

A Study on the Necessity of Professional Ethics Education of Korean Architects

- Focusing on Ethics Education of KIRA Education Board -

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Abstract

Professional ethics is necessary for architects to perform their job well as well as education and dedication. In this paper, I reviewed a role of ethics education for architects and the current ethics education in Korea. Professional ethics is a required code of conduct for profession, but also is considered as a concept containing belief, value, attitude or calling about a profession. Professional specialist should have higher ethical standards than general laborers do, because of their bigger influence on society. Therefore, the architect as a professional specialist behave ethically for sure. KIRA(Korea Institute of Registered Architects) provides the code of ethics and the ethical education for architects. But it seems that there is little approach to the current educational situation. It is likely a professional ethics for architects, working sincerely and tuning requirements of a client with considerations for the public users of the building-to-be up properly. The mandatory ethical education since collage could be a solution for the professional ethics for architects, thinking about the public.

Keywords : Ethics Education, Ethics Education of Architects, Professional Ethics, Profession ethics of Architects

1. Introduction

Architecture is a bowl in which people's lives are stored, and an idea where we store our food, clothing, and shelter. Architecture, however, supersedes the simple act of building as it provides a space and location for people to engage in a variety of activities and behavior. Today, this type of architecture is being planned and created by architects in front of our very eyes. Architects and the sometimes cumbersome topic of professional ethics is a good

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opportunity to rethink why architectural design work is necessary, what role it must perform, and how it's been carried out up until now.

This study intends to examine the effectiveness of KIRA's education board's ethics education, the professional ethics mentality architects must possess who work in the construction design industry, and the necessity of such education.

2. Professional Ethics

2.1 The Concept of Professional Ethics

Professional ethics can be defined as a set of behavioral rules which regulate the type of ethical relationships that are regarded as optimal in professional activities.

The important thing here, as mentioned above, is that the goal of professional activities isn't confined purely to economic aspects such as livelihood maintenance, but is also connected to goals which have social and personal significance. Therefore, a set of rules that regulates ethical relationships is necessary in order for the economic, social, and humane significance of an occupation to be realized.

However, restricting professional ethics merely to the ethical issues individual professionals encounter in their occupational activities seems to be extremely limiting. This is because professional ethics typically is not only recognized as the ethical issues faced during occupational activities, but also as a concept comprised of the consciousness, convictions, and values of individual professions. In a broad sense, professional ethics incorporates all topics related to the ethics and values implied in roles and behaviors of a professional. In this manner, professional ethics shouldn't be understood simply as the application of a narrow theory of ethics, but as a broad concept that includes the ethical issues that arise in relationships between clients and professionals, and the influence professional · transactional behavior on behalf of clients has on third-parties.

In other words, it is not the academic nature of work ethics that is concerned with strictly observing a set of rules of what to do and what not to do in a job. The tradition that emphasizes ethics according to occupation and function goes up to ancient Greece. Plato emphasized in his book "Theory of the State," that the organizational principle of the state is division of labor, that it should carry out the duties appropriate to each occupation and status, and possess distinctive virtues that are differentiated according to social class. He divided the

people into three classes: the general public, the warrior soldier, and the ruler politician, and the virtue of temperance, the soldier of courage, and the virtue of wisdom to the politician, respectively. Every job has a virtue that is especially important depending on the nature of the job and the ability to perform it. Even with the same ethical behavior, the degree of ethics required depends on the profession's occupation. For example, public servants should be cleaner and sincere in service than ordinary citizens. Soldiers and police demand braver spirit and attitude more than others, and society expects higher ethical behavior for scholars, clergy, and lawyers. Also, professional ethics is practical ethics. The same is true in the case of a civil petitioner who requests a favorable interpretation by presenting a large amount of reward to a public servant in charge of compensation work in the city and county of the city. If you have done the administration of the law and the damage to a large number of third parties for the purpose of overinterpretation of the law related to the law and asking for it, you can not see what is ethically right. However, when faced with such ethical questions or conflicts, it is not easy to choose what we should do according to certain criteria. This will be the most difficult problem in professional ethics. This is why business ethics becomes a practical discipline.

2.2 Basic Characteristics of Professional Ethics

Ethics is an obligation that must be followed and protected by a person, and it is a code of conduct. Therefore, professional ethics is a code of conduct that must be followed as a profession by people engaged in the profession, and it means the principle of action. Park Jang-ho and In-jae Lee defined 'ethics of occupation and occupation ethics of Koreans' as a code of conduct that prescribes certain types of moral relations between people who think that work ethics is optimal in occupational activities. It is defined as a code of conduct that must be followed in carrying out work activities as a professional. There is no significant difference between the two in that they refer to work ethics as a "code of conduct that must be followed as a worker." Occupational ethics refers to work, organization, It should be kept in the relationship of 'I'.

