

APPENDIX C4: RESPONDENT COMMENTS

This selection (4 of 6) includes 175 individual comments on the American Institute of Architects (AIA), education, the future of the profession, mentoring, and previous careers.

"In my region, the professional and academic aspects of architecture are completely unrelated. The AIA and most professional architecture firms have nothing to do with the architecture schools and vice versa. In addition, the communication between AIA members and the local and regional representatives is non-existent. E-mails to the regional and state chapters of the AIA go unanswered and messages go unreturned. Any information on internship and licensure that I learn will be completely of my own desire to do so and not because the AIA, NCARB, or my own employer has made any effort to help me further my career."

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [10880].

"I think a particularly important service that the AIA provides, that was not specifically addressed in your survey, is to coordinate the effort to influence law makers through a Public Affairs Committee and to encourage them to pass responsible legislature that benefits our profession. Another important function of AIA is to encourage professional architects and AIA allied members to run for public office and to support and cultivate succession planning for those individuals."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Florida, in an allied field, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [10882].

"I am very disturbed that our profession is not as respected as other professionals. Even though I work for a very reputable firm, I don't feel like we are valued relative to the amount of education and training we are required to have to become licensed or the amount of liability we carry as design professionals. I would love for the AIA to take more measurable steps to reverse the trends of our profession. Until AIA can do that, I don't feel like I am getting much out of my fees that I couldn't do otherwise."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Utah, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [10988].

"Just became an Associate member of the AIA this year because I was pressured to be and not because I have a desire or see a benefit of being a member of the organization. If I were to ever leave my present job, I doubt that I would pursue further employment in the profession. I am still here mainly for the income and the quality of life that it provides for my family. The only rewards for hard work in the profession are to pick-up and do the work for the slackers that spend too much time with their political/professional organizational aspirations. Overall, I feel that some of the least desirable people I have ever worked with have been architects."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, does not intend to be registered [11100].

"AIA should conduct/sponsor more Access Compliance Training (state regs and ADAAG)"

— 35-44 Caucasian male from California, in an architecture-related, job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [11191].

"Please offer more Continuing Education classes- it's by far the most valuable thing the AIA offers."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Washington, DC, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [11251].

"I have gained enough wisdom in this profession to determine that it sucks! I am working toward licensure because it was my goal, and I am too close to reaching it to quit. Upon obtaining my license I plan to quit this god forsaken profession and enjoy the rest of my life doing something meaningful and rewarding."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [11270].

"The costs of AIA Associate membership on an intern's salary far outweigh the benefits received."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Washington, DC, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [11410].

"AIA needs to become more active to promote the architectural world. You say you advertise. Where? I've never seen it. The AIA should also raise the standards that architects become paid. We claim this prestige but when it comes down to it the majority of the architects within firms are paid a fraction of what lawyers and doctors are paid. Some are paid even with school teachers."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [11483].

"I believe that one important role of the AIA that I did not see listed above was to protect the responsibilities of the profession legally through lobbying and the federal and state court systems. Responsibilities that used to be entrusted to architects are being assigned to contractors, developers, the client, and state employees."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch student, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [11721].

"The profession and culture of architecture do not include enough mentoring. This is both the fault of the schools in which many believe architecture cannot be taught (a mistake in pedagogy) and the professional world where many are lost or kept in drafting/non design support roles by the economics of the system. The architect is just supposed to be a lone heroic figure, able to do everything without much guidance. This is not possible without years of training, alongside individual study."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, does not intend to be registered [11805].

"I hold a Doctorate in Jurisprudence, as well as a Ph.D. in Environmental Science. The questionnaire didn't ask for graduate education other than in architecture. Of import, my AIA continuing education requirement was part of what started me on the graduate path. My participation in graduate and post-graduate education has opened many new areas for my firm in the architectural climate of today; I feel that a broader spectrum of experience and education is the better direction, if only to better communicate with the many specialties out there."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Hawaii, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, already registered [11856].

"Post-graduate career path support non-existent. Had considerable trouble getting information/support to enroll in IDP. Received conflicting instructions from several sources within the AIA (was told I could not register because I have a 4 year degree, was told I could register in my state but haven't been able to find out how to log all these years of experience that have now passed.)"

— 25-34 Asian female from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [11858].

"ARE components should be taught in undergraduate school."

— 25-34 Asian female from California, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [12025].

"I very much enjoy the AIArchitect newsletter and would like to see something like that produced by our local AIA chapter."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Tennessee, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12081].

1. Please send out an email when you get all this info. Incorporated into a report - should be interesting not only for the interns but also for management. 2. Also, our firm pays for our ARE testing if and when we pass all sections - a big incentive. 3. If a 'model' intern program could be introduced into a firm easily this would be very helpful to everyone at the company. This would have to be a program that was simple enough, i.e. Step 1, Step 2 so it could fit into a fast work life."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [12143].

"Thank you for the survey. I have had the opportunity to work with the local AIA James River Chapter in Richmond, VA. Several years ago on a very small scale, I coordinated the AIA-JR Hard Hat tours for our chapter with the emphasis on Intern participation. Since, the interest has not only grown to include all members of the chapter, but also the chapter has taken the lead to conduct the tours, something I am proud to have been a part of. Its imperative that we, as interns, take similar Intern initiatives by reminding those who have the responsibility of educating, informing, and enlightening interns that, 'yes, they have a job to do' or start a group of like-minded individuals and let those at your local AIA chapter know that you have a passion for the profession and would like to assist them in the development of Interns and the profession as whole. I'd like to commend ArchVoices for their efforts for the Intern cause. It's a wonderful, informative newsletter. Keep up the tremendous and great work.'

— 35-44 black male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12196].

“I would like to see an architectural school in Texas develop a program for licensed architects that do not have a BArch or MArch degree similar to the executive masters program provided by the New School of Architecture & Design in San Diego, California. I work for a company that currently performs work in multiple states. I am not eligible for a reciprocal license in some of the states simply because I do not have a BArch or MArch. I also need to work full time and cannot take off from work to attend classes during the week. Surely, there are more people in this situation than just me. People that could do the work if allowed to on the weekend.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [12197].

“I feel that national AIA relies too much on prestige. My local chapter does a great job connecting us to other aspects of the profession with lectures, seminars, historical tours, and continuing education seminars.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12216].

“I know that one of the main priority of AIA is to stamp out (no pun intended) illegal rubber-stamping, I would like to know the definition of this. I don't think you fully understand the problem. I do side work for contractors and I work under the guidance of an Engineer who reviews & mentors me in the completion of building plans. On these very small jobs 150 sq ft extension along with garage conversions, etc. most Architects don't even want to quote on the job, I have given leads to Architects in the profession that I know (former professors, etc) and offered that they quote the job and I will do most of the work and they review it & stamp it and we would work out some financial agreement. The only response I get is 'no thanks'. I think the AIA and the Architecture profession should have some kind of partnership or outreach program for situations like this and then these types of situations would at least be monitored by the AIA. Also without this type of situation I would not be able to do any type of Architecture. I am currently in the industrial engineering field as a project manager and am trying to get into the field but no one will hire me because I lack direct 'Architecture' experience even though I have related responsibilities at my current job. I cannot afford to take an intern job, I have a house & three kids. I could go on & on but I am trying to present this as an honest constructive idea to usher in change. Thanks.”

— 35-44 male from New York, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [12255].

“How can the profession of architecture more effectively engage the students and young architects? What are the needs of students and young architects that can be reasonably addressed by architectural firms? How do we bridge the gap between education and practice?”

— 35-44 Asian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [12304].

“The education I received in college, the experience required through the IDP program, the material I studied for the ARE, and what I do everyday now as a registered architect are inconsistent with each other and non-cohesive. I'm sure at some level the cumulative knowledge from the above has made me a better architect, but the path to get there has been long and winding.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [12318].

“I see the AIA as a catalyst for serving, educating and improving the profession. I don't see that it is needed for students and some young interns.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12331].

