

**Hackett Architects
Pty Ltd.**

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Submission to the
Productivity Commission 2000,
Review of Legislation Regulating the Architectural Profession,
Draft Report Melbourne, May.

The following is a brief summary of my experience in the building industry since graduating high school in 1979.

- 1980-1985 Bachelor of Architecture degree part time at the Queensland Institute of Technology.
- 1980-May1986 worked full time at various architectural practices ranging from the second largest in Queensland to being assistant to a sole practitioner.
- April 1986 Graduated with Bachelor of Architecture
- May 1986-Dec1986 Studied architecture at a mainland Chinese university (2 months) and travelled in Japan (4 months) mainly self study of buildings, culture, language and food.
- Jan 1987 Recommended full- time employment in an architectural office.
- August 1989 Applied for & achieved registration in the state of Queensland. Architectural Registration number 2373.
- August 1889 I was invited by a senior architect to join him as a director of his Architectural Company. The largest project we did together was a 600-seat church, hall, administration building and carpark. Our involvement in the project spanned from site selection advice, rezoning, design, documentation and full contract administration. The total office staff was 2 architects and a secretary.
- 1995 Since the death of my business partner in 1995 I have been in sole practice working from home.
- June 1995-Dec 1996 Studied 4 subjects of a certificate in applied science (computer aided drafting) CN286 at Southbank Institute of TAFE.

My architectural work in the last five years consists of predominantly residential alteration and additions.

Recently I have renovated my own home thoroughly enjoying doing many hands on activities including being the drainer and plumbers assistant, priming all the new exterior timber work, painting the whole of the interior (almost finished) and generally sweeping up after everyone else.

I trust that the above will assist you in putting my following comments in perspective.

Jayne Hackett.

Submission to the
Productivity Commission 2000,
Review of Legislation Regulating the Architectural Profession,
Draft Report Melbourne, May.

By

Jayne Hackett, registered Architect
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June 2000.

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1. The current system.

- a) The **public can choose** to employ an architect or another service provider. But to make an effective choice they have to be informed of the different types & levels of services provided.
- b) The existing statutory accreditation system befits the public because it protects the public from those who would **fraudulently overstate** their levels of knowledge and skill in the provision of building design services.
- c) The existing statutory system befits the public because if a member of the public has concerns about an architect's service performance then it is investigated.
- d) The **public can readily and very cheaply** (the cost of one phone call) confirm if someone is registered as an architect in that state or territory.

Similarly information concerning what an architect is and what professional services an architect is accredited as being able to perform for the public is similarly **readily and very cheaply available to the public.**

The Board of Architects can inform the public of its role and the accreditation requirements and procedures that must be undertaken before an individual becomes a registered architect.

The Royal Australian Institute of Architects can also give over the phone advice in addition to a number of free publications that help the public to become better informed of the different types of service an Architect is able to provide.

Archicentre – The home Advisory Division of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects specifically advises the public on issues relating to the residential sector. This service is readily available to the public and participates in public information forums such as trade fairs and home shows.

- e) The Architects Act sets out an **accreditation process** to establish if individuals have achieved a **known knowledge and skill standard through study and practical experience.**

Candidates have to earn the right to describe themselves as architects.

The existing process both protects the known knowledge and skill standard and **protects the public** from those who would fraudulently claim to have the known knowledge and skill standard.

- f) The architects act does not preclude others from **competing in the market place.**
- g) The architects act does not preclude **other** groups of service providers from establishing knowledge and skill standards and accreditation procedures, which would enhance the other groups standing as **identifiable service providers** in the market place.

The result is that the public can clearly, quickly and cheaply identify Architects.

Architects are individuals who have been judged and assessed according to the rules and regulations of a statutory accreditation system to be able and capable to market their services to the public as Architects.

Architects are a group of individuals with like knowledge and skill levels in the provision of architectural services to the public.

