

The Changing Role and Responsibility of Architects in Building Procurement in Australia: The long bumpy journey of architectural practice

*Graham Bell*

An in-depth survey of Australian architects focusing on their experiences in building procurement has revealed two very different modes of architectural practice: the small or sole practitioner who reports little to no change in their role and responsibility; and the medium to large practices that report significant change to their roles and responsibilities.

On the basis of these survey responses, this paper examines the changing nature of architectural 'practice' in Australia and from this highlights the significance of ongoing national and international economic reforms upon the methods and processes employed in building procurement, in particular the changing nature and content of both architect-client agreements and forms of building contract. The work of Aggregate (2012), Deamer & Bernstein (2012) and others provide a benchmark for the Australian survey responses, and a useful insight of the impact on the design professions of economics and politics.

Biography:

Graham Bell is an architectural practitioner in New South Wales, a former academic in architecture at the University of New South Wales, currently a research candidate at the University of Sydney whose thesis title is 'The Changing Role and Responsibility of Architects in Australia.'