

gender and
architecture

A S H L Y N A N D E R S O N

“Architects are responsible for the existence of buildings that considerably affect the lives of their users.” (Lageaux)

WE ARE A PROFESSION ROOTED IN DESIGNING SPACES FOR ALL PEOPLE

Gender and **feminism** are more than 21st century political conversations.

They are words that establish a basis for how we **view** and **interact with** our world.

So why doesn't **architecture** respond to this notion?

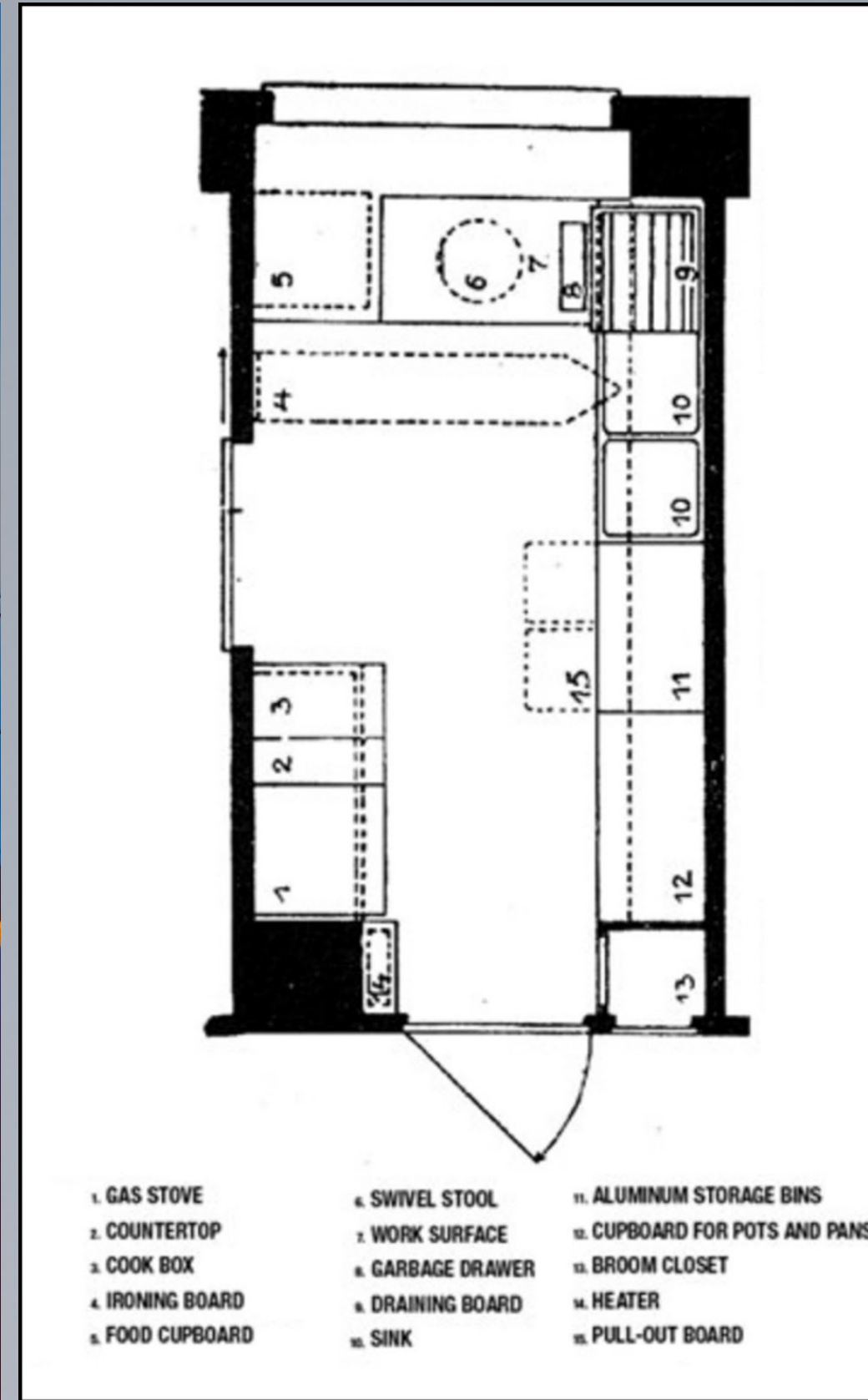
And how does this apply to **sustainability**?

BACKGROUND

ecofeminism

“There are important connections between **feminism** and **environmentalism**, an appreciation of which is essential for the success of the women’s and ecological movements.” (Warren)

- It is not about domination.
- It seeks to create a frame of reference through which we can **understand** the intellectual constructs of **man/nature** and **man/woman** and compare these constructs.



history

Grete Schütte-Lihotzky's Frankfurt Kitchen

- Experiments with new materials and colors
- Designed for optimal efficiency, specifically for women
- Modeled after galley kitchens seen in train cars

COMPARISON

lina bo bardi



“Architecture and architectural freedom are above all a social issue that must be seen from inside a political structure, not from outside it.”

le corbusier



“A house is a machine for living in.”

