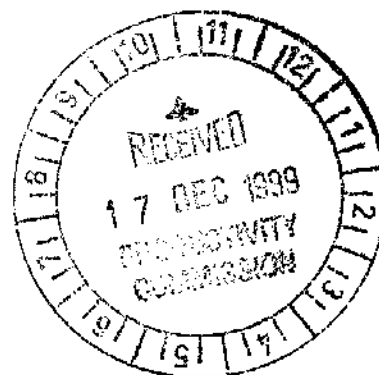


ALAN HOLBROOK ARCHITECT

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15th December 1999

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2, Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 8003



To The Commissioner

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: DEREGULATION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION.

I write to register my dismay at the prospect that the Architectural Profession may be deregulated.

I graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1982 with Honours after completing the accredited 5 year Bachelor's Degree course.

Thereafter I worked for very little pay with a widely respected Architect for another 4 years before I felt confident to take the RAA Professional Practise Exams.

Having passed through both the University and Professional 'filters' I felt duly proud to wear the hat 'Architect'.

By calling myself an Architect I am bound by a great many constraints on behaviour, ethic and accountability, a real consideration which has deterred many BArch graduates from becoming 'Architects'.

The mantle of Architect is one which I wear with great pride and I reward the confidence of my clients every day with the integrity, dexterity and industry that the title implies.

I do not see this title 'Architect' as elitist or prejudicial. On the contrary. My acceptance of the duties of honour and integrity in acting impartially between Builders and Proprietors and the support I offer Clients in representing their aspirations to Local Authorities, Builders and the community at large place ever more demanding claims on my time. Whilst fees for much of the time spent ensuring completeness and fairness cannot be charged I still provide the service, as to provide less care would compromise my self respect as an Architect.

I contend that there are a great many qualities which make a building 'Architecture' and at their core is the appreciation that Architecture represents the emblematic, ephemeral, subtle, subliminal and soulful expressions of our age and culture as well as the material.

It may be outrageous to assert that Architects are more enlightened than non Architects, however the rigours of the Bachelor's Degree Course and the Institute Examination process at least *encourage* excellence, depth of understanding, breath of dexterity and remind us every day of the passion we have for making buildings responsive, expressive, passive and complete.

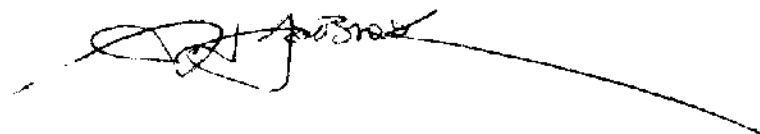
I would wonder why the Public would want Building Designers, Architectural Draftspersons or other differently qualified practitioners to call themselves Architects. Wouldn't that make it more difficult for clients to choose the person most appropriate to their project ?

As a Registered Architect (of approx 15 years standing) I also support the view of the Architect's Board of Western Australia that it is imperative that registration of Architects be retained. The most appropriate model for this would be a Uniform Act across Australia administered by the local State and Territory 'Architects' Boards'. This may also take the form of a Uniform Act administered by the 'Architects' Accreditation Council of Australia' as the central single administrative body.

I feel the 'Boards' are better placed for this function than the RAlA, as one of the fundamental principles of the Institute is to promote its member's services. The 'Boards' in contrast have the sole function of impartially administering the Architects' Act.

I implore the Commission to consider the very real tradition that the Architectural Profession represents and the loss to Society as a whole if this resource is rationalized, deconstructed or otherwise diminished by any act of convenience or conformity.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan G Holbrook', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan G Holbrook ARAIA

AHA.Dereg 1