

# 2011 Position Statement Review

Created: August 6, 2011  
Revised: August 18, 2011

## POLICIES with STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

### Public Policy

*As members of their communities, architects are professionally obligated to use their knowledge, skill, and experience to engage in civic life.*

### Supporting Position Statement:

#### 2. Art and Architecture

### Existing Language:

The AIA supports public and private building programs that include an appropriate budget for art. The integration of art should be an early and essential part of the design process, so that art can be fully coordinated with architecture. In support of this premise, the AIA recommends continued federal funding for the arts through programs administered by the National Endowment for the Arts.

### Proposed New Language:

The AIA supports public and private building programs that include an appropriate budget for art. The integration of art should be an early and essential part of the design process, so that art can be fully coordinated with architecture. In support of this premise, the AIA recommends continued government federal funding for the arts through programs administered by the National Endowment for the Arts and other offerings at the state and local level.

### Questions:

ART & ARCHITECTURE					
Do you agree with this position statement?					
Support for public art should be more generalized and not apply only to Federally funded initiatives.					
Specific agencies or government programs should not be mentioned in position statements.					
The position statement should stress the integration of well conceived art and architecture in all settings.					

**Public Policy**

*Design, construction, and society are constantly changing. To serve society, architects must commit to continual professional growth through learning, innovation, and exploration.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

3. Mandatory Continuing Education

**Existing Language:**

The AIA maintains that each jurisdiction should mandate a minimum amount of continuing education for architectural licensure renewal. The American Institute of Architects further advocates that any jurisdiction considering continuing education for re-licensure accept The American Institute of Architects continuing education requirement for membership and record keeping system as a means of fulfilling the jurisdiction’s requirement.

**Proposed New Language:**

The AIA maintains that each jurisdiction should mandate a minimum amount of continuing education for architectural licensure renewal. The American Institute of Architects further advocates that any jurisdiction considering continuing education for re-licensure accept The American Institute of Architects continuing education requirement for membership and record keeping system as a means of fulfilling the jurisdiction’s requirement and support that any state requirements are consistent with the NCARB.

**Questions:**

MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION					
Do you agree with this position statement?					
Language should be adjusted so that AIA's position is consistent with NCARB resolution 2011-01 and maintains that each jurisdiction should adopt the requirement as described in the resolution as a minimum requirement for architectural licensure renewal.					
Each jurisdiction should maintain a consistent minimum amount of continuing education in Health, Safety and Welfare areas.					
The AIA should strongly advocate that the AIA CE requirement for membership and record keeping should be accepted all jurisdictions.					

**Public Policy**

*Design, construction, and society are constantly changing. To serve society, architects must commit to continual professional growth through learning, innovation, and exploration.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

4. Practice Specialty Credentialing

**Existing Language:**

The AIA considers its architect members, by virtue of their license, equipped through education, examination, and experience to capably design a wide range of project types. When it is important to clients and the public that specialized knowledge is necessary, the Institute is committed to evaluating specialty credential programs.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:**

PRACTICE SPECIALTY CREDENTIALING					
Do you agree with this position statement?					
By not allowing specialty credentialing we are allowing some other entity to capture that market					
LEED accredited professionals are already displaying specialty credentialing.					
The AIA should delete the qualifying sentence that states, "When it is important to clients and the public that specialized knowledge is necessary, the Institute is committed to evaluating specialty credential programs." The inclusion of this qualification weakens the overall position.					
The commitment to remain "generalists" is too idealistic in an increasingly complex and specialized world.					

**Public Policy**

*The practice of architecture should be regulated. The privileges and responsibilities of practice should be extended only to those architects who demonstrate through education, experience, and examination that they are ethically and technically prepared.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

6. Architectural Practice Definition

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports a uniform definition of architectural practice that delineates the scope of activities over which each jurisdiction has regulatory control. The definition should follow the recommendations developed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:**

ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE - DEFINITION					
Do you agree with this position statement?					
The AIA should not support the portion of the NCARB statement that states, "but we understand that certain states have certain exemptions for certain buildings and certain professionals".					
The AIA should advocate strongly that only states that issue licenses have the ability to define practice and that local governments are prohibited from revising or refining definitions.					