“Most architects are underpaid and boring to be around. The FAIA process is a load of crap, too many underserving [sic] people are buying their way in. It has become a joke. Sorry for the bluntness... You did ask.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12354].

“I think AIA membership should be free for Associates. Most firms don't pay for them and most of us aren't paid well enough to afford them. I would like to see employer's stop abusing their interns by not paying them enough money. It's sad that our profession doesn't respect its future generation.”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [12436].

"I am a registered architect from Hawaii and am earning my Masters Degree in Urban Design at CUA. I think having an organized AIA department for those of us young professionals is a great idea. I think more emphasis should be placed on support from firms for young interns to become registered."

— No bio information available [12502]

"I feel an increased disconnection with the profession (as a current intern) because my current employer IS NOT interested at all in sustainable technologies and practices—which is very important to me. My professional goal is to find an internship with a firm who is practicing sustainable architecture."

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Idaho, has a traditional architecture job, MArch student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [12520].

"During school, the ARE is talked about as if it is a very abstract part of Architecture. In grad school some professors mentioned it as a means to motivate students or to stress the importance of the subject at hand. There is very little 'teaching the test(ARE)' in my opinion."

— 35-44 black male from North Carolina, in an unrelated field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [12562].

"I have been very disappointed with my local AIA chapter. A lack of monthly meetings means that I have not been able to meet other people in the local professional community. I have been working at a small (3 person) firm, which means that my contact with other architects is limited. I came from another chapter where a monthly meeting gave me the opportunity to meet the others in my field, and I was surprised to find that the Seattle chapter lacks such meetings."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Washington, currently unemployed, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12599].

"I really did not keep up with the 3 month interval record keeping that was required. My firm has been able to work within my needs to meet all of the necessary IDP requirements. Looking back at the IDP Process and now being a definite requirement, I would stress to the IDP participants the importance of keeping up with the record keeping. I think assistance in providing out-of-office mentor assistance connections for the new IDP participants would be very helpful. My 'out-of office' mentor was of my own choice, yet I feel that the experience has not been typical. Even though the manuals state the requirements and expectations of the out of office 'mentor,' my actual experience has been very different. Time scheduling of meetings, quantification of my work and not as clear perspective of my mentor's experiences as I would have liked."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [12624].

"Three Comments: 1st, Good Survey, thanks for asking. 2nd, the absolute most important reasons for joining the AIA is professional validation and to collectively protect the practice of architecture from other professions seeking to take it over. 3rd, the ARE has very little relation to the actual practice of architecture and, in fact, the more office experience one has the more difficult the ARE precisely because it is so out of touch with how architecture is really made and practiced."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [12673].

"I don't feel that the University level prepares students for the ARE or a working environment. I would have been more inclined to take the ARE just after graduation. Having the chance to sit for the exam then would have better prepared me for the work I do today."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Canada, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12938].

"I believe that the title 'Intern' is ambiguous and leads people to believe that intern architects are less qualified than they really are. I believe that interns should be able to take parts of the ARE as soon as they graduate from college, as long as they are capable of passing them. I would like to see firms STOP taking advantage of interns as a cheap source of labor. I would like to see the AIA provide more creative outlets for interns and provide greater assistance in understanding and fulfilling IDP requirements."

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Louisiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [12955].

"The AIA poorly markets itself to IDP level employees. It should offer more/accessible continuing ed because there is a huge vacuum in most firms for professional development."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [13050].

"I think that most of the value of the AIA is the perception of credibility that it confers on its members in the eyes of the general public. Most professionals that I know do not place great value in and of the AIA itself and do not feel that it has materially improved their professional experience. Many are members either because their firm pays for or subsidizes their membership or because it is a requirement for upper level management positions. Being an architect is a pricey undertaking -- we are compensated at lower levels than other professionals, but we pay higher fees to sit for our registration exam."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [13069].

"I feel that my AIA chapter does not have good relations with everyone in the chapter and most of us are numbers and not individuals. I am under the suspicion that it is just those who live in the small town of Reno that are AIANN members and these people are not in the mind frame of advancement and are more or less just having to do what is required and not going above the standard to achieve greater accomplishments by providing better buildings and environmental and educated influences in the local community."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Nevada, in an architecture-related job, undergrad preprofessional student, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [13080].

"The reason I am not a registered architect is due to many different reasons. I graduated from a 4 year school. I was not told by the school when I transferred there that it was only that the school was only accredited for Master 6-year program. I felt that I would remain in Texas which only required a 4 year degree in combination with 4 years of work (IDP) experience. I subsequently relocated to Oklahoma for personal reasons before sitting for the exam in Texas. Oklahoma does not allow 4-year degrees to sit for the exam and also does not allow reciprocity for Texas architects with 4-year degrees. I have not been able to go back to school to get the 5-year degree due to work load at our firm and for family financial reasons. In addition I am in a very fortunate situation in that I have been allowed to operate essentially as a partner in a successful firm that I helped found. My partner is registered and is the architect of record for all of the projects that I design. It is very rewarding to be able to design many outstanding projects in my hometown and I receive accolades from local people who know that I am responsible for the design of our buildings. I feel however that I am very limited in the amount of professional recognition available to non-registered architects. It is sad to think that projects that I essentially designed from start to finish will go down in history as being designed by my partner. I will never be able to get my name in the firm name or on a building plaque when a project is dedicated. I therefore would like to be able to become registered someday so I can have that prestige associated with it. If you have any information that might help my situation I would appreciate it. It is also unfortunate that the AIA and NCARB are now so exclusive that they do not allow alternate paths to registration for persons like me with extenuating circumstances. Great architects such as Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright became architects under the mentoring apprentice path so common in earlier days. The combination of 4-year degrees and extensive work experience should still be seen as an avenue for registration. All paths lead through the ARE anyway. Let that be the governing factor as to whether someone is qualified for being able to protect life, safety and welfare of the public and not by what college one attended. I have not met one person who graduated from college that learned more about being an architect in school than from actual work experience. Thank you for your time."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Oklahoma, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [13144].

"I found it difficult to fulfill all IDP requirements at a large firm. Smaller firms seem to provide more support & opportunities for interns. I have worked in this field for 10 years and have not yet found a female mentor."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [13303].

"Internet accredited classes geared towards licensing and internet accredited classes geared towards college degree."

— 35-44 black male from South Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, intends to become registered [13373].

"Need to have a bigger (better?) mentoring program for African Americans. Get the employers involved somehow."

— 35-44 black male from Mississippi, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [13483].

“I think it would be beneficial for AIACC to do a mentoring survey to all AIA firm owners to see what their perspective & actions are regarding this issue inside the office. So do we get any survey feedback results sent to us?”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [13504].

“IDP process is intimidating. The printed material is unfriendly and makes the process seem much more cumbersome than it actually is. The suggestion that interns have a mentor, in the same location, but not at the same firm, who you will meet with regularly for the next 3-4 years, is entirely too restrictive to the nomadic nature of young architects. This requirement is also difficult for those who move to unfamiliar places for their first job.”

— 18-24 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture, job not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [13610].

“My membership in the AIA has been sporadic, largely because I feel the costs are excessive in comparison to the benefits and in relationship to the average intern/architect's compensation. I only join if my employer pays a portion or if there is some other economic incentive (such as reduced rate to the convention).”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [13626].

“Associate AIA should have a big push to assist people in getting registered with ongoing test prep classes. A 'registration track' which would take about a year spending 6 weeks preparing for each test and would include classes and study groups.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [13661].

“I am most proud of the AIA CONFERENCES that I have attended (mostly the design conferences). Though I am not an Architect yet...the lower fee charged for an intern's attendance has allowed me the opportunity. My employer did not offer to pay and I had to take vacation leave for my absence. AIA has many resources and info that is available to all members and I feel that they are a great resource. Especially to an intern that may not find or is not offered support for advancement in the career of architecture in their immediate surroundings. Thank you.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Oregon, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [13726].

