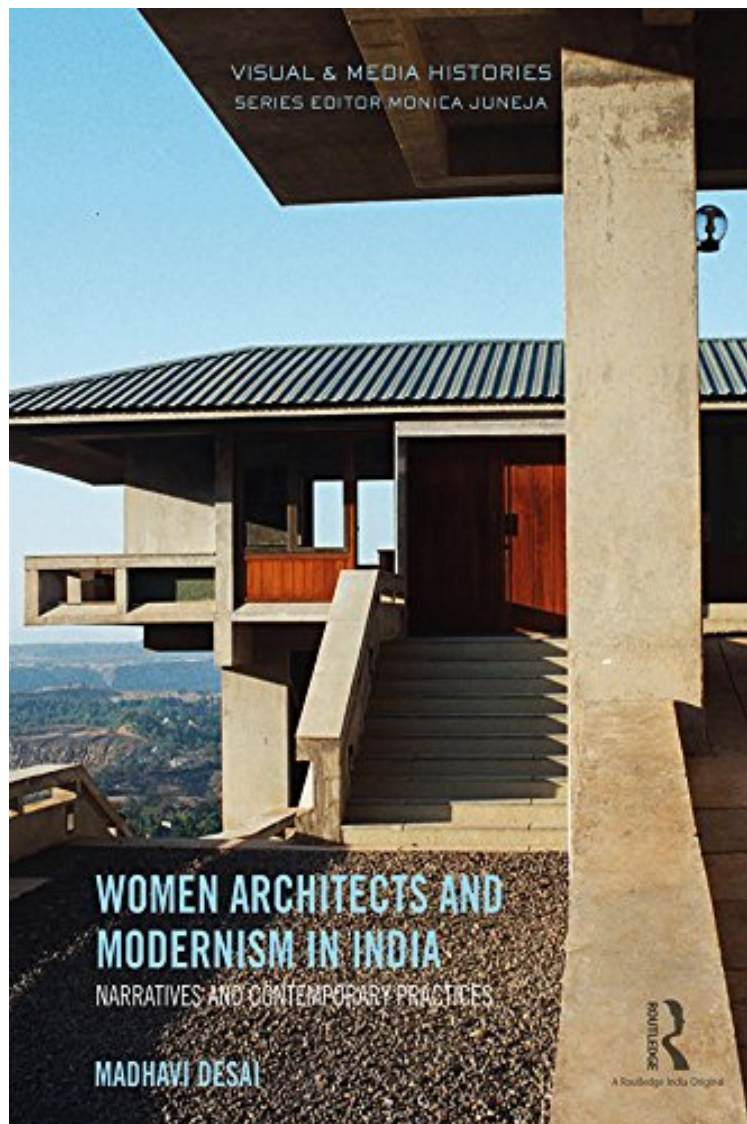


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Women Architects and Modernism in India: Narratives and contemporary practices (Visual and Media Histories)

Madhavi Desai

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Madhavi Desai : Women Architects and Modernism in India: Narratives and contemporary practices (Visual and Media Histories) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women Architects and Modernism in India: Narratives and contemporary practices (Visual and Media Histories):

Studies on architecture in South Asia continue to ignore women in canonical histories of the discipline. This book attempts to recover the stories of the women architects whose careers nearly parallel the development of modernism in colonial and postcolonial India. Writing their experiences into the narrative of mainstream architectural history within the challenge of non-existent archives, it sheds light on seven pioneering women who broke male bastions to go beyond the traditional confines of the era from the 1940s onwards. The author also examines 28 contemporary practices to demonstrate the ways in which architectural modernism in India was shaped by the contribution of women. The book uses a format that weaves together social, professional and biographical factors into a productive account; pluralizes various concepts of design; and redefines the idea of 'work' of women through a greater range of activities, including pedagogy, mentoring and activism. Alluding to challenges faced by women, the study celebrates practices in diverse regional settings even as the designers move in transnational contexts in an increasingly globalizing India. Extensively illustrated, featuring drawings and photographs, this book will be a milestone in the modernist narrative of South Asia and will be of interest to scholars and researchers of architecture, gender studies, modern Indian history and sociology.

'...this book is a stellar effort, simply for bringing visibility to the unsung women architects of India...it is a long overdue publication for a subject that has been left unattended for too long and as the author also hopes in her conclusion that perhaps this will trigger off more work and research into this area.' Anubha Kakroo, *Insite About the Author* Madhavi Desai is an adjunct faculty member at the Faculty of Architecture, CEPT (Center for Environmental Planning and Technology) University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. She is the author of *Traditional Architecture: House Form of the Islamic Community of the Bohras in Gujarat* (2008); co-author of *Architecture and Independence: The Search for Identity, India 1880 to 1980* (1997), *The Bungalow in Twentieth-Century India: The Cultural Expression of Changing Ways of Life and Aspirations in the Domestic Architecture of Colonial and Post-colonial Society* (2012) and *Architectural Heritage of Gujarat: Interpretation, Appreciation, Values* (2012); and editor of *Women and the Built Environment in India* (2007).