

SO LONG AS.....

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So long as organizational inertia exists there will no positive change in the situation with young, budding professionals (architects primarily) and contract documents (namely the drawings and specifications)! And this situation WILL NOT change--

- ...so long as the AIA continues to celebrate and glorify only the aesthetics and design of projects and ignore the value and necessity of the technological effort to make them happen, and does not promote local and academic needs;
- ...so long as the state registration boards continue to under-examine technological and construction knowledge and permits the NCARB to create unrealistic and unreasonable requirements for registration;
- ...so long as NCARB continues to ignore or marginalize contract documents, construction technology in general and promote minimalized efforts in construction knowledge, and appropriate parameters for professional registration (allowing underlying and fringe considerations to prevail);
- ...so long as NAAB under the influence of the AIA and more directly the NCARB, fails to set reasonable and correctly balanced instruction in schools, and continues to compromise, reduce, minimize and marginalize instruction on construction knowledge, contract documents and ancillary technology required for professional and correct performance by registered architects;
- ...so long as the architecture schools are allowed to do as they alone see fit without benefit of any sort of universal minimal core construction-related coursing and over-emphasizes and promotes design as the sole criterion for architects;
- ...so long as the celebrated "signature" architects produce their projects in spite of having thousands of RFIs on jobs and basically disregard their root cause and blame the contractors for all wrongs on their projects.

The sad truth in this is that this situation is expanding. As children become computer-savvy earlier and earlier in their lives, there will be less interest in what the human mind needs to bring to the table of architecture and construction. The very idea that "design is everything" is highly repugnant, and wholly untrue. No design becomes more than a paper exercise or a glitzy award on the wall where there is no appropriate documentation and hands-on construction propelled by the careful application of poignant construction information flexibly applied to solve the "design" requirements.

And in all this, is the increment of importance--particularly when not present--specifications!

With all this surrounding young professionals, how can new specifiers possibly be attracted? Answers? Sorry, I wish I had one or more but don't. Stay tuned, any year now an awakening will (no, make that, MAY) occur—when some group(s) begin to really understand the truth and begin to give a real damn what happens to the profession of architecture and its invaluable sub-profession of specifications writing. Better not hold your breath though!