

MANCHESTER SCHOOL  
OF ARCHITECTURE

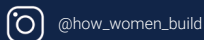
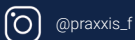
how 

 WOMEN 

build? 

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MSA  
LIVE 21

## Team

**Joe Curtis** (M Arch 01)

**Rianna Grant** (M Arch 01)

**Ebun Andu** (M Arch 01)

**Tala-Carol Khouri** (M Arch 01)

**April Sidlow** (M Arch 01)

**Aleksandra Drinkwater** (M Arch 01)

**Aaya Abdel-Maksoud** (BA 01)

**Aline Anca Pop** (BA 01)

**Nicole Durrant** (BA 01)

**Maria Figueiredo** (BA 02)

**Bima Matthew Poetiray** (BA 02)

**Claudia Yael Rowe** (BA 02)

**Ruby Lok Hei Chang** (BA 02)

## Partners

Helen Aston is a Senior Lecturer at the Manchester School of Architecture and has been teaching in architecture schools for over 24 years, always focused and passionate about the spatial implications of feminist theory into practice she has been teaching and practicing in a feminist and inclusive way since 1996. She is currently the MSA Education Lead and leads the feminist design atelier Praxis. In 2018 she was nominated for the first Ethel Day Awards for her contribution to architectural education and will soon be included in the new Bloomsbury Global Encyclopaedia on Women in Architecture.

Helen absolutely loves creating and interpreting diagrams, hates symmetry but passionately loves building things with people who do not normally build. She teaches, she collaborates, she participates, she designs, she builds, she talks (a lot), and she proposes things.

Dr Luca Csepely-Knorr is a chartered landscape architect, art historian and Reader at the Manchester School of Architecture. Her research and writing centre on the histories of landscape architecture, architecture and urban design from the late 19th century to the 1970s, with a particular emphasis on the development of design theories of public spaces and international knowledge transfer. She has led design studios for both under- and postgraduate architecture and landscape architecture students, lectured in various history and theory units, and guided postgraduate research projects. Luca has experience in running international multi-disciplinary workshops, and acted as Humanities coordinator for the undergraduate architecture course at MSA between 2015 and 2020. Luca co-directs the Architecture Research Hub at MSA (with Richard Brook), and is Joint Programme Leader of the Master of Landscape Architecture course (with Becky Sobell).

# Agenda

## How Women Build?

'How Women Build?' is a live research and conference at the Manchester School of Architecture (MSA); and due to COVID 19 has shifted online. Using analysis of the registration documents provided by the collaborators, we have curated a blog, placing Manchester's contribution to educate female designers within the international, multidisciplinary context of the conference. We have created a series of feminist posters which act as prominent visuals on the blog and have designed a feminist wallpaper, showcasing all the women who have graduated from the MSA. As a group, we have provided exposure to women who are unknown and unseen in the industry. The outputs include a blog, a feminist wallpaper and a series of feminist case study posters. These outputs will, hopefully, encourage more women to join and will promote equity in the Architecture and Landscape professions.

Many of these women would not have been known if these outputs had not been created. At the start of MSA Live, when the students were asked what architects/landscape architects had graduated from the MSA, the standard answer was Norman Foster. Now, the How Women Build? group will be able to give a list of women who have gone on to be successful. Hopefully, our outputs will reach other students, architects and landscape architects and these women will gain the platform they have always deserved.

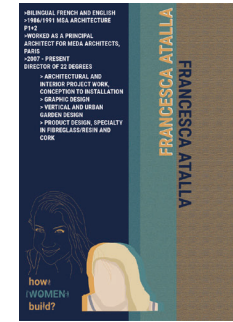
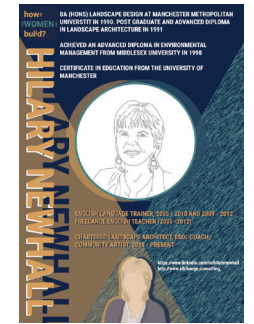
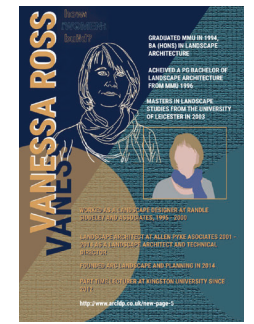
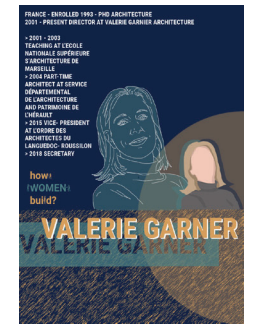
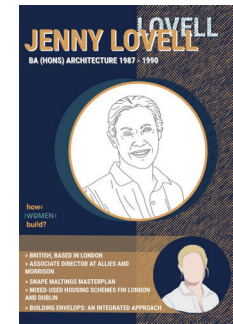
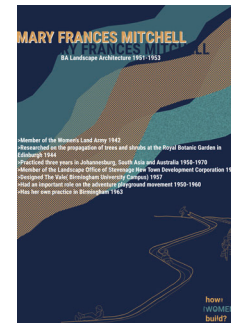
# Case Studies

