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Mr. William C. Muchow, FAIA  
Chairman - 1979 Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Muchow:

It is with great enthusiasm and much honor that I write to you and the jury of fellows of my professional association with Betty J. Ritter, resulting in deep respect, admiration and a rewarding friendship.

In February, 1976, as a member of the Commission on Education and Research of the Illinois Council AIA and as a member of the Education Committee of the Chicago Women in Architecture, I and two fellow Chicago women architects developed an idea of creating a videotape to stimulate the interest of high school boys and girls in the profession of architecture.

In the Spring of 1976, as the idea took shape I had the good fortune of finally meeting Betty Ritter. Responsive to her professional obligation beyond her business practice and more importantly to the need of just such career guidance material about the profession of architecture, Ms. Ritter immediately and with much enthusiasm volunteered her journalistic talents and resources in continuing education to our small group - Now four practicing women, representing the profession of architecture, urban planning and teaching.

It is interesting to note that lack of such career guidance information is of concern to many practicing professionals and is corroborated in a recent issue of the AIA Journal (Aug. 1977; pp. 43-45). The article, "Influences, Positive and Negative, on Women Entering the Profession," points out that "...counselors demonstrated a lack of comprehension of what architecture is all about and could not make assessments of natural abilities or make recommendations concerning educational prerequisites." The article goes on to say "The combination of preconceptions about appropriate roles for women held by guidance counselors, and the lack of information about architecture available to them, constitutes a costly

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negative factor in the professional activity itself...the preparation and dissemination of well-founded, up-to-date information about architecture is of the utmost importance if gifted young women and men are to be attracted to the profession."

With a grant from Triton College and the aid of their media center production equipment and staff our idea became a reality. Ms. Ritter not only spent many hours writing and revising the script, but also directly participated alone or as part of the team in the supervising and in the field video taping; in collecting, viewing and cataloguing thousands of still slides; and in personally editing the eventual 34 minute color video tape.

By comparing the several steps of the hypothetical bookcase project with corresponding phases in the architectural design process, the viewer is lead to an understanding of the complex and diverse roles the architect plays in the process of designing and building a building. Live shots from several Chicago-area architectural offices show men and women at work in the varied facets of the profession architecture. Montages of still slides are interspersed with the live sequences to give an overview of significant historic and contemporary works of architecture. The tape also gives the viewer a profile of the architect as a person, and information about education and licensing requirements.

Ms. Ritter's immediate expression of interest and her continuous encouragement and devotion through the production months kept "our idea" alive. Her script provides that missing information that will help counselors give more responsible, realistic career guidance to all young people.

"Shadows on the Landscape" was completed in June, 1977 in time for a preview showing at the AIA National Convention in San Diego.

In October, 1977, showing of the videotape was included in the program of the AIA Illinois Council Chicago Convention. It was at that time that an AIA Service Citation for its creation was awarded to the four women producers.

In November, 1977, the Chicago Women in Architecture and Triton College co-sponsored the first public showing to the press and the public at Loyola University in Chicago. In November 1977, the tape was shown as part of The Women In American Architecture exhibit in Houston, Texas and served as basis for a panel discussion.

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In January 1978, it was presented to the public as part of the Chicago Archi-Center's noon Lecture Series and as a part of the National traveler show "Women in Architecture".

In January 1978, it was shown at the Chicago Artemisia Gallery as part of a month long exhibition "Chicago Women in Architecture".

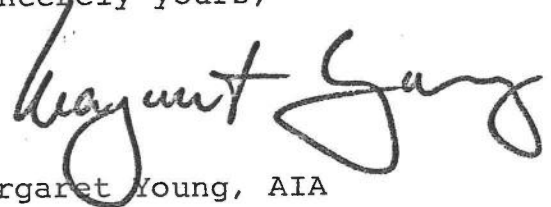
In March 1978, the tape was shown to the Career Development Center for Architecture - an alternative school in the Chicago Public School System.

Etc. etc. etc.

The tape has been extremely well received at each and every showing and many people throughout the country have expressed interest in obtaining copies.

Yes, Betty J. Ritter, AIA is richly deserving of the honor evidenced by a Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Young". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Margaret Young, AIA

P.S. I will be more than happy to send you, if you so request, copy of the video tape for your viewing.