

# **Evan Swan Pty Limited**

## **Mechanical and Structural Detailing**

Mechanical & Structural Drawings - Mechanical Design - Trouble Shooting - Mud Mapping - Consulting Services -  
Plan Printing - Photocopying - D.A. Assistance - Industrial Developments - Materials Surveyor.  
A.C.N. 050 107 732

12th December, 1999

Productivity Commission,  
Architects Inquiry,  
LB2 Collins Street,  
Melbourne. Vic. 8003

Review of Legislation Regulating the Architectural Profession.

Dear Sir/Madam,

My work as Engineer Detailer is hard enough now, as the fabricator want drawings the next day, fully finish. We can do without having problems from Architect's and their drawings. Sometimes during the detailing of a building, changes in the design may occur. I accept that design changes do occur but this has be started again to see what is required to be changed.

In the past 12 years 1 have been working as a detailer I could not really say, that the drawings from Architects have been 100% of a acceptable standard. The overall dimension are missing or very to the amount given.

The Architect are keen on sending drawings out their office, which are not complete or with these drawings saying "Measure up on site" or Check on site ". If is to use by Architect's then the cost should be back charge to the Architect on a hourly rate to cover the cost of the work.

It is important that when have to " Measure up on site" then a second person is required to assist in holding the tape measure which cost should to worn by the Architect, but in most cases, it is worn by the Detailer.

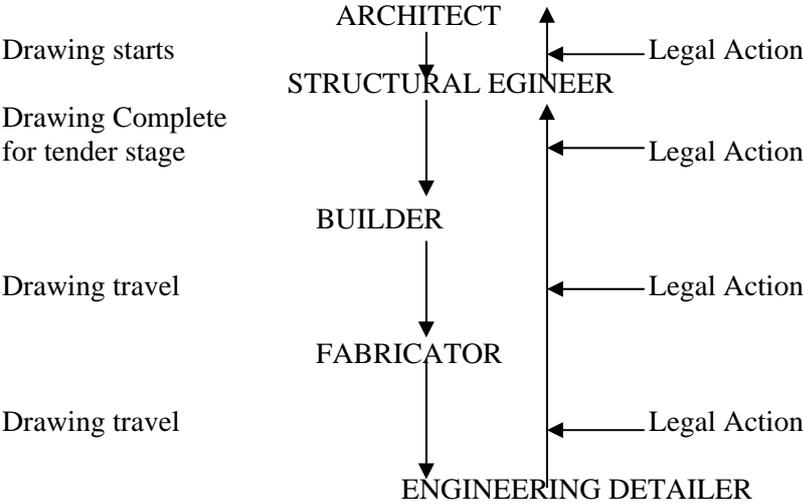
Most cases, the site foreman is tried to keep up with other trades making, sure that their work is carry out in the correct maner.

Before we get into a project , the problem of Common Law

As engaged by the fabricator, all the fabricator does is to quote of the drawings. If the fabricator wins the job, then the drawing are pass on to the Engineer Detailer. The fabricator does not in any way, do or make any adjustment any drawings.

The fabricator, is not responsible for the any dimensions and they are the responsibility of the Architect, or any dimensions supplied by Engineer, for a special detail he wants to go on the shop drawings.

The steel is work out by the Structural Engineer in most cases, the Engineer provide no dimensions for the building. The only time we would see Dimensions on a Engineer's drawings, during the design and layout drawings for a plant and they would be very limited. The Common Law problem is as follows,



If the Engineer's & Architect's are protected because the Fabricator has Engaged me to carry out Engineer Detailer of the Steelwork for fab shop.

Yes the fabricator has engage me, but the fabricator not responsible for the laziness of the Architect does not want to spend to much time on the project, so larger profit are made on their side. In some cases, the Architects after they have finish their part, do not want to see the drawings again.

If there is a variation in the work or the Architect fails to complete their drawings causing extra work or modification to the design after the details are completed, which also may be in fab shop and work may have started someone has to pay for the redrafting and new steel required to bring this back on line.

From my side, there is a variation which has to be paid for by the Fabricator but he can refuse to pay. This then leads to legal action, placing the matter in a solicitors hands, and it could take years through the courts, right up the to the Architects who made the changes.

You wait for your money, hoping that at the end of all the courts battle, we win all court cases.

This, to me, is the way the detailing should work.

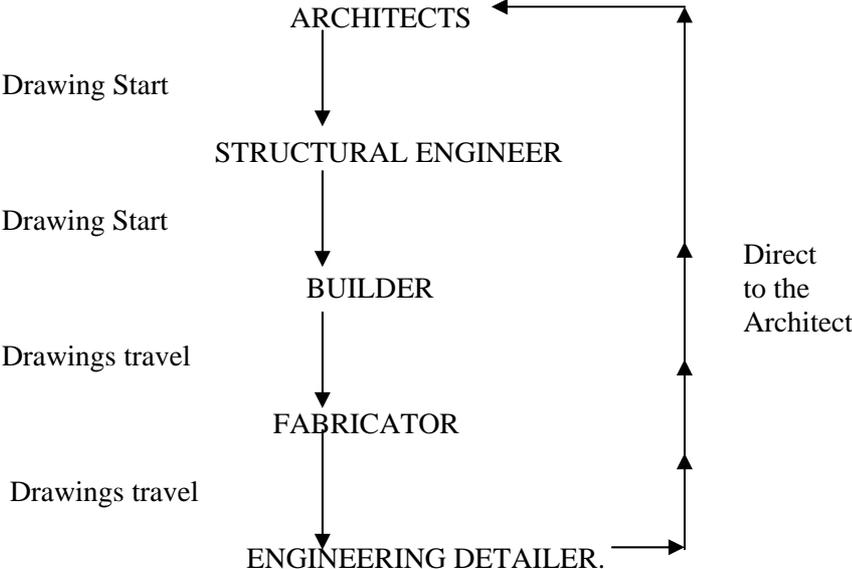
The drawings should pass through to the Detailer but when the detailer work on the drawings then the fabricator & builder should step aside and allow me to work direct with the Architect or Engineer.