## **Public Policy**

*The practice of architecture should be regulated. The privileges and responsibilities of practice should be extended only to those architects who demonstrate through education, experience, and examination that they are ethically and technically prepared.*

## **Supporting Position Statement:**

7. Design of Structures for Human Habitation or Use

## **Existing Language:**

The AIA maintains that it is in the public interest for architects to design all structures primarily intended for human habitation or use. The architect's comprehensive education and training equips them to address the impact of design and technology on the health, safety, and well-being of the public and the built and natural environments. Each jurisdiction has a responsibility to its citizens to ensure that structures used or occupied by the public are designed by architects.

## **Proposed New Language:**

None

## **Questions:**

### **DESIGN OF STRUCTURES FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND USE**

Do you agree with this position statement?

The statement should include all buildings, not just those for human habitation or use.

The last sentence should be eliminated as it emphasizes only buildings that are used by the public and seems to exclude single family homes.

## Public Policy

*The practice of architecture should be regulated. The privileges and responsibilities of practice should be extended only to those architects who demonstrate through education, experience, and examination that they are ethically and technically prepared.*

## Supporting Position Statement:

10. Internship and Professional Development

## Existing Language:

The AIA supports a comprehensive internship with measurable qualitative training criteria. Further, the AIA supports NCARB's Intern Development Program (IDP) and its training areas, which provide interns with the diverse training and experience in architectural practice.

## Proposed New Language:

The AIA supports a comprehensive internship with measurable qualitative training criteria. Further, the AIA supports NCARB's Intern Development Program (IDP) and its training areas, which provide interns with the diverse training and experience *required for* ~~in~~ architectural practice.

## Questions:

### INTERNSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Do you agree with this position statement?

This statement is not necessary and simply states the obvious and should be eliminated.

The statement should include language about continually re-evaluating internship training criteria in our ever-changing profession.

## **Public Policy**

*The practice of architecture should be regulated. The privileges and responsibilities of practice should be extended only to those architects who demonstrate through education, experience, and examination that they are ethically and technically prepared.*

## **Supporting Position Statement:**

13. Use of the Title Architect and Its Derivatives

## **Existing Language:**

The AIA supports protecting the public by reserving the use of the term “architect” and its derivative forms to those individuals licensed as architects. In addition, the AIA supports the use of “architectural intern” or “intern architect” for graduates of NAAB-accredited degree programs.

## **Proposed New Language:**

None

## **Questions:**

### **USE OF THE TITLE ARCHITECT AND ITS DERIVATIVES**

Do you agree with this position statement?

We should remove the reference to intern architect as it dilutes the impact of the basic statement that states that the title is for exclusive use of licensed architects.

We should continue to reference intern architects but only support use of the title for those who are actively seeking licensure.

Use of the term architect outside our industry by the media and computer industry degrades the value of the title and should be opposed by the AIA.

**Public Policy**

*The practice of architecture should be regulated. The privileges and responsibilities of practice should be extended only to those architects who demonstrate through education, experience, and examination that they are ethically and technically prepared.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

15. Enforcement of Licensing Laws

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports strict enforcement of architectural licensing laws by the jurisdictions and recommends that penalties be assessed for incompetent or improper practice by licensees. Unlicensed practice must be vigorously prosecuted with assessed penalties and injunctions.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****ENFORCEMENT OF LICENSING LAWS**

Do you agree with this position statement?

The AIA should take a more proactive view of this threat to our profession and include language like, " The AIA encourages our members to file complaints to the agency with authority to prosecute illegal practice".

The AIA is not an enforcement agency and should steer clear of active involvement.

The statement is vague and should squarely identify States as the jurisdiction with the responsibility to prevent illegal practice.

## Public Policy

*The practice of architecture should be regulated. The privileges and responsibilities of practice should be extended only to those architects who demonstrate through education, experience, and examination that they are ethically and technically prepared.*

## Supporting Position Statement:

17. Expanding Professional Experience Settings

## Existing Language:

The AIA supports the expansion of IDP Training Settings, as defined by NCARB, to include the broad experiences in which today's interns engage and to address the expanded role that an architect can play in serving society's needs. Time requirements within settings should also be reviewed by all stakeholders.