Work ethics is a responsibility and duty to observe as a profession, and acts as a compass that guides and directs the person's mental attitude and behavior when dealing with work. While work ethics includes norms of conduct related to work or work processes, much of the other content deals with matters that must be observed in human relationships with other people in the workplace, By protecting these professional ethics, they contribute to the

well-being and development of the nation and society. This will be in line with the social responsibility of our profession.

3. Architects and Professional Ethics

3.1 Professional ethics for architects

There are jobs in any society that require specialized and specific knowledge and skills. Professional workers possess a relatively high level of education, knowledge and skills, and engage in creative career activities that emphasize intellectual value. Therefore, professional workers enjoy social and economic status and power more than ordinary workers, and they have a great impact on society. In this sense, any society demands a high level of ethics that corresponds to the social status of professions. Professional organizations or professionals scattered in core areas of society have a negative social impact when business conduct is immoral.

The philosopher George Edward Moore, who characterizes the profession as the primary goal of serving the public, is responsible for using technology and knowledge socially and beneficially, does not seek monetary compensation for the primary purpose, Consider acquisition as irrelevant to professional success. In addition, I emphasize freedom in the performance of my work, and in principle I have to assume autonomous responsibilities. Professions, too, can not ignore the pursuit of material wealth in the nature of the profession. However, we should not give priority to pursuit of wealth. Professionals should place high value on service to society and intellectual value creation, and this leads to relatively high social status and trust.

If so What are the ethical standards for architects? Architect A, commissioned by a building owner, has been providing design services to the client. The owner trusts A's professional capacity. For the building construction, the client has received written quotes for the project from a few candidate contractors, introduced through acquaintances. The owner asked A to make an objective assessment of the quotes and select the best contractor for the project. A analyzed and reviewed all the quotes carefully. A particularly focused on reviewing which company would meet the client's needs and requirements, guarantee the progress and quality of the project, provide the best post-project management while offering the best possible prices. A's conclusion was D Company. A presented the results of his review along with detailed explanations and recommended D to the client. However, there was important information that

A did not mention to the client. The fact was that D was a company co-owned by him and his friend. Is A's deed unethical? Did A have to reveal the fact that among the companies who submitted the quotes, D was related to A? Or did A have to refuse the client's request if A knew that D had submitted a quote?

Currently, A is in trouble. The utilitarian would say that if A's conclusion brought the best result to the client, A would not need to reveal his or her personal secret. Deontology would demand that A reveal the truth regardless of the consequences. However, another thing to consider in this conundrum is that A performed the role of a specialist, which entails ethical responsibility. In other words, A, as an architect practicing in South Korea, should reveal the truth because he or she is obliged to be faithful to the client who has commissioned him or her to provide architectural design services.

3.2 Ethical regulations and professional discipline on architects

Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) enacts ethical regulations for architects, and its articles of association stipulate that the association can conduct projects on establishing the member's professional ethics as well as protecting, supporting and nurturing architectural copyrights for the achievement of the association's objectives. The regulations on ethics, which have the same binding force as the codes of ethics for architects, were established on October 23, 1965, and have been revised five times. The architects' code of ethics, which was enacted on February 27, 2014, is as follows.

Article 1, The architect shall honestly and faithfully carry out the work entrusted to him and herself.

Article 2, The architect shall not disclose to the third party the secrets of the client that he or she has learned during the course of his work.

Article 3, The architect is stating that if the building to be the target of the outsourcing is concerned with the interests and reputation of the architect in the light of the public interest,

Article 4, The architects shall be paid fair wages by their knowledge and ability to perform their duties and shall not receive unfair money.

Article 6, The architect shall not rent his or her license to another person.

Article 7, The architect shall not engage in any act of forcing or inducing the client to be entrusted with the work in an unfair manner after recognizing that the contract is in progress between the other member and the client.

Article 9, The architect shall provide the convenience to improve architectural knowledge and skills such as architects or architects who have been hired within the scope of the responsibility of the work commissioned to him.

Article 10, The architect shall not issue a certificate which would impair the honor of the architect in the advertisement of the building business, such as building materials.

Article 12, The architect shall not disclose the secrets acquired in the association's business and shall not engage in activities that would impair the reputation or operation of the association.