JUXTAPOSITION



material

“The austerity of the dominant modernistic materials such as brutal, hard, simple concrete, steel, glass was emphasized by plain architectural forms. Ornament and decoration was criticized and abandoned, and deprived architecture form of feminine features.” (Lushnikova)

Material and color are stark, modern, and purely functional.

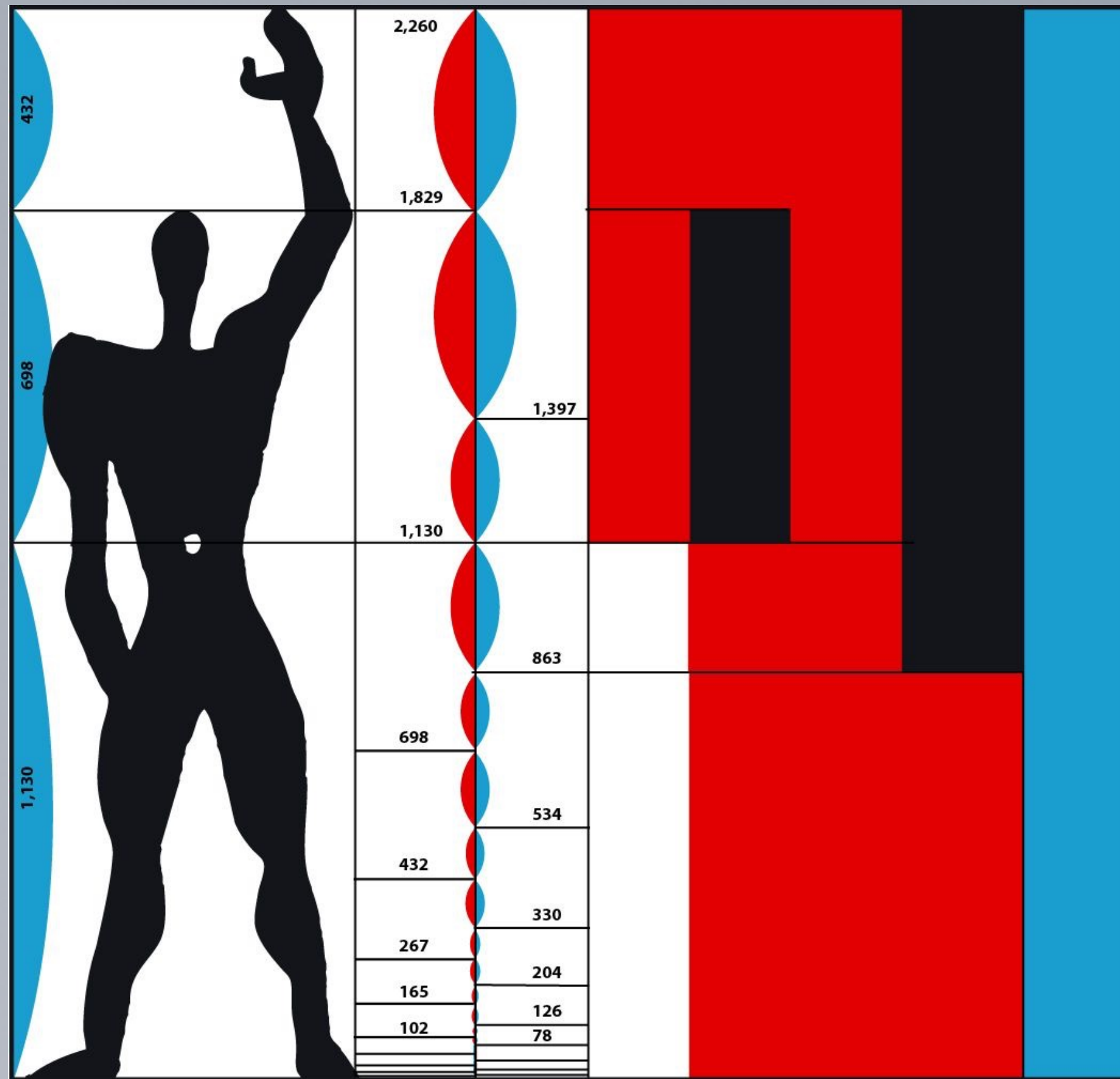


Villa Savoye



Material and color are used to convey emotion and define different uses.