## Proposed New Language:

The AIA supports the expansion of IDP Training Settings, as defined by NCARB, to include the broad experiences in which today's interns engage and to address the expanded role that an architect can play in serving society's needs. ~~Time requirements within settings should also be reviewed by all stakeholders.~~

## Questions:

### EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE SETTINGS

Do you agree with this position statement?

Expansion of professional experience settings is already happening with IDP 2.0 and this statement is no longer necessary.

Reference to time requirements is not necessary, is too detailed for a position statement and should be eliminated.

## Public Policy

*With an obligation to the future of the architecture profession, architects must encourage, recruit, and inspire those who would become architects.*

### Supporting Position Statement:

21. Studio Culture in Practice and Education

### Existing Language:

The AIA supports a professional practice environment that encourages the essential values of optimism, respect, collaboration, engagement, and innovation. The architectural design studio culture should promote these ideals as the foundation of degree education and extend these values broadly into a career in professional practice.

### Proposed New Language:

The AIA supports a professional practice environment that encourages the essential values of optimism, respect, collaboration, engagement, and innovation. The architectural design studio culture should *become an ongoing dialogue that promotes and engages* these ideals ~~as the foundation of degree education and~~ *which are integral to the education of the students. These qualities should* extend ~~these values broadly~~ into a career *and* professional practice.

### Questions:

## STUDIO CULTURE IN PRACTICE AND EDUCATION

Do you agree with this position statement?

Sustainable practice should be included as part of the AIA's commitment to incorporating sustainability in all aspects of practice.

The statement should strengthen the connection between the experience of the studio in architectural schools and practice to raise the level of respect in both settings.

## **Public Policy**

*Regulation of the construction industry shapes the built environment. As stakeholders, architects must participate in the development and application of appropriate regulations and standards.*

## **Supporting Position Statement:**

22. Building Codes and Standards

## **Existing Language:**

*The AIA supports regulation by a single set of comprehensive, coordinated, and contemporary codes and standards, which establish sound threshold values of health, safety, and the protection of the public welfare throughout the United States. To that end, the AIA espouses the development and adoption of model building codes that:*

- Include participation by architects and the public in a consensus process;*
- Are the product of informed education and research;*
- Are without favoritism or bias to any special interest;*
- Include provision for a prompt appeals procedure for all that might be aggrieved;*
- Are cost-effective in relation to public benefit; and*
- Promote building code provisions that set performance rather than prescriptive criteria.*

## **Proposed New Language:**

None

## **Questions:**

### **BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS**

Do you agree with this position statement?

This statement should not limit the position to the U.S. and should include reference to international standards.

This policy is fundamental to a long standing initiative of the AIA and should not be retired.

**Public Policy**

*The financial health of architecture businesses is essential to the future of the profession. Architects should advocate within the law for sound business practices and compensation that reflects the architect's value to society.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

25. Legal Form of Practice

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports architectural practice within any legal structure as long as an architect retains responsible control and individual responsibility for performing architectural services. Within any legal structure the architect performing or in responsible control of the professional services must be identified and that structure must not be used to shield unlicensed practice or shield the practitioner from professional liability.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Statement Explanation:****LEGAL FORM OF PRACTICE**

Do you agree with this position statement?

We should remove the phrase in the last sentence, "or shield the practitioner from professional liability."

This statement should be simplified to solely emphasize the importance of the architect retaining responsible control in all forms of practice.

**Public Policy**

*The financial health of architecture businesses is essential to the future of the profession. Architects should advocate within the law for sound business practices and compensation that reflects the architect's value to society.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

27. Qualifications Based Selection

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports public policies, requirements, and administrative procedures in public and private procurement processes that mandate the open selection of architects on the basis of qualifications and oppose hiring of architects on the basis of fees. Qualifications-based selection is essential to fostering quality design that serves public health and safety in the built environment.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****QUALITY BASED SELECTION**

Do you agree with this position statement?

