

Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky

[23 January 1897 - 18 January 2000]



Special Scientific Achievements

Development of the *Frankfurt Kitchen*, the core house idea, central laundries, and housing estates for disabled ex-servicemen.

She cared for the housing needs of children.

Awards: Lobmeyer Prize, Joliot-Curie Medal, Architecture Prize (Vienna), Prechtel Medal, honorary doctor of different universities, Medal of Honour (Vienna).

1897 Margarete Lihotzky is born in Vienna as the daughter of an Austrian state official.

1915 - 1919 She acts against her father's wishes and is the first woman to study architecture at Vienna's *Kunstgewerbeschule*. In 1919, she becomes the first graduated female architect.

1922 - 1925 She wins housing development competitions and organises an information centre for furnishing. Margarete and her parents come down with tuberculosis, Margarete is the only one to survive.

1926 For the Municipal Building Department in Frankfurt, Margarete develops the *Frankfurt Kitchen* which today is regarded as the prototype of modern fitted kitchens.

1927 Margarete marries Wilhelm Schütte, an architect and a colleague of hers.

1930 - 1933 She is the only woman among 32 architects to design two terraced houses for the Vienna *Werkbundsiedlung*. In 1933, her work is shown at the World's Fair in Chicago.

1930 - 1937 Due to the political situation in the Weimar Republic, Margarete, her husband, and a group of architects flee to the Soviet Union (1930). The group is supposed to implement the first of Stalin's five-year plans and to turn a town of mud huts and barracks into an industrial town with 200,000 inhabitants. Margarete functions as an expert for children's housing.

1934 Together with her husband, she travels from the Soviet Union to China in order to create building regulations for kindergartens for the Chinese ministry.

1937 Because of Stalin's cleansing campaigns, the couple leaves the Soviet Union and travels to London, Paris, and Istanbul.

1938 - 1940 Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky joins the communist resistance against the Nazi regime. In 1939, she becomes a member of the Austrian Communist Party (KPÖ). She and her husband travel back to Vienna.

1941 - 1945 Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky is arrested by the Gestapo and sentenced to death. By falsifying public documents, her husband obtains a conversion of the death sentence into a 15-year jail sentence. A few days before the end of the war, Margarete is released by American troops.

1946 She heads the Department of Children's Facilities of the Building Regulations Authorities in Bulgaria.

1947 Together with her husband, Margarete returns to Vienna and gets involved with equality and peace movements. Being a communist, she is not awarded public contracts. Therefore, she works as a consultant for the People's Republic of China, Cuba, and the German Democratic Republic.

1951 She breaks up with her husband.

1962 Margarete becomes urban development expert of the UN.

1980 She is awarded the City of Vienna's Architecture Prize.

1988 She does not accept a tribute by the Austrian Federal President, Kurt Waldheim, because of his dubious Nazi background.

1996 She supports a women's referendum in order to make the equality of treatment of women and men part of the Federal Constitutional Law.

2000 Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky dies in Vienna on January 18. She is interred in an honorary grave in Vienna's central cemetery.