant matter for architecture. Intersectionality includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the intersecting relationships between bodily function, crip and dis/ability; ethnicity, race, culture and de/coloniality; gender and sexuality. Importantly, the list is not an attempt to present a holistic collection of all relevant publications, but is rather a curated collection of introductory literature in these specific themes.

The literature list is categorized roughly into eight themes to represent the broad scope of architecture. The first seven are: architecture, design, geography, pedagogy/academia, the role of the architecture professional, place culture/use and urban. There is surely overlap between these themes, but some categorization seemed helpful and this one was favored over a categorization between different segments of feminist literature. In line with our intersectional approach, we believe that there are numerous factors to count into feminist scholarship and that these are not separable from each other and hence could not be divided into themes without undermining these relations. With this being said, the eight and last theme is a list of some staple books in feminist theories which are not necessarily articulated as related to architecture, but which we believe can be very useful theory for architects, nevertheless.

The literature list builds upon interdisciplinary or non-disciplinary, perhaps even anti-disciplinary, relationships between architecture and themes, theories and subjects outside the sphere of design and architecture practice. While interdisciplinarity has been emphasized by Lund University for quite some time now, and focuses on a closer engagement and looser boundaries between academic subjects¹⁰, anti-disciplinarity can be described as refusing the rigorous order of traditional canons in favor of a bit more inspiration and unpredictability¹¹. These relations are easily grasped because of architecture's interdisciplinary nature, ranging from technical and social matters to aesthetics¹². The purpose of engaging architects and architecture students in these perspectives is to offer tools for critical thinking around architectural practice and the theoretical canon that is dominant in architecture teaching and pedagogy, or at least has been for a long time previously. This does not mean that the literature presented here are not canonical, rather, they are often very widely recognized texts in their own field or intersection of fields (of intersectional feminist approaches to architecture). Although, their integration with architecture* studies could still present a critical disruption to an architectural canon.

This literature list aims to become a support for collective critical thinking about architecture in a manner of "being better with" or "being better because of"¹³. By building on existing scholarship, we can begin to detect what is taken for granted or naturalized as truths in our own practices and ways of thinking. Thank you to all writers featured in this list for your contributions to this field and to our thinking. Hopefully, the reading will not only lead to more individuals appreciating this scholarly intersection, but also spark new and other conversations at the school.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

The literature list is focused on Lund University resources, and thus everything on the list can be accessed particularly through the Library of Architecture and Design, or alternatively through another library at the university (at the time of finishing this list, August 2023).

Where to search: If you'd like to find more literature in this subject field or immerse yourself in a specific topic, you can search for information on your own by using LUBsearch (lubsearch.lub.lu.se).

LUBsearch is the gateway to most resources owned by Lund University. Here you find books, journals and articles, many of them electronic, ready for you to download immediately. Due to the breadth of subjects at Lund University you get access to a lot of databases in areas like sociology, pedagogy and psychology as well as architecture and design and this diversity will meet this interdisciplinary subject well. You can choose to search in several databases at once by searching in LUBsearch or choose to search in one subject-specific database. Avery is a significant database for architecture and design and searches can be supplemented with searches in Socindex and Psycinfo.

How to search: Below are a few suggested search words listed, which can be combined into block to search in this subject area. Please pick the terms that suits your needs and combine them into a search block. It's also a good idea when you find an interesting article to look for useful keywords and then include them when you search.

The first block contains words related to intersectional feminism and the second block contains words connected to architecture and design.

gender* OR feminis* OR equality OR transgend* OR disabilit*
OR crip* OR lgbt* OR intersection* OR homosex* or race* OR
queer* OR norm* OR women* OR lesbian* OR gay* OR bisex*
OR decolonial* OR postcolonial* OR ethnicit* OR indigenous

AND

architectur* OR urban* OR city* OR cities OR town* OR spatial*
och space* OR movement* OR geography* OR design* OR
aesthetic*

Please contact the Library of Architecture and Design if you need further support.