At the start of the How Women Build? event, the collaborators provided us with some data, documenting every person who had enrolled and graduated from Manchester universities (excluding University of Manchester), in architecture or landscape architecture, from 1852 to 2005. The collaborators were only able to access information from the Manchester Metropolitan University archives and not from the University of Manchester. Before the two week event, the masters students searched through the data and managed to identify 16 different case studies of women who had graduated from the Manchester School of Architecture (MSA) and had gone on to be successful in their careers. These 16 women are just a handful, selected because of their feminist outlook or their interesting career path. There are also many other women who have been successful, but time restrictions meant they couldn't all be pursued further.

The 16 women chosen are; Heather Heaton, Hilary Newhall, Selasi Setufe, Francesca Attala, Helen Forman, Dawn Hindle, Mary Frances Mitchell, Fay Freeman, Caroline Benedict Smith, Vanessa Ross, Natasha Jones, Sonia Pabla-Thomas, Valerie Garnier, Jenny Lovell, Dr. Harriet Harriss and Nicola Brown.

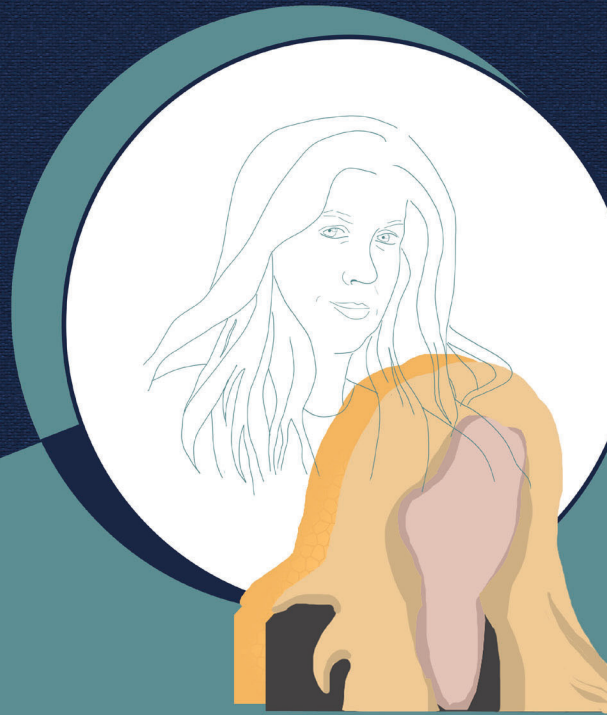
The case studies were divided between the three groups. Each group conducted further research on these women and created individual biographies. Using the case study research, the cohort has created a series of feminist posters which celebrate the lives of female graduates from the Manchester School of Architecture. The posters not only name these women, but they explain what they have built, what they went on to do, and what they do now.

Many of these women would not have been known if this research had not been conducted and these posters had not been created. A lot of our students recognised the projects but did not recognise the name of the architects, or they knew the architect but did not realise they had gone to the MSA. Highlighting the importance of these posters and the exposure of these women. Hopefully, our outputs will reach other students, architects and landscape architects and these women will gain the platform they have always deserved.





how  
WOMEN  
build?



