

# Women in Design, Graduate School of Design

*Women in Design (WiD) is a student group working to increase the visibility of practicing women designers and to further incorporate their experiences and knowledge into our education at the Graduate School of Design. It offers a supportive network and a critical forum in which students discuss topics ranging from studying at the GSD to operating in the professional environment. Events and meetings are aimed at connecting the GSD community to the larger professional and academic context, representing the full range of activities of women in the design fields.*

## About Women in Design:

- WiD was started over 10 years ago and has been student run and led ever since.
- Currently we have about 50 active members and create events for GSD, Harvard University and the Boston-wide design community.
- Our events include: lectures, lunches, film screenings, panel discussions, exhibitions, symposia, informal talks, dinners, social gatherings and publications.
- Our events are open to all GSD students, female and male alike, in all departments including Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Planning, Urban Design, M.Des, D.Des and PhD, as well as to faculty, staff and the surrounding community.

## Recent Events:

- In the Spring of 2005, WiD organized the symposium "Taking Stock," which focused on the state of affairs of women in the design fields at Harvard. The impact of the symposium led to new policies regarding women at the GSD.
- In the Spring of 2008, WiD organized the symposium "Progress in Process" with the generous donation of Harvard University's Office of Faculty Diversity and Development. The event brought together 18 speakers over 4 days and included an exhibition in the Gund lobby.<sup>1</sup>

## General Information:

- As of 2007, only 13.3% of the AIA members were women, a mere 1.7% increase from 1975.<sup>2</sup>
- Over half of architecture students nation-wide are female.

1. Visit events webcasts from the Spring of 2008 at <http://www.gsd.harvard.edu/events/webcasts/>  
2. Nicolai Ouroussoff, "Keeping Houses not Building Them" *New York Times*, 10.31.07

