

The

Architects Code

Draft for consultation

The **Architects Code: Standards of Professional Conduct and Practice** is a positive statement of what professionalism and ethics mean for an architect. The Standards explain to members of the public the behaviours they can expect from architects. By meeting them, architects will uphold trust and confidence in the profession.



Applying the Standards

The Code consists of six Standards. Each of these is of equal importance, and architects are accountable for always meeting them.

The Standards are supported by examples of how architects can meet them. Compliance with these examples is not mandatory, but any architect departing from them may be called upon to justify how they would be able to meet the Standard in those circumstances.

ARB also publishes guidance which provides further supporting detail on how the Standards can be met.

There will be times when an architect must make difficult and proportionate decisions, and deal with conflicting or competing priorities. Architects should use the Standards to aid their decision making and must be prepared to justify the decisions they take.

Jurisdiction

Architects registered in the UK practise all over the world in a wide range of roles and organisations. The Standards apply to all UK registered architects, wherever they work and in whichever field they specialise.

This means that in situations outside work and online, architects must still behave in accordance with the Code, so that trust and confidence in the profession is maintained.

A registered architect working in a country which has its own accepted standards of professional conduct for architects must also meet those standards.

The rule of law

The Code does not seek to repeat legal obligations, or requirements set out in regulations or guidelines elsewhere. All architects must comply with the law and regulations of any jurisdiction in which they practise.

Disciplinary proceedings

The Professional Conduct Committee will take the Code into account in any disciplinary proceedings brought before it. However, not every failure to meet the Standards will give rise to disciplinary proceedings.

The fact that a course of conduct is not specifically referred to in the Code does not mean that it cannot form the basis of disciplinary proceedings. Each case is judged on its facts, and there may be circumstances in which unacceptable professional conduct or serious professional incompetence is found even where there has been no clear breach of the express terms of the Code.

The six Standards

Standard 1

Honesty and integrity



Standard 2

Public interest



Standard 3

Competence



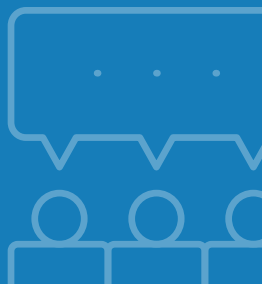
Standard 4

Professional practice



Standard 5

Communication and collaboration



Standard 6

Respect



Standard 1 - Honesty and integrity

Architects must be honest and act with integrity

Honesty is the foundation that underpins professional standards; architects must always be truthful. Public confidence in the profession will be maintained only when architects act with integrity, by applying a high set of ethical standards across their actions and decisions.



Architects will meet this Standard when they:

- 1.1 Act impartially and exercise professional judgment based on the evidence available
- 1.2 Promote their services responsibly and accurately
- 1.3 Declare and manage any conflicts of interest appropriately
- 1.4 Are open and honest about any payments or inducements offered or received
- 1.5 Report to ARB any instance where their own professionalism may be called into question, or any apparent breach of this Code by another architect
- 1.6 Co-operate with any formal inquiries or ARB investigations

Standard 2 - Public interest

Architects must act in the public interest and in a way that prevents harm to others

Architects' role in society means their responsibilities are wider than to themselves and their clients, and they must prioritise the public interest by demonstrating respect for life, the law, the environment and the public good.



Architects will meet this Standard when they:

- 2.1 Use their best endeavours to enhance the environment in which we live
- 2.2 Protect the health and safety of those who construct, maintain and use buildings and places
- 2.3 Challenge others where their actions may put people at risk, and report them to an appropriate authority when those risks are not adequately managed
- 2.4 Advise clients of their legal responsibilities and withdraw from any commission which is unlawful or requires them to act contrary to these Standards

Standard 3 - Competence

Architects must be competent to carry out the work they do

Good quality architecture is delivered when architects have and demonstrate the right skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours. An architect can maintain and develop their competence to deal with an ever-changing built environment only by committing to continuous professional development throughout their careers.



Architects will meet this Standard when they:

- 3.1 Acknowledge and work within the limits of their competence, expertise and experience
- 3.2 Adopt a reflective approach to their work by identifying individual learning needs, ensuring they are up to date with current standards and best practice
- 3.3 Seek and reflect on feedback from others, so they can apply what they have learned to future work
- 3.4 Appoint only competent people to carry out work
- 3.5 Provide appropriate supervision and sufficient resources to people they appoint to carry out work
- 3.6 Encourage the professional development of those for whom they are responsible
- 3.7 Maintain their knowledge and understanding of guidance issued by ARB in support of these Standards

Standard 4 - Professional practice

Architects must manage their work effectively, exercising skill and diligence

Good quality architecture is delivered when architects organise and manage their work effectively, employing robust business practices with sound financial management.



Architects will meet this Standard when they:

- 4.1 Provide written terms of engagement which are understood by their client before commencing work
- 4.2 Plan, monitor and manage their work in a timely manner
- 4.3 Have sufficient resources and capacity to provide their services effectively
- 4.4 Establish quality assurance processes to ensure projects are regularly monitored and reviewed
- 4.5 Maintain proper records of their work and decisions
- 4.6 Protect the confidentiality and security of information for which they are responsible
- 4.7 Ensure their liabilities are covered by adequate and appropriate professional indemnity insurance
- 4.8 Deal with disputes or complaints promptly and professionally
- 4.9 Manage their finances properly

Standard 5 - Communication and collaboration

Architects must communicate and collaborate effectively

Better architecture is delivered when working collaboratively as part of a team where everyone understands their role and is accountable for their decisions. Architects have a responsibility to communicate in a timely manner with others – clients, colleagues, designers, contractors, residents, officials, the public – in a way that will lead to good understanding on all sides.



Architects will meet this Standard when they:

- 5.1 Communicate professionally and in a way that will be understood by their audience
- 5.2 Understand and confirm their clients' requirements before committing to work
- 5.3 Explain their role, and manage the expectations of others as to what might be achieved
- 5.4 Communicate any issues that may impact the cost, time or quality of a project in a timely manner
- 5.5 Collaborate proactively with other professionals to achieve positive outcomes

Standard 6 - Respect

Architects must treat others with respect

By supporting diverse perspectives and promoting inclusive practices, architects can drive innovation and creativity, ensuring the profession benefits from a wide range of ideas and experiences. This commitment not only enhances the profession's ability to deal with the demands of today's world, but will equip future generations to do so as well.



Architects will meet this Standard when they:

- 6.1 Are polite and considerate
- 6.2 Display a committed approach to equity, diversity and inclusion, including in their approach to designing environments and in their relationships with colleagues, employees, clients and communities
- 6.3 Contribute to a positive and inclusive working environment
- 6.4 Maintain and respect professional and personal boundaries

For more information, please contact the Architects Registration Board

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