2. Strengths of the current Architects Act

- a) The Architects Act is a **public document**.
- b) An **independent third party body administers** the architects act it is known as the board of architects.
- c) The Board of Architects is a part of the **public service sector**.
- d) The list of registered architects in each state is a **publicly gazetted** document. Any member of the public can with one phone call confirm if someone is currently on the list.
- e) Architects individually have a **responsibility** to their clients and to the wider community. The responsibility in part due to the awareness that they are part of a group, which upholds a high standard of **ethics and code of conduct** and failure to uphold this standard, brings the group as a whole into disrepute.

3. Strengths of the current registration exam system

- a) The registration exam process is conducted by an **independent third party**.
- b) The rules and process of the registration exam is **public information** and open to **public scrutiny**.
- c) The registration exam process is conducted in a **totally transparent manor**, which is not open to misinterpretation. Simply a person either has or has not passed the registration exam.
- d) The registration exam process ensures that all successful applicants have achieved a **known level** of expertise, knowledge, education and skill in the practise of architecture.
- e) The registration exam is **not an academic exercise** it is primarily a test of experience and comprehension of the professional practise of architecture.
- f) The registration exam sets a **known benchmark for architecture students** to aspire.
- g) The registration exam process does **not exclude** those who have **not completed a tertiary qualification** from applying. The process acknowledges that additional periods or advanced levels of experience may supplement a lack of formal training.

3.1 Structural knowledge of registration candidates.

The report calls for additional information regarding this topic.

3.1.1 The following is my personal opinion:-

- It is fact that structural knowledge is required to produce a meaningful set of tender documents that include working drawings and specifications.
- It is fact that structural knowledge is required when assessing the built product.
- It is fact that a candidate for the registration exam is required to provide proof of experience in the production of working drawings, specifications and on site experience.

3.1 Structural knowledge of registration candidates. (cont.)

Others apparently would have the commission believe that **Architects are only interested in aesthetic and design issues** and have limited interest or knowledge of how they are actually constructed.

This notion is totally **false**.

Every architect is acutely aware that only when the image on the page becomes built is it real architecture. Architects aspire to be involved in projects that incorporate concepts that push the standard boundaries of structural norms. We all dream of our own opera house that is instantly recognised as architectural, structural and sculptural.

In larger architectural practices, the majority of architects & students would be involved in the preparation of working documents (drawings & specification) for the building. Only a select few architects in these firms would be actively involved in the preliminary design. In smaller practices the architect would be involved in the design (25% of time), documentation (45% of time) & contract administration (30% of time).

3.1.2 The following is my personal experience:-

The **Bachelor of Architecture Degree** (part time) QIT 1980-1985

Included a number of technical construction subjects,
eg. Designing structural beams from first principles
and

Included a number of technical subjects concerning building regulations
but

Included no technical drawing instruction.

Students were expected to learn technical drawing skills in the work environment.

The work environment

As a student you were exposed to the total day to day practise of architecture.

Students were expected to ask lots of questions and learn from senior members of the office.

There was a clear incentive to learn more and gain more responsibilities in line with increasing skill levels and remuneration.

Employers encouraged students to become more productive and skilful.

Employers also did not tolerate students who were not progressing without reason.

Students firstly learnt the technical skills required to produce tender and construction documents followed by increasing exposure to on-site inspection work.

As students progressed they were anxious to convince employers that they had the knowledge and skills to be entrusted with added responsibilities.

A good opportunity to put forward this idea was when asking employers to sign the registration exam work experience logbook.