ARCHITECTURE

Agrest, Diana, Conway, Patricia & Weisman, Leslie Kanes (eds.) (1996). *The sex of architecture*. New York, N.Y.: Abrams

Awan, Nishat, Schneider, Tatjana & Till, Jeremy (2011). *Spatial agency: other ways of doing architecture*. Abingdon, Oxon [England]: Routledge

Bonnevier, Katarina (2007). *Behind straight curtains: towards a queer feminist theory of architecture*. Diss. Stockholm: Kungliga tekniska högskolan, 2007

Boys, Jos (eds.) (2017). *Disability, space, architecture: a reader*. London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group

Boys, Jos (2014). *Doing disability differently: an alternative handbook on architecture, dis/ability and designing for everyday life*. London: Routledge

Brown, Lori A. (2011). *Feminist practices: interdisciplinary approaches to women in architecture*. Ashgate

Budde, Christina & Pepchinski, Mary (eds.) (2022). *Women architects and politics: Intersections between gender, power structures and architecture in the long 20th century*. Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag

Burroughs, Brady (2016). *Architectural flirtations: a love storey*. Diss. Stockholm: Kungliga Tekniska högskolan, 2016

Burroughs, Brady (2019). *Ahmed for Architecture Students*. Stockholm: Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan. Fanzine available online: <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1306923/FULLTEXT04>

Colomina, Beatriz & Bloomer, Jennifer (eds.) (1992). *Sexuality & space*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press

Crawford, Lucas (2015). *Transgender architectonics: the shape of change in modernist space*. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate Publishing Limited

Decq, Odile & Schwitalla, Ursula (2021). *Women in architecture past, present, and future*. Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag

Feddersen, Eckhard & Lüdtkke, Insa (eds.) (2014). *Lost in space: architecture and dementia*. Basel: Birkhäuser

Fitz, Angelika & Krasny, Elke (eds.) (2019). *Critical care: architecture and urbanism for a broken planet*. Vienna: Architekturzentrum Wien

Gleason, William A. (2011). *Sites unseen: architecture, race, and American literature*. New York: New York University Press

Grant, Elizabeth., Greenop, Kelly., Refiti, Albert L. & Glenn, Daniel J. (eds.) (2018). *The Handbook of Contemporary Indigenous Architecture*. Singapore: Springer Singapore

Hall, Jane (2019). *Breaking ground: architecture by women*. London: Phaidon Press Limited

Harris, Dianne Suzette (2013). *Little white houses: how the postwar home constructed race in America*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

Jobst, Marko & Stead, Naomi (red.) (2023). *Queering architecture methods, practices, spaces, pedagogies*. London.

Lee, Pamela M. & Matta-Clark, Gordon (2000). *Object to be destroyed: the work of Gordon Matta-Clark*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press

Makingspace:womenandtheman-madeenvironment.(2022).NewYork:
Verso books

Petrescu, Doina (eds.) (2007). *Altering practices: feminist politics and poetics of space*. London: Routledge

Rawes, Peg (ed.) (2013). *Relational architectural ecologies: architecture, nature and subjectivity*. Abingdon: Routledge

Rendell, Jane (ed.) (2007). *Critical architecture*. London: Routledge

Rendell, Jane (2006). *Art and architecture: a place between*. London: I.B. Tauris

Rendell, Jane, Penner, Barbara & Borden, Iain (eds.) (2000). *Gender, space, architecture: an interdisciplinary introduction*. London: Routledge

Rothschild, Joan & Cheng, Alethea (eds.) (1999). *Design and feminism: re-visioning spaces, places, and everyday things*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers Univ. Press

Schalk, Meike, Kristiansson, Thérèse, Mazé, Ramia & Fanni, Maryam (eds.) (2016). *Feminist futures of spatial practice: materialism, activism, dialogues, pedagogies, projections*. Braunach: Spurbuchverlag

Spain, Daphne (1992). *Gendered spaces*. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press

Swenarton, M., Troiani, I. & Webster, H. (eds.) (2007). *Politics of making*. Abington: Routledge

Vallerand, Olivier (2020[2020]). *Unplanned visitors: queering the ethics and aesthetics of domestic space*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press

Weisman, Leslie Kanes (1992). *Discrimination by design: a feminist critique of the man-made environment*. Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press

