



ARCHITECTS' COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DES ARCHITECTES D'EUROPE

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## Crisis deferred ?

Architects find that 2011 growth is not being sustained

**Whereas architects were expecting a revival in their fortunes by the end of 2011, the results of a survey undertaken by the Architects' Council of Europe illustrate that a cloud of pessimism is hanging over the architectural profession, in spite of the cautious improvement noted over the last few months.**

According to the ninth ACE survey on the impact of the economic crisis, more than half of European architects consider that the economic climate in which they are currently working is not favourable to their activities. However, this reaction should be slightly tempered by the responses received in 2011. Indeed, a comparison today shows a 13% reduction in the number of architects who think that the market is either bad or very bad, and the number of satisfied architects has increased slightly. So the position of the architectural profession improved very slightly, even if it is far removed from the wave of optimism announced in 2011.

Besides analysing the current economic situation, the ACE study also looks at architects' workloads over the coming three months. Results indicate that 42% of European architects expect their workload to be stable and 22% even expect a slight increase. Obviously, these predictions are noticeably less positive than those announced in June 2011 given that, since then, a further 20% of architects have revised their workload expectations downwards. The January 2012 survey illustrates that a cloud of pessimism is hanging over the profession and no sector of activity will be spared. Indeed, 35% of European architects expect a reduction in activity in the private housing sector, 43% think that this downfall will also affect the public sector and 50% announced a reduction in the commercial sector. So, it would seem that the architectural profession is not through the worst of the crisis and even expects the situation to get harder in the coming months, with numerous job losses to follow. It would seem, therefore, that although architects have experienced a slight improvement, the great recovery announced in 2011 is nonetheless a few months late,

The ninth ACE survey on the impact of the economic recession on the architectural profession was carried out in January 2012 and received more than 3600 responses. These surveys are carried out every six months and allow the ACE to get a picture of the nature and extent of the economic crisis in the field of architecture. As mentioned above, the previous survey, carried out in June 2011, described the wave of optimism experienced by architects' offices, which we now know to have been premature, as European architects prepare to meet the coming months with renewed patience and determination.

For the full survey results, visit the ACE website at the following address:

[http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category\\_id/220](http://www.ace-cae.eu/public/contents/index/category_id/220)

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