Article 13, In order to comply with this Code of Ethics, Accordingly, the Ethics Committee reviews the disciplinary actions and corrective measures against its members. Also, the Regulations on Ethics for Architects establish the Central Ethics Committee, which reviews cases in which members request for an re-examination of the disciplinary actions by KIRA; two or more members are involve in a dispute; there is a notification by the authorities concerned; there is a request a board of directors request; t there is a Chairman's request after deliberations of the board of governors; and a problem has been detected during an inspection conducted for preventing poor construction.

Disciplinary criteria for Architects Association are as follows.

When Ethical Code second violation of the tank, a third tank, 6, 10, and is given a warning when the violation of the regulations 11-2, Ethical Code Article 4, Section 5, provisions of Article 7, when sikyeoteul extremely damaging to dignity or to other members of the interests of architects, due to bad design cause the other members, when the Client, violated the contractor when iphyeoteul the damage stops right 3 months and ethical conventions Article 11 now, the water in the social or when it receives the sanction and two-year patient three times or more alert when receiving a foreclosure stop right more than six months, if you have installed the operating such as branch or subsidiary for the purpose of business brokerage rights suspended for more than nine months, ethical conventions the provisions of Article 14 when hayeoteul when the offense or particularly vile way of competitive behavior with other members when the violation of the rights suspended or expelled for more than 12 months, ethics Covenant Article 6 and the provisions of Article 12 that expulsion process forward It has left.

3.3 Current Status of Ethics Education in Korea Institute of Registered Architects

On October 17th 2012, the Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) announced the establishment of its affiliated Education Board (KIRAEB) in order to build up KIRA's capacity for developing architectural culture and to support future architects who will lead the architecture in Korea.

According to the revised Certified Architects Act of March 23rd 2013, practical education for architects has been mandated to enhance professional know ledgeand technical ability required to perform architectural businesses, and the authority for such practical education can be consigned to the KIRA. Moreover, the revised Enforcement Decree of the Certified Architects Act of February 11th 2016 mandates architects to receive at least 40 hours of practical education in order to renew their registration pursuant to Article 18, Paragraph 5 of said Act (Certified architects shall renew their registration as prescribed by Presidential Decree within the extent of three years or more). The practical education for architects comprises group education and online education, and is classified into ethics education, professional education, and self-development program. The ethics education is conducted to prevent architects from falling under any of the subparagraphs under Article 30, Paragraph 3 of said Act (registration or renewal of qualification by fraud or wrongful means; violation of the declaration of ethics of architects; performance of work in violation of the scope of work; submission of a false statement of work performance, etc.; failure to perform architectural work in good faith; disclosure of any confidential information learned while performing their work to others or use of such confidential information for other purposes; committing an act of damaging dignity when providing an architectural work; founding or belonging to two or more architectural firms; and continuing to performing architectural work even after being suspended by disciplinary action). The ethics education includes educational programs on the social role and vocational ethics of architect, intellectual property rights, copyrights and construction disputes, architects code of ethics and legal obligations, and development of the social responsibility of architect. The educational programs authorized by the KIRA EB must be at least 60 hours in total for 5 years, including 5 hours of ethics education, 40 hours or more of professional education, and 15 hours or less of self-development. Except for the 40 hours of professional education, which is mandated by the Certified Architects Act, the remaining 20 hours of self-development and ethics education is not a legal obligation.

The KIRA has been demanding architects to receive 5 hours of education in 3 years since 2013 to improve their qualification as architects in the Architect Training Institute, for which

architectural ethics is allocated for 5 hours.

[Fig. 1] Five Year Education Schedule in KIRA EB

Ethics Education	Professional Education	Self-Development	Total
5 hrs.	Over 40 hrs.	Under 15 hrs.	Over 60 hrs.

However, the allocated ethics education is not being conducted properly. The topics dealt with in the ethics education for the past four years could be identified through the KIRA homepage, but the information on lecturers, specific contents and details of the education program as well as the satisfaction and needs of architects for the education could not be confirmed through the KIRA. It was also found that some of the ethics education sessions conducted in several regions were reportedly unrelated to ethics education, and no proper instructions on the vocational ethics of architect were provided. Such sessions were only for killing time and the curriculum was disregarded.

The following shows the status of ethics education sessions conducted by the KIRA EB from 2013 to 2016.

