

EnzAgelucci
ARCHITECT

9th June 2000

Architect's Inquiry
Productivity Commission
LB2, Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003

To whom it may concern,

Following my review of the Draft Report on the Review of Legislation Regulating the Architectural Profession. I am writing to express my concerns as both a professional architect and a member of the public.

I would like to argue the following points:

a. The main concern is protecting the greater community. At present we have a non-bias government body regulating the architectural profession. The concern is by eliminating this body and consequently establishing a self regulatory body will this have a beneficial competitive cost for the consumer, At present the title architect is safe guarded but the practice of building is not restricted. In my limited experience I have been privy on several occasions to witness the public questioning the professionalism of an architect, only to be corrected that the group they had employed were not architects but a building practitioner and therefore the service they expected could not be meet, which in some cases had a financial repercussion. It seems that in the current environment the consumer is already establishing difficulty in discerning the appropriate professional body, and if the title architect is deregulated how will the currently uneducated public be able to discern the accredited architect versus architect? Architects serve the community at large and in self regulation there is a distinct possibility that the profession could become part of an elitist environment, not particularly serving the interests of the greater community.

b. If the main concern is a "benefit versus cost" scenario then the following points need to be consider. If you deregulate the title architect and a self regulating body is established the long term cost to the public will outweigh the seemingly initial benefits of greater competition. Our present environment allows the community to choose between large/ medium and self practicing architects. If architects are self regulated the fees and insurances will increase and a consequence might see smaller offices no longer able to practice. At present the RAIA, which presumably would become that regulating body charges approximately 5 times the amount of the Architectural Registration Board. Increased cost to run a practice will obviously filter down to the consumer.

c. Architecture is not just a service based on monetary review. A registered become registered, Arguably after five years of study the undergraduate a architect must have Pursued an accredited tertiary degree before they can requires a minimum of two years practical experience before they can be still register as an architect. This process is very much about protecting the community.

d. Australia has become one of the most exciting contemporary architectural countries in the world. Our recent culture has seen the architect become more regarded not only locally but also globally as an artistic professional. The role of an artistic professional is not common to may professions. The architect's ultimate role is to aesthetically capture the culture of the contemporary environment. Ensuring that the architect through built form establishes an understanding of the typographical urban fabric.

This switching between the artist and the professional is not an easy task, when the legislative and regulatory bodies are more determined it enables the architect to concentrate more on the artistic value rather than the bureaucratic necessity of running a practice. Admittedly there needs to be a national government regulatory body that has no bias other than the formal process of ensuring individuals and companies are practising within the law.

Yours Sincerely

(signature)

Enza Angelucci

facs, 2 pages (03) 9653 2302
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