

Dolores Hayden

Brief remarks for McCoy Award ceremony, ACSP, Fort Worth, Texas, November 11, 2006

I am honored to be a co-winner of the Margarita McCoy Award. As an urban historian, interested in how gender affects the shaping of private and public space, I have networked for over three decades with colleagues and students who have investigated cities and suburbs. I have had the pleasure of watching the women who nominated me for this award move from graduate students and assistant professors to tenured professors, department chairs, and deans. But three decades ago, it was almost impossible to speak of gender in the setting of a professional school, or to find a mentor for work on this subject.

Let's take a minute to look back to 1973, my first year as an assistant professor at MIT. I planned an event on gender and space, only to find the posters covered with graffiti, "Keep them pregnant, barefoot, and in the kitchen." "Go hire yourself a mentor" was the wise advice of economist Mary Rowe. I found some of my best mentors in women's history at the Radcliffe Institute across town. Nancy Cott and Alice Kessler Harris helped me see how *The Grand Domestic Revolution*, my book on contested space as part of the nineteenth century women's movement, might complement their research on middle-class domestic life and women's paid work in factories. With their encouragement, I documented the early "material feminists" who demanded that unpaid nurturing be recognized as work and that the home be understood as a workplace equal in importance to the factory or the office.

In 1979, moving to the Urban Planning Program at UCLA, I "hired" two more mentors, Harvey Perloff and Martin Wachs, planners open to seeing gender discrimination as a valid subject for research. Together with several graduate students, I organized "Planning and Designing a Non-Sexist Society," a conference that began to warm up the academic climate. "Planning for Women's Needs" followed in 1980; "Planning for Women in the Economy: A Changing Perspective" in 1981; and "Planning for Diverse Households" in 1982. Soon articles on women's access to housing, transportation, public space, historic landmarks, and jobs began to appear in women's studies journals such as *Signs*. At the same time, noted planning faculty such as Janet Abu-Lughod and Sandra Rosenbloom were attacking common assumptions about the man as the typical citizen and user of city space in planning journals, changing the professional climate.

By the early 1980s, gender became a recognized multi-disciplinary field within planning, as well as an expanding area of interest to broader academic and professional communities. My 1984 book, *Redesigning the American Dream: Housing, Work, and Family Life*, explored the history of housing design for employed women and their families and built on all this new work in planning as well as in history.

A strong network of senior scholars emerged from the yearly events at UCLA in time to mentor grad students in planning who included Hema Dandekar, Claudia Isaac, Gail Dubrow, and Ann Forsyth, and to promote the careers of younger UC planning faculty members researching gender including Ann Markusen, Jacqueline Leavitt, and Karen Hill

Scott, whose expertise ranged across economics, housing, and child care policy. Over the years, many more scholars came to explore how gender, class, and race intersect, and how age and sexual preference are part of the issues to be analyzed as gender plays out in diverse countries.

The next generation of planning scholars will find no shortage of places to investigate. Locally, nationally, and internationally, we see resistance to women's economic and political equality as well as support for it. And this is why strengthening academic networks to support gender research is so important. In 2006, we know our history better, we are empowered with new methods and tools, but it is still difficult to imagine women's full access to urban space in every corner of the world.