3.2 Building Construction documents when the architect acts as primary consultant:-

- The architect acts as a **co-ordinator** of all the information.
- The design including all concepts have to be translated into a **set of construction instructions** that includes all the relevant technical information required.
- The architect is responsible for initiating what **other consultants** are required to complete the technical information input.
- The architect must understand the other consultant's fields and direct the other consultants to fulfil their parts in the process.
- It is normal to cross-reference information from plans to details etcetera.
- It is also normal practise to cross-reference the drawings produced by architects to those produced by other consultants.
- The Architect's usual full service is to produce a comprehensive set of building documents that **fully** explains the clients requirements in terms of drawings & specification. The client's expectations as to the quality & finish of work are known prior to tender. This ensures that the building contractors can calculate accurate tenders. The client can then judge all tenders fairly and equitably.
- The perception by the public that Architects are expensive possibly indicates a lack of knowledge in the role of the architect. The initial savings that they believe that they may make by engaging a cheaper method of procurement (minimal drawings sufficient only for building approval) can result in cost blowouts. Such drawings when priced by building contractors can be interpreted differently and as such priced differently (cost price items, etc). It is only when the contract has been signed and work is underway that the new home owner discovers the 'hidden' costs that they will need to meet to complete their project. Anecdotal one hears from new home owners (project home market) how the final cost (often advertised as fixed price) has increased dramatically placing them under financial pressure when they have to increase their mortgage.
- The full documentation process that an architect undertakes on behalf of their client establishes a final cost before contracts are signed. The administration of the project that the architect undertakes protects the client by ensuring that the building contractor is only paid for work completed at that time. There have been a number of cases where new homeowners have paid substantial amounts up front (at contract signing) only to discover the company has either subsequently collapsed or permanently gone offshore.
- The CSIRO recently have undertaken extensive research into the economic structure of the construction industry. The commonly held notion that savings in cost and time in the production of construction documentation leads to savings in the total project costs was proven to be false.
- The completed sets of documents have to be thoroughly checked to ensure that they do not contain contradictory information.

It is fact that the architect does not just do fanciful design drawings.

It is fact that the architect works in a team effort to achieve a completed project.

It is fact that a team effort is only effective when all members respect and understand the knowledge and skills of each member of the team.

4. Problems with the current system

- a) The current architects acts were written approximately 80 years ago and the **language is not of the style of current legislation**. At that time it followed that if a group acted according to a recognised professional code of behaviour then ethical and moral behaviour to the client, general public and fellow professional would automatically follow. Current legislation writing styles have to spell out the notation that one has to act in an ethical way and think of the public first.
- b) There may be **unnecessary repetition** in the existence of boards in each state.
- c) The public generally are unaware of the **exact nature and full scope of duties** that an architect is trained to perform in a professional capacity.
- d) The public generally does not understand the **differences between architects and other service providers**.
- e) It is simple to find out who is a registered architect. In Queensland the state government department of fair trade can confirm if a persons is currently on the registration list. It is **not as easy to establish the credentials of other service providers**. Often people must rely upon other service provider's own description and self-assessment of their appropriate skill levels for the project. The general public may have difficulty confirming this information. For instance education facilities are restricted by freedom of information legislation in the disclosure of past student's education qualifications.
- f) The general market place is very competitive and there exists many examples of **misleading information** of who may or may not be capable of performing tasks. This hinders the public's accurate assessment of the total procedure and their decision making process of who is the best person to employ in their individual situation.

Three examples of this miss-information are: -

1. The **Brisbane 2000 yellow pages consumer information tip** concerning "plans and designs" (phone 1300 36 5123 followed by the 4 digit code 1964) instructs the general public to contact a builder for this service. The recorded message, which lasts for 55 seconds, makes no mention of either architects or building designers. The message gives the public the notion that **only builders can design**.

2. The Building Designers Association of Australia's submission (number 40) page 6 quote "...

...and the prevailing attitude of the architectural profession is in many respects the essential reason as to why **architects do not maintain a position of influence** or market share in the residential sector of the building and construction industry."

The fact is that architects never had a large market share in the residential sector.

Most people aspire to own a residence that is unique and specifically designed for there own use but for many this is not an economic reality.

Traditionally most residences were simply worker's dwellings. The Queensland government introduced the first state-housing scheme in Australia. The government produced annual reports, which included photographs and plans of actual houses. This and other published design books of the 1920s and 1930s helped spread a vernacular character. The result being that most workers dwellings up until the late 1930s have distinct style and character but are not the work of an architect for a specific client.

