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m>

05/01/04 17:08

To: reuben_irvine@entemp.ie
cc:
Subject: Re: Professions study - Architects Consultation Paper

Dear Mr Irvine,

Thank you for forwarding the Study of Competition in Professional Services in Ireland: Consultation Document 2 / Architects.

As usual I have left it to the last minute to reply but I suppose, better late than never.

Firstly I must say that I found your report to be very comprehensive and fair. I agree with ALL that you say and would just like to reiterate the following.

1. I consider that the public at large will be disadvantaged by way of the fact that practically-trained architects are restricted from entering RIAI organised competitions. The standard of design should be judged on its own merits, preferably by a non biased organisation. However if this situation were to be brought about I am afraid non RIAI members would have to be entered in incognito, in fact to be fair all entrants would have to be thus.

2. I see no problem with the RIAI organising competitions on behalf of buyers that require them to do so. But not in the case of public design competitions.

3. An increase of 45 places (Arch Degrees) will not go anywhere near meeting demands in Ireland as the report itself clearly indicate / proves and I agree with the general assessment of the educational sector outlined in Section Three of the report. There is a **STRONG** need for part-time architectural degree courses spread around the Country. I would question why the RIAI do not have a ladder / system in their organisation that allows their Technician Members to progress to Architect Membership via further education training etc. I am afraid the answer, for me at any rate is simple, its a closed shop. This is a great pity as many very competent architectural technicians leave the profession and move into other fields because of this unfair / uncompetitive situation / system.

4. Individuals with similar skills and qualifications to architects (architectural technologists) are being prevented from providing Compliance Certification unless they have at least 10 years experience in the field. I qualified as an Architectural Technician back in 1970, trained and worked with architects and government bodies until 1975 and then set up practise on my own behalf. In 1985 I completed an Architectural Degree course via CPU, a USA distance education university under the tutor-age of a UK based

RIBA architect. My qualification via this study is not recognised in the EU. However I have been completing Certificates of Compliance for small and large projects over the past fifteen years or so, basically since it became a common requirement of solicitors and banks. At the time of introduction as I had 10 years experience practising on my own account as an architect there was no problem BUT is all this about to change, I hope not ! I would also add that I have NEVER been sued or even received a solicitor's letter of complaint on behalf of a client over the past 28 years.

5. The most appropriate body for monitoring who is eligible to supply a certificate of compliance should be a Government body / DoE.

Regarding section 3.17 of the report,

'can prove that they have sufficient experience of providing architectural services, for example 10 years. This is referred to as the 'grandfather' clause.'

I have grave doubts that matters will be as simple as this, I wish it should be ! From what I have learned, it appears that the Minister's List was compiled after considering respondents from a small notice placed in the Irish Times newspaper. Unfortunately I did not see the notice and now find that my name is not on the list. I consider that this action by the Minister was not fair as it did not 'cover' non Irish Times readers.

At the time I would have considered the most appropriate course should have been to personally contact by registered post the '300'practically-trained architects around the country that would have been interested in applying to be on the Minister's List. I note that this report was able to research the number in question and I think it would have been just as easy for the Minister's office to do so.

I note (and I stand corrected if it does) that the report does not make mention the the term Chartered Architect, this term is being used by MANY of the RIAI architects around the Country to differentiate themselves from practically-trained architects, this should be sufficient.

I think that limiting the title of Architect to just the academically qualified will seriously effect the livelihoods of the 300 practically-train architects around the Country and more importantly from the reports point of view it will seriously effect the cost of building in Ireland which is also currently undergoing some very punitive measures.

I trust I have made my concerns and points clear. Should you require any clarification please contact

me.

Michael Lucey,
Architect,
BUILDING DESIGN,
22, Parnell Street,
Ennis,
Co.Clare.

reuben_irvine@entemp.ie wrote:The Irish Competition Authority today released its Consultation Document on Architects. This is the second of 8 such documents relating to the Authority's study of the market for professional services. A copy of the document is attached below. For a hard copy of the document, please write to the address below.

The Authority hopes that interested parties will respond to the consultation process. Any such submissions should be received by 5pm on the 5th of January 2004. The Authority would prefer to receive submissions electronically at: markets@tca.ie

Hard copies of any submissions should be sent to the address below.

Regards

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(See attached file: architects.pdf)

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