HARRIET HARRIS  
DR HARRIET HARRIS  
DR HARRIET HARRIS

2001 BA (HONS) ARCHITECTURE, MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY  
2003 MASTERS (MA) ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS (RIBA PART II) AT  
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART  
2005-2007 POSTGRADUATE (PG)(Dip) BUILDING CONSERVATION  
FROM AA SCHOOL, LONDON  
2006-2007 CHARTERED ARCHITECT, RIBA, UK  
KINGSTON UNIVERSITY ARCHITECTURE AND PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICE (RIBA PART III PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION)  
2014, Ph.D. IN ARCHITECTURE OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY  
DEAN OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE PRATT INSTITUTE IN  
BROOKLYN, USA

AWARDS:  
2016-2017 CLORE FELLOWSHIP FOR CULTURAL  
LEADERSHIP  
2017 EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF  
ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION COUNCIL  
2019 DEZEEN NOMINATION AWARD AS A  
CHAMPION FOR WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE  
AND DESIGN

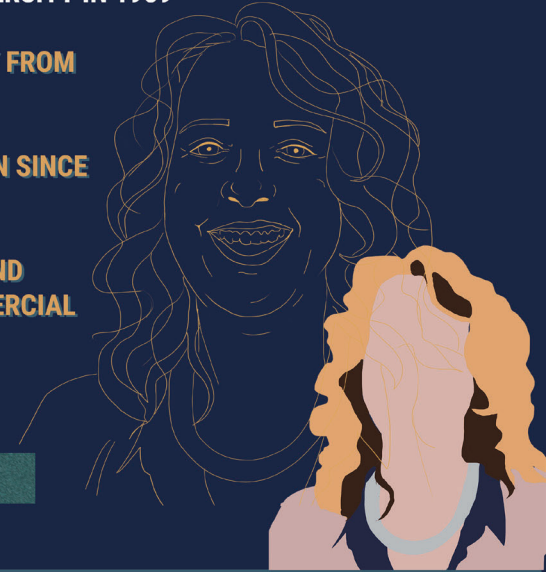
# HEATHER HEATON

BA (HONS) ARCHITECTURE FROM  
MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY IN 1989

PROJECT DESIGNER AT GVA GRIMLEY FROM  
1993 TO 2006

OWNER / DIRECTOR AT AARCK DESIGN SINCE  
2006

AARCK DESIGN HAS 6 EMPLOYEES AND  
WORKS ON RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL  
PROJECTS



<https://www.aarck.co.uk/>

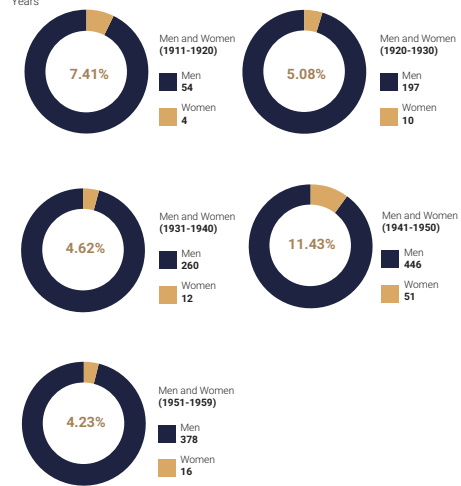
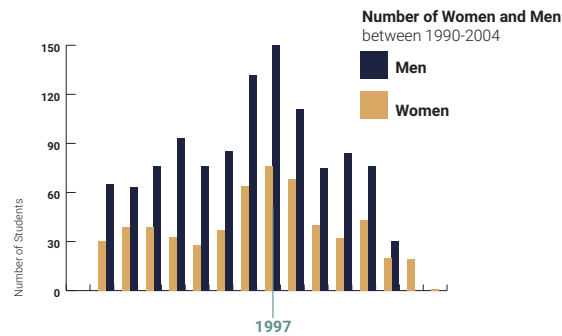
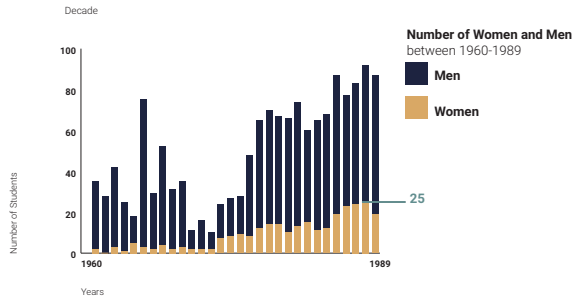
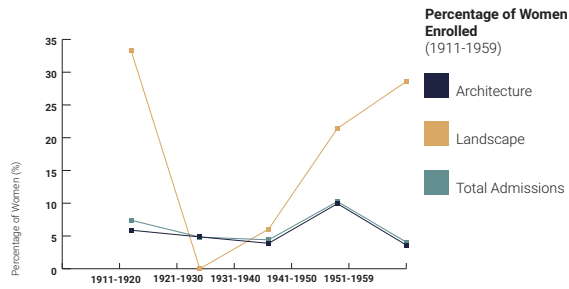
how  
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# Statistics

