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# UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice

## Principles of Professionalism

Members of the architectural profession are dedicated to standards of professionalism, integrity, and competence, and thereby bring to society unique skills and aptitudes essential to the sustainable development of the built environment and the welfare of their societies and cultures. Principles of professionalism are established in legislation, as well as in codes of ethics and regulations defining professional conduct:

Expertise: Architects possess a systematic body of knowledge, skills, and theory developed through education, graduate and post-graduate training, and experience. The process of architectural education, training, and examination is structured to assure the public that when an architect is engaged to perform professional services, that architect has met acceptable standards enabling proper performance of those services. Furthermore, members of most professional societies of architects and indeed, the UIA, are charged to maintain and advance their knowledge of the art and science of architecture, to respect the body of architectural accomplishment, and to contribute to its growth.

Autonomy: Architects provide objective expert advice to the client and/or the users. Architects are charged to uphold the ideal that learned and uncompromised professional judgment should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art and science of architecture.

Architects are also charged to embrace the spirit and letter of the laws governing their professional affairs and to thoughtfully consider the social and environmental impact of their professional activities.

Commitment: Architects bring a high level of selfless dedication to the work done on behalf of their clients and society. Members of the profession are charged to serve their clients in a competent and professional manner and to exercise unprejudiced and unbiased judgment on their behalf.

Accountability: Architects are aware of their responsibility for the independent and, if necessary, critical advice provided to their clients and for the effects of their work on society and the environment. Architects undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by education, training, and/or experience in the specific technical areas involved.

The UIA, through the programs of its national sections and the Professional Practice Commission, seeks to establish principles of professionalism and professional standards in the interest of public health, safety, welfare, and culture, and supports the position that inter-recognition of standards of professionalism and competence is in the public interest as well as in the interest of maintaining the credibility of the profession.

The principles and standards of the UIA are aimed at the thorough education and practical training of architects so that they are able to fulfill their fundamental professional requirements. These standards recognize different national educational traditions and, therefore, allow for factors of equivalency.