

# ***Disadvantages and Professional Ethics Issues Arising from the Professionalism of Registered Architect Qualifications***

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**Abstract:** Professionalism is an important criterion for judging an industry. It is not only closely linked to the development of the industry, but also closely linked to ethics and trust between users. This article will focus on an important manifestation of professionalism in the construction industry: registered architect qualifications. Discuss the professionalism of trust and ethics, and the drawbacks of professionalism in the qualification of architects. Since Registered Architect's Certificate is a professional proof of the construction industry. It represents an architect with a wealth of relevant industry knowledge and practical experience, representing a high ethical standard in the construction industry and trusted by society and users. It is an important part of the development of the construction industry. However, behind the professionalism represented by the registered architect qualifications, there are still some shortcomings, such as morality, trust and skills, and threaten the professional development of the construction industry. The purpose of this article is to discuss the shortcomings behind the professionalism of a registered architect qualification. Discuss the harmful in professionalism and ethics behind the registered architect qualifications, and how to avoid these hazards by modifying regulations in this field.

**Keywords:** architect, qualification, professionalism, ethics, salary.

## **1. Introduction**

With the development of various industries, professionalism is understood and accepted by more and more people. Professionalism is demanded by every industry, because it not only enables professionals to get more benefits, but also makes customers get better, higher quality service. Professionalism is indispensable in all industries and is closely related to morality and altruism and plays an indispensable role in social development. Beaton [1] points out that the concept of "professional" includes skills, knowledge and professional skills, but also the virtues of trust and altruism. In the context of the development of the construction industry, the professionalism of the construction industry cannot be ignored, because it is not only closely related to the interests of the industry, but also subject to ethical and legal constraints, as well as the interests of customers and personal safety. This article will analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the registered architect qualifications on the construction industry and explore the different impacts of its professionalism on the development of the construction industry and individuals. In addition, analyze the shortcomings behind its professionalism and the issues of professional ethics and interests arising from the registration of architect qualifications, and propose feasible modifications. In the end, make the

registered architect qualification certificate provides the construction industry with more perfect protection in terms of professional protection and professional ethics.

## **2. Registered Architect Qualification and Professionalism**

In the construction industry, the registered architect qualification certificate is not only a symbol of industry professionalism, but also an important cornerstone for the career development of architects. Obtaining this qualification certificate means that architects not only have relevant academic backgrounds, but also have been tested by long-term knowledge accumulation and rich practical experience. Obtaining the qualification of a registered architect usually requires passing rigorous examinations and assessments, which ensure that architects meet industry standards in terms of technical capabilities, legal knowledge and ethical standards. Therefore, architects with registered architect qualifications can often obtain ideal job opportunities and considerable income, and are respected by the industry and trusted by customers.

The registered architect qualification certificate is not only a reflection of personal ability, but also a reasonable constraint on knowledge and responsibility. As a registered architect, you need to commit to following the industry's professional ethics and ensure that the services provided match your professional qualifications. This qualification represents the architect's comprehensive ability in knowledge and practice, and requires them to maintain a high sense of responsibility when serving customers. Architects need to constantly update their professional knowledge and skills to adapt to the ever-changing industry standards and customer needs, so as to provide high-quality industry-related services.

Beaton [1] mentions that the responsibilities and obligations of professionals are the result of empowering them through their own knowledge. They serve a network of responsibilities within their own profession and often express their altruism on a voluntary basis. Those who have obtained a registered architect qualification should make full use of their professional knowledge to build and guarantee the professionalism of the construction industry and attach importance to professional ethics, and put the interests of users first, so as to build a professional environment for the construction industry.

## **3. Disadvantages on the Road to Professionalism**

In the development of the construction industry, the registered architect qualification is an important criterion for assessing the professionalism of an architect, but it also imposes many restrictions while being professionally embodied. Kokemuller [2] pointed out that professional expectations and behaviors are often accompanied by increased pressure, limited creativity, and high investment, which have a negative impact on professionals. In order to obtain a registered architect qualification certificate, many people have set their development direction since the student days. In a highly competitive environment in the construction industry, students have to spend more time and money on more training to gain more expertise. Lister [3] also shows that it takes a lot of time to conduct professional and ethical training, which reduces the competitiveness of these people and others, because others have more time and opportunity to compete in society. This is very unfavorable in today's highly competitive environment in the construction industry. In addition, high investment for professionalism limits entry into the work force from poor because of limited opportunity for educational. On the other hand, professional knowledge also limits students' self-development, because established norms and legal provisions limit students' thinking divergence and make students imprisoned by professional thinking. Therefore, professional assessments established to meet professional standards will hinder the innovation and development of the industry to a certain extent.

Apart from this, by reviewing the information, one of the professional representatives of the construction industry, the registered architect, is a fairly high standard. As in other countries' high standards, In Australia, NSW Architects Registration Board [4] points out registered architect assessment requires not only a certified master's degree, but also at least 2 years of studio experience or at least 3,300 hours of work experience in 15 mandatory performance standards. And then, pass the AACA professional exam before people can get it. This shows that there are high requirements before qualifying for a registered architect, and these guarantee the professionalism of the construction industry. However, the drawbacks brought about by specialization have also followed. Caiden [5] suggests, as early as 1917, F. H. Hayward proposed common criticisms made of professionalism or the dangers of professionalism or professional depravity. It is not uncommon for the professional recognition to damage the development and the rights of others. In modern society, Some people pursue proof of work experience in order to get a registered architect's exam qualification as soon as possible and conduct a monetary transaction with a qualified construction company. Even some relevant exam training institutions could get more profits by providing work experience certificates to attract more people. The informal profits generated from the requirements of specialization have already broken the morality on the road to specialization. Excluding whether these people have the level and experience of obtaining a registered architect qualification certificate, in order to obtain professional recognition and thus violate the moral constraints, it has already contradicted the professionalism, but the assessment of registered architects does not evade this problem very well.

