

# FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE IN URBANISM

2022  
2024



mobility





# Architektoniczki exploring feminist urban planning in Spain!

In May 2023, members of the Architektoniczki group (Joanna Aleksandrowicz, Honorata Grzesikowska and Ewelina Jaskulska), together with Iga Maria Szczepańska – director of the Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation – visited Catalonia, specifically Barcelona, as part of a mobility project to establish a relationship with a collective dealing with gender in urban planning. The aim of the trip was not only to learn but also to exchange knowledge and professional experiences in the spirit of sisterhood.

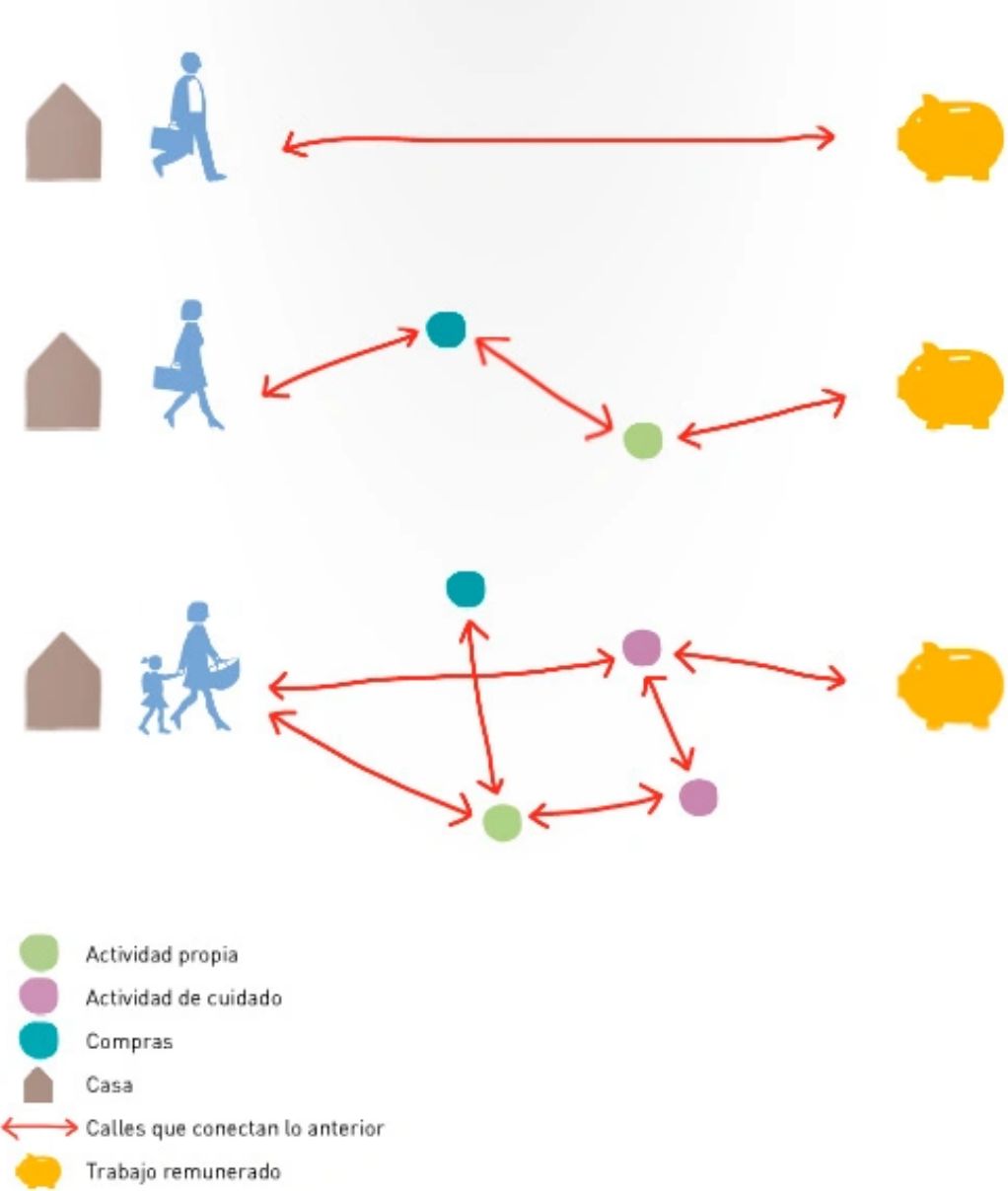
During their week-long stay in the Catalan capital, Architektoniczki participated in unique lectures and workshops organised by Colectivo Punt 6, an interdisciplinary collective made up of architects, sociologists, and urban planners specialising in feminist urbanism. The organised activities broadly focused on women's mobility in public transport and the problem of difficult access to toilets in the city for both women and transgender people. The research shows that women naturally need more time to use the bathroom due to their anatomy and physiology (menstruation, pregnancy or bladder infections being more frequent than men). Despite this, they are still systemically discriminated against and do not have equal access to public toilets, which results in huge queues for women's bathrooms.

