



Arthur Erickson's Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, British Columbia. Photo: Jessica Cullen.

national appeal for their strong shapes and cohesive ideas characterized by a marked lack of ostentation. Canadian architect Moshe Safdie's iconic residential development Habitat '67 and Arthur Erickson's stoic Museum of Anthropology similarly illustrate a focus on form.

Colour appears to be used sparingly in public buildings in both Finland and Canada, with most existing on a spectrum from white and grey in perhaps another manifestation of the prevailing attitude against overtly decorative programs.

In both nations, the field of architecture is highly regulated in all levels of education, professional practice, and construction standards. It is with humour and great affection that I note these codified and law-abiding systems. They are an easy fit for people that love and follow the rules as much as Finns and Canadians. All jokes aside, the rigour maintained in our regulation and inspection procedures lead to buildings of a very high quality.

Both of our nations should be proud of their standing as world leaders in terms of gender equality in architecture. Interestingly, Finland was the first nation in the world to allow women into schools of architecture with Signe Hornborg (1862–1916) being credited as the world's first female architect and Wivi Lönn (1872–1966) as the first independently practising female architect in Finland, internationally recognized for winning architectural competitions already in the 1800s.<sup>3</sup> According to studies by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, more than 40% of architectural graduates in western nations are female, no doubt thanks to the ground-breaking efforts of nations such as Finland and Canada.<sup>4</sup> Beyond this, national statistics from Finland and Canada consistently show an increase of women in architecture well beyond the global average.

The recognition of Finland's centenary and Canada's 150-year anniversaries has inspired a

<sup>3</sup> "List of Women Architects," [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_women\\_architects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_women_architects).

<sup>4</sup> Lian Chikako Chang, "Where Are the Women? Measuring Progress on Gender in Architecture," Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, last modified October 2014, <http://www.acsa-arch.org/resources/data-resources/women>.