

## **Schedule 4: RAIA code of professional conduct**

- **Proposed RAIA code of professional conduct**

# RAIA Code of Professional Conduct

## Introduction

The profession of architecture is a unique discipline, combining elements of art, science, commerce and law. The RAIA and its members are dedicated to the advancement of architecture through involved and innovative practice, with the aim to raise the quality of the environment and, consequently, the quality of life. In this it seeks to improve the standards of health and safety for the protection and welfare of all members of the community.

Architects who are RAIA members commit themselves to the attainment of high standards in architecture, and through its practice to maintain the general wellbeing by upholding commonly agreed values of:

- ethical behaviour;
- equality of opportunity;
- social justice;
- aspiration to excellence;
- competent professional performance.

They are expected to:

- serve and advance the public interest through appropriate involvement in civic activities, as citizens and professionals;
- promote environmental awareness and the appreciation of architecture and urban design;
- encourage informed public debate on architectural and urban design issues;
- respect, conserve, and enhance, the natural and cultural environment;
- encourage and maintain responsible ecologically sustainable and energy efficient design and development.
- strive to contribute to the development of architectural knowledge, culture, and education.

In their professional and personal lives members of the RAIA are bound by this Code of Conduct to uphold the integrity of the profession and to ensure client and community needs are respected and well served. The Code sets forth principles for the guidance of the members of the profession, and to which they are required to conform. The Code defines ethical standards to ensure the upholding of the principles which address the obligations to the public, the client, profession, and colleagues. Violation of any of these standards is grounds for disciplinary action, the potential consequences of which are detailed in Article 83 of the RAIA Articles of Association.

The Code of Professional Conduct of the RAIA applies to all activities by its members in which architecture is a component. It is intended to promote committed and responsible performance in architecture, to ensure that the profession will acknowledge and meet the responsibility vested in it by the public.

## **Principle 1**

### **Obligations to the Public**

Members have obligations to the public to embrace the spirit and letter of the laws governing their professional affairs, and should thoughtfully consider the social and environmental impact of their professional activities.

- 1.1 Standard:** Members shall respect and help conserve the systems of values and the natural and cultural heritage of the community in which they are creating architecture. They shall strive to improve the environment and the quality of the life and habitat within it in a sustainable manner, being fully mindful of the effect of their work on the interests of all those who may reasonably be expected to use or enjoy the product of their work.
- 1.2 Standard:** Members shall neither communicate nor promote themselves or their professional services in false, misleading, or deceptive manners.
- 1.3 Standard:** An architectural firm shall not represent itself in a misleading fashion.
- 1.4 Standard:** Members shall uphold the law in the conduct of their professional activities.
- 1.5 Standard:** Members shall abide by the codes of ethics and conduct and laws in force in the countries and jurisdictions in which they provide or intend to provide professional services.

## **Principle 2**

### **Obligations to the Client**

Members have obligations to their clients to carry out their professional work faithfully, conscientiously, competently, and in a professional manner, and should exercise judgement with due regard to the relevant technical and professional standards when performing all professional services. Learned and professional judgement should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art, science, and business of architecture.

- 2.1 Standard:** Members shall perform their professional work with due skill care and diligence.
- 2.2 Standard:** Members shall carry out their professional work without undue delay and, so far it is within their powers, within an agreed reasonable time limit.
- 2.3 Standard:** Members shall keep their client informed of the progress of work undertaken on the client's behalf and of any issues that may affect its quality or cost.
- 2.4 Standard:** Members shall accept responsibility for the independent advice provided by them to their clients, and undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by education, training, or experience in the specific areas involved and have the necessary resources to satisfactorily complete a commission.
- 2.5 Standard:** Members shall not offer any inducements such as secret commissions, or enter into any secret arrangement to procure an appointment.
- 2.6 Standard:** Members shall observe the confidentiality of their client's affairs and should not disclose confidential information without the prior consent of the client or other lawful authority; for example, when disclosure is required by order of a court of law.
- 2.7 Standard:** Members shall disclose to clients, owners, or contractors, significant circumstances known to them that could be construed as creating a conflict of interest, and should ensure that such conflict does not compromise the legitimate interests of such persons or interfere with the architect's duty to render impartial judgement or contract performance by others.

### **Principle 3**

#### **Obligations to the Profession**

Members have an obligation to uphold the integrity and dignity of the profession, and shall in every circumstance conduct themselves in a manner that respects the legitimate rights and interests of others.

**3.1 Standard:** Members shall pursue their professional activities with honesty and fairness.

**3.2 Standard:** A Member shall not take as a partner and shall not act as a co-director with an unsuitable person, such as a person whose name has been removed from any register of architects otherwise than at his or her own request or a person disqualified from membership pursuant to the standards and process prescribed in The Royal Australian Institute of Architects' constitution.

**3.3 Standard:** Members shall not act in any way that brings the profession into disrepute.

### **Principle 4**

#### **Obligations to Colleagues**

Members have an obligation to respect and acknowledge the professional aspirations and contributions of their colleagues and the contribution made to their works by others.

**4.1 Standard:** Members shall not discriminate on grounds of race, religion, disability, marital status, or gender.

**4.2 Standard:** Members shall not appropriate the intellectual property of nor unduly take advantage of the ideas of another architect without express authority from the originating architect. Members shall build their professional reputation on the merits of their own service and performance and should recognize and give credit to others for professional works performed.

**4.3 Standard:** Members shall not attempt to supplant another architect, employed or consulting, who has been appointed with a firm commitment for a particular job.

**4.4 Standard:** Members shall not maliciously or unfairly criticise or attempt to discredit another architect or their work.

- 4.5 Standard:** The Member shall, on being approached to undertake a project or other professional work upon which he or she knows or can ascertain by reasonable inquiry that another architect has a current appointment with the same project or professional work, notify the other architect.
- 4.6 Standard:** Members shall, when appointed to give an opinion on the work of another architect, notify the other architect, unless it can be shown to be prejudicial to prospective or actual litigation to do so.
- 4.7 Standard:** Members shall provide their associates and employees with a suitable working environment, compensate them fairly, and facilitate their professional development.