

20 December, 1999

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne, VIC 8003

RE: SUBMISSION FOR INQUIRY

Up until a few years ago, I would have supported a relaxation of the rules concerning the use of the word "architect." To be an architect, I believed, had more to do with a state of mind than a registration number from the board.

Since then, I have changed my mind.

I recently decided that in order to appeal to the greatest possible client base, I would market my practice not only as a provider of architectural services but also that of 'building design' and 'drafting.' What I have discovered is that many clients - even those with the most humble circumstances - approached me specifically seeking the services of an architect.

I believe that practitioners other than architects (ie. 'drafters' and 'designers') have a valuable role in the construction industry. I also believe that the public benefit from the existence of a distinct profession of 'ARCHITECT' - confident that those in practice will reliably demonstrate a certain and unique level of expertise and professionalism. It is the obligation of governments via the Architects Registration Board to provide the framework for maintaining high standards in the profession.

It is in the public's best interest to maintain the existing legislation regulating the architectural profession.

Sincerely,

Eric Zehring, RAIA
Green Point Design
VIC