



EPC

Emerging Professional's Companion

A Resource for Architectural Education and Experience

Educator Testimonial

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Issues of Practice

The Emerging Professional's Companion is an essential resource to bring the professional world into the classroom. Today my students shared views on copyright, trademarks and plagiarism - a lively discussion!

The scenarios presented in the Companion provide an insight into the realities of practice. No longer will practice and academia be so far apart. The Companion prods students to think about real dilemmas that architects struggle with daily. What happens when your client refuses construction administration services? How do you "sell" sustainable design?

This is preparation for the "real world". The exercises in the Companion elicit the students' personal opinions. In the classroom, the students can have the luxury of discussing the issues, before they are faced with these situations alone as an intern.

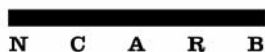
The Companion's strength lies in every chapter addressing Ethics, Liability, and Health, Safety and Welfare issues. These three categories guide architects daily through their practice. At last, there is an opportunity to explore these issues before landing in the pool of cold water as a first-year intern. The Companion gently awakens the students to the burning concerns of practice - many are surprised to learn that Design is not the molten iron they thought.

Dovetailing directly into their IDP process, the Companion transitions the students from class-based learning to self-directed learning. The students can embrace their guide for the next three years, while remaining in the support network of the university, professors and advisors. The Companion becomes their own in the context of classroom instruction.

Though all but four of my students had prior office experience, only one could tell me what a specification was. The Companion introduces students to all of the tools we use to practice architecture - from payment applications to shop drawing logs. No longer do employers have to take valuable time to show interns the basics of daily practice. The Companion provides the students with marketable skills that will apply to their new positions on the first day.

I recommend the Companion to any professor of Professional Practice. It provides you with a backbone to transition the students gently into practice.

Rebecca Henn is a principal at Celento Henn Architects and Designers. She has been practicing architecture since 1993 and has worked for internationally acclaimed firms in Pittsburgh and New York City. She currently serves on the Executive Board of Directors (serving as Secretary) of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AIA, and on the Board of Trustees at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden in Pittsburgh. Rebecca is LEED accredited (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), and is a certified Master Gardener through Phipps.



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