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GALINA BALASHOVA: THE FIRST SPACE ARCHITECT

**Abstract**

Galina Balashova

Galina Balashova, ( 1931 - ), Russian. Was an architect of the Soviet Space Program who participated in the Experimental Design Bureau OKB-1 (succeeding the aerospace company RKK Energiya), under the guidance of the rocket engineer and space Pioneer Sergei Korolev.

She participated in the interior design of the Soyuz spacecraft and the Salyut Space Station and Mir Space Station and later as a consultant for the Buran programme.

Her responsibilities went from designing the interior space, where she worried about ergonomics design of living and sleeping areas, to designing a zero-gravity bathroom facility. She even thought of innovations that are still used today (for example the use of color to avoid disorientation by the astronauts).

She retired in 1991 and although other names of Soviet space program went down in history, hers was kept unknown and a secret, being her work highly classified. She was a Woman (an architect nonetheless) in a world dominated by aerospace engineers.

Some also appoint Galina Balashova as the first "Space Architect" .