



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung Female Pioneers
of Research

Pt.51

Thekla Schild





Thekla Schild (1890-1991)
Architect

After initially being interested mainly in mathematics and greek and considering studying medicine, her mother encouraged her artistic inclinations.

Despite her doubts about being accepted as a woman, she began studying architecture at the *Technical University of Karlsruhe* in 1908 – as the only woman in her year.



After initial difficulties, she was accepted by both the faculty and her fellow students, and she also participated actively outside the university – going on ski tours and engaging in other “social” activities.

These activities, and the friendships she formed with male fellow students, were considered “improper” by many. Structural barriers also became apparent during excursions, where professors brought female family members along so that she would not be the only woman present.





With her graduation in 1913, she became the first female graduate engineer in the Grand Duchy of Baden and the third in all of Germany.

After marrying an architect in 1916 and having two children, documentation of her professional work ends. However, it is assumed that she continued to support her husband in his architectural work.





Despite the structural and societal barriers she faced as a woman in a technical education, Thekla Schild demonstrated that these could be overcome.

She was a trailblazer for women in the architectural profession in Germany and Karlsruhe.

