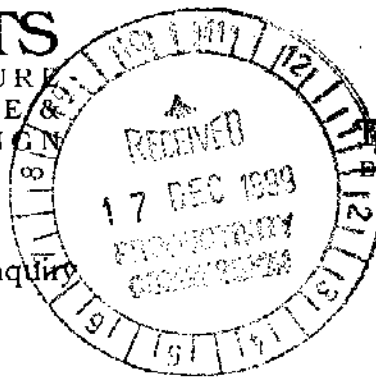


**DICKIE**  
**D** **A** **R** **C** **H** **I** **T** **E** **C** **T** **S**  
ARCHITECTURE  
LANDSCAPE  
URBAN DESIGN

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14th December 1999



Productivity Commission Architects Enquiry  
LB2 Collins Street East  
Melbourne  
Victoria 8003

Dear Sir

re: REVIEW OF LEGISLATION REGULATING  
THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

I am an architect and so could be considered to be biased in favour of the continuation of the profession of which I am a member. However, much of my working life has been spent working in planning companies and I am now employed as an urban designer at a local authority here in Western Australia. In these roles, I have had the opportunity to observe the responses of both architects and 'designers' to similar design questions.

It has been a constant observation that the design proposals put forward by architects solve design and functional problems in a more integrated, creative and thorough manner than other designers. The training that architects undergo does, in my opinion produce design practitioners who are more prepared to question a client's brief, to assert climatic and functional requirements and to innovate. Architects are trained to work in this manner, in contrast to the limited technical training given to designers, who generally do little more than they are instructed to do. I could supply you with numerous practical examples.

In order to maintain public confidence in the available standards of design creativity, it is vital to retain the profession of architect in the 'privileged' position that it now holds. Architects make a genuine contribution to the creation of a better environment, which any move towards deregulation would reduce. In employing an architect, the public can be confident that they are dealing with a competent and experienced design professional.

I strongly urge the Commission to retain the registration of architects as a distinct profession and to distinguish the services that they provide from those of 'designers'.

Yours faithfully

*Martin Dickie*

Martin Dickie

cc Joan McIntyre; Architects Board of Western Australia