

GENDER GAP

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Diversity is essential to our environment, to us as humans. It is undeniable that our habitats, our cities, have been built with a male gaze, in an anthropocentric construct that lacks enough inclusion whether to 'minorities', to nature or more specifically to women.

I see it both as essential and urgent to the wellbeing of man and that of woman, of gender in general, to the balance our 'milieu', to ensure spaces of negotiations, ones where dialogue and difference could happen and where an alternative way of inhabiting could be possible.

It requires knowledge, time, resilience, and observation to highlight these processes of marginalization. It also requires courage and perseverance to voice out discrimination.

As an architect who started my career with two male partners, I have been able to sense very closely clear sentiments of unease and unacceptance towards me if I am proven to be a good architect or when I am to voice out what I would have designed. In this specific case, it would be accepted and looked up to when a male claims his designs and contribution to architecture. However, in the exact same situation, it would be considered too loud, malefic, uncollaborative, sometimes doubtfully unethical for a woman to express her being through what she has meticulously drawn and put very carefully to life if that design happens to be without any creative input from anyone but her.

These — what Pierre Bourdieu would call 'habitus' — are embedded structures of thoughts, of being, that may not be expressed 'on purpose'. They are part of the educational system but they still need to be pinpointed and driven to change to stop pulling 'Her' down.

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**ISN'T IT TIME TO HAVE
A MORE DESIRABLE
WORLD FOR ALL?**



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