

Code of Ethics for Architects

THE ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE PEOPLE

1. STATEMENT: The Architect is engaged in a profession which carries with it civic responsibilities towards the public, whether such responsibilities are the natural outcome of good citizenship or of his professional pursuit or whether they partake of informative and educational matters or of his normal, good public relations.

- 1-a The Architect shall seek opportunities to be of constructive service in civic and urban affairs and to the best of his ability advance the safety, health and well-being of the people and the community as well as the promotion, restoration or preservation of the general amenities and other examples of historic and architectural heritage of the nation.
- 1-b The Architect shall promote the interest of his professional organization and do his full part of the work to enhance the objectives and services of the organization. He should share in the interchange of technical information and experience with the other design professions and the building industry.
- 1-c The Architect as a good citizen shall abide and observe the laws and regulations of the government and comply with the standards of ethical conduct and practice of the profession in the Philippines. He shall at no time act in a manner detrimental to the best interest of the profession.
- 1-d The Architect shall not use paid advertisement nor use self-laudatory, exaggerated or misleading publicity. However, the presentation of factual materials, verbal or visual, of the aims, standards and progress of the profession through literature or by industrious application of his work and services which tend to dignify the professional or advance public knowledge of the Architect's function in society may be presented through any public communication media.
- 1-e The Architect shall not solicit nor permit to solicit in his name, advertisements or other support towards the cost of any publication presenting his work. He should refrain from taking part in paid advertisement endorsing any materials of construction or building equipment.
- 1-f The Architect shall not mislead the public through advertisements, signs or printed matter citing his professional specializations unless such qualifications are well known facts or sanctioned by professional consensus and years of experience.

THE ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO HIS CLIENT

2. STATEMENT: The Architect's relation to his Client is depended upon good faith. To insure the continued existence of such state of good relationship, the Architect's position carries with it certain moral obligations to his Client and to himself.

- 2-a The Architect may introduce to a prospective Client the professional services he is able to perform provided it is limited to presentation of examples of his professional experience and does not entail the offering of free preliminary sketches or other services without the benefit of an agreement with the Client for legitimate compensation.
- 2-b The Architect shall acquaint or ascertain from the Client at the very inception of their business relationship, the exact nature and scope of his services and the corresponding professional charges.
- 2-c The Architect shall advise a Client against proceeding with any project whose practicability may be questionable due to financial, legal or arresting or exigent conditions, even if such advice may mean the loss of a prospective commission to the Architect.
- 2-d The Architect shall explain the conditional character of estimates other than estimates submitted in the form of actual proposals by contractors and in no case shall be guarantee any estimates or cost of the work. Neither shall he mislead his Client as to probable cost of the work in order to secure a commission.
- 2-e The Architect shall consider the needs and stipulation of his Client and the effects of his work upon the life and well-being of the public and the community as a whole, and to endeavor to meet the aesthetic and functional requirements of the project commensurate with the Client's appropriation.

- 2-f The Architect shall charge his Client for services rendered, a professional fee commensurate with the work involved and with his professional standing and experience based upon the Basic Minimum Fee prescribed under the "Standards of Professional Practice" of the "Architect's National Code".
- 2-g The Architect shall not undertake, under a fixed contract sum agreement, the construction of any project based on plans prepared by him. He may in certain cases, undertake the construction of a project even when the plans were prepared by him provided it is undertaken in conformity with the conditions set forth under sections covering "Construction Services" "Comprehensive Services" or "Design-Build Services" of the document on "STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE."
- 2-h The Architect shall be compensated for his services solely through his professional fee charged directly to the Client. He shall not accept nor ask for any other returns in whatever form from any interested source other than the Client.
- 2-i The Architect shall be free in his investments and business relations outside of his profession from any financial or personal interests which tend to weaken and discredit his standing as an unprejudiced and honest adviser, free to act in his Client's best interests. If the Architect has any business interest which will relate to, or affect the interest of his Client, he should inform his Client of such condition or situation.
- 2-j The Architect shall include in his agreement with the Client a clause providing for arbitration as a method for settlement of disputes.

**THE ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES
IN RELATION TO THE CONTRACTOR**

3. STATEMENT: The Contractor depends upon the Architect to safeguard fairly his interests as well as those of the Client.

- 3-a The Architect shall give the Contractor every reasonable aid to enable him to fully understand the contents of the Contract Documents by furnishing clear, definite and consistent information in all pertinent contract documents to avoid unnecessary mistakes that may involve extra costs to the Contractor.
- 3-b The Architect shall not knowingly call upon the Contractor to correct or remedy oversights or errors in the Contract Documents to the Contractor's financial disadvantage.
- 3-c The Architect shall immediately upon his personal knowledge and inspection, reject or condemn materials, equipment or workmanship which are not in conformity with the Contract Documents in order not to cause unnecessary delay and additional expense to the Contractor.
- 3-d The Architect shall not, at any time or circumstance, accept free engineering services, or receive any substantial aid, gifts, commissions, or favors from any Contractor or subcontractor which will tend to place him under any kind of moral obligation.
- 3-e The Architect shall, upon request by the Contractor, promptly inspect each phase of the work completed and if found according to the terms of the Contract Documents issue the corresponding Certificates of Payment and the Final Certificate of Completion, respectively, to the Contractor.

