



**BLOOMING**

Inclusion and Diversity in STEAM

## Interview Questions

1. **STEAM Journey :** "Can you share your journey and what inspired you to pursue a career in STEAM? Were there any key moments or influential figures that directed you towards this path?"
2. **STEAM Achievement :** "What do you consider your most significant achievement or contribution to your field? How do you hope your work will impact the future of STEAM?"
3. **Challenges and Overcoming Them:** "Throughout your career in STEAM, what were some of the significant challenges you faced both in your personal and professional life? How did you overcome them? How did these challenges shape your professional journey?"
4. **Advice for Young Women:** "What advice would you give to young girls who are interested in STEAM but might be hesitant to pursue it due to stereotypes or the fear of failure?"
5. **Future of Women in STEAM:** "Looking towards the future, how do you see the role of women evolving in STEAM fields? What changes do you think are necessary to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for women in STEAM?"



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## Answers

1. My lifelong passion for the sciences, arts, and the environments we inhabit—crafted both by nature and human hands—naturally steered me toward architecture after high school. At the School of Architecture at Athens University, I encountered a broad spectrum of knowledge that expanded my horizons and reinforced my scientific interests. During my studies, I delved into scenography, monument conservation, and architectural design for residential and special-purpose buildings. My volunteer work in archaeological excavations and architectural competitions further catalyzed my career trajectory.
2. Reflecting on my 35-year career in architecture, it's impossible to focus on just one highlight. I've had the privilege of participating in a diverse array of projects and collaborating with esteemed colleagues and international luminaries in the field. These collaborations have deeply influenced me, affirming my belief that the success of any project relies not only on individual effort but on the synergistic creativity of a team with varied expertise.
3. Each new project presents a unique challenge. It begins with understanding the project's parameters, client desires, and functional requirements, then transitions into a creative phase where imagination crafts visions that inspire and innovate, leading to the final design that incorporates suitable materials and technical solutions. This process demands dedication, concerted effort, and meticulous time management to balance professional demands with personal and social responsibilities. So I would say that the most difficult issue for me all these years has been methodical time management in order to serve to the greatest extent the demands of each project in a way that in the end will not work at the expense of my personal life and my social obligations.
4. Architecture is a human-centered science. Its purpose is to serve daily needs, to create or encourage social relationships in an environment, public or private, that harmoniously combines functionality and ergonomics with aesthetics. Technical knowledge, imagination, inventiveness, innovative, critical and creative thinking, sensitivity towards people and the environment as well as high aesthetics are the tools that every architect uses to design through the environment, the future of every community. All these characteristics make architecture an extremely interesting and living science that affects and is affected by the evolution of humanity, which always brings it to the center of culture.
5. I find it unimaginable, in the 21st century, to still discuss the equal participation of women in various professional or scientific fields. The difference between the two sheets is not found in the level of abilities but in the way of thinking - process where women stand out for their combined and flexible way of thinking. For this reason sciences such as those in the field of STEAM that combine the positive sciences with art are particularly suited to the female temperament. One of the most important problems that man will have to face in the coming years is his relationship with the natural environment and the climate crisis, the consequences of which are already evident. The role of architects is more critical than ever as they are called upon to contribute to the effort for a sustainable future by designing an environment that will be characterized by respect for nature and people. The sensitivity but also the determination that distinguishes



women's thinking and approach I believe are necessary for the effective management of architectural issues that aim at the rational treatment of the built environment with the aim of creating sustainable urban systems.



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