

WOMEN IN PRACTICE

Shock survey results as the AJ launches campaign to raise women architects' status

Unprecedented poll on pay, career and equality investigates why women number just 20% of architects

Shocking results from the AJ's first Women in Architecture survey show that 47 per cent of women claim that men get paid more for the same work, and almost two-thirds believe the building industry has yet to accept the authority of the female architect.

48%

Think they would be paid more if they were male

Nearly 700 women completed the survey, which quizzed women about career challenges as well as sexual discrimination, children, pay and role models. The survey was open to all women working in the built environment. The major investigation is part of a wider campaign by the AJ to raise the status of women in architecture, which includes the launch of three new awards (p23).

Worrying findings included claims by nearly two-thirds of women that they have suffered sexual discrimination during their career in architecture, and that 22 per cent experience sexual

discrimination on a monthly basis or more often.

Zaha Hadid was named as the woman who had made the greatest contribution to women in architecture. But many felt that there was a lack of female role models, and Hadid drew divisive responses.

The Iraqi-born Stirling Prize winner was praised for showing how 'female architects can be well respected and successful', but criticised for failing to achieve a work/life balance: 'She has achieved fantastic things over the course of her career, but at what cost? Sacrificing family for your career is not being a role model.'

11%

Experience sexual discrimination at least once a week

Eighty per cent of women thought having children put them at a disadvantage in architecture. In contrast, only eight per cent felt raising a family would harm their male counterparts' careers.

More than a third said that they had difficulty going back to

work after starting a family, with many respondents lashing out at inflexible working conditions, 'long hours and expectation of unpaid overtime'.

Although around 40 per cent

of all architecture students are female, just 20 per cent of British architects in practice are women, according to statistics from the ARB.

Survey results overleaf

THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTORS TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ARCHITECTURAL INDUSTRY*



1. Zaha Hadid
2. Sarah Wigglesworth
3. Angela Brady
4. Amanda Levete
5. Eva Jiricna
6. Muf
7. Ruth Reed
8. Grafton Architects partners Shelly McNamara and Yvonne Farrell
- 9= Kazuyo Sejima, Denise Scott Brown, Deborah Saunt, Alison Brooks, Eileen Gray

*RANKED ACCORDING TO THE AMOUNT OF MENTIONS IN THE AJ WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE SURVEY