

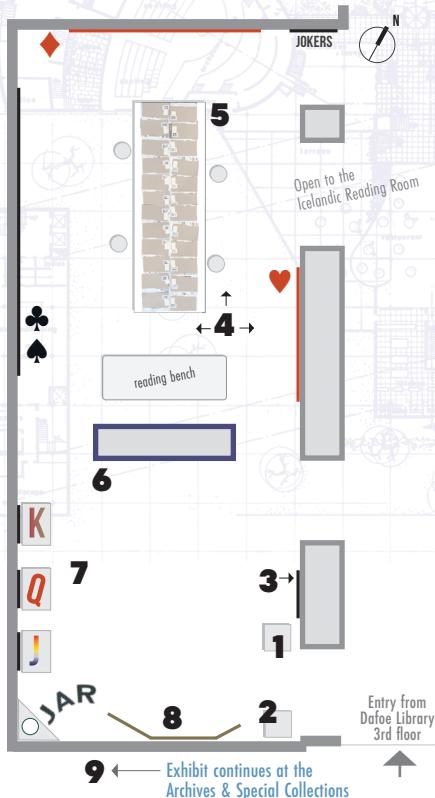
# UNSTACKING THE DECK

## GALLERY GUIDE

EXHIBITION — Open till Sept. 15, 2023

RECEPTION — March 8, 11:30-1:30pm

Dr. Paul H.T. Thorkalson Gallery, Icelandic Reading Rm  
Elizabeth Dafoe Library, third floor  
University of Manitoba



### 1. GAME OF CHANGE — PLAYING CARDS | 2022

A double deck of playing cards with research booklet and custom box, celebrating early women architects in Manitoba & encouraging further action toward equity in architecture.

### 2. GAME OF CHANGE — PLAYING CARDS | 2019

A double deck of playing cards honoring “Lady Architecture” and women who made significant contributions to modern architecture.

### 3. BREATH OF LIFE

The original painting featured on the cards by Ojibwe artist Jackie Traverse. The “Breath of Life” honors generations of women and Indigenous peoples who build in harmony with the land – and have done so long before the invention of University architecture degrees.

### 4. ENLARGED LINEN PRINTS

Panels featuring images and micro-histories of each woman in the deck, organized by suit:

#### ♣ CLUBS + SPADES ♠

honoring the first women B.Arch grads, from Ethelyn Wallace (1932) to Alice (Cheng) Loh (1966), who became the first woman to teach Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly State University, where a scholarship in her name was founded to support women’s contributions in environmental design. All 44 women graduates of the B.Arch program (founded in 1913 and phased out in 1970) are named in the Unstacking the Deck. Nearly 900 men earned B.Arch degrees over the same time.

#### ♦ DIAMONDS

celebrating the first women in Interior Design, from founding Chair Joan Harland (B.Arch 1938) to accomplished graduate Patricia Patkau (M.ID. 1978). By ‘78 the ID program (the first in Canada) graduated 500 women – 75% of the program’s overall graduates.

#### ♥ HEARTS

acknowledging women whose careers intersected Manitoba, including Catherine Chard Wisnicki, who was born in Winnipeg and became the first woman architecture graduate from McGill University in 1943; and accomplished and still active designers who studied at UManitoba in the 1960-70s: Heather Cram (BFA 1970), HTFC principal; Gerri Stemler (B.E.S. 1974, M.Arch 1977), first woman president of the Manitoba Association of Architects in 1998; and Cynthia Cohlmeier, first woman to earn a Master of Landscape Architecture at UManitoba and in Canada in 1977. (The MLA program was founded in ‘73).

#### JOKERS

These wild cards with witty illustrations offer comic relief, mythic allusion and socio-political context for epic struggles in women’s work.

## 5. RESEARCH FOLDERS

Pull up a stool to this table and learn more about early women architecture graduates from UManitoba by browsing the folders, which include copies of newspaper clippings, yearbook entries, journal articles, drawings, letters, and other archival documents.

## 6. WALL OF DIVERSITY

With images of early women graduates interspersed with current students, this wall gives visibility to previously invisible women and presents a trans-generational and multi-cultural student body working together toward equity in architecture. *Want to add your photo to the wall? Portraits may be sent by email to: [lisa.landrum@umanitoba.ca](mailto:lisa.landrum@umanitoba.ca)*

## 7. TOWARD EQUITY IN ARCHITECTURE ♥

The King, Queen and Jack of hearts highlight topical areas of action toward equity by former and current students, and a history of architecture student advocacy at UManitoba:

## K BEYOND BORDERS

This KING honors the 1969 advocacy of The Architects Resistance (TAR), which exposed and opposed architects' complicity with racial segregation, and the SAS Senior Stick Douglas Massie (B.Arch 1971) who chose to publish the 1969 TAR position paper on "Racism and Architecture" in that year's *Perspective* journal. The display also highlights the 1952 creation of the UManitoba International Students Organization (ISO), and founding member Monica Barker (8♠, B.Arch 1954), as well as SAS Beyond Borders, created in 2020 by FAUM International students to augment the Students Architectural Society (originally established in 1920).

## Q TOWARD INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

A tribute to ongoing work of reconciliation and the leadership of IMESA and IDPSA – the Indian Métis Eskimo Student Association founded in 1970, and the Indigenous Design and Planning Student Association, est. 2019.

## J BEYOND BINARIES

A celebration of diverse waves and lenses of feminism, including two-spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and agender communities, and groups spawning from the 1972 founding of the Mutual Friendship Society and Gays for Equality at UManitoba.



An interactive experience-sharing initiative by students (started in 2020) to OPEN supportive conversations on challenging topics. *Add your story or suggestion to the JAR!*

## 8. UNPACKING THE ARCHIVE

The inner box of Unstacking the Deck reveals the award-winning thesis of Mary Haines (3♠, B.Arch 1949). Like a miniature archive this intimate immensity of a box opens onto women's creative work and achievements, disclosing transformative discoveries to those posing fresh questions.

## 9. ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**DISPLAY CABINETS:** documents featuring the first UManitoba women architecture students, including 1930s *Brown & Gold* yearbooks; student-led journal *Tecs & Decs* (1948-49); and *Perspective* (1950-70).

**IN THE ARCHIVE:** a selection of original drawings by early women architecture students, including the 1932 thesis design for A Sorority House by the first woman graduate Ethelyn Wallace (Ace ♣): .

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