Each group were asked to analyse the data provided by our collaborators, documenting every person who had enrolled and graduated from Manchester universities (excluding University of Manchester), in architecture or landscape architecture, from 1852 to 2005. Group 01 were given the years for the first wave of feminism (1852 to 1960). The group found that 8.5% of enrolments were women. Out of those women, 40% studied landscape and 60% architecture. This ratio of men to women would be expected for this period, as women's rights were still progressing.

Group 02 looked at the second wave of feminism (1960-1990). While the ratios of women to men are still extremely low, the number of women enrolling in these courses was increasing. This may be a result of women's rights improving. Another factor would be Manchester Metropolitan University merging with the University of Manchester in the 1990s, causing a rise in admissions. It was also noted the amount of women studying landscape architecture was higher than architecture.

Group 03 analysed the third wave of feminism (1990-2000). The data after 2000 is slightly inaccurate, therefore this is where the data stops. The ratio of men to women is improving, however it is still 2/3 male compared to 1/3 female.

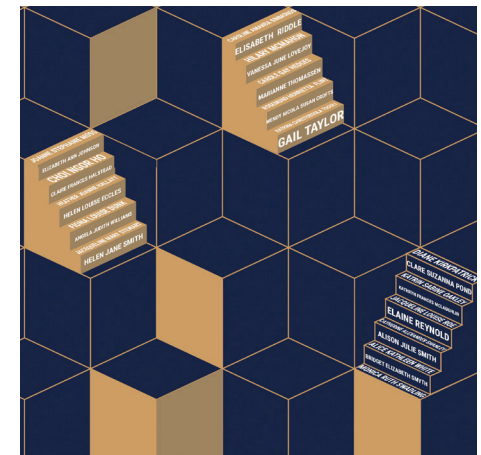
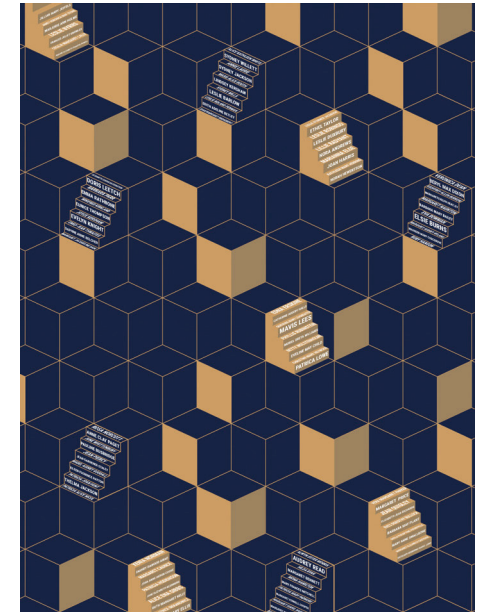


# Wallpaper

This group started off looking at feminist propaganda posters, historic and modern examples. They were keen to find any reoccurring interesting images that could be used in the wallpaper. After this, the group moved onto look at wallpaper precedents, although this imagery was interesting, they didn't feel like this aligned with the type of wallpaper we wanted to create. Each group member created a concept design for the feminist wallpaper.

The first was created by Bima, taking inspiration from Helene Cixous' Medusa. The design starts small and then grows into a large and explosive pattern, reflecting the amount of women enrolled in architecture over the years. Our second design was by Ruby, who wanted to create a link to architecture with a repetitive modular structure. The design also shows women out of windows holding a banner with their names on. The final concept was designed by Nicole, who started to combine the two ideas. After group discussions, the design was finalised.

The final design incorporates stairs into the modular pattern, symbolising different levels and heights that women can reach. The names of all the women who enrolled in landscape and architecture courses over the years have been placed on individual steps, providing them with the platform they deserve.