“The profession in general greatly undervalues its graduates, treating and paying them poorly, discounting their/any perspectives beyond the mundane. But then the profession greatly undervalues its services, especially the importance of design. Its business practices allow clients to hold firms hostage to their whim, and the overall impression of inefficiency makes collections difficult. The idea of retainers and a comprehensive overhaul of billing practices should be seriously considered.”

— 25-34 black female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, graduate architecture student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [13772].

“AIA dues are ridiculously expensive--not commensurate with architect's pay.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [13860].

“I had much, much, much higher expectations of how far I could go in architecture compared to the realities of the profession, i.e. The 'exploitation of workers' and being 'let go' for 'in-house political reasons' and I feel very let down, misguided, and confused what to do with my creative abilities and how to be practical in this economy or just go on to another profession.....whatever that may be...”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from California, in an allied field, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, does not intend to be registered [13925].

“I don't think school nor work experience alone should prepare one for the ARE. It should be a combination of both. Mentoring is critical. It was a mentor that convinced me to sit for the ARE - and although it was hard and I did not pass all the sections the first time, I am very glad I stuck with it and passed the ARE. Although I do not work as an architect I love the field and I do participate in the Continuing Education program. I like that the continuing education program was instituted.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Massachusetts, in an unrelated field, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [14059].

“I am disappointed with the architectural profession, the salaries (very low), level of profession, poor future, poor work.”
— No bio information available [14169].

“I think that the AIA program at ASU is very beneficial.. I was looking for any way that you can help me find a summer internship this summer, being that I HAVE had ample amount of experience with AutoCAD.”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Arizona, currently unemployed, undergrad preprofessional student, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [14382].

“I wish I were more connected to our AIA local chapter. I would probably volunteer more with them if I felt more connected. I have tried in the past to participate and it just got old, now I am in a slump and just go with the flow. Maybe I will have more drive and try to participate again in the future.”

— 25-34 Hispanic female from New Mexico, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [14412].

“My biggest gripe with the AIA is that it seems the AIA as an organization is only interested in staying in business (fees for joining, continuing education, awards, conventions, etc., etc,...) & not necessarily interested in or focusing on improving the profession outside the realm of the architectural community. A lot of focus on architects talking to architects, which is an important aspect of the organization. There is very little effort communicating with corporations/ owners/ business leaders, school boards, cities/ government officials, etc.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [14444].

“I hope that some institution could help an intern if they could not get any support from their employer due to unavailability of funds in that aspect.”

— 25-34 Asian male from Nevada, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [14503].

“The architectural profession has four major problems as I see it - 1. It does not respect itself enough to demand appropriate fees for services rendered. 2. Its mistreatment of interns in the form of compensation. 3. Its allowing people to design spaces that have never picked up a hammer and have no clue as to how things are actually built and 4. Its ability to think everyone deserves an award - as is obvious by the millions of competitions and awards given out each year. We as professionals should stop thinking we're so great and start training our interns to actually understand the built environment.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Georgia, in an allied field, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [14636].

“The AIA needs to become more effective as an organization or it will die out. I am talking about the next 5-10 years, in my opinion, it will be gone. The Association of Licensed architects is doing a better job and the fees are less. A PAC, in my opinion is not the answer. We are not attorneys nor do we really have a political agenda. NAHB does the same thing for housing and they do a much better job of it. The general contractors of the world have become the master builders and we have taken a back seat to them. They know their job better than 90% of architects know theirs, this is the root of the problem. I was a carpenter before becoming an architect and too many of the architects which I have had contact with, then and now, know little or nothing about building anything. This experience has served me well and has allowed me to advance quickly and achieve a very high salary level. Construction experience should be required for architects, especially if they perform any field work or even speak on the phone with any contractors.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [14833].

“I feel the architectural profession needs to make better inroads with the architectural schools.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [14859].

“I was forced by state education requirements to go back to school for my professional degree. I had a BS Arch from Temple Univ. I now attend Drexel for my BArch. I passed all parts of my ARE and am now registered in New York. The education requirement has little to nothing to do with one's ability as an architect. It is just unnecessary red tape.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from New Jersey, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, student, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [14921].

“How could we improve/convert the newly licensed architect’s book-smart knowledge into a practical field/hands-on experience through IDP or similar work shop courses??? Best Wishes ! ! ! .”

— 45-54 male from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [14978].

“I think the AIA as an organization needs to be more responsive to the needs of its members. I don't think they offer the protection that architects need as professionals. And I also don't think that they back their members (stand up for) as they should. The organization is not as powerful as I expected it to be.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [15038].

“Six years out of school, I’ve grown very dissatisfied about my future prospect in the profession. My friends outside the field are intrigued that we are so dedicated to a profession that treats us so lousy (health benefits, salary, working hours). I've always had a secret desire that someone would start a union to promote a standard of fair treatment among the masses. From my perspective AIA does not take much active interest in improving 'low-level' conditions because the majority of membership is composed of those who are in authority.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Indiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15127].

“The profession is losing its importance and relevance, and moreover, its need. This is happening at a staggering pace. We only have ourselves to blame. We are being phased out by the cultural and economic forces we turn a blind eye to. A reinvention is in dire need. SOON!”

— 25-34 Hispanic male from Texas, in an allied field, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [15428].

“I have not found any benefits to being an AIA member - I also find that, like many aspects of grade school, IDP may not really prepare you for the workplace. Standards are good, and having experience in certain areas are important, but IDP categories are not taken very seriously. I feel that becoming licensed is like becoming a black belt in martial arts - it is when you begin to learn. Before that you are gaining knowledge of the basic tools and elements. Thank you.”

— 35-44 American Indian male from Oregon, currently unemployed, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15435].

“Compared to other similar professional organizations, AIA dues are way too high (and they don't even give you a wall certificate!)”

— 35-44 black male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [15470].

“School should teach students how the profession works, which it does not. Design is great but why not teach the way it is actually done in addition to design. After a couple of years I have a good idea, still very simple straight forward explanations of the protocol and procedure is needed.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [15591].

“Regarding the question regarding the most beneficial aspects of an Associate AIA membership, I personally do not feel that there are really any true benefits to it. Just seems like another way for the AIA to make \$\$\$.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Washington, DC, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15612].

“I think more should be done in schools to inform students of the differences between a 4+2 program vs. a 5-year program. I've found that many students don't know what an accredited degree actually is and what it could mean to them once they get in to the field.”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [15631].

"After completing my 1st year of design, I began my internship with a small firm whose principal was willing to teach me. He became my mentor naturally and I ended up working with him for 3 1/2 years. My early opportunity work experience was invaluable. I believe it is the basis for the knowledge & skills that I have now. Overall I feel that I have been successful."

— 25-34 Asian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [15700].

"The last four questions I consider inappropriate. Once registered, I will not join the AIA unless my company pays for it. I do not see a personal value to justify the high cost of membership."

-, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15710].

"I think MANY firms lack the commitment to help create great Architects, or even good Architects. My current firm is THE FIRST firm who presented great opportunities for becoming an Architect. It's a small firm with a VERY active Principal who believes that the Interns his firm trains to become Architects are better Architects than most because of what they know and what they do. Since I've been here for 2 yrs, I cannot disagree. My last firm was very 'corporate'. Only the 5 Principals stamped the drawings & the other Architects were labeled Project Managers & had MANY projects to deal with. None of them could give me a good reason to become an Architect. They did tell me that I'd have more respect as an Architect & that I could run projects. That wasn't true. I ran a 300k renovation/addition project. My-poor-excuse-for-a-title on that job was Project Architect (I titled myself as Project Designer on my resume because I hadn't earned ARCHITECT yet). So what. There was no need to become an Architect. At that old firm, there was an Intern who had been an Intern for over 10 yrs. He designed buildings, he traveled across the US and to foreign countries representing the firm. I asked him why he hadn't gotten licensed. He told me that he didn't need to because the firm was going to let him have the same responsibilities he currently had whether or not he got his license. He is now about 40 and is not licensed to this day. When I interviewed for my current firm, the Principals told me that they needed more Architects & that they expected me to work hard, LEARN A LOT, and become a licensed Architect as soon as possible (I had already passed 3 exams at the time). I took the job. Why? In this firm, they respect the EDUCATION of the Architect. Anybody who is lucky enough to pass all the exams can be a licensed Architect; but, it's what you know that makes you a GREAT Architect. There are two licensed Architects in my small firm: one is 64 and one is 31. Both are GREAT Architects."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Nevada, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15893].