#### **4. Registered Architect's Professionalism and Professional Ethics**

After obtaining the registered architect qualification certificate, certified architects usually have more opportunities to sign contracts with clients because of their professionalism and qualifications. However, this qualification should not be a tool for architects to seek greater benefits in their services by relying solely on the qualification certificate. The real challenge is how to ensure that these architects can truly provide high-quality professional services to clients, rather than just using the qualification certificate as a cover to ignore or lower the standard of service. According to Alonso [6], professional ethics is the self-cultivation of professionals and there are no external factors to impose restrictions. As a professional, it should act for the benefit of the client, but when it comes to external factors such as interests, fame, etc., professionalism will be violated. It is a great temptation for a qualified registered architect to use his or her profession to invest in the client's interests for his own benefit, thereby reducing the standards related to the professional aspect and causing damage to the customer's interests,

Although the assessment of registered architects includes a test of professional ethics, in actual work, architects who have obtained professional certification may still face ethical challenges. Once certified, architects may use their professional knowledge and the blind understanding of the industry by non-professionals to lower professional standards in order to gain more benefits. This behavior not only violates professional ethics, but also undermines the professional development of the construction industry. Although laws and regulations provide necessary norms, in many cases, architects may choose to sacrifice professional standards for personal gain without clear legal constraints. This practice undoubtedly has a negative impact on the industry. Man-Fong [7] states that although the construction industry is the main driver of economic growth in many countries, the industry faces a range of behavior-related ethical challenges, including: bidding for shopping, paying for games, lying, unreliable contractors, false statements, and more. These behaviors not only affect fair competition in the industry, but also undermine the public's trust in the construction industry. According to the survey, more than 80% of practitioners have witnessed many unethical behaviors.

This data reflects that the threat of professionalism to professional ethics is not an isolated phenomenon.

Therefore, registered architects should adhere to high standards of professional ethics in their actual work, not only abide by laws and regulations, but also consciously maintain the professionalism and integrity of the industry. Only in this way can we ensure the healthy development of the construction industry and truly provide high-quality services to customers and society. At the same time, this will also help to establish and maintain public trust in the construction industry and promote the long-term sustainable development of the industry.

## **5. The Contradiction Between Registered Architects' Income and Professional Ethics**

In the construction industry, the qualification of registered architects not only brings relatively high income to practitioners, but also brings major challenges in professional ethics. After obtaining the qualification of registered architects, architects usually get higher salaries and more contract opportunities because of their professional qualifications and skills. However, this income increase often conflicts with the requirements of professional ethics, especially in how to maintain high standards of professional ethics.

According to Mingyi Zhao et al [8], although the construction industry is an important driving force for economic growth in many countries, it also faces a series of ethical challenges, such as bid shopping, false statements and unreliable contractors. The existence of these ethical issues is partly due to professional behavior driven by economic interests. Registered architects may face temptations while obtaining high incomes, leading to a lowering of professional ethics standards. For example, some architects may choose to lower design and construction standards or conceal key information in contracts in order to win more projects or increase personal income. This behavior not only violates professional ethics, but also damages the interests of clients and the overall reputation of the industry. Architects need to find a balance between pursuing high income and maintaining professional ethics, ensuring that the quality of their services always meets or exceeds industry standards, rather than relying solely on qualifications to gain more benefits. The existence of this contradiction reminds us that although the qualification of registered architects can bring rich economic returns, only by adhering to professional ethics can we truly achieve long-term development of the profession and healthy growth of the industry.

## **6. Conclusion**

Registered architect qualifications play an irreplaceable role in the construction industry. Although the above analysis points out the inadequacies of its establishment and the ethical loopholes behind it, it still sets standards for the construction industry's norms and guarantees the professionalism of the industry. On the one hand, professional ethics has always been interdependent with industry professionalism, and Sadri [9] suggests to architects that they should not use false or deceptive methods to promote or represent themselves or their professional services. In addition, it is also necessary to consider cultural differences and customer interests to maintain professional ethics. The examination of the registered architect qualification certificate should strengthen the inspection of his professional ethics, and at the same time establish a detailed specification of professional ethics in the legislation to protect the interests of customers in the construction industry. Bowen et al [10] also pointed out that professional ethics is maintained through the development of professional codes. On the other hand, setting up the same level of professional assessment as the registered architect exam provides more flexibility for the relevant professionals to get rid of the limitations of their thinking. Besides, because it takes a long time to accumulate work experience in the registration of an architect, it is important to pay attention to the resulting fraud.

This article focus on the shortcomings of registered architect qualifications in today's society and the professional ethics problems which arise from their own professionalism. It is recommended to continuously improve the professional development of the construction industry by improving the limitations brought about by the registration of architect qualification certificates and the professional ethics issues arising from specialization, thus ensuring the altruism principle that professionalism should have and its own responsibility in social development.

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