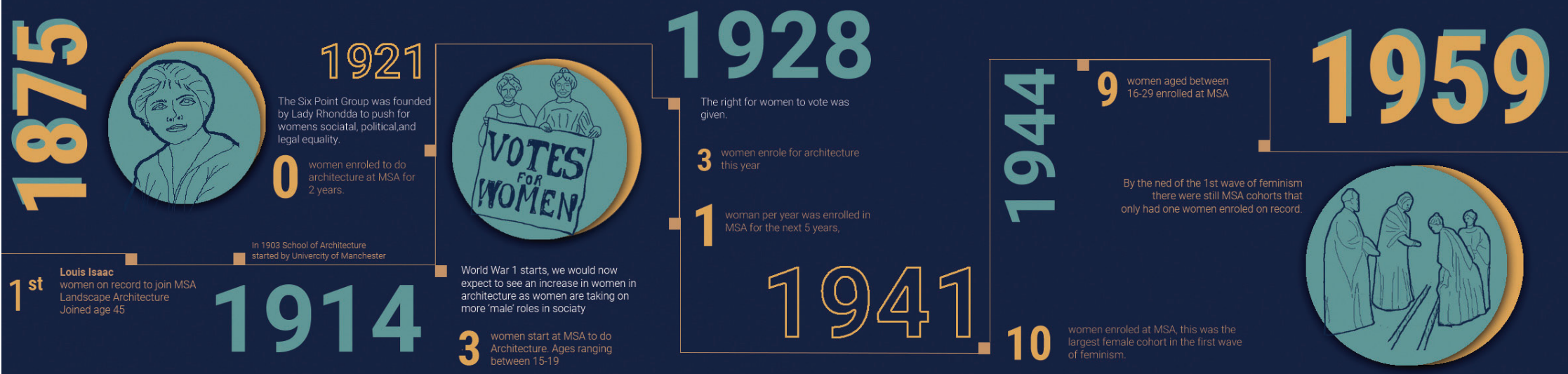
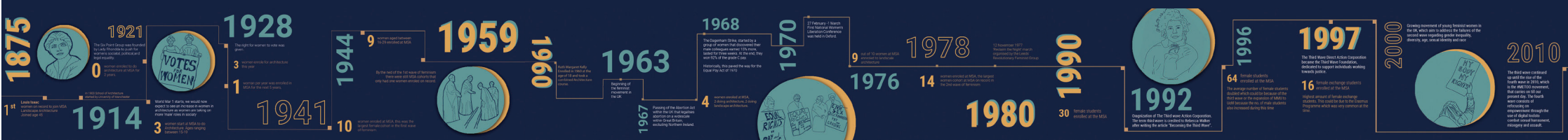




# Timeline

The timeline records gender, architectural and landscape history, worldwide historical events, as well as the many previous adaptations of the Manchester School of Architecture, to learn and highlight the trends and common themes of female admissions in the last 100 years. From the timeline, we were

able to notice some patterns. For instance, in the third wave of feminism the amount of women graduating increased. It has also been interesting to discover how the later waves of feminism and the merging of The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University to create the school of architecture caused spikes in female admissions.



1960

Ruth Margaret Kelly  
Enrolled in 1960 at the  
age of 18 and took a  
combined Architecture  
course.

1963

Beginning of  
the feminist  
movement in  
the UK

1967

Passing of the Abortion Act  
within the UK that legalises  
abortion on a widescale  
within Great Britain,  
excluding Northern Ireland.

1968

The Dagenham Strike, started by a  
group of women that discovered their  
male colleagues earned 15% more,  
lasted for three weeks. At the end, they  
won 92% of the grade C pay.

Historically, this paved the way for the  
Equal Pay Act of 1970

1970

27 February -1 March  
First National Women's  
Liberation Conference  
was held in Oxford.

4 women enrolled at MSA,  
2 doing architecture, 2 doing  
landscape architecture.



1976

1978

9 out of 10 women at MSA  
enrolled to landscape  
architecture

14

women enrolled at MSA, the largest  
women cohort at MSA on record in  
the 2nd wave of feminism

12 November 1977  
'Reclaim the Night' march  
organised by the Leeds'  
Revolutionary Feminist Group.

1980

2nd Wave of Feminism

1990



1992

Organization of The Third wave Action Corporation.  
The term third wave is credited to Rebecca Walker  
after writing the article "Becoming the Third Wave".