Lectures and workshops on mobility-focused, among other things, on the design of the exits to underground stations, safety

in the stations, the representation of women on city buses or the distance to the different stops. Architektoniczki, inspired by their work with Colectivo Punt 6, created the roll-up called ONA (HER), depicting what the mental and physical well-being of women walking through the city at night looks like. The project played an important role at the Women's Congress in Poland. Participants at the event placed stickers with their emotions on the project on the parts of the body where the declared feelings accumulated. This type of research is part of a methodology to design the city (both urban and architectural) according to feminist principles, gender equality and intersectionality.

The field activity during the mobility in Spain also involved exploring the city from a feminist perspective. Architektoniczki observed several aspects of it, including a recently upgraded neighbourhood park that underwent modifications through community involvement, communal housing as a potential solution to the housing shortage, transformations in street areas like the conversion of bustling streets into pedestrian zones, a rise in the usage of non-motorised transportation, and local gardens that regrettably suffered destruction due to major real estate companies.

At the end of their visit to Barcelona, Architektoniczki visited the Equal Saree studio, where they held collaborative discussions about equality in school spaces. The almost week-long stay in Catalonia was full of extremely fruitful and valuable activities and discussions, during which the participants came to conclusions on how to translate experiences and knowledge from everyday life into real transformation. A key issue that ran through all the days of mobility was the impact of shaping space on people's psycho-physical state and their relationship with their environment, and consequently on inclusivity, tolerance, respect and, therefore, the health of the whole community.







**Architektoniczki in Berlin  
– gender issues in urban  
studies**

**Architektoniczki's collective mobility in  
Berlin focused on inclusive urban planning  
and gender studies in architecture.**



**The August visit of the Architektoniczki group supported by the Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation to Berlin was not only marked by feminist urban planning but also by communal, or perhaps one should even say **community, architecture.****



The architects began their week-long visit to the German capital with meetings with the fem arc collective, whose members focus on an intersectional perspective in their work. They also draw on their artistic backgrounds in their projects while organising performances or exhibitions. On the first day, they participated in a workshop organised by the collective and a joint tour of a block of flats (gallery building). Among other things, the workshop was devoted to the seemingly pejorative gossip, more specifically, the so-called Gossip Town, a phenomenon illustrating how gossip in the city creates not divisions but community. Gossip evokes rather negative epithets, and ‘gossip’ is a term that acts as an unfair and unjust label applied to women to accentuate their supposed envy or to trivialise their conversations. The fem arc collective seeks to disenchant the notion of gossip, pointing out its etymological history and its function over the years. When women came together and

‘gossiped’ while embroidering, preparing meals or caring for children together, they built authentic communities and strengthened bonds.

Architektoniczki also took part in a workshop on the issue of separating the various spaces in the city and how to work in thematic areas such as memory (street names), representation and politics, authority spaces, neighbourhood of concern (work), mobility, and personal safety. The tasks were accompanied by Fem\*map, a feminist map of Berlin, analysing the entire city from a gender perspective, which was developed by TU-Berlin-Technical University of Berlin. The architects also met with representatives of Coopdisco, an organisation whose overarching goal is to develop, plan, design and implement places that are used, needed and protected as commons. These are spaces in which the possibility of user participation is embedded and which are affordable, accessible and permanently protected from pri-

vatisation and speculation.

An extremely interesting stop on the Berlin trip turned out to be FLINTA, the largest space in the city created for women. Among the rooms, there were workshops for female representatives of professions generally considered stereotypically masculine. Undoubtedly, the experience gained by the Architektoniczki in the area of celebrating diversity and creating equal, accessible spaces for all will be beneficial on Polish soil.



# **Cities of the future, land art and inclusive urbanism - Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation's stay in Cergy!**



The Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation held a week-long job-shadowing (observation of work) of the Les Ateliers association in Cergy, near Paris, which for 40 years has been engaged in urban analysis and education towards the creation of inclusive, green and open cities. Les Ateliers - the international workshops of planning and urban design - in its own words, "aims to develop the collective creation of ideas that address the challenges and processes of everyday urban planning and design by promoting a process of collective and multidisciplinary work that creates innovative and illustrative proposals related to urban design and spatial development."



Observing the organization's work was all the more crucial because it offers workshops in the form of mobilities. This was a unique approach in terms of education, which the Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation itself is currently benefiting from thanks to support from the European Union. During our stay, we learned how mobility is managed, how candidates are selected, how the methodology is tailored to the country, and how the organization strives to meet its program goals.

