

## Skillsets and Competencies of a Practising Architect

All Architects practising in Queensland **must** be registered with the Board of Architects of Queensland (the Board).

To become registered, a person must be able to demonstrate that they have met all the threshold level competencies in the *National Standard of Competency for Architects*.

These competencies are the core skillsets and functions expected of a practising Architect in the delivery of their professional services.

The *National Standard of Competency for Architects* is the single standard that underpins accreditation of the tertiary architecture courses as being eligible qualifications that can lead to registration as an architect. These competencies must also then be demonstrated by graduates through the three-stage Architectural Practice Examination and other pathways which must be successfully completed in order to be eligible to apply for registration as an Architect. Further, these competencies are required to be maintained by practising Architects through ongoing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

### Competencies of Architects are broadly categorised into four elements:

- **Design: Project Briefing, Pre-Design, Conceptual Design, and Schematic Design**

The design process extends from the evaluation of project viability to the conceptual and schematic resolution of a project in response to client, user and public requirements. The design process for a project is informed by appropriate social and environmental considerations of the architect.

- **Documentation: Detailed Design, Documentation**

The process of resolving, detailing and communicating an architectural project through all project stages. The modes of documentation include modelling, drawings, specifications and schedules that can be used in the construction, contract management and handover of the project.

Documentation material must be consistent with design objectives and budgetary constraints, and must conform to relevant codes and industry standards. Where supplied by consultants, documentation compliance must be verified.

- **Project Delivery: Procurement, Construction Stage**

The proficient, timely and cost-effective completion of an architectural project through all design and construction phases. Project Delivery must take into account the range of contractual obligations carried by architects, clients, consultants and contractors.

Project Delivery involves the evaluation and implementation of procurement systems as well as appropriate contractual administration systems. The establishment and operation of project teams as well as formalising of project agreements (such as with client, team/s and contractor) are critical to competent project delivery.

- **Practice Management**

The holistic understanding and organisation of the business and profession of architecture in relation to delivering projects. It involves the knowledge and execution of the processes involved in providing architectural services; the knowledge and implementation of appropriate systems to establish and maintain an architectural practice; and the knowledge and enactment of the broad range of ethical and legal obligations required of a Professional Practitioner.

### Knowledge Areas:

The *National Standard of Competency* also identifies the five core areas of professional knowledge and understanding required by Architects that underpin architectural practice:

- **Regulatory**  
Knowledge of the regulations, standards and codes, relevant to all aspects of architectural practice, project design and delivery.
- **Social and ethical**  
Knowledge of the social, ethical and cultural values relevant to architectural practice and the impacts on project users and broader communities.
- **Sustainable environment**  
Understanding the responsibility of architects to minimise the impact on natural resources and design for longevity.
- **Disciplinary**  
Knowledge of histories and theories relevant to architecture, practice, building and technologies.
- **Communication**  
Knowledge of appropriate verbal, written and visual means to communicate relevant aspects of architecture.

### References

National Competency Standard for Architects  
<http://competencystandardforarchitects.aaca.org.au/about>