30 female students  
enrolled at the MSA

1996

64 female students  
enrolled at the MSA

The average number of female students  
doubled which could be because of the  
third wave or the expansion of MMU to  
UoM because the no. of male students  
also increased during this time

1997

The Third Wave Direct Action Corporation  
became the Third Wave Foundation,  
dedicated to support individuals working  
towards justice.

16 female exchange students  
enrolled at the MSA

Highest amount of female exchange  
students. This could be due to the Erasmus  
Programme which was very common at the  
time.

2000

Growing movement of young feminist women in  
the UK, which aim to address the failures of the  
second wave regarding gender inequality,  
diversity, age, sexual identity and race



2010

The third wave continued  
up until the rise of the  
fourth wave in 2010, which  
is the #METOO movement,  
that carries on till our  
present day. The fourth  
wave consists of  
refocusing on  
empowerment through the  
use of digital tools to  
combat sexual harassment,  
misogyny and assault.

3rd & 4th Wave of Feminism

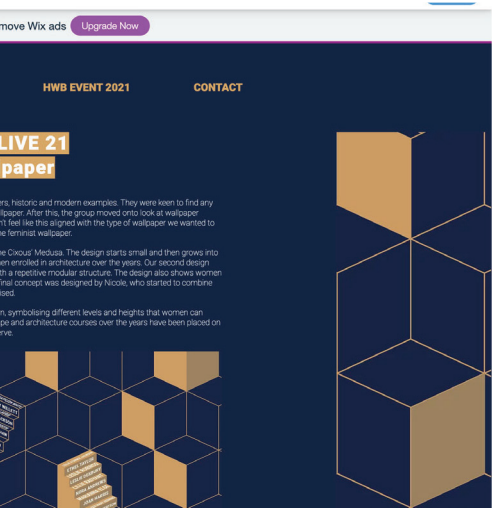
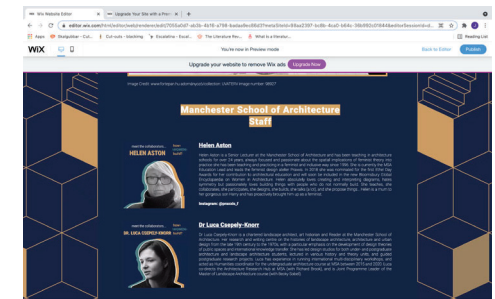
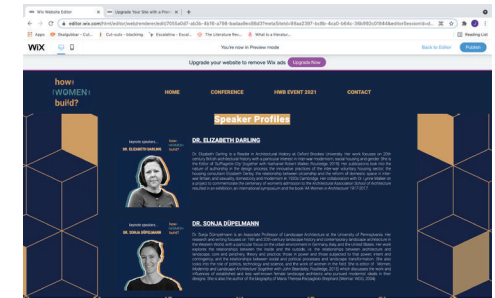
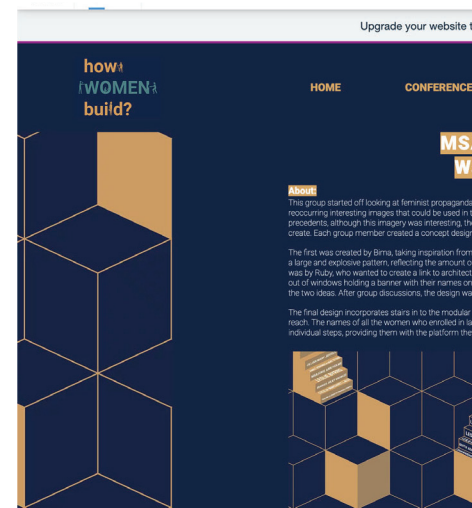
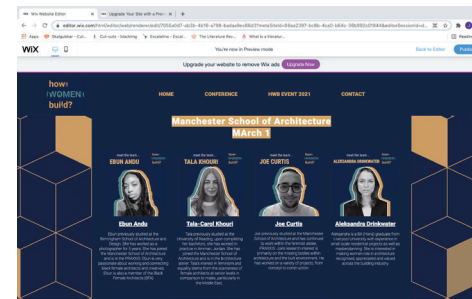
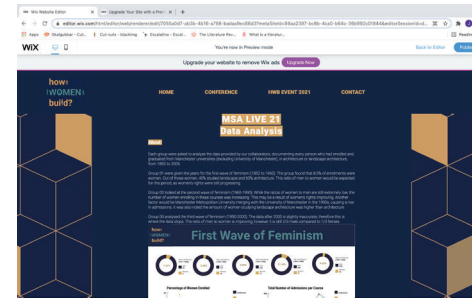
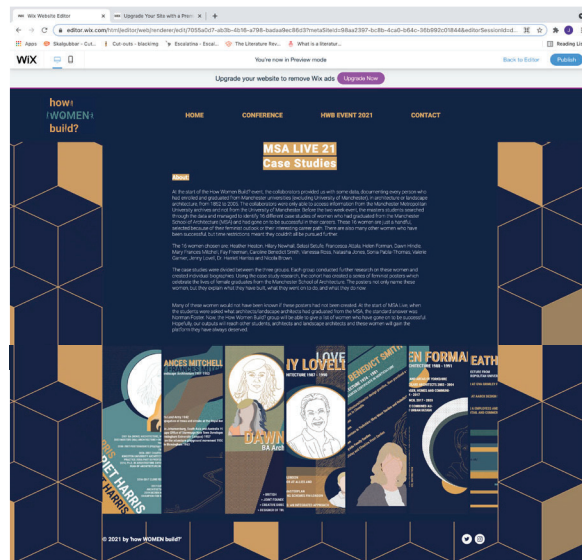
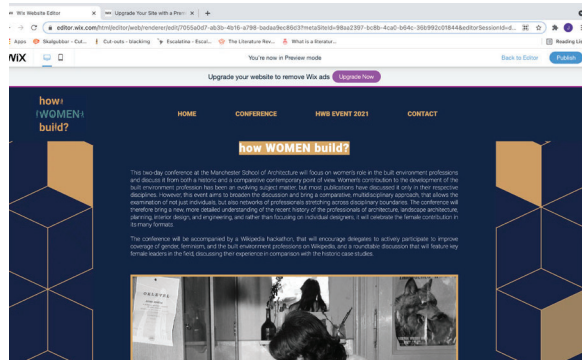
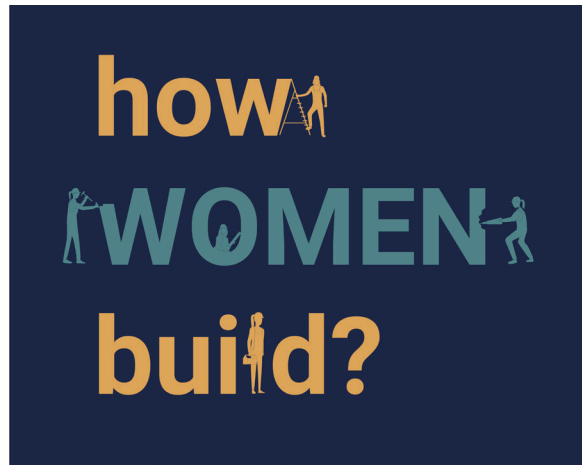