"Although I am a proponent of the AIA's activities, it is disturbing that the fees associated with each event are so elevated. For example, our local AIA chapter charges to attend monthly meetings, focusing each around a formal meal and charging upwards of \$50 per person to attend. If the professional organizations yearn for better attendance, perhaps making the activities more accessible/affordable for everyone is a good start. After all, wouldn't you think that the \$600 per year fee that my firm pays for me to be a member would be enough to cover my attendance at the monthly meetings?"

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Arizona, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [16083].

"I find that AIA membership is virtually useless. There is no outreach program to new members who pay hundreds of dollars in membership fees -- and then each local chapter charges for seminars on top of it! Membership, for most people, is a very expensive magazine subscription. If you polled your members, you will find, that if their firms didn't pay their dues, they most likely would not be members. It is an 'open secret' within the profession that the AIA no longer has meaning to individual architects, besides the 'prestige' of AIA after one's name. Memberships in the American Bar Association and American Medical Association are less expensive. The cost of membership has virtually no return."

— 35-44 black male from Washington, in an allied field, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [16210].

"I feel that the AIA is a top heavy, controlling monopoly that overcharges and under represents its members. I am only a member because I want access to the AIA Library and I feel socially pressured by the Architecture community as a whole. I am working to become registered and dread paying the enormous yearly dues that my registration will require. The AIA never helped me in my internship or any other professional development. There is no effort to reach out to those who do not actively seek to be involved. I am also concerned that when I go back to school to earn another degree that I will be unable to pay my membership fees and I will be penalized by the AIA for the number of years I do not pay by piling up the membership dues for each year I cannot pay. A new organization of dues needs to be arranged so that if you join and then leave yet want to come back in the future, you are not punished. Who wants to be a member of an organization that punishes people for coming back? Also, the national & local chapters need to work better to serve the interns and students. I have never heard of an IDP coordinator contacting a student or intern. It

would have been nice. The NCARB system is also a blackmailing monopoly trying to charge Architects after they have completed using the NCARB/IDP program. Much reorganization is needed to bring the profession of architecture to the level that it requires to be a better respected and developed profession.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Washington, DC, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16218].

“In the past, I have attended AIA meetings and have been disappointed by the lack of focus on design and social responsibility. My local chapter meetings appear to be primarily focused on the business of architecture, networking, politics of the workplace and marketing oneself. I found it full of vapid, self-absorbed, glad-handers that are as uninteresting as they are uninterested in you. I did try to get involved with a community project bringing architects of notoriety to the community and was asked to sign up for what portion of work I was most interested in performing. When the list of focus groups was printed, I found my name on an entirely different category (low visibility) and the chapter president’s firm carrying the majority of the high profile/high exposure work. To save myself from being exposed to further blatant grandstanding, I have declined any other involvement. I am happy to be on the board of directors of a small community/social settlement and perform mission work with my church. If the AIA begins to focus on what makes architecture different from other professions, design, social/community responsibility, perhaps I will be happy to be involved. The AIA is only what I use to aid me in becoming registered. Thank you for the opportunity to state my opinion.”

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Nebraska, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16255].

“I maintain an AIA membership because I feel that I HAVE to, in order to be deemed at all respectably professional by the public and most fellow Architects. The overbearing AIA 'regime' is more irritating than beneficial. I feel that the AIA is too strong an entity in the Architecture community, with their self-serving PACs, lobbyists and all. On the ARE, annoying to me is that I felt much more prepared to take the exam upon completion of college than I do now. I have a problem with that. I feel that IDP should not be a prerequisite for admission to the exam. If one is capable of passing it, they should be entitled to do so. I think the Medical School/Rotation/Residency model is more appropriate than the current licensure system, because the field is becoming ever more specialized, like medicine is.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [16294].

“If Architectural Record is supposed to be the 'voice' or 'magazine' of the AIA, then why isn't there a section in the magazine to update the members with what is happening with the AIA each month. Though I had to rate the 3 most useful resources for the profession, I don't feel that any of them adequately do so.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Oklahoma, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16354].

“It would be nice for AIA as an organization to support AIA Associate interns by subsidizing the cost to take the ARE. Maybe, one way to do it is, interns pay for the cost to take the exam, but can get reimbursement from AIA Local Chapters IF they pass the exam taken. It would be nice to include this as part of AIA Local Chapter’s budget.”

— 25-34 foreign Asian male, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [16502].

“The local AIA chapter could care less about its Associate members. I really get the impression we're not 'legitimate' participants in the profession by the manner in which we are included, or not, in chapter information/work/etc.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Tennessee, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16514].

“I feel that the mentoring program is very weak right now and not really encouraged. I would love to somehow get connected with a mentor whose work I respect from another area. I think it would be cool to begin a mentorship before graduation. It might help choose a grad school or direction after graduation.”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Mississippi, has a traditional architecture job, BArch student, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [16521].

“It would be helpful profession-wide to have study materials that are sanctioned by NCARB and/or the AIA. I have found that three sets of study materials have not condensed the information to the point it is helpful on the ARE. In order to find the correct books to study from, I have had to look to colleagues that have either taken the exam or by chance have stumbled upon study materials. Many of the answers to questions on the ARE cannot be found in any of the study materials; this is frustrating come test time.

NCARB seems too territorial and the AIA focuses a great deal on those who are licensed and 'raising up' those who are either in IDP or testing. I have also found that many current professionals and owners have no idea what IDP/mentoring is about and some have even exploited the interns that have come to them for advice. This is not positive and tends to keep interns from forging ahead with their careers. As professionals, we should be looking to the younger to teach the business, not keep our work/ experiences so private."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from West Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16538].

"Since I moved from states requiring the IDP prior to living in New York, I have experience with that organization. My perception is that it is ineffectual and bureaucratic. It is a hindrance to the field and is in great need of an overhaul. Additionally, the AIA, with its antiquated rules about fees (for non-member architects in a member firm among others) is archaic and frankly, unfair. If not for having my dues paid for by the firm, I most certainly would not be a member."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [16652].

"AIA should know better than anyone - Architects barely make any money! AIA membership fee is wayyyyy too expensive! I don't understand what prestige can come with AIA membership. AIA is so conservative that is driving Architecture to preserve the profession exactly the way it was -the old way, and not to progress as a better profession."

— 25-34 Asian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [16704].

"I feel the resources available to us through the AIA website are not adequate enough. We need more case studies, more historical data. On a local level, I live in Charlotte which is a semi-major city, however it does not have a local AIA bookstore that I can purchase books or do research from."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16711].

"The University of Minnesota, which I got my undergraduate degree, focuses way too much on the arts. The college ignores the practical aspects of architecture (costs, building techniques, and purely practical designs) and does nothing to broaden your horizons in the realistic approach of designing a building. Architect firms look for CAD computer skills and building construction knowledge which U of M pushes away until graduate school. I now work in a firm, but I had to go to a technical college for structural and computer knowledge. The U of M does nothing to help prepare you for an internship. That is why many students pursue different jobs rather than pursuing architecture. Also, the money sucks for what students go through year after year. Students pay for 8-9 years of schooling. Tell me another major that expects you to put so much into each job and yet gets a starting yearly pay check for only \$40,000. I said my peace!"

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Minnesota, in an architecture-related job, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [16807].