Casa De Vidro



“Architecture is simultaneously informed by and informs the way the human body is understood within the context of space and society.” (Rashid)

space

Hierarchy

Form follows function

The Modulor

“It should be recognized that space in itself is not inherently powerful. It is the politics of spatial usage that determine its power.” (Rey)

Villa Savoye

The only part of the home designed specifically for the usage of a woman is the bathtub.

Follows principles of minimal ornamentation and “a house is a machine to live in.”



Casa De Vidro



The kitchen was modeled after Grete Schütte-Lihotzky's Frankfurt Kitchen.

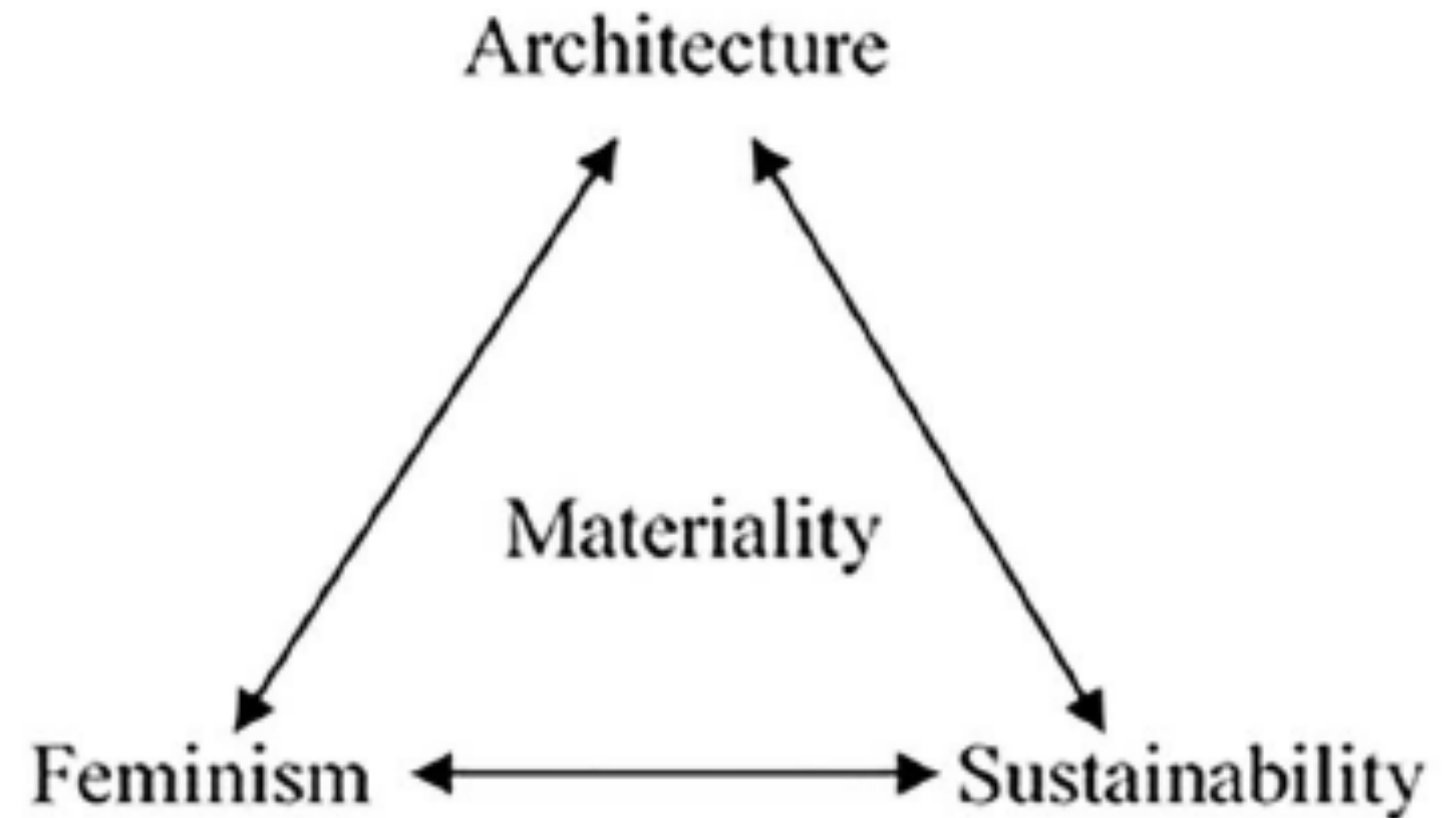
Ceiling heights and proportions in bedrooms were specifically chosen to accommodate heights and perspectives of female occupants.

sustainability

Equality between male and female,
man and nature

Maximization of efficiency

Balance of power



“Without the inclusion of feminist concerns for **diversity** in general and gender equality in particular, most green approaches are incomplete.” (MacGregor)

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