# Blog

In order to collate all the information about the How Women Build? event, the collaborators asked us to create a blog/website. This blog is about restating, reclaiming and the re-inclusion of women into the canon of architecture and landscape history. Celebrating the lives and work of many women practitioners who build and have built but who have not always been recognised.

The first task was to create a new brand and logo for the event, the existing logo did not represent the event and did not embrace the values of the project. Therefore, we created a new logo and ensured the essence of “how women build” was a focus of the brand.

The How Women Build blog is a repository of research and data undertaken by both Helen Aston, Dr. Luca Csepley Knorr, and the How Women Build MSA Live team, with a primary focus on outlining the MSA’s contribution to educating female designers within architecture and landscapes. Not only will the blog provide information on the upcoming conference, but it will also celebrate the lives and works of women practitioners who build and have built, who may never have been recognised.





## ABOUT

Each year the MSA Live (formerly Events) programme unites M Arch. year 01 with B Arch. year 01 and 02 and M Land. Arch 01 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

## LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA Live projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

## SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA Live projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

## EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

## STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts join for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

## LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 600 students from 4 cohorts in MSA will work on 42 projects with partners.

## QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA Live 21 contact MSA Live Lead: Becky Sobell:  
[b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk)

## BLOG

[live.msa.ac.uk/2021](http://live.msa.ac.uk/2021)

## SOCIAL

#MSALive21

@TheMSArch

@MLA\_TheMSArch

## WEBSITE

[www.msa.ac.uk](http://www.msa.ac.uk)