"I believe architecture is a dying profession. Other professions and new emerging services such as program managers are taking work away from the profession, and they are making more money doing it. We are hindered by organizations like the AIA which places its focus on unimportant issues and social functions when they should be working to lobby for new laws favoring architects. This profession sits around and congratulates itself on its social importance while the boat is sinking. There is no doubt architecture is important, but it is not important to the American public, except for unique occurrences such as the WTC. More importantly, architecture is not important to the vast majority of businesses, which are the entities who have the money to execute projects. Government work is even far less concerned with the quality of design. The only demand for our profession is the bare minimum that the law requires of those who want to build, and even then clients manage to circumvent those requirements. Subsequently, if there is no demand, there is no need for a profession. Architects and their services have become extremely marginalized, yet they remain in denial of this fact. Nobody is willing to properly pay for our services, and those who do, expect far more service for far less money than what should be acceptable. Architects are quickly becoming irrelevant, given that our place in the building process is shrinking. Our economic well being is eroding as we continue to undercut each other in competing for work. Architects refuse to become business savvy like other professions, and they just rely on the fact that their importance must be inherently recognized by clients and the public at large, an attitude which is one of the many sources of our undoing. If these fundamental legal, regulatory, economic, and self-perception issues are not resolved, all the good that our profession may be able to offer is a mute point. Fundamentally, we are ignoring the issues that make up the foundation of our profession,? How ironic. As for me, I am completing my MBA and plan to move into development and real estate investing. I am confident that this hybridization of my license,

experience, and education will provide for far more income and professional potential than my current traditional practice of architecture. Essentially, I am trying to make lemonade out of the giant lemon that is the architecture profession. .”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, graduate non-architecture student, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [16808].

“ 1/On the 'least important AIA benefits' question, I ask what resources? What research are you referring to? 2/ At my university arch. library, there was a series of reference books that had the names of all 'published' architecture firms. This would be an extremely valuable resource the AIA could make available to its interns in our search for suitable job prospects.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Nebraska, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [17116].

“I appreciate the ArchVoices resources, I wish there would be a French translation but I guess it is a bit utopic. Anyway keep up the good work ! The main problem about architects in our province is that we do not unite and so we are not able to have a political importance. We are isolated, in competition. Maybe it is the nature of the profession, being in competition for all the interesting projects, but still we must make an effort to work together on important issues such as professional and environmental responsibilities.”

— 25-34 foreign Caucasian male, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [17176].

“AIA dues are amazingly high if you consider there are fees for members to participate in many (if not all) education programs and lectures sponsored by the AIA. It is not forgotten that we are asked to pay for learning programs to meet required Learning Units, Continuing Education Credits or whatever they are called this year, on top of our high annual dues. Add this to the fact that we have school teacher friends (unfortunately known to be a low paying profession) who earn more money than us. How does the AIA lobby for higher billing rates? If I knew more of what the AIA did for its members and communities they live in, other than ask for money from them, I would be more interested in getting involved with the AIA.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17210].

“Schools need to deal with the issue of Architecture being a profession that deals with more than just design. It's a business and the education should reflect this reality.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [17238].

“I have worked in the architectural field since 1990, and learned through apprenticeship. I would like to see the possibility to enroll in a professional school of architecture that takes into consideration my extensive experience. Unfortunately that is not the case here, and is very difficult for me to enroll in the full term of the curriculum. Yet, I plan to continue working in this field with my experience and my associate degree.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, not an AIA member, does not intend to be registered [17259].

“Schools should focus more on teaching architecture like the real world. More computer class requirements, code classes, intern placement program (required), teach a class as if it was a real arch office, etc. Make school more like the real world, there's rarely any more jobs now in drafting, they're focused more on computers now.”

— 18-24 Hispanic male from California, currently unemployed, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [17396].

“The internet resources have been very helpful. At office, mentoring while learning, would be the most helpful.”

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17399].

“The AIA structure, and membership, is licensure driven to the point of treating non licensed people like second class citizens. Non licensed architects are invaluable in the production process and as a resource to young interns. We are due more respect and more compensation.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Arkansas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [17622].

"When I began the IDP in the early '90's the firms I worked for were aware of it but did absolutely nothing to facilitate intern's completion of the process. Where I currently work (RTKL Baltimore) is very active in promoting intern's completion of the process. I hope that the process has become more useful to interns in general rather than just an obstacle as it was when I was an intern. The NCARB Council Record process is way too expensive and should be paid for by the profession at large rather than individual interns."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17707].

"My impression of the AIA thus far is that it is a money sponge for lobbyists. Architect-favorable laws benefit my career, so fine, but don't pretend to be more than that. Our local utility is doing far more for designers. Isn't that kind of sad?"

— 35-44 Caucasian male from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [17714].

"I feel that the AIA has had really nothing to offer me."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [17769].

"How can I receive more information regarding the AIA chapter in my area?"

— 18-24 Hispanic female from Florida, in an allied field, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [17889].

"AIA Web Newsletter needs more and larger images of architecture. The small images included with the articles are not satisfactory. Otherwise, good job on the new format."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Alaska, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [17917].

"I'm surprised the AIA does not advertise and promote the benefits of thoughtful design to elevate architects over other design mediums, particularly in the residential market."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Massachusetts, currently unemployed, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17925].

"If this profession is going to survive it has to become more diversified and undermining between constituents has to cease. If it is going to be a profession of choice it has to do a better job protecting and placing value on its professional service fees."

— 35-44 female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [17942].

"My education is the same or better than some Masters or 5-year programs, but I cannot get licensed, no matter how long I work. Two more years of school (5 total in studio) will put me in debt in a profession in which I will never be properly compensated for my level of education, while giving me very little educational benefit that I cannot find while working. I believe anyone should be able to take the ARE, but with varying work experience requirements."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [17996].

"Some State Chapters of AIA offer support groups or study sessions while preparing to take ARE/NCARB Exam...North Dakota is not one of them."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [18254].

"The AIAS at my school is a joke. They have no active role in the community, or for that matter with the AIA. I have never been taught any of the registration practices, what I would have to do to get registered. As for the IDP, I graduate in May and no professor in my school has ever mentioned using hours gained from interns towards the program. Recently, and I mean in the last few weeks, have I just discovered the program. The relationship between my school and the AIA is almost non-existent. If there is one, it is nearly invisible to the STUDENTS!"

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Virginia, currently unemployed, BArch student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [18271].

"Architecture has become rigid and does not put enough emphasis on creativity and true originality in design. Challenges in abstract / or conceptual thinking is needed."

— 45-54 Caucasian female from New York, MArch, graduate non-architecture student, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [18331].

"Frankly, if my firm didn't require it I wouldn't bother with the AIA. It is expensive, and the benefits to membership are dubious at best. I get a better insurance rate being a member of Sam's club than the AIA. The general public has no clear idea of what architects actually do or the value we add to communities. We are constantly losing market share and legislation to contractors' interests. The compensation we receive for the level of education and related expenses required to become an architect do not balance out. I will have my mortgage paid off before my student loans!! The whole system is a mess and the AIA seems content to let the profession continue to spiral downwards while we congratulate each other on what a great job we're doing."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, graduate non-architecture student, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [18400].

"It seems that after school I had to be self sufficient to find ARE and NCARB information. The only helpful group was the local AIA chapter Associates representative, and that was marginally helpful. This is more-or-less a solo mission for many people. It really makes me see the little help provided by the expensive AIA."

— 25-34 Hispanic male from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [18429].

"I am appalled to just now learn of the free first year membership to the AIA upon completion of a professional degree. Not only was this information never provided to me, the AIA willingly took my money upon graduation and enrollment. That program seems to be a failure in terms of communication with young professionals."

— 18-24 Asian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [18446].

"Did not know about the AIA benefit of free first year membership after graduation from profession degree program. Now I feel robbed since I paid my dues...."

— 18-24 Hispanic male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [18477].

"The Boston Society of Architects (City and State component of the AIA) has no contact with new members. They have NO involvement with local AIAS chapters (I was the former president at my school and our provost is on the BSA board of directors). The BSA is useless!!!"

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [18622].

,"Stronger connections between the academic world and the professional world of architecture would greatly advance the profession."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [18653].

