

Forward

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Good News for the world of architecture, in Italy and around the world: women working in the field of architecture are growing in number and in prestige thanks to the undisputed quality of their work. This is certainly good news. What is no news is the presence of women operating in this sector in various capacities—as architects, designers, historians, critics, teachers—since 1890 when Signe Hornborg in Finland and Sophia Hayden in the United States officially became the first women to graduate in architecture. This journey started back then and has continued all the way to our present day often along a rocky path. A story that MAXXI—a plural, open museum and, most importantly, an institution that has always been attentive to contemporary issues—has chosen to narrate using the tools of a cultural institution, such as a research program, its collections, and an exhibition.

Good News is a great research project exploring an area on the border between the past and our contemporary times: a twofold project as is the activity of MAXXI and its collections. If on the one hand *Good News* has dedicated considerable space to the reconstruction of buried, forgotten, or little-known stories of women who have left tangible traces, on the other, thanks to the survey and selection work carried out by the curators and through the internationally prestigious designers involved in the project, this exhibition turned out to be an occasion to reflect on the fact that the very growth of the presence of women in the universe of the exhibition coincides with a series of epochal changes in the relationship between architecture and society, between the structures of power and the active players, between community and space. The exhibition has also been an occasion to enhance the Museum's collections, a heritage that must be preserved but also shared through the exhibition and now this publishing project, illustrating in an unprecedented way themes and personalities, offering viewers and readers inspiring content for a shared reflection.

Ultimately, *Good News* is an imposing collective manifestation, a choir of voices and also of stories and projects reflecting an optimistic approach from its very title: an invitation to read the current situation captured by the exhibition and this publication as a positive condition, not only for women architects but for architecture as a whole.