- Ahl, Zandra & Olsson, Emma (2013). Svensk smak. [Ny utg.] [Sverige]: Nilleditions
- Ehrnberger, Karin (2017). Tillblivelser: En trasslig berättelse om design som normkritisk praktik. Diss. (sammanfattning) Stockholm: Kungliga Tekniska högskolan, 2017
- Eriksson, Yvonne & Göthlund, Anette (2012). Möten med bilder: att tolka visuella uttryck. 2., [rev.] uppl. Lund: Studentlitteratur
- Fagerström, Linda (2010). Kön, genus och design: om en designerroll i förändring. Lund: Linda Fagerström
- Gunn, Maja (2016). Body acts queer: clothing as a performative challenge to heteronormativity. Diss. Borås: Högskolan i Borås, 2016
- Hauptman, Katherine & Odebäck Näversköld, Kerstin (eds.) (2014). Genusförbart: inspiration, erfarenheter och metoder för mångfald i museiarbete. Lund: Nordic Academic Press
- Ilstedt, Sara & Harvard, Åsa (2007). Under ytan: en antologi om designforskning / [redaktion: Åsa Harvard; introduktionstexterna är skrivna av Sara Ilstedt Hjelm]. Stockholm: Raster
- Jahnke, Marcus (ed.) (2006). Formgivning normgivning. Göteborg: Högskolan för design & konsthantverk, Göteborgs Universitet; Centrum för konsumtionsvetenskap, Göteborgs Universitet
- Larsson, Marianne (2008). Uniformella förhandlingar: hierarkier och genusrelationer i Postens kläder 1636-2008. Diss. Stockholm: Stockholms universitet, 2008

Lindblad, Emma (2017). Looking vanlig; neither too much nor too little: A study of consumption of clothing among mainstream youth in a Swedish small town. Diss. Stockholm: Stockholms universitet, 2017

Mendel-Enk, Stephan (2004). Med uppenbar känsla för stil. Stockholm: Atlas

Robach, Cilla (2010). Formens frigörelse: konstantverkochedesign under debatt i 1960-talets Sverige. Diss. Uppsala: Uppsala universitet, 2010

Sylwan, Kerstin (2015). Omforma: nya strukturer för designbranschen. Stockholm, Sverige: Arvinius + Orfeus

Talbot, Stephanie (2013). Slogan t-shirts: cult and culture. London: Bloomsbury

Tarrant, Shira & Jolles, Marjorie. (eds.) (2012). Fashion talks: undressing the power of style. Albany, N.Y.: SUNY Press

Tauke, Beth, Smith, Korydon H. & Davis, Charles L. (red.) (2016). Diversity and design: understanding hidden consequences. New York: Routledge

Twigg, Julia (2013). Fashion and age: dress, the body and later life. London: Bloomsbury Academic



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Domosh, Mona & Seager, Joni (2001). Putting women in place: feminist geographers make sense of the world. New York: Guilford

Massey, Doreen B. (2005). For space. London: SAGE

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Oswin, Natalie. (2019). Global city futures: Desire and development in Singapore. University of Georgia Press.

Rose, Gillian (1993). Feminism and geography: the limits of geographical knowledge. Cambridge: Polity Press

Soja, Edward W. (1996). Thirdspace: journeys to Los Angeles and other real-and-imagined places. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell

PEDAGOGY/ACADEMIA

hooks, bell (2010). Teaching critical thinking: practical wisdom. London: Routledge

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Kumashiro, Kevin K. (2002). Troubling education: queer activism and antioppressive pedagogy. New York: RoutledgeFalmer

Nyberg, Lisa (2022). Pedagogies of the unknown: studying for a future, without guarantees. BoD.