(During the last 8 years when I have exclusively done residential alterations and additions. I have only worked on two residences that were originally "Designed" for a specific client. One by an architect circa 1914 and the other being my own residence that was originally designed by a lady who taught architectural perspective and technical drawing at Queensland Central Technical College in the 1920s.)

3. Ovie Taylor (submission number 376 and quoted in the report page 37) stated that Francis Greenway, Walter Burley-Griffin and Frank Lloyd-Wright **were designers not Architects.**

Francis Greenway (1777-1837) – was an architect practising in Bristol England when due to a forgery offence he was sent to the convict settlement of New South Wales. He was Australia's first architect. Under Governor Macquarie's leadership Greenway became the first government appointed architect in 1814. He received government commissions until 1822.

(Tanner, Howard, Architects of Australia, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1981,P10-18)

(Dupain, Max. Francis Greenway A celebration, Mead & Beckett Publishing, Sydney 1980)

(In first year of the bachelor of architecture course we travelled to Sydney and specifically went to see four buildings by Greenway- the Courthouse at Windsor, St. Matthews church Windsor, St James church Sydney and Macquarie Lighthouse South Head. The study of Greenways architecture was part of the curriculum.)

Walter Burley Griffin (1876-1937) graduated in 1899 from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture. In 1912 he was asked to be head of the University of Illinois architecture school. Walter Burley Griffin practised architecture, community planning and landscape architecture in three countries. He won the internationally promoted Australian Capital City (Canberra) competition in 1911, which led to his position as Federal Capital director of design and construction, which he held until 1920.

(Tanner, Howard, Architects of Australia, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1981,P10-18)

(Johnson, D.L. , The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1977, P11.).

(In second year of the bachelor of architecture course we again travelled to Sydney and Canberra. During which we visited the suburb of Castlecraig and drew many of the residences and streetscapes designed by Griffin in addition to a being exposed to his master planning concepts of Canberra. The study of Griffins architecture was part of the curriculum.)

Frank Lloyd-Wright (1867-1957) American was a pioneer in the modern style. He is considered one of the greatest figures in 20th century architecture. In 1884 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1884 in Civil Engineering(the university offered no course in architecture at that time). He worked for Louis Sullivan prior to establishing his own firm in Chicago in 1893.

(Microsoft Corporation, Encarta 1996 Encyclopedia, united states 1996)

(I had to wait until 1986 to see a Wright building in person. Wright designed the Imperial hotel in Tokyo. Wrights building due to its innovative structure was one of the few buildings standing after the great Tokyo earthquake. The building was transformed into an emergency hospital. Portions of the building are preserved.)

It is of great concern that the information stated by Ovie Taylor **as fact was not investigated prior to its quotation in the report.**

It would appear that the authors of the report are **unclear of the definition distinctions between designers and architects both alive and deceased.**

This style of miss-interpretation is a prime argument for the **need for standardised accreditation systems.**

5. Contract Law and Contract Administration

The report virtually makes no attempt to comprehend the field of building contract law and the legal aspects of contract administration. (I believe the only reference to this subject is chapter 4 page 57.)

This appears to be an area that requires additional investigation.

Obviously the topic would require information from legal practitioners specialising in contract law.

The main concerns being what are the legal ramifications of the proposed deregulation of architects in the field of contract law and could this cause uncertainty to the public.

The following is a brief insight.

6. Supervision vs. Administration

One existing major area of misconception in contract administration is the correct definition of “supervision” and “administration”.

“Architects do not supervise but administer building contracts on behalf of their clients. It is the responsibility of the Building Contractor to supervise. Building Designers who may claim that they do this on behalf of their client may not be aware of their legal responsibilities. “ (Bailey, I.H., Construction Law in Australia, Law Book, 1988, p249).

