

Ethics Project

AIA Code of Ethics & AIA Ethics Case Study



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PART 1- AIA Code of Ethics



What is the code of professional conduct for architects and its purpose?



Summary

Its Purpose

The main purpose of the code of ethics is to provide helpful guidance on the standards of professional conduct and practice in the field of architecture.



The code is composed of **three tiers** of statement regarding, general obligations, the profession, the client, the public, your colleagues and the environment.

- **Canon's**
- **Ethical Standards**
- **Rules of Conduct**



THE THREE TIERS

Canon's

Ethical Standards

Rules of Conduct

Definitions

These are general principles of conduct in the field of architecture so as to maintain standards of integrity on the behalf of the profession.

These are geared towards the development of specific goals in an effort to encourage ethical practices.

Complying with the code is mandatory, and therefore any breach of it is considered unprofessional conduct and is a ground for disciplinary action.



OBLIGATIONS

In general

Expectations

- This addresses the obligations of an architect to protect his or her profession as well as the professions image. It requires members to maintain and improve their knowledge in the field of architecture, respect the accomplishments of architecture and positively contribute to its growth.
- Equally important, is that members should consider with critical thought the social and environmental impact of their profession and exercise unbiased professional judgment.



OBLIGATIONS

To the public

Expectations

- The professional service of an architect should always get the public's approval. In other words, it is important for architects to comply with building codes, zoning laws, and city ordinances when designing.
- Since these laws change regularly, it is good practice for an architect to attend public seminars or conferences to keep up-to-date as well as to voice their own opinions in regards to these changes. By doing so members are engaged in the public interests as well.



OBLIGATIONS

To the client

Expectations

- It's imperative that architects serve their clients in a competent and professional manner. For example, an architect must provide his or her services with reasonable promptness and according to the time-frame agreed upon.
- Secondly, an architect must only undertake services for which they have the necessary skills and experience.
- It also mentioned that architects should conduct unbiased and unprejudiced judgment while carrying out his or her professional services.



OBLIGATIONS

To the profession

Expectations

- In providing architectural services one must act honestly to always uphold the integrity and dignity of the profession. For instance, an architect must not permit their names to be used on drawings and other documents that they have not checked, approved or supervised.
- Secondly, an architect must ensure that his or her qualifications, experience, awards, honors and authorships are stated correctly on all documents for which they are claiming credit for. Example, **(Be honest and accurate as possible on your resume)**



OBLIGATIONS

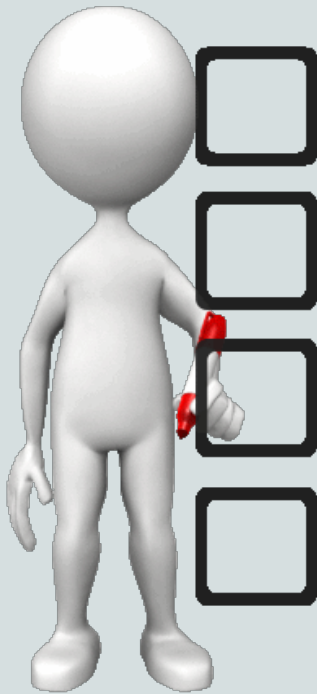
To your colleagues

To the environment

Expectations

- A huge point of emphasis for this section of the code deals with how one should relate to their fellow workers. It is important to acknowledge your colleagues contributions and future aspirations .This ethical principle fosters professional development, fairness, recognition, and respect for each other.
- Architects should make a conscious effort in promoting sustainable designs. By saving the environment and using the natural resources in an efficient way it will have a positive effect on the needs of the present and future generation. This is with regards to environmental degradation, human health and so forth. (**embodied energy**). The challenge of climate also poses a threat and architects must combat the elements through their designs.

The four Primary duties, every architect must fulfill in order to be successful



To meet all financial obligations (**personal**)

Client relations. (**conflict of interest may occur**)

Duties to the public. (**conflict of interest may occur**)

Devotion to the art of architecture (**aesthetics**)

Why all architects must comply with the code



The code provides helpful guidance to all registered architects, and if followed closely:

- **Potential disputes with clients will be minimized.**
- **The interests of consumers will be protected.**
- **The profession of architecture will remain valued by the community.**

PART 2 – AIA Ethics Case Study



Analysis of case study findings.



Proposed Solutions



Situations/Facts

Employee A

An employee deliberately gave false information about the status of his impending architectural degree, due to a missing course requirement. However, he mentioned this in the cover letter of his application so as to guarantee the completion of it within a certain time frame in the near future. He had later went on to become an Associate Member of the AIA even though his degree wasn't official. When asked by another employee many months later about not having a degree he admitted to not being truthful about his degree status at the time of his application and basically didn't made the effort to complete it. This was brought to the attention of the employer who did not made a conscious effort to follow up on the employee's incomplete degree status.

Analysis

Due to the fact that his degree status was only stated on his cover letter and not his resume (**pending**) gives a clear indication that he was purposeful in being dishonest about his qualification status. The employer was a bit careless to have overlooked the matter and should have brought it to the employees attention before it was made known to his other colleagues.



Employee B

Situations/Facts

In this situation an employee's qualification status wasn't accurately represented on the firm's brochure. He was basically given the title "**Project Architect**" prior to taking the registration exam to confirm licensure.

Analysis

In my opinion the employee did not give any misleading claim about his qualification status and were for the most part honest in his progress of becoming a registered architect. As a result the employer is to be blame for misrepresenting his professional status.



Employee C

Situations/Facts

Before taking the registration examination the employee was represented by the firm as a “**Senior Project Architect**” prior to the confirmation that he had pass.

Analysis

Again, the employee did not give any misleading claim about his qualification status or training at the time of employment, but should have brought it to the attention of his employer that he had not yet passed the registration exam before taking on the title of a registered architect.



Employee D

Situations/Facts

Similarly to the situation of the two previous employees, she was also honest about her qualification status and was given a title (**registered architect**) by her employer which she did not fulfill the requirements for.

Analysis

Even though she did not give any misleading claim about her qualification status to the employer, she should have brought this to the attention of the client when her employer misrepresented her professional status on the job site.



The Allegations made against the employer

- Failure to file a formal complaint against an associate regarding his qualification status as a graduate of an architecture school. **Employee A**
- Making misleading, deceptive, or false statements about the Professional qualifications of Employees. **Employee B,C & D**
- Failure to make reasonable efforts to ensure that employees conform their conduct to the code. **Employee A**

Conclusion



The profession of architecture should be valued always and not be brought into disrepute by those who are dishonest about their qualifications. This is also an important part of what it means to be a professional.