Olsson, Anna-Clara & Olsson, Caroline (eds.) (2004). I den akademiska garderoben. Stockholm: Atlas

Stigmar, Martin (red.) (2023). Inkluderande högre utbildning: breddad rekrytering, breddat deltagande och studentaktivt lärande. Upplaga 1 Lund: Studentlitteratur

THE PROFESSIONAL

Brown, James Benedict (2016). A Gendered Profession: The Question of Representation in Space Making. London: RIBA Publishing

Frichot, H el ene. (2016). How to make yourself a feminist design power tool. Baunach: Spurbuchverlag

Hughes, Francesca (eds.) (1996). The architect: reconstructing her practice. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press

Werner, Helena (2006). Kvinnliga arkitekter: om byggpionj rer och debatterna kring kvinnlig yrkesut vning i Sverige. Diss. G teborg: G teborgs universitet, 2006

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Ahmed, Sara (2019). *What's the use?: on the uses of use*. Durham: Duke University Press

Blidon, Marianne. (2022). *Mapping LGBTQ Spaces and Places: A Changing World*. Cham: Springer International Publishing AG

Butler, Judith (2015). *Notes toward a performative theory of assembly*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press

Enke, Anne (2007). *Finding the movement: sexuality, contested space, and feminist activism*. Durham: Duke University Press

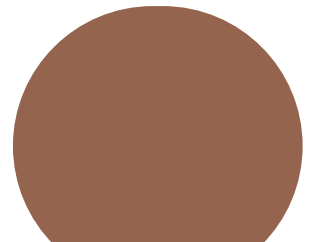
Furumark, Anna (red.) (2013). *Att störa homogenitet*. Lund: Nordic Academic Press

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Malmö universitet (2021). *Queera historier från Malmö*. [Malmö]: Malmö universitet.

Wilson, Elizabeth (1992). *The sphinx in the city: urban life, the control of disorder, and women*. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press



Bingaman, Amy, Sanders, Lise & Zorach, Rebecca (eds.) (2002). Embodied utopias: gender, social change, and the modern metropolis. London: Routledge

Bradley, Karin (2009). Just environments: politicising sustainable urban development. Diss. Stockholm: Kungliga Tekniska högskolan, 2009

Berry, Jess, Moore, Timothy, Kalms, Nicole & Bawden, Gene (eds.) (2021). Contentious cities: design and the gendered production of space. London: Routledge

Doan, Petra L. (2015). Planning and LGBTQ communities: the need for inclusive queer spaces. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group

Gunnarsson-Östling, Ulrika (2011). Just sustainable futures: Gender and environmental justice considerations in planning. Diss. Stockholm: Kungliga Tekniska högskolan, 2011

Hagbert, Pernilla (2018). Framtider bortom BNP-tillväxt: slutrapport från forskningsprogrammet "Bortom BNP-tillväxt: scenarier för hållbart samhällsbyggande". [Stockholm]: KTH Skolan för arkitektur och samhällsbyggnad

Havik, Klaske, Pint, Kris, Riesto, Svava & Steiner, Henriette (eds.) (2021). 77 Minor Terms for Writing Urban Spaces. Nai10 Publishers. Available online: <https://writingurbanplaces.eu/wp-content/uploads/200601-VA-DEMECUM-DEF-VERSION.pdf>

Hayden, Dolores (2002). Redesigning the American dream: gender, housing, and family life. Rev. and exp. New York, N.Y.: W. W. Norton

Hayden, Dolores (1981). *The grand domestic revolution: a history of feminist design for American homes, neighborhoods, and cities*. Cambridge, Mass.

Miranne, Kristine B. & Young, Alma H. (red.) (2000). *Gendering the city: women's boundaries and visions of urban life*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield

Pojani, Dorina (ed.) (2022). *Alternative planning history and theory*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge

Samuels, Linda C. (2021). *Infrastructural Optimism*. Routledge

Sandercock, Leonie (1998). *Towards cosmopolis: planning for multicultural cities*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons

Berg, Marguerite van den (2017). *Gender in the post-Fordist urban: the gender revolution in planning and public policy*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan imprint, published by Springer Nature

Zukin, Sharon (1991). *Landscapes of power: from Detroit to Disney World*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Zukin, Sharon (2010). *Naked city: the death and life of authentic urban places*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

ADDITIONAL FEMINIST LITERATURE

... that can be applied to architecture

Ahmed, Sara (2006). *Queer phenomenology: orientations, objects, others*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press

Ambjörnsson, Fanny (2021). *Rosa: den farliga färgen*. Ordfront förlag

Ambjörnsson, Fanny (2006). *Vad är queer?*. Stockholm: Natur och kultur

Beauvoir, Simone de (1973). *Det andra könet*. Stockholm: Geber

Braidotti, Rosi. (2011). *Nomadic subjects: embodiment and sexual difference in contemporary feminist theory*. 2. ed. New York: Columbia University Press

Butler, Judith (2004). *Undoing gender*. New York: Routledge

Butler, Judith (1993). *Bodies That Matter. On the discursive limits of sex*. New York: Routledge.