**THE ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES
IN RELATION TO MANUFACTURERS,
DEALERS, AND AGENTS.**

4. STATEMENT: An exchange of technical information between Architects and those who supply and handle building materials or equipment is necessary and therefore encouraged and commended. However;

- 4-a The Architect shall not avail or make use of engineering or other technical services offered by manufacturers, or suppliers of building materials or equipment which may be accompanied by an obligation detrimental to the best interest of the Client or which may adversely affect the Architect's professional opinion.
- 4-b The Architect shall not at any time receive commissions, discounts, fees, gifts or favors from agents or firms handling building materials or equipment which may place him in a reciprocal frame of mind. He may however, accept market discounts which shall be credited to the Client.

**THE ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITIES
IN RELATION TO HIS COLLEAGUES
AND SUBORDINATES**

5. STATEMENT: The Architect has moral responsibilities towards his profession, his colleagues and his subordinates.

- 5-a The Architect shall not render professional services, without compensation except for small civic or charity project. He shall neither offer nor provide preliminary services on a conditional basis prior to definite agreement with the Client for the commission of the project.
- 5-b The Architect shall not knowingly compete with other Architects on the basis of differences of professional charges, nor use donation as a device for obtaining competitive advantage except for worthy civic or religious projects. Neither shall he submit solicited or unsolicited sketches or drawings in competition with other Architects unless such competitive arrangements are conducted substantially under the terms of the UAP Architectural Competition Code
- 5-c The Architect shall not under any circumstances nor through any means seek commissions already known to him as previously endowed to another Architect, whether such endowment has been definitely agreed upon or still in the process of negotiation.
- 5-d The Architect shall not, in any case, enter as a competitor in any Architectural Competition when he has direct relations with the formulation of the Program thereof or when he has been engaged to act as Professional Adviser or Juror for such competition. Neither shall the Architect accept and act as professional adviser or juror in any architectural competition when he has had any information or has reviewed or assisted in the preparation of any competition design entered. Nor shall an Architect, retained as professional adviser in a competition, accept employment as an Architect, retained as professional adviser in a competition, accept employment as an Architect for that competition project except as Consulting Architect.
- 5-e The Architect shall not undertake a commission for which he knows another Architect has been previously employed until he has notified such other Architect of the fact in writing and has conclusively determined that the original employment has been terminated and has been duly compensated for.
- 5-f The Architect shall not undertake a commission for additions, rehabilitation or remodeling of any erected structure undertaken previously by another Architect without duly notifying him of the contemplated project even when the Owner is no longer the same. When the greater mass, area or design of the original structure is substantially maintained the new Architect should limit his advertisement or claim only to the extent of the work done to the structure. Architects are enjoined to preserve or restore as much as possible especially the few and remaining historic examples of our architectural heritage affecting his phase of practice.
- 5-g The Architect shall not knowingly injure falsely or maliciously, the professional reputation, prospects or practice of another Architect.
- 5-h The Architect shall refrain from associating himself with or allowing the use of his name by any enterprise of doubtful character or integrity.
- 5-i The Architect shall not affix his signature and seal to any plans or professional documents prepared by other persons or entities not done under his direct personal supervision.
- 5-j The Architect shall inspire the loyalty of his employees and subordinates by providing them with suitable working conditions, requiring them to render competent and efficient services and paying them adequate and just compensation therefore. He shall tutor and mentor the young aspirants towards the ideals, functions, duties and responsibilities of the profession.
- 5-k The Architect shall unselfishly give his share in the interchange of technical information and experience among his colleagues and young aspirants and do his part in fostering unity in the fellowship of the profession.
- 5-l. He shall unselfishly give his time and effort to the advancement of the profession through his active and personal commitment and involvement with the accredited professional organization for architects.

WHEREAS R.A. No. 545, "An Act to Regulate the Practice of Architecture in the Philippines", requires the examination, certification, and registration of qualified applicants for the practice of the architectural profession;

WHEREAS the same R.A. No. 545 delineates the various subjects to be covered in the examination for licensure in architecture;

WHEREAS the Professional Regulation Commission has issued policies and directives in licensure examinations:

(1) MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 8, Series of 1992, (2) Res. No. 265, Series of 1993, (3) MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 93-03, Series of 1993, and (4) MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 93-04, Series of 1993, all of which provide for the adoption of a syllabus for every subject in the licensure examinations;

WHEREAS every adopted syllabus, which contains the various concepts, principles, and application thereof, shall be the basis for the examination questions that will be inputted into the test question bank;

WHEREAS after consultation with the various schools of architecture in the Philippines, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), and the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP), the Board of Architecture formulated a set of syllabi for the various examination subjects in architecture;

WHEREAS the Board of Architecture consulted the Council of Deans and the Heads of Architectural Schools of the Philippines and the United Architects of the Philippines for the final adoption of the syllabi.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to its quasi-legislative (rule-making) power under Sec. 8, Art. I of R.A No. 545, the Board hereby RESOLVED, as it now so RESOLVES, to adopt the syllabi, of the subjects in the Architecture Licensure Examination appearing in Annex A.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution, upon its approval by the Commission, shall be effective after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation, whichever is earlier.

FINALLY, RESOLVED, that this Resolution be disseminated to all recognized schools offering the course of architecture and other concerned entities.

Done in the City of Manila, this 26th day of January 1995.

JOSE MACARIO B. DE LEON
Chairman

EDILBERTO F. FLORENTINO JOSEFINA M RAMOS
Member Member

Attested to:

CARLOS G. ALMELOR
Secretary, Regulatory Boards

Approved:

HERMOGENES P. POBRE
Commission Chairman

MARIANO A. MENDIETA ARMANDO C. PASCUAL
Associate Commissioner Associate Commissioner