[Fig. 2] Ethics Education Sessions in KIRA EB 2013

Region	method	Subject name	Duration of training	Recognition time
SIRA(Seoul)	Set	Ethical consciousness and social role of architect	09.30 / 10.02 / 10.08	1
			10.10 / 10.15 / 10.17	
			11.07	
DIORA(Daegu)	Set	The social role and professional ethics of architects in the new era	06.20 / 07.04 / 08.29	1
			09.05 / 10.17 / 11.14	
			12.12 / 12.05	
KGIRA(Gyeonggi)	Set	Self-innovation through future value	09.03	1
		The attitude of acting as a consultant for field survey and inspection of architects	06.13 / 06.14 / 06.17	1
			06.19 / 06.21	
		Role of architects and associations for development of Gyeonggi-do architectural culture	06.18 / 06.20	1
		Self-innovation through future value	06.10 / 06.11 / 06.12	1
CIRA(Chungbuk)	Set	Social Role and Ethics of Architects	06.11	1
CNKIRA(Chungnam)	Set	Architectural Corporate Social Responsibility	12.26	1
		Architect's Code of Ethics and Legal Obligations	06.19	1
KKBA(Gyeongbuk)	Set	Laws and moral norms according to architectural law	12.18	1
		Cultivating the social responsibility of architects	07.12	1
JIRA(Jeju)	Set	Social responsibility and professional ethics of architects	06.11 / 06.12	1

[Fig. 3] Ethics Education Sessions in KIRA EB 2014

Region	method	Subject name	Duration of training	Recognition time
SIRA(Seoul)	Set	Ethical consciousness and social role of architect	03.11 / 04.22 / 05.27	1
			06.25 / 07.08 / 09.29	
			10.29 / 11.26	
DIORA(Daegu)	Set	Work ethics	07.25	1
		The social role and professional ethics of architects in the new era	04.25 / 06.25 / 10.31 11.21 / 11.20 / 11.28	1
CIRA(Chungbuk)	Set	Social Role and Ethics of Architects	03.13 / 10.02	1
CNKIRA(Chungnam)	Set	Ethical awareness of architect and presentation of moral case	03.21	1
JBKIRA(Jeonbuk)	Set	Occupational ethics of architects	12.22	1
		Ethics and Professional Ethics of Architects	05.15	1
JNIRA(Jeonnam)	Set	Ethics of the architect	03.07	1
KKBA(Gyeongbuk)	Set	Understanding and Utilization of Yangcheng Feng Shui	03.14	1
GIRA(Gyeongnam)	Set	Ethical awareness of architects	03.14	1
JIRA(Jeju)	Set	Ethics and Legal Responsibility of Architects	06.23 / 06.24	1
KIRA EB	Set	Ethical consciousness and social role of architect	11.27	1
		Architects and Professional Ethics	10.24 09:30-10:30	1
			10.24 10:40-11:40	
		Architects and Professional Ethics	10.29 14:00-14:50	1
10.29 15:30-16:20				

[Fig. 4] Ethics Education Sessions in KIRA EB 2015

Region	method	Subject name	Duration of training	Recognition time
SIRA(Seoul)	Set	Duties and Ethics of Architects Creating Space	11.12 / 12.09	1
		Consciousness of architect and architectural master	05.29 / 06.24 / 09.10	1
			10.15	
		Duties and Ethics of Architects Creating Space	04.29	1
		Consciousness of architect and architectural master	01.28 / 02.25 / 04.17	1
Duties and Ethics of Architects Creating Space	02.11 / 03.19	1		
BIRA(Busan)	Set	Social role of architect and creation of value of the times 1	11.07	1
		Social role of architect and creation of value of the times 2	11.07	1
		The social role of architect	10.25 / 11.25	1
		Living in this era as an architect	10.26 / 11.19 / 11.20	1
DIORA(Daegu)	Set	Ethical Consciousness of Architects	03.19	1
INKIRA(Incheon)	Set	Architect Professional Ethics	09.15 / 12.10	1
CIRA(Chungbuk)	Set	Life as architect and moral responsibility and role	11.17	1
CNKIRA(Chungnam)	Set	Architecture of communication	02.24	1
JBKIRA(Jeonbuk)	Set	Ethical consciousness and social role of architect	05.19	1
JNIRA(Jeonnam)	Set	Architect's Code of Ethics and Legal Obligations	03.16	1
KKBA(Gyeongbuk)	Set	Ethical awareness of architects	03.13	1
GIRA(Gyeongnam)	Set	Ethical awareness of architects	03.12 / 11.27	1
JIRA(Jeju)	Set	Ethical awareness of architects	06.22 / 06.23	1
KIRA EB	Set	Contemporary Social Work Ethics	10.21 13:00-13:50	1
			10.21 14:00-14:50	
		Ethics Consciousness and Social Mechanics of Architects (Revitalization of architectural culture Korean wave)	09.11 13:00-14:00	1

