



REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

I make the following points regarding the above:

- 1 To be able to use the title '*Architect*' the person has to study for seven years.
- 2 To be a certified building designer in Queensland the study period involved is from a few weeks to three years.
- 3 The title '*Building Designer*' is misleading to the public. The majority of building designers are only draftspersons. To design a building, other consultants are needed including consulting engineers, quantity surveyors, town planners, etc. Building designers do not have this expertise.
- 4 To say that building designers do the same work as architects is incorrect. Building designers are not qualified to act as experts in environmental matters, heritage architecture, urban design or the administration of multi-million dollar projects. They have not had the in-depth training in these areas. Architects who practise in the abovementioned disciplines usually have completed post-graduate degree studies to be recognised as an expert in the field. Building designers do not have post-graduate courses equivalent to the post-graduate degree courses available to architects at the universities.
- 5 80% of the building designer's work is in housing and unit design. This is the area in which most building failures occur.
- 6 Architects in Queensland now pay \$60 per year to register. The Board of Architects is self-funded and does not rely on taxpayers' money. If architects are de-registered they will have to pay \$500 plus to be a member of the Institute, which will add to the costs paid by the public.
- 7 To allow the title of '*Architect*' to be used by anyone will lead to unqualified people preying on the public. The result of this can be regularly seen by building failures in third world countries. Australia has a very high standard of building construction.
- 8 To quote town planners as an example of an unregistered profession is misleading. Town Planners in Queensland are closely associated with local authorities and the State Government Planning and Housing Department. Unqualified town planners are not used by these authorities.

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- 9 Building designers generally charge 5% for plans and specification, which in many cases is more than an architect can obtain. Notwithstanding the newspaper articles, the average salary of an architect is \$35,000-\$40,000 which is far below other professionals.
- 10 Building designers and building contractors are registered in Queensland for the protection of the public. Architects are also registered for the protection of the consumer so what are the grounds for de-registration?
- 11 The correct method of registration should be a nationally based registration system. Our present system of architectural registration in Queensland is related to a very efficient educational system. Our universities are highly regarded in Asia, as are our architects. They earn millions of dollars for Australia. If the title '*Architect*' were open to all, Asian students would go elsewhere to study. Countries such as Britain, Europe and the United States where the profession of architecture is held in high esteem would be their obvious destinations.
- 12 If the title '*Architect*' were open to all, why would young people bother to spend seven years of their lives studying at a university?
- 13 It should be understood that architecture cannot be assessed on a dollar and cents basis only. True architecture is the basis of the cultural heritage of every country, dating back into the pre-history era of the Egyptians, the Chinese and Maya civilizations as well as other civilizations.
- 14 To open the practice of architecture to everyone and to the lowest common denominator would cause immense damage to our cultural image, not only in Asia, but also in the rest of the developed countries in the world.

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