"Listening to the creative muse is best done in isolation from organized anything."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from New Mexico, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member [18840].

"I find NCARB to be useless and extremely slow processing paperwork when time is an issue. I also feel that schools do not adequately prepare students for the reality of architecture. They focus on the design side and do not prepare us for the business and technical sides."

— 25-34 American Indian male from Missouri, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [18850].

"Young architects need to stand up for what they believe is fair. The profession should not be too difficult to enter as to discourage students from pursuing their career objectives. ."

— 18-24 male from Canada, in an architecture-related job, MArch student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [19019].

“Conservative reality of the AIA in this state to the minority group.”

— No bio information available [19025].

“Since I was little I wanted to become an architect, so I knew I wanted to major in architecture when I went to college, however my high school guidance counselor never informed me that you need an accredited degree in order to sit for the ARE; so I went to college and received a Bachelor's of Architecture that is not accredited. The irony of the situation is that it takes five years for one to get through the university's architecture undergraduate program. I now have to go back to school and obtain my Masters. It is just frustrating that there are others out there that were in school for five years and now have an accredited Bachelors Degree, and therefore can take the exam. I wish my high school would have been more informative about registration and licensure.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [19060].

“I have always been very disappointed in the attitude and monitoring of Associate Member interns that work in architectural offices in the USA. My personal experiences were that of complete and total abuse. To such a degree that I considered seeking legal advice against the architecture firms I have worked for. But decided to just move on and live a happy life. The AIA continues to allow this abuse to carry on and it is not a necessary component to becoming an architect. I find the AIA's attitude toward young architectural interns entirely suspect. There is a reason for Architecture becoming a gentleman's profession in the USA. I was not the son of an architect. I was however the son of a developer and builder and have hired many licensed architects to stamp drawings and work as project managers. I am totally miffed by the lack of basic design knowledge that most young architectural designers have. But most recent architectural graduates do know how to manipulate AutoCAD drawings...but forget basic 2 D and 3 D design.”

— 45-54 Caucasian male from New York, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [19306].

“As a working professional it is extremely hard to go back to school and get my graduate degree, which is needed prior to be qualified to take the ARE. I currently work for a firm that lets me design all facets of architecture, because of my education and experience, but it's reviewed and stamped by a licensed architect. I would greatly welcome architecture schools to incorporate a graduate degree program for working professionals, who are not able to attend day classes, because of responsibilities and family commitment.”

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Maryland, in an architecture-related job, graduate non-architecture student, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [19340].

“I have worked in 6 firms in ten years and never found any substantial mentoring. I do not believe it exists, I guess a typical office does not have or make time for it. What is the incentive for the firm? They still need to keep people in the drafting pool rather than producing a complete architect.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Washington, has a traditional architecture job BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [19379].

“To me, the learned practice of architecture is best learned as an apprentice while working under the direction of a competent architect, who is able to communicate and pass on as many of aspects of the profession as possible. More than likely, this can not be done by one architect. I believe one has to acquire different perspectives from different architects in order to round out the education of becoming an architect.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [19421].

“There must be a decent title for someone who has graduated, put in internship time but has not yet taken the exams. Non-registered professionals do have value.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [19555].

“AIA membership is too expensive for architects whose employer does not pay its fees.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [19835].

“I feel that we really need to restructure our architectural education system. Most of what is taught in school does not apply to the real world.”

— 35-44 Asian male from Texas, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [19844].

“My main disagreements with the AIA is that it 1) mainly ignores anyone not working in non-traditional positions; 2) put little or no emphasis on real research; 3) addresses social/political issues in a cursory manner.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Washington, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [19850].

“Mentorship only works when at least two parties are both willing to invest time and energy into developing a mentee's career and both parties have a good rapport. This does not just happen by assigning a mentor. It requires very careful crafting, education on both sides, commitment to the task, and time, which most of us are in very short supply. The utter lack of Time is the single most detrimental disservice to the profession. It is becoming increasingly improbable to adequately balance the education of the architect with the demands of schedule as dictated by the client/program manager/contractor/CM, etc. with the amount of risk the architect is responsible to maintain. Either schedule gives way, or risk is reduced, or the architect is going to be faced with a trend of exponentially increasing litigation due to poor training. Saying it's important is not enough. Mandating training only works if it is crafted to directly decrease risk through increased expertise. Case-Study, experience-based training should be explicitly focused on to better understand the meaning behind why we do what we do. Newly licensed architects don't know the reason for specific language in AIA documents, they don't know the reason behind using this type of waterproofing for that type of application, they don't know why we build the way we build, they only know that you just do, because that's what was done before. This lack of knowledge will undermine the profession in very short order if it is not overcome.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [20113].

“My number one reason I would leave my current position is the total lack of interest in advancing and developing architecture internships. Where can I find a list of firms that rate high in employee development, no matter what the level?”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [20207].

“This survey is good for the average American intern. As much as I enjoyed living in America, I'm happy to be living outside of the States. I think there can be sometimes too much emphasis on checking off a list of requirements by a certain time. Why not take the time and really experience building for community by really getting to know one, or several others? It's not necessary to move to another country, but I believe true connection to society is not achieved by engaging with only architects when we (architects) normally build for non-architects.”

— 18-24 foreign Asian female, in an architecture-related job, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [20394].

“I believe the profession in general is somewhat lacking on the mentorship front. However, my current firm is particularly poor in supporting (financially) interns trying to become registered.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Washington, DC, in an allied field, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [20544].

“As a young architect, I wish to continue my education in teaching, I have found that while in high school I was not ready for the professional college experience and I am proposing a new curriculum in a local high school for students who wish to pursue architecture in college. If there is any information that would help, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank You.”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from New Jersey, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [20557].

“You didn't ask if I would be a member of the AIA if it wasn't paid for by my firm. I still do not know what benefit the organization gives the profession. Do we lobby? Are our voices heard in the government? It appears that we have the AIA to give people social events to attend and give ourselves awards. My experience in the local AIA chapter was disappointing. I was on two committees that never achieved much due to bureaucracy. One committee was even taken over to handle a convention instead of its intended purpose. In addition, there needs to be educational reform that will allow students to really see what the profession is about. There is a disconnect between academia and the profession. My job is more about coordination between consultants, codes and detailing than design and philosophy. It is sad that the 'name' architects, the lowest percentage of the profession, get all the publicity and in turn alienate the public.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [20602].

“The local(Shreveport) chapter of the AIA is the one in which I am enrolled. They do not do anything for the enrichment of the interns within our chapter. AIA was run down as a big crock when I was in school by my professors. I just chalked that up to liberalist hippy paper architects who could never make it in an organized professional environment. Now I'm really started to believe all the things they said. All the newsletter emails I receive show evidence of strong and vital AIA chapters all across the U.S. This chapter is not one of those chapters. Sincerely.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Louisiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [20845].

‘Getting rid of the BArch is a terrible idea.’

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Missouri, has a traditional architecture job, BArch student, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [20865].

“I am not very happy with having to belonging to the AIA as an Associate. The dues continue to increase and I have to pay for an architecture magazine that I do not wish to receive. My local chapter it too far away and continues to cater to the New Haven area not Hartford.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [20908].

“The profession is a disappointment to me. I'm considered to be a very knowledgeable, top employee, but pay is horrible. Peaks and valleys workload creates hectic schedule and hours. Stress level for those who really care about the quality of the products that they produce is way too high. Owners rarely accept our professional knowledge, and too often think that they know more.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [20909].

“This survey should ask questions about the size of market that a person works in. This is directly related to a person's relationship to the profession. I work in a small market a good distance from larger markets. I have worked in a larger market and would have answered many of these questions differently had I remained in that location. I do not feel IDP added anything but hassle to my career experience. My desire to be a complete architect is what has helped me seek and find a career and environment that mentors that goal. The firm I work for seeks to mentor me as a well rounded architect not as an IDP candidate. The practice of architecture is built on creative problem solving, desire, and hard work not a formula for hourly bookkeeping. In this day and age I understand that there must be a way to rate exam candidates for licensure, but the current system has a long way to go and I fear that it is headed in a similar direction as these proposals for formalizing specialized practice. It will degrade the true practice of architecture.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [20940].

