



Exhibition Press Release

Lina & Gio: The Last Humanists

An Exhibition Curated by Ana Araujo at the Architectural Association School of Architecture

25 February – 24 March 2012, AA Gallery and Front Members' Room

Private view Friday 24 February 2012 6.30pm

Open to the public from Saturday 25 February to Saturday 24 March 2012

Opening times Monday to Friday 10am – 7pm; Saturday 10am – 3pm

Related events

Saturday 25 February 2pm New Soft Room Contemporary Architectural Photography: Iñigo Bujedo Aguirre in conversation with Paolo Rosselli, followed by gallery talks.

Free event. rsvp.events@aaschool.ac.uk

Thursday 15 March 6pm Lecture Hall Roundtable discussion with Marcelo Ferraz, Isa Grinspum Ferraz, Giancarlo Latorraca and Marco Romanelli

Opening on 24 February 2012, this exhibition will explore for the first time the relationship between two seminal figures in twentieth-century design.

Lina Bo Bardi (1914–1992), best known for the buildings she designed and built in Brazil – the House of Glass (1950–51), Museum of Art in São Paulo (1957–68), the Sesc Pompéia (1977–86), amongst others – was a prolific designer, architect, writer and curator, deeply committed to the promotion of the social and cultural potential of architecture. Before adopting Brazil as her home country in the late 1940s, Bo Bardi lived in Milan, where she collaborated with the renowned architect Gio Ponti (1891–1979).

Ponti is perhaps better known as the founding editor of the celebrated design magazine *Domus*. Like Bo Bardi, he was a productive architect, designer, writer and curator, having designed the famous Pirelli Tower in Milan (1950), and collaborated with a number of renowned designers (Piero Fornasetti, Pier Luigi Nervi, amongst others) as well as organising many editions of the Milan Triennial exhibition of the decorative arts.

In her autobiographical text 'Currículo Literário', Bo Bardi pays tribute to the lessons she learnt from Ponti, whom she affectionately defines as the 'last of the humanists' – for his commitment to the social and cultural agenda of architecture, his interest in traditional forms of craft and his all-encompassing approach to design, 'from cups and chairs to fashion, including also urban design, curatorial and editorial work'. It was with this same all-encompassing, humanistic approach that Bo Bardi entered the Brazilian scene, and became one of its most influential characters.

Curated by Ana Araujo, AA tutor and founder of the Travesia Institute, this exhibition will focus on the crossovers between Bo Bardi's and Ponti's approaches to design. It will include drawings, artefacts, film footage and writings covering the work of both architects, as well as a specially commissioned selection of contemporary photographs of Bo Bardi's buildings by Barcelona-based photographer Iñigo Bujedo Aguirre. Launched in tandem with the exhibition, the AA will publish *Stone Versus Diamonds*, a selection of writings by Lina Bo Bardi, within its Architecture Words series. A programme of accompanying talks with invited specialists on both Bo Bardi and Ponti will further explore their work and influence.