[Fig. 5] Ethics Education Sessions in KIRA EB 2016

Region	method	Subject name	Duration of training	Recognition time
SIRA(Seoul)	Set	Ethics of Architects	07.20 / 11.29 / 10.24	1
		Consciousness of architect and architectural master	01.13 / 02.18 / 05.19	1
			06.16 / 08.24	
		Ethics through humanities	03.24 / 04.21 / 06.10	1
			09.28	
BIRA(Busan)	Set	Creative architecture and building design costs	11.29 / 11.16	1
DIORA(Daegu)	Set	Architect Professional Ethics	06.01	1
GJKIRA(Gwangju)	Set	The role of architects and the importance of humanistic literacy	11.29	1
DIRA(Daejeon)	Set	Ethics and Social Responsibility of Architects	10.07	1
UIRA(Ulsan)	Set	Architect Professional Ethics	03.21	1
KGIRA(Gyeonggi)	Set	Architect's suggestion to improve the quality of architecture and urban space	03.23	1
CIRA(Chungbuk)	Set	The social role of architect	10.11	1
JBKIRA(Jeonbuk)	Set	Ethics of Architects	05.26	1
JNIRA(Jeonnam)	Set	Ethics of Architects	03.08	1
KKBA(Gyeongbuk)	Set	Ethics and History of Architects	03.18	1
JIRA(Jeju)	Set	Traditional basic ethics and leader's virtue	06.27	1
KIRA EB	Set	Ethics, personality and leadership	11.17 15:30 / 16:45	1
	Cyber	Ethics and Role of Architects in Global Modern Society	03.02-12.31	1
		Architects and Professional Ethics	03.02-12.31	1

4. Conclusions

As of December 31, 2014, we have 9,787 architects' offices and 14,127 architects in Korea. So, architectural design work is not going to be such a thing which is like waiting in a queue for a service such as grocery shopping or seeing a doctor. Recently, architects need jobs desperately and the benefits decrease because of the cost increase and the price bargain with clients. Moreover, architects have blamed more than before if a building has a problem or a defect after late 1990s. It is because our society have recognized the unlimited responsibility of architects rather than of constructors in case that careless disaster like building collapse happens. It seems related with a situation that people have had more information about construction process and known better before.

All issues related to architects' professional ethics arise from the relationship with clients. First, clients know little about design costs for the desired quality of a building. They have a vague idea about high quality of work while wanting to lower the design cost which is the price for the quality they want; most of the time, inexpensive designs are preferred if similar quality can be attained. Although standards on design costs are provided by the KIRA, the standards are nominal. Moreover, it is almost impossible for clients to assess their buildings by

themselves according to the standards.

For these reasons, clients and architects often need to finish the work within an insufficient duration and violate related regulations and law. Architects end up accommodating all the unreasonable design conditions demanded by clients and are requested to deliver high quality outcomes at the same time. This is the current status of the construction design market inundated by low-cost orders. Furthermore, during the course of a design contract, architects need to meet the owners' daily requests to change design, which results in the situation where the final outcome is far different from the original intention. Architects are not social workers or philanthropists who serve our country or society. However, all constructions that they design are spaces for others. Clients may have paid the cost; however, architects cannot be free from the evaluation of other people on their work and use of the buildings from the moment the buildings are erected until they are demolished. Due to such public nature of buildings, architects are required to have more social responsibility and higher level of professional ethics than any other professionals and more strictly prohibited from working against public welfare or striving only for their self-interest and money.

As specialists in all areas of architecture, registered architects have the responsibility to make decisions that would place public interest above all the other interests for public safety, welfare, and health. They need to be conversant with some 30 to 50 related laws and regulations depending on the size of the project and the conditions and circumstances of the construction site. They also need to conduct appropriate legalistic reviews. People who have not taken special training in architecture cannot have knowledge on the laws, legal procedures, legal reviews, relevant authoritative interpretations, and administrative procedures. Registered architects in South Korea are specialists in construction who are certified by the government and have secured an exclusive position in our society. The government has no reason to grant such a specialized certification if architects are allowed to make decisions based on their personal interest. The only people who can deceive or incite clients to make unethical decisions, apply all the possible scenarios to pursue their own interest, and make unethical decisions and attempt to circumvent the law in designing buildings. For this reason, higher level of professional ethics is expected from architects compared to other professionals.

We believe that professional ethics education programs for architects in KIRA Education Board should be strengthened while improving the self-esteem of registered architects in Korea, the professionals who work for the public. Furthermore, systematic education to promote professional ethics should also be provided to college students who major in architecture by revising the current educational system.

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