“During my IDP process I found it next to impossible to speak to anyone at NCARB. IDP cost a lot of money as an intern and there is an extreme lack of service. The ARE is too expensive. As an intern if you are working at a firm that does not pay for the test and you have to take vacation or just not get paid for that day it is hard to swallow. There are more firms that do not pay for the test than will admit it. The profession needs to be more committed to its future and help their interns out. Here is perhaps the worst thing of all. A membership to the AIA both nationally and for my state cost me \$565. Many firms do not pay for that either. I am not sure what I am getting for my money. As an Architect who has only been registered for a little over a year I believe that there should be a reduced rate for people registered less than 10 years because the compensation for this bracket is not all it is cracked up to be.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from North Dakota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [20956].

“Recently registered and having been through the entire process, if I could of change one thing; I would require all schools of architecture to register all students in IDP as part of the curriculum.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [20961].

“AIA National needs to continue to educate the legislature of the value of professional architects and also raise the awareness in the general public that the work done by architects is worth paying a fair professional fee just as they do for attorneys and doctors. The

Bar Association and AMA have done a great job to increase the compensation rates for their respective professions. AIA needs to do the same for architects.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [20963].

“An important duty that the AIA does not do a good job of fulfilling is to raise the public's awareness and understanding of what it is that architects actually contribute to the built environment and how important these contributions are, and to promote the value of what architects do. I find it very frustrating that we have such 'cool' status in society yet very few people understand or value what we do (which contributes to the commonly low fees and salaries in our profession, which seem even more pitiful when compared to fees and salaries in the other professions.)”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [21058].

“The survey is not geared at all to self-employed. I would love to have answered the questions for last 2 jobs. Firms need to follow the Fair Labor Standards Act-(PAY OVERTIME!) Interns need to organize into a union as with other trades. AIA needs to lessen giving awards and concentrate on its lobbying efforts like most other professional organizations. AIAS did a much better job for the money.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [21090].

“In this survey, there was NO information regarding how we will promote education/education of architecture at the pre-university levels and in local towns.”

— 25-34 male from Connecticut, in an architecture-related job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [21254].

“AIA networking only works for people who are active board members.”

— 25-34 Asian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [21314].

“The profession needs to endeavor to create a greater demand for architects and limit the number of practicing architects in order to increase the level of compensation to be similar to other professions such as attorneys and medical doctors.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Kansas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [21353].

“One thing that needs to be realized in the greater profession is how useful we can be and how useless we currently are at this moment. We need to realize that we must engage current market developments (read design/build & design/develop)and lead or we will continue to marginalize ourselves. It disappoints me that architects continue to delegate their responsibilities to subcontractors, suppliers, etc. In an effort to avoid liability and then complain when they have no control over the outcome of the project.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Indiana, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21428].

“I would like to receive more newsletters and invitations to events and seminars. I would also like to know more about NCARB in terms of my IDP and ARE. Specifically if there are study courses etc.... Thanks. Charlotte NC.”

— 25-34 female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21549].

“Personally, I think the biggest reason that interns do not feel a part of the AIA is because the senior members (at local meetings) do not respect or take the interns seriously. This immediately starts a mindset that interns do not care to be a part of the AIA. They have nothing to gain from being a member. If an intern had to pay the dues themselves from the small salary they are make, I could completely understand how an intern would not care if they were a member or not.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Oregon, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [21581].

“I have not found the professional organizations to be that helpful or necessary. I am still confused on the requirements/ procedures for taking the ARE and cannot find complete information regarding the process! That is frustrating.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [21591].

“My experience with the AIA has been very disappointing. The only information I can count on them getting correct is the location and time to send an invoice for the next year. The email that brought me to this survey was sent to an incorrect address- which I have asked them to correct numerous times. They no longer provide the services one would expect when filling out the dues forms. If architects serviced their clients like the AIA services its members, we would all be unemployed quickly.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [21644].

“I am unsure of the value of the AIA to me. I have joined the AIA as an Associate member as the dues are reasonable (with my firm paying 1/2) to see if there is value to me.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [21675].

“AIA is extraordinarily expensive. As an engineer, everyone belonged to ASCE and attended meetings; it was almost expected no matter what level you were. It was reasonably priced, and attendance was the norm. In architecture, it appears that very few people are involved in professional activities outside of work, with the exception of principals and senior architects.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21687].

“I think the profession suffers greatly from poor pay and professional development within firms. The profession demands a substantial amount of sacrifice from its professors. A sacrifice I was no longer willing to make when I had 2 children. This is a serious problem because the profession is losing its middle ground and is becoming a profession for the wealthy.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from New York, in an allied field, BArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [21696].

“I've been very active on the local COTE Committees of local Chapters since I joined in 1993. If not for that PIA I would have found it much less satisfying to be a member and continue in this profession. Also, while the Architectural Record comes to me every month as an AIA member I have asked in the past to not receive it because there have been so many copies in the offices where I worked. The receipt of that much paper is burdensome and an on-line version would be very appreciated as well as fewer copies sent to members who have access some other way.”

— 45-54 Caucasian female from New Hampshire, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [21735].

“My biggest problem with the structure of a traditional architectural practice is that there tends to be 'glass ceilings' in the majority of firms. There never seems to be a set structure for advancement and ownership and / or partnership in a firm. There is an extremely high percentage of architects (compared to other professions) who are self-employed, and I'm sure this is not a coincidence and in fact is a direct correlation to the amount of 'glass ceilings'. At some point, most of us think to ourselves: 'I can do this myself - why not reap all of the benefits.'”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Mississippi, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21742].

“Some of the ARE tests are too easy and some are too hard. I guess there's a curve on the hard tests and such, but none of 'us' really knows for sure. Also, we would really appreciate it if the AIA or someone would let us know what the average salary is for each region/major cities - especially for newly grads.”

— 25-34 Asian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [22002].

“From my perspective, the AIA has done a lousy job protecting the scope and profession's legal requirements requiring Architects, specifically their representation of Owners. Since graduation, I've watched a steady erosion of authority and acknowledgement of benefit of the Architect from the construction industry - hence the evolution of Program/Project Mgmt, a completely non-regulated industry created to benefit Contractors.”

— 35-44 black male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [22063].

"Post Boyer report I feel that there has been no improvement in the relationship between arch education and the practicing profession to improve professional readiness for taking the ARE. In fact I feel that the profession has been able to distance itself further from any responsibility related to education; and the entire burden, both financial and educational, now lies on the backs of interns. The computerized ARE has contributed to the increased distancing between the profession and its potential responsibility to educate interns."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [22121].

"The AIA is losing its membership base as we watch builders, developers, interior designers, and off-the-shelf 'CAD' programs make the public view our profession as an unnecessary expense. It appears that the AIA does little to lobby for the perception of the profession and the architect rights in the way a labor union lobbies for workers rights. From a young architect's perspective, the AIA appears to be little more than a social club with good resources and a nice magazine subscription."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [22161].

"This notion of national mentoring surprises me. I don't see the relevance if emphasis is only placed on getting a mentor. Mentors, while helpful, are not nearly as essential as getting an internship itself in the first place. I would like to see more emphasis placed on establishing an internship program which is similar to the one doctors are placed in for their residency. Namely, I would like to see interns move about. For example, after three months in a residential firm, interns could move onto a commercial firm for sometime and then on to other areas of the field, including construction. It is a travesty that I could go 9 years to school in architecture, pick up a PhD, and have no idea how to hold a hammer. However, if a rotations style internship were to be introduced, it would require heavier participation from the schools in giving students a basic set of generic skills that were actually applicable to the work force. Instead of a national mentoring program, I would like to see a national internship program (which helps students obtain internships) established."

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, student not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [22230].