Butler, Judith (1990). *Gender trouble: feminism and the subversion of identity*. New York: Routledge

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Connell, Raewyn & Pearse, Rebecca (2015). *Om genus*. 3., [omarb. och uppdaterade] uppl. Göteborg: Daidalos

Gemzøe, Lena (2014). *Feminism*. 2., [uppdaterade] uppl. Stockholm: Bilda Förlag & Idé

Gottzén, Lucas & Jonsson, Rickard (eds.) (2012). Andra män: maskulinitet, normskapande och jämställdhet. 1. uppl. Malmö: Gleerups

hooks, bell (2000). Feminist theory: from margin to center. 2. ed. Cambridge, Mass.: South End press

Nixon, Rob (2011). Slow violence and the environmentalism of the poor. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press

Rosenberg, Tiina (2006). Queerfeministisk agenda [Elektronisk resurs]. Stockholm: Atlas

Said, Edward W. (2000). Orientalism. [Ny utg.] Stockholm: Ordfront

Skeggs, Beverley (2004). Class, self, culture. London: Routledge

Stein, Gertrude (2003). Three lives & tender buttons. New York: Signet Classic

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt, Gan, Elaine & Bubandt, Nils (eds.) (2017). Arts of living on a damaged planet. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

Thörn, Håkan, Eriksson, Catharina & Eriksson Baaz, Maria (red.) (1999). Globaliseringens kulturer: den postkoloniala paradoxen, rasismen och det mångkulturella samhället. Nora: Nya Doxa

Young, Iris Marion (2005). On female body experience: "Throwing like a girl" and other essays. New York: Oxford University Press

Zethson, Michell (2012). Materialiserade sexualiteter: om hur normer framträder, förhandlas och ges hållbarhet. Diss. Stockholm : Stockholms universitet, 2012

NOTES:

¹ Bonnevier, K. (2007). Behind straight curtains: towards a queer feminist theory of architecture. Diss. Stockholm : Kungliga tekniska högskolan, 2007. Stockholm.

² Fitz, A. & Krasny, E. (eds.) (2019). Critical care: architecture and urbanism for a broken planet. Vienna: Architekturzentrum Wien.

³ Haraway, D. J. (1988). Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective. Simians, cyborgs, and women: The reinvention of nature.

⁴ See for example Awan, N., Schneider, T. & Till, J. (2011). Spatial agency: other ways of doing architecture. Abingdon, Oxon [England]: Routledge.

⁵ Butler, J. (1990). Gender trouble: feminism and the subversion of identity. New York: Routledge.

⁶ Frichot, H. (2019). Dirty Theory. (1. Auflage). Baunach: Spurbuchverlag.

⁷ Krasny, E. (2022) Care Trouble: Thinking through gendered entanglements in architecture. In: Mary Pepchinski & Christina Budde (eds). Women Architects and Politics: Intersections between Gender, Power Structures and Architecture in the Long 20th Century. Transcript Verlag.

⁸ Ahmed, S. (2017). Living a feminist life. Durham: Duke University Press

⁹ Intersectionality is a term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989 to describe the power dynamics of how multiple forms of inequality "intersect", e.g., in a way that makes gender understood differently if also recognizing perspectives of race, ethnicity, sexuality etc.

¹⁰ In the strategic plan for Lund University 2017-2026, interdisciplinarity is put forward as one of the keys to contribute to the solution of complex societal problems.

¹¹ Halberstam, J. (2011). The queer art of failure. Durham, [N.C.]: Duke University Press.

¹² Rendell, J. (2021). A way with words: feminists writing architectural design research. In: Design research in architecture (pp. 117-136). Routledge.

¹³ Krasny, E. (2015). Feminist thought and curating: On method. OnCurating, 2015, 26:53-71.

