

cycle pattern of limited labour force participation, it has been suggested by some that population aging is problematic. As a result, population aging is seen to be the cause of this burden on the public purse. McDaniel disagrees and suggests women's dependency is a much larger and different issue, not a problem of population aging. McDaniel argues that meeting the economic need of older women is necessary to alleviate some of these fearful images of living in an aging society.

Chapter five is a discussion of five policy and program issues in population aging: the economy, retirement and work, health issues, housing and family, and education. McDaniel states that her purpose here is to provoke thought, not to attempt to cover all the relevant policy issues. The section on the economy deals primarily with pensions and their relationship to population aging. This section also provides further discussion on the economic problems of older women, including pension eligibility, structural inequality and the use of gender based mortality tables which give women smaller pensions because they tend to live longer. The remaining sections of the chapter provide a balanced view of some of the other policy issues and point out areas of reform that could lead to appropriate responses to Canada's aging population. Issues briefly covered here include the changing world of work, the health care system, housing, education and the family. McDaniel's interest in gender issues is clear, gender differences in later life experience are discussed often in this chapter.

In chapter six, McDaniel deals with the future of demographic aging in Canada. The discussion focuses on the future of fertility, mortality and international immigration in Canada using population projections. This is followed by a discussion of the resulting age and age-sex structure in future Canadian society. McDaniel concludes this chapter by suggesting that a "period of grace" has been built into the Canadian age structure. McDaniel suggests that this period can be used as a time of "transition, planning and innovation" to prepare for meeting the economic and social needs of future Canadian society. It is McDaniel's opinion that neither a "seige mentality" nor "scare imagery" serve any useful purpose in the discussion of population aging in Canada, and may cause further harm than contribute to solutions. In the last chapter McDaniel provides a brief summary and presents a series of unanswered questions and implications for future research.

In summary, *Canada's Aging Population* provides a lucid and thoughtful discussion of the major social issues

surrounding population aging. The level of the book is appropriate for its intended audience, and an extensive bibliography is provided for those interested in exploring further the issues discussed by McDaniel. The book will be particularly useful for people seeking a thoughtful, rather than "doomsday," discussion of Canada's aging population.

Nancy Knudsen

Making Space: Women and the Man Made Environment. Matrix, London: Pluto Press, 1984. Pp. 148.

This book is authored by a group of feminist designers known as Matrix. The authors are seven women, all of whom have studied architecture and are currently working in a range of roles including architects, designers and builders. Matrix had its roots in the late seventies in the New Architecture Movement, a group of socialist architects, students, teachers and builders concerned with making architects more accountable to building users and questioning relationships between architect, user and builder. In 1978, the Feminist Design Collective emerged as a discussion group to understand and develop a feminist approach to architecture through discussion and work. In March, 1979, a conference on "Women and Space" was held. In 1980, the Feminist Design Collective split and Matrix was established as an umbrella organization "to develop a feminist approach to design through practical projects and theoretical analysis, and to communicate our ideas more widely" (p.viii).

The intent of this book is to assist women in understanding how the built environment fails to work for them and to initiate some thinking about how things might be different. Matrix clearly states that the intent is not:

To provide architects with a do-it-yourself feminist architecture kit. We are not prescribing solutions; we are describing problems, so as to help women understand their own relationship to the built environment and to help architects understand how the environment is a problem for women (p.8).

The book is a collection of nine papers, two of which provide an overview of issues written by all the authors together plus seven individual contributions on specific topics. Essentially, the first half of the book deals with an introduction to feminist concerns of how buildings and cities work for women, while the second half tends to be focused more specifically on issues related to house design

as well as to design projects undertaken by Matrix. The focus of the discussion is entirely British although the themes are pertinent to other cultures. Three major themes emerge.

The first theme deals with the importance of the home as a woman's place. The home is presented as the place where we are most able to impose our own individuality. For women the home is not viewed as the same retreat from work it is for most men. In addition, there are more intangible issues for women and the home. Matrix states that women:

Will be judged by the quality of environment we make, by neighbors, relations and friends—even if this is in circumstances over which we have little control, like a badly designed or 'sink' estate or a cramped 'starter' home. Behind every woman is the image of the 'ideal home.' The ideology of domesticity, which describes how things ought to be and ought to look, will always affect what we do even when we are reacting against it (p. 1).

In this Matrix is not making a statement of architectural determinism, emphasizing that:

Buildings only affect us inasmuch as they contain ideas about women, about our 'proper place,' about what is private and what is public activity, about which things should be kept separate and which put together. But this does not determine how we live (p. 10).

Through various examples Matrix illustrates how little influence women have had in housing in particular and how housing reflects societal views of women's place.

The second theme is that it is a *man-made* world. The policy setting, commissioning, financing, design and construction of buildings and public spaces are highly male dominated. In addition to the dearth of women in positions of power or wealth to influence building decisions; in 1978, 95 percent of architects in the United Kingdom were male. Furthermore, in Britain, particularly with its extensive public housing stock, the decisions of environmental needs in housing, from kitchen layouts to building accessibility, is dominated by male experiences and perceptions. "In short, women play almost no part in making decisions about or in creating the environment. It is a *man-made* environment" (p. 3).

A third main theme in the book is criticism of modern architecture in which "the forms of buildings were influenced by economic and political pressures rather than social needs." (p. 5) Matrix believes:

That the question of what has 'gone wrong' with modern architecture cannot be discussed adequately without an awareness of the invisibility of women's lives to the professionals who plan buildings and cities (p.6).

