

ANDRUS BUDRIKIS ARCHITECT

Project Management – Design - Documentation

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

Dear Sir,

I have been a registered Architect in Western Australia since 1993 and a member of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects since 1994. I strongly support the view of the Architects Board of Western Australia that registration of Architects is retained. I also believe that this registration should NOT be through the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, which in essence is a professional “club”. The RAI A also does not enjoy the support of all registered architects and many members, like myself, are concerned at the direction the Institute has taken with its “national approach”. I do not feel that this has been an improvement of the service of the RAI A to its members.

The Architects Board, in essence, regulates the control of the use of the term “Architect”. To be registered a certain standard of education must be reached. The fee is a small fee and commercially irrelevant.

I have not found that being a registered architect has given me a commercial advantage. In fact in some ways it is a commercial disadvantage. This is because by choosing to achieve the standard of education and passing the Architects Board’s exams, Architects strive to produce a better product. This can be to the architect’s detriment when competing on a commercial basis with other building designers and architects on the basis of the fee for the service. Many architects under quote on their fee to enable them to win a commission. Trying to achieve a high standard of service becomes difficult. Many developers, and the like, therefore view architect’s fees as high. In many of these cases the building is procured through alternative methods (eg. a draftsman “designing” and drawing up home units).

Naturally I would argue that this has led to a lesser quality of building in Australia. This is not to say that non-registered designers should not be allowed to design buildings, as is the case in some countries, but that the consumer is aware what sort of service they are purchasing; the service of an architect or the service of a “building designer”. The “building designer”, by choice, has decided to pursue a commercial activity, similar to that of the architect, without making the commitment to excellence that registering as an architect implies. The loss of the ability of the Architects Board to regulate the use of the term “architect” would be a serious blow to architectural standards and of no benefit to consumers what-so-ever. The choice to use different procurement methods is already here.

The Architects Act should be uniform across Australia but it should be administered by the Local State or Territory Boards.

Yours sincerely,

(signature)

Andrus Budrikis
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WA