Add language in support of QBS resulting in overall cost effectiveness or lower life cycle cost of projects.

This statement should be more explicit in basing selection solely on qualifications with fees only being negotiated with the firm that is selected based on qualifications.

**Public Policy**

*The financial health of architecture businesses is essential to the future of the profession. Architects should advocate within the law for sound business practices and compensation that reflects the architect's value to society.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

28. Affordable Health Insurance and Care

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports government policies, programs, and incentives that provide unrestricted access and choice of affordable health insurance and care for all Americans.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE AND CARE**

Do you agree with this position statement?

The AIA should not take a position on this issue. It is too partisan and is not specific to the profession.

Better health care will improve the quality of life for older adults and those with disabilities and this significant portion of our population will benefit from better design for the aging which is an important client group

**Public Policy**

*Leadership in design and construction requires collaboration. Architects must encourage and celebrate the contributions of those who bring diverse experiences, views, and needs into the design process.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

32. Civil Rights

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports the protection of the human dignity and self-worth of all persons and calls for fair, impartial, unbiased, and non-prejudicial treatment of all persons in every employment, social, and business transaction.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****CIVIL RIGHTS**

Do you agree with this position statement?

The AIA should not have a position statement on this issue. Although important it is not specific to the profession.

**Public Policy**

*Leadership in design and construction requires collaboration. Architects must encourage and celebrate the contributions of those who bring diverse experiences, views, and needs into the design process.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

33. Diversity

**Existing Language:**

The AIA believes that diversity is a cultural ethos – a way of thinking or acting that fosters inclusion, enhancing our membership, our profession, and the quality of life in our communities. Embracing this culture of diversity, all programs and initiatives of the AIA and its members shall reflect the society that we serve, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or religious beliefs.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****DIVERSITY**

Do you agree with this position statement?

Diversity within our profession is essential to the current and future relevance our profession.

## Public Policy

*Leadership in design and construction requires collaboration. Architects must encourage and celebrate the contributions of those who bring diverse experiences, views, and needs into the design process.*

## Supporting Position Statement:

34. Relationship to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)

## Existing Language:

The AIA will participate in the establishment of legislative standards for licensing, monitor the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) activities, and advocate the interests of the architectural profession on those issues being considered by NCARB.

## Proposed New Language:

The AIA *shall* ~~will participate in the establishment of legislative standards for licensing, monitor the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) activities, and~~ advocate the interests of the architectural profession *through participation in the establishment of legislative standards for licensing, monitoring the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) activities* on those issues being considered by NCARB.

## Questions:

### RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION BOARDS (NCARB)

Do you agree with this position statement?

The AIA should actively participate in NCARB's development of standards and not merely observe.

**Public Policy**

*Architecture expresses the values of society and has the power to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations. Architects must advocate for responsible design that results in beautiful and healthy places that respect and accommodate society's diverse cultures and needs.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

35. Accessible Environment

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives that ensure a built environment that meets the reasonable needs of people with disabilities through accessibility rules and guidelines that are clear, certain, and consistent. Physically disabled individuals should be afforded the means to participate in society to the extent that they are able, through the elimination of physical barriers in a manner that balances the interests of the physically disabled, the public good, and cost effectiveness.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT**

Do you agree with this position statement?

Simplify this statement and emphasize the use of universal design to improve accessibility for all.

**Public Policy**

*Architecture expresses the values of society and has the power to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations. Architects must advocate for responsible design that results in beautiful and healthy places that respect and accommodate society's diverse cultures and needs.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

36. Housing

**Existing Language:**

The AIA believes that access to housing is a fundamental right. The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives to promote the design, construction, renovation and rehabilitation of safe, healthy, and sustainable housing within the means of all Americans.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****HOUSING**

Do you agree with this position statement?

This statement is too general and should reference well designed, sustainable housing to improve the lives of occupants so that it is more relevant to the profession.