This is where Common Law must be change. If 1 can show that there are problems in their drawings, in this case, if the Architect has failed to carry their work with due care, seeing what his drawings meets the standard, giving all details that is required. 1 don't what Architects study to become a Architects and what standards they are instruction are giving while studying their course. Some where there must be a standards or guide line they work to.

Engineering standards for Mechanical, Structural are AS 1100. (Australian Standards)

If the Architects does meet the requirement, costing detailer money or cause any delays to the construction, then I can go direct to the Architects asking for compensation for his laziness.

What should happen as follows.



The Architect was in the wrong, so I go the Architect for compensation but he refuses that in the hands of a Solicitors for their handling of the matter. During the course legal action, Evan Swan Pty Ltd will be asking for full costs of the court proceedings , Interest of all outstanding money. Additional costs and charges for whatever.

The drawings provided for a job in Stanwell Park gave me the impression, that the 2 Architects did not know what they where doing. The drawing failed to show the overall dimensions, which gives me the dimensions so 1 could calculate all my dimensions from their drawing.

This would allow me work out the length of steel required and placement of the steel.

When 1 come involved with this job, 1 found to my surprise for the size of the job, they had a surveyor to peg out the of the building as large angles involved.

The surveyor told me, that they having trouble reading and working from the drawings provided by the Architect. During the surveying of the site, to give Architect dimensions, the surveyor had to ring the Architects to see if they could help them with dimensions so they could complete the layout. The Architect could assist the surveyor with the dimensions.

After the discussion with the Surveyor, I tried to draw up a layout, which was impossible to do, from the Architects drawings, as I didn't know if the walls were placed correctly. There was no sense of doing drawings and find that the dimensions and find that the drawings was useless. The layout was faxed to the Architects but the came back by tax with a lot instructions including the words " Check on Site".

This I knew then, the Architects did not know what they were ?????????????? and the best I could do was to wait for most of the blocks were laid and the bottom level was completed.

I received a fax from the Architect and lets look saying one section of the fax stated as follows:

"Please note that all dimensions must be checked on site before fabrication + no Architectural Dimension should be used to build from."

The question I would like to have answer for what dimensions they talking about. The dimensions on the drawings do not add up.

There is another clause in the fax concerns me and that is as follows:

"We have verified all the dimensions that we can according to the Architectural Drawings excepting 2 Dimension I need to ask the Engineer about".

I still don't know what dimension they "Verified"as stated in the fax.

This matter was reported to your Sydney Office but the

" Board of Architects N.S.W."

But the Board dismissed as

"Vexatious of Frivolous" in the terms of the Act.

There is one thing that annoys me, do your Architects know what they doing because I enclosed 2 drawing form a job I did at Stanwell Park, but the law protects Architect's still paid their fee, but a Engineering Detailer must pay for their errors.

These 2 drawing was also sent to the Board of Architect in Sydney and I hope they have purchanced glasses as could not see what was wrong with these drawings. These drawings as describe as a heap of "\*\*\*\*" there to much rubbish that may be required by Council but not by builders and Engineering Detailer.

So on the grounds as I told the Boards of Architect's " to see the Board of Architects Abolished" in a letter of the 18th March, 1999. If the Architects don't want to pick up their game and turn Architectural drawings to

work from, I feel that the Engineer Detailers need to ask for changes in the common law to be change to prevent Engineer Detailer from carrying the burden of Architects errors.

Since 1992 I have the State Government to change the present system of license are Architect's , Engineer's and Engineering Detailer to be contractor's but you cannot work as a employee for a company while hold a contractor. You may work as a contractor to firm working as a contractor, been paid contractors rates of pay. Insurances must be taken out to protect him self.

As a Engineering Detailer, my job is made harder by Architect's as well by the Engineer's as I feel that they enjoy doing so and explain to my clients the problems we have with the Architect Drawings. The engineer drawings are not much better.

These drawings are a print from print, which in most cases are not readable but lack of important details. In some sets of drawing we are lucky to be told of the steel connection for the project.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000. All drawings Architect's drawings and include Engineer's drawings will be advised to bring them up to acceptable standard. The Architect will be receiving a notice informing then that them are not of acceptable standard and the project will be stop until they do so. (A COPY IS ATTACHED.)

The Architect shall be responsible for all delays to the project and they can work that out with the builder, as they will notified in writing also.

I enclosed copies of the layout drawings from the Architect's and the letters covering this problem.

Kind Regards,

(signature)

Evan Swan,  
Manager Director,  
Evan Swan Pty Ltd.