Discussions of the challenges for women entering the architectural profession in terms of training, attitudes of other professionals, and balancing professional roles with those of wife, mother and other roles are introduced in Chapter Two, "Women, Architects and Feminism." Matrix cites that more females drop out of architectural schools than males and even those who stay with the course contend with the lack of role models and the prevalent male, middle-class norm. Difficulties continue once women enter practice with discrimination in both the public and private sectors documented. Women principals in private architectural firms earn less than males and experience difficulties in becoming a partner:

...since the ideal new partner is in his or her thirties, with a wide network of contacts with potential clients and a willingness to put in considerable unpaid overtime. This is the time when many women take a break to have children, with consequent loss of professional contacts and reduced capacity to work long hours. Architecture is not an ideal occupation for part-time work (p.23).

One aspect of the problem of attracting and keeping women in the field of architecture is the lack of a sense of history and precedent of women's contributions, as well as of role models. There has been little familiarity with the history of efforts and achievement of females. The primary contribution of this book is to summarize many little known examples of efforts and achievements of women to improve the nature of housing in Britain. Other than the notable contributions of Dolores Hayden to document in her books, *The Grand Domestic Revolution* (1981), women's accomplishments in campaigning, planning and working strategically against women's isolation in the home and confinement to domestic life in the United States, and *Seven American Utopias* (1976), a history of feminist designs for communities and homes in the United States, there is relatively little well known about the influence of women on the development of the nature of the built environment.

Historical contributions cited include in Chapter 3, "Homes Fit for Heroines: Housing in the Twenties," an interesting history of the work of the Women's Housing Sub-committee in Britain. It also refers to alternative cooperative housekeeping arrangements which challenged traditional ideas of domestic work. In Chapter 4, "Women and Public Space," mention is made of the wide-ranging recommendations of the Greater London Council's Women's Committee, Woman and Planning Working Group for planning policies that discriminate in favour of women and for more involvement of women in the planning process and the monitoring of its effectiveness. A unique trace of the physical design of house plans and their rationale over time is presented in Chapter 5, "House Design and Women's Roles."

Chapter 8, "Private Kitchens, Public Cooking," discusses a little known experiment during World War Two in which cafeterias, known as British Restaurants, were run by local authorities on a non-profit making basis to meet working-class needs due to the immense disruption of daily life, much of which profoundly affected women. These restaurants took the burden from women, served women, recognized the value of normally unpaid women's work, and were part of a series of proposals for "socializing aspects of domestic work." After the war though, there was sharp debate in Britain about the future of the restaurants closely linked with discussions of women's roles. In the end scarce building materials and labour were devoted to meet the needs of the acute shortage of housing and the restaurants gradually disappeared.

The availability of role models and the sense of alternative roles is also important in promoting women in any field of endeavour. Reference is made to a "personal sense of unease about how architects are supposed to work." (p.102) There are few histories of women architects; *Women in American Architecture: A Historic and Contemporary Perspective*, by Susana Torre, editor (1977), being one notable exception. In many fields women are seeking out alternative roles, such as those in the business community as presented by Liz Roman Gallese in *Women Like Us* (1985). Many women like myself, who have been trained as architects, have pursued non-traditional roles but are still actively involved in influencing the quality of the built environment, through applied research, programming and evaluation or policy and standards setting efforts. There are many possible ways to influence housing and buildings other than being a traditional design architect. Housing design is a complex process involving many negotiations and decisions outside the sphere of control by the architect per se.

Examples such as those presented by Matrix, open up further role alternatives. Chapter 7 documents the work and experience in developing alternative strategies for designing buildings. Specifically, Matrix operates collectively and in an egalitarian manner. Women are involved in all stages of the evolution of a building—from recognizing the need for the building through financing and organizing the project, designing and building it, and finally, using it. A unique aspect of most of the buildings cited is that these were "women-centred" buildings in which women were to be the primary users. Finally, this chapter explores the questions raised by the roles and relationships between client, architect and builder.

However, many of the design issues raised by Matrix are not limited to concerns for women only. In Chapter 4, "Women and Public Space," admission is made that many of the issues being raised could be applied to working class men, particularly to immigrants and migrants, who are also "restricted in their use of the built environment—by low incomes and by what are considered 'proper' places for them to be" (p. 39). Many of the problems cited for women are also problems for other groups, such as the young, the elderly, the handicapped—these issues are not just feminist issues, but issues of human diversity and equality of opportunity. Nor is restructuring the architectural design process to a more participatory experience exclusively feminist. Alternative tools, roles and processes are being used to help user groups understand the problems and tradeoffs inherent in design for replanning offices, hospitals, houses, and other kinds of buildings.

In this context, the issues raised by Matrix are pertinent. The examples they document fill gaps in the history of women's contributions and they raise some provocative questions about alternative roles for women in influencing the built environment.

Pleasantine Drake

The Unheralded Majority, Contemporary Women as Mothers. Lydia O'Donnell, *Lexington Books, D. C. Heath and Company, 125 Spring Street, Lexington, Massachusetts 02173, 1985, pp. 170.*

Lydia O'Donnell has an agenda that will make many feminists uncomfortable. She argues that our emphasis on the costs and sacrifices women bear because of their involvement in child rearing, are reflections of our disdain for women's commitments to traditional roles as mothers,