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Professional Practice: A Guide To Turning Designs Into Buildings



Synopsis

What you need to know to protect your designs and get them built as you envision them; how to get and keep clients and become their trusted advisor and professional—every architect needs the answers in this concise, thorough, and readable guide. Who are the parties in architecture, engineering, and construction? How do you market architectural services (get the project)? What are the basic project delivery methods? What are the forms of owner/architect and owner/contractor agreements and what services do they cover? How should you charge for your services? How do you set up an office? What insurance, legal, and accounting issues must you consider? What is project management and who should do it? What are zoning and building codes about?

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Customer Reviews

This book was very helpful for understanding many of the legal issues which an aspiring architect will encounter. The little stories and anecdotes make the life lessons more palatable and therefore more memorable. Some parts of the book may have an unrealistic bias in the direction of the architect. For example he states clearly that each change order needs the signature of the client, the contractor and the architect. Then, the "Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice" will tell you that often the client will be unwilling or unresponsive to these changes and it may become the only option to document change orders so as to make certain a solid paper trail remains in place. He says when you go to sleep with dogs, you wake up with fleas. He is stating that if you do business with less than terrific clients you may run into trouble. Sadly however some younger or less experienced professionals will not have our pick of the litter with our clients, and therefore may have

to get our hands a little dirty from time to time. He implies that each form, document, request etc be on a physical piece of paper. In the twenty first century this should all be done electronically. While this may seem like a small matter, it is my opinion that this way of thinking typifies the attitudes and behaviors which are holding architects back and allowing ground to be lost to engineers and "project managers" He talks about Howard Roark, the protagonist of the classic Ayn Rand Novel "The Fountainhead" as a poor model for architect. I agree that we have to be willing to make some sacrifices and work to make our clients happy. Yet he is dismissive of any practice remotely unfavorable to the architect such as GMP cost structures for architects' fees.

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