## **Public Policy**

*Architecture expresses the values of society and has the power to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations. Architects must advocate for responsible design that results in beautiful and healthy places that respect and accommodate society's diverse cultures and needs.*

## **Supporting Position Statement:**

37. Livable Communities

## **Existing Language:**

The AIA believes that planning and design that integrates transportation, housing and land-use policies at the neighborhood, community and regional scales are prerequisites to the creation of safe, attractive, walkable and sustainable communities. The AIA supports governmental policies, programs and incentives that promote well-designed communities and maximize public participation in a community planning process.

## **Proposed New Language:**

None

## **Questions:**

### **LIVABLE COMMUNITIES**

Do you agree with this position statement?

This statement is too vague and should specifically reference public transportation and higher density land use policies consistent with "smart growth" principles.

Healthy environments should be added to the list of benefits for livable communities.

## **Public Policy**

*Architecture expresses the values of society and has the power to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations. Architects must advocate for responsible design that results in beautiful and healthy places that respect and accommodate society's diverse cultures and needs.*

## **Supporting Position Statement:**

40. Government Procurement: Stock Plans

## **Existing Language:**

The AIA maintains that society is best served by public building designs that meet the unique and specific requirements inherent in each individual project. Stock plans are not appropriate for most building types and do not meet this lofty goal.

## **Proposed New Language:**

None

## **Questions:**

### **GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT: STOCK PLANS**

Do you agree with this position statement?

This statement should be stronger and state that, "stock plans are not appropriate for ANY building type."

Stock plans should be replaced with alternate language such as "repetitive use of the same design".

**Public Policy**

*The creation and operation of the built environment require an investment of the earth's resources. Architects must be environmentally responsible and advocate for the sustainable use of those resources.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

42. Sustainable Built Environment

**Existing Language:**

The AIA supports governmental and private sector policy programs, and incentives to encourage a built environment that embodies the advantages of sustainable architecture.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Do you agree with this position statement?

Change sustainable architecture to be broader - "sustainable design practices". This will bring in landscape and infrastructure which are important parts of a sustainable built environment.

Add "resource-efficient" to the statement in front of sustainable.

**Public Policy**

*The creation and operation of the built environment require an investment of the earth's resources. Architects must be environmentally responsible and advocate for the sustainable use of those resources.*

**Supporting Position Statement:**

43. Sustainable Architectural Practice

**Existing Language:**

The AIA recognizes a growing body of evidence that demonstrates current planning, design, construction, and real estate practices contribute to patterns of resource consumption that will inhibit the sustainable future of the Earth. Architects, as the leaders in design of the built environment, are responsible to act as stewards of the Earth. Consequently, we encourage communities to join with us to take the leadership to change the course of the planet's future and support legislative and regulatory strategies that implement sustainable design practices to advance the goal of achieving carbon-neutral buildings by the year 2030.

**Proposed New Language:**

None

**Questions:****SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE**

Do you agree with this position statement?

This should be combined with the Sustainable Built Environment and Livable Communities statements above?

This statement is too long and although consistent with AIA views reads as "high-minded" and excessive.

## **Public Policy**

*The creation and operation of the built environment require an investment of the earth's resources. Architects must be environmentally responsible and advocate for the sustainable use of those resources.*

## **Supporting Position Statement:**

45. Eminent Domain

## **Existing Language:**

The AIA believes that eminent domain can be a necessary and appropriate tool for government to secure land for the reasonable implementation of publicly owned projects. Only under very special and unique circumstances should that tool be used for projects that will ultimately revert to private ownership. In these circumstances, eminent domain should be considered a tool of last resort and only be applied if there is a clear and compelling public need and benefit demonstrated and supported through an open, broad-based, and transparent community planning process. In all cases, eminent domain should be applied in ways that fairly consider the value of existing land uses and communities, while respecting individual citizens' rights, and community history.

## **Proposed New Language:**

None

## **Questions:**

### **EMINENT DOMAIN**

Do you agree with this position statement?

This statement needs to be more concise and should emphasize the importance of a transparent community planning process.

The statement should be stronger in limiting the use of eminent domain for projects that ultimately revert to private ownership.