

## Lina Bo Bardi Special Prize

arcVision Prize  
celebrates the Italo-Brazilian architect on the centenary of her birth



Francisco Albuquerque, Arquivo Instituto Lina Bo e P.M. Bardi

A fascinating and provocative figure in 20th-century architecture, Lina Bo Bardi was an experimenter, in her life and in her career.

Political activism, collaboration with Gio Ponti, journalism on issues ranging from architecture to women, the move to Brazil as her adopted country, architecture and design (she created the famous Bowl Chair, an acknowledged symbol of an informal and anti-conventional way of life), stage design, illustration.

An extraordinary designer, the creator of remarkably imposing structures, as a woman in a man's world Bo Bardi developed her own exclusive architectural poetic, where rugged

materials like reinforced concrete are endowed with grace and a lightness of touch, and severe, ponderous forms "collide" harmoniously with nature. An exceptional model of female creativity and energy and, above all, an outstanding example of deep, authentic humanity.

"The Special Prize for Lina Bo Bardi is a tribute to all the contemporary female designers who have fought and continue to fight for an equal role for women in civil activities and the development of an egalitarian, progressive and engaged design culture. Lina Bo Bardi is recognized internationally as a cult figure in the history of this struggle, through her contribution to the development of an architecture that is profoundly modern in its social implications, structural brilliance and educational vocation. The MASP (São Paulo Museum of Art), the Casa de Vidro (now home to the Lina and P.M. Bardi Foundation) and the SESC-Pompéia center are still active in the promotion of the arts today, but they are also testimony to the original and unique poetic through which Lina Bo Bardi showed all female architects the way toward a fully independent quest for expression." *Stefano Casciani, scientific director, arcVision Prize.*



FABRICA SESC POMPEIA - Rômulo Fialdini, Arquivo Instituto Lina Bo e P.M. Bardi

### Lina Bo Bardi

Lina Bo Bardi (1914-1992) graduated in architecture in Rome in 1939 and began her career with Gio Ponti in Milan: here, she collaborated with the magazine *Stile* and opened her own studio, destroyed by bombing in 1943. In 1945 she worked with Bruno Zevi at *A.*, an arts weekly published by Gianni Mazzocchi. The following year she moved to Brazil with her husband Pietro Maria Bardi, an art critic and founder of the São Paulo Museum of Art, for which Lina Bo Bardi designed the



MASP - Arquivo Instituto Lina Bo e P.M. Bardi

building. Through her contact with modern Latin-American culture, she completed the development of her personal style, seen in buildings such as the “Casa de Vidro” in the new Morumbi district of São Paulo (1951) or the SESC-Pompéia center (1977).

### Lina Bo and Pietro Maria Bardi Institute

The Lina Bo and Pietro Maria Bardi Institute was founded in 1993 to conserve and promote the work of architect Lina Bo and her husband art critic Pietro Maria Bardi, who played a pioneering



CASA DE VIDRO - Francisco Albuquerque, Arquivo Instituto Lina Bo e P.M. Bardi, 1952

role in the development of Brazil's modern artistic culture. Besides protecting the copyright on the Bardis' work and their cultural legacy, the institute promotes awareness of Brazil's artistic culture at national and international level, through exhibitions, lectures and publications. The institute is located in the “Casa de Vidro”, the Glass House designed by Lina in 1950 as her private home in São Paulo. On her death, at the Glass House in 1992, her husband Pietro donated the building to the institute. An admirable example of Lina's

innovative architectural work, the “Casa de Vidro” has been declared a national architectural heritage site. It houses the library, a large archive of photographs, films and video material and part of the Bardis' art collection.

<http://www.institutobardi.com>.