

**ACCORD ON CO-OPERATION AND PROFESSIONALISM IN ARCHITECTURE
BETWEEN
THE ARCHITECTS COUNCIL OF EUROPE
AND
THE COMMITTEE OF CANADIAN ARCHITECTURAL COUNCILS &
THE ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA**

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), representing the profession of architecture in the member states of the European Union and the Committee of Canadian Architectural Councils (CCAC), representing the provincial/territorial registration/licensing authorities in Canada and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), representing the profession of architecture in Canada, herein after referred to as the parties, as a result of mutual discussions, have signed this Accord on Co-operation and Professionalism in Architecture.

PREAMBLE

The European Union and Canada have decided to develop an Agreement containing criteria, procedures and measures for mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and practice experience that will result in the enrichment of the architectural profession internationally through full portability of qualifications within both political and economic entities.

Mutual Recognition means that a European architect who is recognised under the terms of the EU Directive EEC/85/384 in any EU Member State shall be recognised as an architect throughout Canada, and a Canadian architect who possesses a professional diploma and is duly licensed by a Canadian jurisdiction shall be recognised as an architect in any EU Member State.

Once agreement has been reached at the level of the architectural profession, it will be passed on to the trade representatives of the EU Member States and the Trade Directorate (DG TRADE) of the European Commission and to the trade representatives of the Federal Government of Canada. It will only become binding once an agreement has been reached at political level e.g. as part of the Europe-Canada Trade Initiative (ECTI) or any future agreement between the relevant political entities.

ARTICLE 1.

The members of the architectural profession in Canada and the European Union are dedicated to the assurance and improvement of high standards of professionalism, integrity and competence, and thereby bring to society special skills and a profound sense of stewardship essential to the development and protection of the built environment in both political and economic entities.

ARTICLE 2.

The Architects Council of Europe, the Committee of Canadian Architectural Councils and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada affirm the following principles of professionalism:

- **Expertise:** Members of our respective professional organisations possess a systematic body of theory developed through a combination of education, examination and/or experience, so as to assure the public that when a member architect is engaged to perform professional services, that architect has met high professional standards enabling proper performance of those services. Furthermore, members of our respective professional organisations are

charged to maintain and advance their knowledge of the art and science of architecture, to respect the body of architectural accomplishment and to contribute to its growth. Furthermore, in implementing the spirit and the letter of the law governing their professional affairs, members of our respective professional organisations are charged to consider thoughtfully the social and environmental impact of their professional activities.

- **Autonomy:** Members of our respective professional organisations provide expert advice independent of any self-interest and are charged to uphold the idea that learned and uncompromised professional judgement should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art and science of architecture.
- **Commitment:** Members of our respective professional organisations are mandated to serve their clients in a competent, dedicated and professional manner, and to exercise selfless, unbiased judgement on their behalf.
- **Accountability:** Members of our respective professional organisations accept the responsibility to provide professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by the recognised combination of education, examination, training, and experience in the specific technical areas involved.

ARTICLE 3.

The parties agree that in the interest of society, architecture, the environment, culture, public health, safety and welfare, they will develop, maintain and promote national and provincial architectural standards for admission to the profession including a combination of:

- Education
- Examination
- Experience

ARTICLE 4.

Member organisations represented by the signatories are committed to participating in, or controlling the establishment of standards for admission to the profession, and standards of ethics and professional conduct, through which members may be disciplined if found guilty of a breach and, therefore, they shall promote systems for:

- Registration/Licensing
- Ethics & Conduct

ARTICLE 5.

Members of our respective professional organisations are committed to maintaining high professional standards through life-long continuing education/professional development. The parties agree, therefore, to encourage the development of systems for:

- Continuing Education/Professional Development (CPD)

Now, therefore, on the basis of the above principles, the parties pledge:

ARTICLE 6

- to exchange information and resources in social, environmental, cultural and practice affairs related to architecture, including the mutual exchange of students, teachers and professionals, and to promote co-operation in architectural practice between architects of the Canada and the European Union, and to improve the public's understanding of architecture through coverage in national and international architectural journals and the exchange of exhibitions.

ARTICLE 7

- to negotiate on a bilateral basis the goal of mutual recognition of requirements for practice and licensure/registration, by establishing equivalencies in education, examination and experience within the earliest appropriate time, so that the markets for architectural services in Canada and the European Union can be opened mutually within the context of the 'Europe-Canada Trade Initiative' (ECTI) of any future agreement between the European Union and Canada. In this context, the parties also agreed that the basis for statutory licensure/ registration should be protection of public health, safety, and welfare and social, architectural, environmental and cultural heritage.

ARTICLE 8

In order to attain the goal of mutual recognition, the parties agree:

- to an on-going exchange of information on education, examination, training, procedures for gaining practical experience (internship), licensure/registration, codes of ethics, continuing education/CPD and other information related to the practice of architecture;
- to establish a joint drafting panel to develop a proposed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) pursuant to this Accord. Terms of reference for the joint drafting panel will be agreed by the parties upon signature of this Accord.

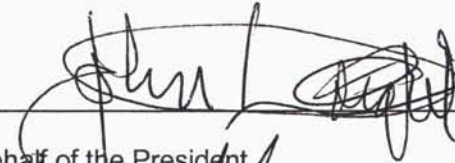
ARTICLE 9

Negotiations aimed at reaching a MRA are expected to be completed within 12 months of signing this Accord. Once agreement has been reached by the parties, it will be forwarded to the trade representatives of the EU and Canada, and will only become binding once an agreement has been reached at political level either as part of the Europe-Canada Trade Initiative (ECTI) or any future agreement between the relevant political entities.

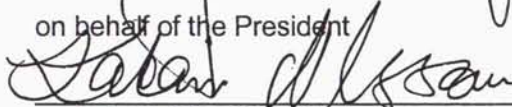
This Accord may be terminated by either party on provision of six months notice in writing, without prejudicing the work of specific projects underway at the time that such notice is issued.

This agreement is entered into as of the day and year written overleaf

ARCHITECTS COUNCIL OF EUROPE (ACE)

 Date 21-01 2005

on behalf of the President


 Date 21st January 2005

on behalf of the President

 Date 21-01 2005

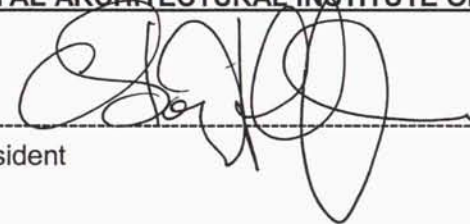
Secretary General

COMMITTEE OF CANADIAN ARCHITECTURAL COUNCIL (CCAC)

 Date 21 Jan 2005

Chair

ROYAL ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF CANADA (RAIC)

 Date Jan 21/05 2005

President