

How Many Architects Use Regulations for the Profit of Their Creation?

Robert Carvais

Most French architects dislike regulations, although they create them, as the act of 1977 asserts, for 'the public interest'. Even the volume of law courses in French schools of architecture is more and more negligible, often taught during two months in the extra year after the State Diploma. They probably have more misgivings about law than sound reasoning. All practitioners know the fundamental role of law in society, but they nevertheless keep a lookout for regulations as if those rules were excessively binding. However a lot of examples in history show two ways for the builders to feel free in their creation in relation to regulation: the first comes directly through the proper activity of the architect: to bend the rules. The second comes from the outside, from the lawyers' side: to establish flexible rules.

Biography:

Robert Carvais is a Historian of Law, Director of research at the CNRS (UMR 7074, Centre de théorie et analyse du droit, University of Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense) and Law Professor at the Paris Malaquais Architectural School. He is preparing an edition of Antoine Desgodets' unpublished courses of architecture and also writing a historical introduction to Building Law.