

The formation of qualified environments requires evaluation of socio-cultural as well as physical aspects. The improvement of the physical quality of the environment means the production of safe, useful, and healthy interior and exterior spaces. In this context, sustainability, resilience and biodiversity have to be carefully considered in relation to the protection of the environment. However, in order for societies to continue their existence and to be reproduced, the environment has to bear meanings which reflect the values and needs of the users, and it has to be suitable for social changes. Unfortunately, our planet has been going through many problems during the last century, such as environmental crisis, migration, global health problems and gender inequality.

In this paper, the focus will be on challenges in achieving gender equality in architecture. Gender equality does not mean that women and men are exactly alike; it means that we have the equal rights to enjoy the same resources, opportunities and protections, regardless of gender. Actually, this is a fundamental human right that is the foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Actions towards gender equality should include involving women in social and economic participation and decision-making processes, and giving women access to leadership positions with the same conditions as men. Empowerment could be done by including women's viewpoints in design fields, raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy and training.

While many women architects and designers around the world are trying to progress in their career, they either leave the profession by hitting a glass ceiling or face various difficulties. Recent studies reveal that men and women have different approaches to thinking and structuring experience and organizing knowledge. Therefore, providing both women and men equal opportunities in architecture will be a contribution to the improvement of the built environment.

Challenges in achieving gender equality in architecture

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