International Union of Architects

Professional Practice Commission Meeting

Tangier, Morocco – 14-16 March 2012

Hosted By

Ordre des Architectes du Maroc – Conseil Régional de Tanger

Agenda Item #

The Role of the Architect in Non-Traditional Project Delivery

Proposal

To develop a UIA Policy defining the recommended role for the architect in non-traditional project delivery arrangements.

Background

Since the 1970s a range of increasingly sophisticated and complex project delivery methodologies have been developed by the building and construction industry. Often, these project delivery arrangements have been developed by groups that, historically, have been peripheral to the recognised design or construction project team. Such groups include lawyers, financiers and/or accountants.

Non-traditional project delivery methods include delivery models such as:

- Design and Construct,
- Project Management,
- Construction Management,
- Partnering,
- Alliancing,
- Public Private Partnerships; etc.

Those promoting these non-traditional project delivery methods claim that their proposal delivers improved outcomes for clients, owners and users, including:

- Greater budget/cost control
- Less disputation
- More certain completion timeframes
- Reduced risk
- And so on

Issues

Commonly architectural associations around the world and the UIA have reacted as each “new” project delivery arrangement has emerged to counteract any real or perceived erosion of the architect’s role embodied in each new model.

It is perhaps not surprising that there are, however, a number of common areas of concern regarding the way in which these arrangements change or deminish the role of the architect. These include:

- A less than perfect relationship between the architect and the client/user
- Design quality can be compromised and subject to unrealistic time and/or financial constraints
- Innovation is too often supressed not enhanced
- Risk that can be unfairly distributed
- Unrealistic expectations regarding Professional Indemnity cover

A clear UIA Policy on the role of the architect in non-traditional project delivery models would empower section members in articulating their concerns at the local level, inform those developing new project delivery models and provide a clear benchmark for the role of the architect in project delivery.

Recommendation
It is time for the UIA act rather than react by developing a Policy position that clearly and completely defines the recommended role for the architect in any existing or yet to be developed non-traditional project delivery arrangement.