"Am considering leaving the AIA because I do not believe it does enough to advocate the profession to the public—i.e., no one seems to know what we do, and this makes it extremely difficult to get work based on professional abilities (as opposed to crony-ism, previous work, etc.)."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [22292].

"The value of AIA membership is diminishing rapidly. A fundamental change in culture is needed to ensure the organizations future."

— 35-44 male from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch student, an Associate AIA member, intends to become registered [22315].

"The profession as a whole does not seem to be taken as seriously as one might think it should. Public awareness of what Architects do and the value of the services they can provide is relatively poor. Architects are not seen as a necessity."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [22437].

"It is difficult to find the right firm for graduating students without any profiles available to students about the different firms in the area that he or she is interested in going to. There seems to be a severe lack of communication between the professional world and the education world of Architecture. Lessons and other issues in the professional world are not addressed in school, and make for a rough transition to the practicing Architectural world. On the flip side, there doesn't seem to be any compliance to what is taught in Design today in a professional office. The lessons that we are taught seem to go to waste most of the time as buildings are being designed and constructed without what would appear to be any design thought, either by choice or by necessity of the particular job. Furthermore, the mainstay of any firm that wishes to survive appears to be defined by the bottom line figure, not beneficial design or appropriateness of Good Architecture, so long as the greenback is in place."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from South Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [22458].

"I think that overall the academia and professional are still very much separate. As a rising graduate, professors discourage the AIA, as a rising partner in a firm, professionals discourage the academics."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [22511].

“The practice of architecture must be above any particular association or banner we may wave. I am convinced that we are able to grow as a profession only to the extent that we are able to come together as broad a group of practicing architects as possible (and interns too) with the goal of collecting and storing knowledge for all law abiding architects to freely use. We must never be inclined to think in terms of economic success! (i.e. keeping to ourselves the lessons we learn; thinking that it provides us a greater level of leverage in a highly competitive market). Rather the emphasis must be toward excellence. Economic success will follow.”

— 35-44 male from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [22633].

“It seems as though the profession is dying. In order to reverse this I see a need for some very strong leadership at the top.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [22786].

“Until an architectural stamp is required for EVERY permitted job, the profession will continue to spiral down the drain. With drafters using civil engineers to stamp projects for permit, architects will always incur smaller fees. Until AIA is able to enforce that fact that computer IT people are not calling themselves software architects, the integrity of the profession is at a dangerous level. Since I cannot call myself an architect yet, I am now a 'doctor of design and construction.' I will give some credit for the attempt here to listen to some complaints, however some of these choices as to why I should or should not join the AIA is laughable. I think the AIA knows why it doesn't succeed and will ride the pony till the horse falls over and dies.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [22806].

“I intend to get licensed because it is a goal of mine, and I intend to work as an architect. However, I do not intend to be an architect all my life. The profession is vastly different from anything for which school can prepare students, and quite frankly I'm finding that architects seem to be terrible business people. We allow developers to bully us out of fees so we can pay the rent, then turn around and stiff the employees that do the work. The mood and temperament of the firm get especially curt when the economy slumps, and it doesn't instill confidence in employees wondering if they can make the mortgage next month. I have also found architects to be poor at confronting conflict--they either use strong-arm tactics to get THEIR WAY, or they run from it all together. Architecture is a great profession, but we're killing ourselves in it with bad money management and by bowing to unrealistic deadlines. We're not in school anymore, so let's act like it, please. Thanks.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [22882].

“I think that with the state and condition of the profession, the AIA needs to be taking a long look at what they can do to make it a better profession... Not just for the wealthy architects and firms, but for the young architect, many of whom are working for minimum or below-minimum wages, no health insurance, etc. Life as a young, not-independently wealthy, architect can be miserable, and the AIA could help to make it better... They need to pay attention to their young people. Finally, they could also do a survey of other professional societies... AMA, Veterinarian, Dental, etc. To see some of the things they offer. Vets, for instance, can get on a national association health insurance plan, if their office doesn't offer it during their intern years... Plus, if the AIA coordinated a national health insurance offering, small offices could enroll through them and offer their starving young employees these benefits. The AIA needs to take a hard look at the inner-workings of the profession and offer some services to its members (or would-be members) to make it a better profession for all architects (rather than just passing around awards to its due-paying members!). Thanks.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from California, in an architecture-related job, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [22918].

“NCARB has always been very helpful to me...Thank you! It can sometimes be difficult to get involved with local AIA chapters because the older generations 'know the ropes' and tend to do most things. I tried to join (or get involved in) NAC last year by sending an email expressing interest. I never heard back.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [22921].

“You should allow us to choose more than one racial/ethnic background category. I am also Native American. Back to the previous questions about why I am no longer an Associate member of the AIA- the answer is because I saw NO value in it. Everything costs

extra- continuing ed classes, salary reports, etc. Interns and Associate members should not be asked to pay for any of those things- we could certainly benefit from the extra knowledge, but we can't afford to pay for it."

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Missouri, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [22926].

"Compensation is a measure of the value placed on the services provided by a professional. Judging from compensation levels, architects are a low order of professional. The primary mission of the AIA should be to raise the value of architectural services and the compensation of the many accomplished firms doing fine service in a locale. (Paragraph) Every time a star architect like Frank Gehry opens his mouth he does damage to the credibility of rank and file architects. We should get away from the star system and focus on improving the perceived value of architectural services and the real value of architects. (Paragraph) My clients abuse my time and judgment in a way that they would never consider if I were a doctor or a lawyer. Raise pay and raise credibility."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Tennessee, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [22948].

"I am curious as to your affection toward AIA. While I plan to register at some point none of the pros and cons of AIA membership you listed looked even remotely appealing. The answers seemed geared toward someone who would consider nothing but. Your 'working in' category gave the opportunity to be in a non-NCARB work environment but none of the 'choose one' options included design build firms, so I left that one blank."

— 25-44 male from Georgia, in an architecture-related job, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [22958].

"I have been very frustrated with both the AIA and the ARE. The ARE is about learning how to jump through hoops and take the computer tests, rather than about one's skill as an architect. Additionally, the yearly AIA fees seem huge in relation to the services/benefits that are provided."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [23019].

"I would like to see AIA members have more resources free of charge or greatly reduced. It is not a high paying profession which makes it difficult to obtain these necessary materials."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [23249].

"Thank you for asking. I was prepared upon graduation to endure some worst-case scenarios but reality proved better than that. One thing I anticipated proved very true: architectural firms don't have the luxury of spending time on anything, interns included. The saddest case is where there is ample time for certain interns and next to none for others. I never would have imagined that."

— 45-54 Caucasian female from New York, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [23516].

"Honestly, I have had a pretty poor initiation into the AIA, I recently graduated, and submitted my information in May of 2002, I just recently received my number, and a wrinkled certificate. I have not been able to take part in any of the events, and currently do not have a very high impression of the way the AIA has treated me."

— No bio information available [99959].

"Most companies treat interns as slave labor and provide little instructional or mentoring services (this is an opinion based on several companies other than my own and of several people working in the field other than myself). Long hours are asked of them with little or no compensation. Questions or comments are discouraged (practicing architects have big egos that bruise easily) and school provides little to no real world training in how an office is organized or is run. The requirements for putting together a set of CD's is hardly addressed in school and codes and specification issues are ignored to concentrate on 'design' that is rarely done in the real world. A redirection towards apprenticeship tied directly to graduation would greatly improve the reality and accuracy of an architectural education. The AIA needs to form partnerships with firms to take on students and perhaps even the school itself to tie tuition into salary and eliminate the cheap labor aspect of grads and replace it with real world tutoring. The work agenda needs to be tied into the job contract structure and annual AIA reviews of the companies is needed."

— No bio information available [99964].

“The entire IDP process is absolutely ridiculous. Expensive, time consuming, and dumped onto interns who are at the mercy of firm project deadlines - the production crew. Firms in general seem to take little interest in the training of interns - they just want CAD jockeys.”

— No bio information available [99972].