The building designers association of Australia Limited in their submission (dec1999) claim that “BDAA members... In many cases, they **supervise** the construction of projects undertaken by them at their clients request.”(p2)

BDAA members apparently believe that they are also the builders of their projects.

This confusion of who does what job is not restricted to the BDAA members as previously stated according to the Yellow pages builders are the designers of their projects.

Apparently many people believe that they have the skills to do multiple jobs.

7. Building Contracts

Currently Building contracts form into two distinct groups:-

- 1) A person acts as agent on behalf of the proprietor as administrator to the Contract.
- 2) The building contractor acts as administrator to the contract

7.1 Building contracts with the provision for an agent:-

- a) The agent performs duties that **assist both parties** to the contract to fulfil their obligations under the contract. The building contractor and the proprietor.
- b) The agents’ role primarily is to ensure that the building contractor in accordance with the requirements of the contract carries out the works and the proprietor in accordance with the requirements of the contract pays the agreed contract sum.
- c) The agent acts as **assessor and valuer** of the works.
- d) The **agent issues certificates** stating the value of completed works and when monies are due and payable from the proprietor to the building contractor.

7.2 Building contracts with the provision for an agent (cont.)

- e) These types of contracts also generally have a **defects liability period** (13 weeks). The consumer has added protection such that during that period matters that require additional attention by the building contractor can be addressed. The agent to the contract does not issue the final certificate until all matters concerning the defects liability period and all retention monies are finalised.
- f) In the event that **either party fails in their obligation** then the agent must take corrective action in accordance with the contract. The agent assists both parties in rectifying the problem.
- g) Often the agent can **foresee a potential problem** and guide the situation to resolution prior to expensive litigation action.

In other words the umpire is at the game not just at the post game assessment.

- h) **Traditionally the Architect acts as the agent.**
- i) Accredited **Architectural degree courses** include a significant emphasis on contractual issues in particular contract administration duties, responsibilities and practice.
Emphasis is placed on the ethics and code of behaviour required to perform these duties in an proper manor.
- j) The Architectural **registration exam** includes a significant emphasis on contractual issues in particular contract administration duties, responsibilities and practice.
The candidate must prove that they have a maturity of experience that will ensure that they can perform these duties in an ethical manor.
- k) **Standard contracts** that incorporate the Architect as agent include:-
SBW-2 contract, JCC building contracts, Cost Plus contract, MWC contract, BBC-1 contract and CIC-1 contract.

7.2 Building contracts with no provision for an agent:-

- a) The building contractor acts as both a **party** to the contract and the **administrator** of the contract.
- b) The building contractor **acts as assessor and valuer** of the works.
- l) The building contractor **issues certificates** stating the value of completed works and when monies are due and payable from the proprietor to himself (or herself).
- c) The building proprietor usually has **limited experience** and capacity to judge if the value and quality certified by the contractor is accurate.
- d) In the event of a disagreement then a **third person** must be introduced to all the facts after the event. This can incur significant financial costs to the owner/proprietor.

7.3 In addition

- a) Currently many building contracts incorporate provisions that in the event of a dispute it shall be referred to an **expert person as nominated by the board of architects.**
- b) Currently many building contract disputes that proceed into court actions include the **expert opinion and evidence of Architects.**

8. Potential Outcomes if the ARCHITECTS act is repealed

8.1 General

- a) The **consumer could be uncertain** as to the qualifications of a potential service provider.
- b) The **consumer may have less consumer protection** as they currently can readily check a person's architectural credentials with an impartial government body. In the future they may have to rely on either the service provider's own assessment that they are capable to perform the proposed tasks or a industry self-interest group's assessment of their own members. The consumer may have greater protection if a third party does the assessment.
- c) The consumer can not easily confirm if a person has or has not achieved a certain education standard. Education facilities must comply with freedom of information legislation in the disclosure of past student's education qualifications. This causes delays and is intimidating to consumers who may feel that a formal application to confirm a person's qualification is paramount to accusing them of dishonesty.