Les Ateliers educates in a forward-looking way, very much based on collectivity and interdisciplinarity. The association organizes annual multidisciplinary workshops open to sociologists, urban planners, architects, artists, and people interested in activities related to transforming cities. Les Ateliers establishes relationships in advance with city managers around the world to conduct workshops directed at exploring and trying to present a possible solution to a local problem that the city faces. Typically, these activities are also at the intersection of many areas - e.g., running urban gardens, managing green waste, transforming energy. In addition, the association seeks to act locally in its neighbourhood, organizing workshops in and around Paris. As an organization with a history of more than 40 years, with around 200 male and female members, many are involved in the co-creation of the methodology, offering their expertise or participation as teachers/lecturers/leaders in some of the workshops.

The Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation has gained many valuable ideas for customized educational meth-

odologies while getting to know an organization open to future cooperation. We have already invited members of the Foundation's staff who did not participate in the mobility to meetings with Les Ateliers online for the moment, but in the future, there may be a renewed form of mobility.

In addition, Les Ateliers, which significantly values local activity and collaboration, invited us to walk along the Axe Majeur project in Cergy, the so-called "new town" in the Paris region. The work, designed by Dani Karavan, was first conceived in the 1980s, and since then, more stops have been added to the immersive, meditative design of the land art stretching over 3 km (the project still needs to be completed). For the guided tour, the collective invited Michel Jaouën, the urban planner responsible for implementing the work and planning Cergy itself, a unique opportunity to exchange expertise.









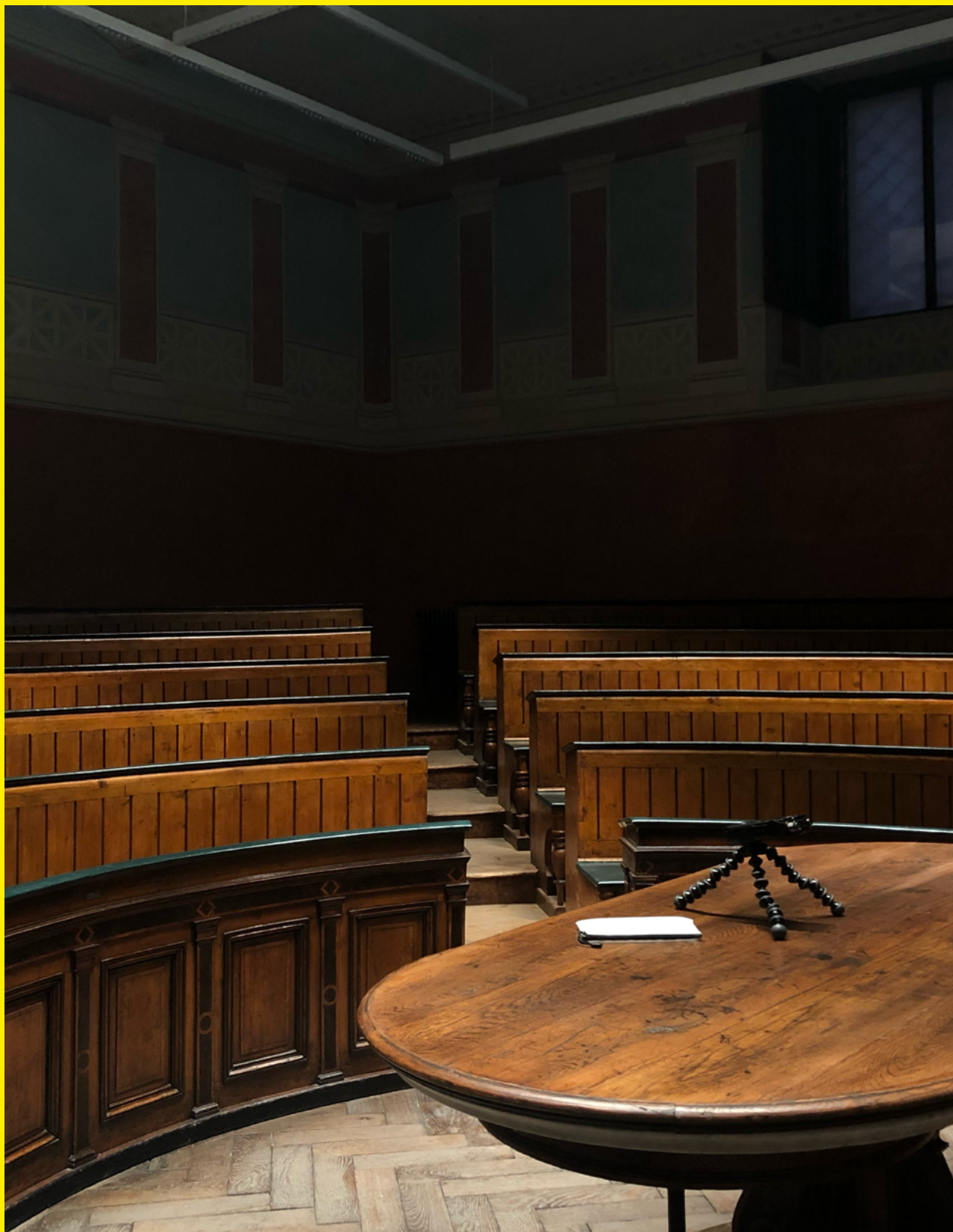
**Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation's training on feminist methodology in urbanism with SOAKED association.**



