Union Internationale des Architectes · International Union of Architects

Recommended Guidelines for the UIA Accord On Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice Policy on Continuing Professional Development

October 31, 1997
Revised March 11, 1998
Revised April 17, 1998
Revised December 10-12, 1998
Adopted July, 1999

UIA Professional Practice Program Joint Secretariat

The American Institute of Architects
Co-Director James A. Scheeler, FAIA
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202 626 7315
Facsimile: 202 626 7421

The Architectural Society of China
Co-Director Zhang Qinnan, Vice President
Bai Wan Zhuang, West District
Beijing, China 100835
Telephone: 86 10 6839 3428
Facsimile: 86 10 6831 1585

Accord Policy on Continuing Professional Development

The UIA encourages its member sections to advocate continuing professional development as a duty of membership in the public interest. Architects must be sure they are capable of providing the services they offer, and codes of conduct must oblige architects to maintain a known standard in a variety of areas described under the "Fundamental Requirements of an Architect" and in future variations thereof. In the meantime, the UIA must monitor the development in continuing professional development for registration renewal, recommend guidelines among all nations to facilitate reciprocity, and continue to develop policy on this subject.

Recommended Guidelines for the Accord Policy on Continuing Professional Development

Continuing professional development does not refer to formal education leading to a more advanced degree, but to a life-long learning process that maintains, enhances, or increases the knowledge and skills of architects to ensure their knowledge and ability relevant to the needs of society.

The policy of the UIA encourages its member sections to advocate continuing professional development as the responsibility of each individual architect. Continuing professional development for architects is also in the public interest.

The UIA continuing professional development guidelines are intended to provide UIA member sections with a set of standards by which they can judge their existing professional development policies. This will ensure compatibility of polices and will provide for reciprocity and portability of professional development credits across member sections in the future.

One of the initial goals of the UIA continuing professional development guidelines will be to provide a framework for interrecognition of continuing professional development credits among the UIA member sections.

Key elements of a UIA member section continuing professional development system should include:

- Recommended procedures for identifying, screening, and evaluating continuing professional development services and courses;
- Recommended program criteria covering both self-study programs and registered continuing professional development providers' programs;
- Recommended criteria for incorporating research and needs assessments into the design and delivery of continuing professional development programs;
- Recommended procedures to assure that emphasis of the learning is placed on the learner and knowledge gained, including incentives for learning activities that increase interaction between the participant and the provider, e.g., interactive programs may give more credit for the same amount of time spent than that given for noninteractive programs;
- Recommended program quality levels and standards as a tool to assess the actual learning that occurs during a program and as an incentive to providers and participants to increase

interaction that takes place and to involve the participants in the learning; participants should earn credits based on the educational quality of a program as well as the length of the program (seat time);

- Recommended procedures by which providers will give feedback to users and collect course evaluations to monitor the effectiveness of the activity
- A recommended record-keeping system that is timely and accurate for both providers and users that provides proven portability of continuing professional development credits and reporting to permit worldwide program availability to architects by registered providers and a credible basis for meeting the demands of registration agencies and professional societies that require continuing professional development credits for maintaining registration or membership;
- Recommendations for requirements of number of learning units to be earned each calendar year;
- Recommendations for minimum requirements of continuing professional development credits in subjects related to the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

The UIA continuing professional development system should set high-quality educational standards for participating UIA member sections with a large number of registered providers contributing their knowledge, skills, and research to a successful endeavor.