A framed photocopied certificate or overseas qualification could deceive a consumer.
- d) Other **laws and legislation could be effected** which incorporate the concept of an Architect.

8.2 Loss of legal term "architect as agent"

The following could happen:-

- a) The **consumer could be disadvantaged** during the construction process if they can no longer readily employ an architect to act as their agent. In practise this could lead to consumer uncertainty and loss of confidence in the processes available.
- b) The **consumer could loose some of their existing levels of protection and choice.**
- c) The **consumer could incur greater costs**, as existing building contracts could have to be rewritten to substitute the term Architect with something else. The new term will have no legal definition as defined by an Act. But by its very nature everything in a contract is defined. Confusion will be compounded as every building contract could have slight variations in meaning and application. The net result could be lots of different types of building administrators.
- d) The **consumer could have a reduced level of choice** to only the building contractor as the administrator type.
- e) The consumer who entered into building contracts during the 2-year notification period could be **subject to uncertainty** particularly if the contract becomes unavoidably delayed and concludes after the removal of the architects' act.

8.3 Loss of legal term “architect as agent”(cont.)

- f) Consumers who have entered into building contracts many years ago could be **disadvantaged**. Traditionally building disputes are long protracted exercises. After the two year period there will be **no expert ARCHITECT opinions in a court of law**.

An example where this change could incur additional concern, uncertainty and costs to an already injured group of the public is the current dispute of termite protection responsibilities between Forrest Lake residents and the Queensland Building Services Authority. The residents have engaged the services of both architects & termite control companies to represent them as the QBSA were initially reluctant to take any action on behalf the effected home owners (refer to www.termiteactiongroup.com.au). The effected home owners were unable to get any satisfactory response the QBSA until the news media became involved. The Building Services Authority currently receives building insurance premiums on behalf of all home owners who enter into building contracts. The Building Services Authority is part of the Department of Equity & Fair Trading.

Note the public pays an insurance premium that effectively protects them from the potential wrongs by building contractors.

The public does not pay an insurance premium that effectively protects them from potential wrongs by the Architect.

- g) The current **professional indemnity insurance** system could be effected. This could result in confusion. Insurance could become cost prohibited resulting in a loss of protection to the consumer.
- h) Currently the architect in the role as proprietor’s agent has a legal standing but there is uncertainty as how this will function after the architects act is repealed. This may lead to the **Architects being uncertain of their responsibilities**.
- i) Current registered architects could be unwilling to administer any building contracts in the future because they could **unwittingly expose themselves to added personal legal exposure**.

9. Opinion

- 1) The authors of the report have apparently failed to understand all the aspects of the context in which architects work.
- 2) The authors of the report have apparently failed to understand all the aspects of what an architect actually does.
- 3) The authors of the report have apparently been misled by others including the following untruths:-

- Others apparently would have the commission believe that Architects are only interested in protecting their title.

If this were true then we would have no clients.

- Others apparently would have the commission believe that Architects only design buildings and have limited interest or knowledge of how they are actually constructed.

This is clearly not factual.

- Others apparently would have the Commission believe that Architects increasingly do not act as project managers or contract administrators.

It would be relatively easy to check this assumption as every building contract issued is numbered and it is a requirement that proof of a signed building contract be submitted at the time of collected building approvals. The data would include the number of contracts, type of contract and contract values.

- Others apparently would have the commission believe that they have like skills and knowledge as architects concerning all matters that an architect can perform.

This conclusion can only be made on a case by case basis and requires an independent qualified third party to assess this claim.

11. Conclusion

- a) I strongly support the right of the public to be able to have the choice to either employ an architect or another service provider.
- b) The general member of the public needs to be able to clearly define and identify groups of service providers both in levels of skill and knowledge. The information must be clearly accessible and easy to comprehend.
- c) The general member of the public must have complete confidence in the system that if in the event a concern over a service provider's performance occurs then that their concerns will be seriously investigated. The investigation must take place in third party environment.