**VIENNA**

**The Definition of the Space - feminist perspective in Urban Planning, architecture and Design**





Another trip of the Katarzyna Kozyra Foundation as part of the mobility project took place in Vienna, where the organisation was warmly hosted by women who are involved in the field of feminist city planning and co-create the SOAKED association, responsible for amazing initiatives in this area, including - Elke Krasny, who is passionate not only about architecture and urban planning but is also a curator, author, and researcher of cultural and urban theories, accompanied them and Claudia Lomoschitz, a visual artist and performer who explores the impact of architecture on women's reproductive practices in her work, also joined the group.

The visit to Vienna was full of new discoveries, workshops, and nighttime walks through the city streets to observe architectural "blind spots" that evoke a sense of danger. Additionally, this time was spent studying the urban design of two neighbourhoods - Sonnwendviertel and Seestadt Aspern, both examples of the

repurposing of architecture and design in a contemporary, interesting, and socially thoughtful way.

From communal spaces such as rooftop libraries, open kitchens, saunas, or relaxation rooms to the implementation of a gender perspective in architecture. Analysing these neighbourhoods was a highlight of the trip, from which the organisation proceeded towards art - one of these elements being Claudia's fantastic work shown at Kunsthalles Wien.

The foundation also visited the Az W Architekturzentrum Wien and MAK - Museum of Applied Arts, where architectural inspirations could be further explored. Finally, the foundation also explored the Verbund AG art collections at the Albertina Museum of Contemporary Art, full of works by women and queer artists.

During their stay, the participants had the chance to listen to lectures regarding inclusive urbanism in Poland, Austria, Sweden and the Dominican

Republic. They learnt about the research methodologies of other urbanists, but also of academics and researchers who combine urbanism with critical feminist literature in order to extend knowledge and gender discourse to the analysis of architecture. Instead, the case studies provided an opportunity to explore exploratory ways of analysing space in order to expand knowledge in an immersive and participatory way. This trip provided the foundation with new perspectives and motivation to further research on urban planning with the consideration of gender perspectives.





# Equal spaces in the city – Architektoniczki explore Stockholm.



The five-day stay of the Architektoniczki group in Stockholm was maintained in the spirit of broad inclusivity. The female architects visited Sweden to share their professional experience and establish a relationship with collectives and organisations dedicated to studying equal space in the city.

One of these organisations is Sveafastigheter, where Rebecca Rubin (head of social sustainability and business developer) works on urban spaces for girls. Following the many successes of her programme in Sweden, she has started working with a foundation from the UK and the RIBA to create open spaces for teenage girls. Research undertaken in this area shows alarming findings. It turns out that as many as 80% of park users are boys. It is, therefore, easy to surmise that teenage girls are excluded from these shared spaces. During the workshop, the Architektoniczki team learned how to define the needs of adolescent girls and how to ensure that the space we design does not ostracise this social group, their needs and activities.

Like the collective's previous

trips (to Barcelona and Berlin), this one also followed a specific order in terms of schedule; first, the women attended workshops and lectures, followed by a field activity in which the participants explored gender equality policy in Sweden. An aspect that was particularly emphasised was inclusive playgrounds, whose designers pay attention to the different needs of girls and boys in terms of both play and a sense of safety.

The visit to Stockholm also led to a meeting with the Living Cities and Communities collective, which contributes to innovative solutions for inclusive, resilient and dynamic cities, places and organisations through its work. Among other things, the team created a toolbox for UNESCO – Her City – which is a 'Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design together with Girls'. The architects attended a lecture on women's mobility, their safety in urban centres and access to toilets, followed by a tour of the city in terms of feminist urbanism.

The trip ended with a walk in a

predominantly immigrant community. The space was transformed some time ago in a pro-social, inclusive way, making it welcoming to all its users. Stockholm has thus proved to be not only an accessibility-oriented city but also one that celebrates and accepts diversity.







# Special thanks to:

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