I believe the existing system has this attribute.

The umpire is impartial.

I also believe that the general public would have less confidence in a system that is industry group or partially self-regulating.

The umpire is on the other side's team.

The general public would feel further intimidated and potentially wronged if the agent to the contract and the other party to the contract (building contractor) were regulated by the same body. The potential for failure and conflict of interest in this type of system has been studied and documented. It is the main reason why Legal practitioners cannot act for both parties to a dispute. This system would equally be unsuitable for the Architect and the Building contractor as they may feel that they are as disadvantaged as the public.

The umpire is on both other people's team and the umpire may have divided loyalties.

There for I strongly believe that the current system of the Architects Act and independent administration boards fulfil a vital role in protecting the public.

- d) The irony is that:- The existing system is that anyone can design and document a building but on submission for building approval then every person from that time must be either licensed or accredited.

Should this scenario be suggesting that the design and documentation stage also should be totally regulated?

- e) I believe your final recommendation equates to the following:-

If there are two groups competing for the same job and if one is organised and following a long tradition of education, training and conduct, and the other is less organised then the first will be told that they must become disorganised.

**Productivity Commission
Review of Legislation regulating the Architectural Profession.**

The following information is submitted in addition to information tendered at the public hearing in Brisbane Friday June 9th 2000.

During the Sole Practitioners Group (Brisban) address to the commission Judith Sloan made a statement incorrectly alleging that Robin Dods was not an ARCHITECT.

I submit the following information to assist in remedying this error.

Robert Smith (Robin) DODS b. Dunedin NZ 1868;d Sydney 1920

1886 -1890 articled pupil of Hay and Henderson, Architects.

1886 –1890 studied at the Edinburgh Architectural Association.

1891 member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

1893 awarded special prize in Tite Prize competition and medal of merit in Soane Medallion 1894.

1896-1916 in partnership as Hall and Dods, Architects, Building Surveyors and valuers, Brisbane.

Council Queensland Insitute of Architects 1899.

Brisbane Central Technical College examiner in Drawing 1902-9.

The firm Hall and Dods was responsible for the major portion of commercial work carried out in Brisbane at the time. Francis Hall was primarily a business man and administrator and Dods was the creative, designing force of the firm.

Their clients included the Brisbane Diocese of the Church of England, Brisbane and South Coast Hospital Board, Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Co. Ltd. and the Roman Catholic Church in particular the Mater Hospital Group.

Dods achieved significant recognition for his domestic work. Many influential private people sought Dods as their architect for residences mainly in the wealthy suburbs of Clayfield and New Farm.

“Dods must be acknowledged as amongst the most original, prolific and vital architects to have practised in Queensland. His specific contribution was the development of appropriate architecture for the sub-tropical climate.”(Tanner page 86)

References Tanner, Howard, **Architects of Australia**, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1981, Pages 86-95

Watson, Donald & McKay Judith, **A directory of Queensland Architects to 1940**, UQ, 1984 page 71.

(Post script - a number of Dods surviving buildings are listed by the National Trust.)

Conclusion

Robin Dods died prior to the instigation of the current Architects registration system in Queensland.

Robin Dods was however a practising and respected member of the profession according to the then current qualifications of the time.

This type of misinformation of who is and who is not an architect is exactly why the practising members of the profession in the 1920s sought to develop a system that would avoid this type of confusion.

The current Architects Act and gazetted registration lists identify Architects.

This list of accredited persons is of benefit to the public and reduces the occurrence of misinformation.

As stated in the public hearing registered Architects expressed concerns regarding future identification procedures of Architects if the current Act is repealed.

I believe the current Architects Act reduces the occurrence of accidental errors as happen in the hearing when a (deceased) person was incorrectly described as not being an architect.

The proposed repealing of the Architects Act will cause additional confusion and possible misinformation to the general public who may wish to engage someone as a service provider in the provision of architectural services.

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13 June 2000.