

01 Architecture for social purpose

Understanding the social value and economic and environmental benefits that architecture brings for individuals and communities – improving life chances, social identity, cohesion and wellbeing, and having the knowledge and skills to make informed, fair, and ethical choices, and to influence the project team and supply chain.

Codes and modes of conduct and duty of care

- Current RIBA and ARB codes of conduct and discipline, including professional ethics and business ethics.
- Equality Act 2010 and understanding the nine protected characteristics.

The nine protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010:

Age
Disability
Gender reassignment
Marriage and civil partnership (in employment only)
Pregnancy and maternity
Race
Religion and belief
Sex
Sexual orientation

- RIBA Guidance Note 8: 'Employment and creating equal opportunities'.
- The architect's obligation to society and the protection of the environment.

Professionalism in a global context

- The UN Global Compact: how it affects you and your company:
<https://www.architecture.com/about/ungc>
- Ethical and sustainable sourcing, specification and supply chains.
- Working ethically in other countries in the absence of legislation: cultural awareness, respect and how to make decisions
- Disaster preparedness, relief and reconstruction, and how to work with and for the benefit of affected communities.
- International development work and relief, and humanitarian shelter and settlement coordination.
- Design appropriate and sympathetic to local culture and history.

Ethics of architecture, construction and business management

- Developing ethical, social and environmental awareness.
- Understanding the ethics of regeneration.
- Equitable and inclusive planning and placemaking.

Equitable placemaking:

Mechanisms and processes that make people of all backgrounds feel welcome, as co-creators and collaborators, in the making of their communities, and in communities that they feel reflect them.

RIBA CPD Core Curriculum: Study Notes

- Social justice in architecture and understanding social deprivation.
- Understanding how to calculate, communicate and promote the social value of your projects.

The Social Value Act came into force in April 2013. The Act requires public authorities to 'have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts; and for connected purposes'. It applies to all English and some Welsh public bodies, including the NHS, local authorities, other government departments, housing associations and emergency services.

- Social purpose in building conservation and heritage.
- Social purpose of health, safety and wellbeing.
- Fire safety strategy and legislation.

Collaboration and respect: staff, clients, stakeholders and communities

- Understanding community engagement.
- Effective engagement with stakeholders.
- Understanding who should be your key stakeholders.
- The importance of maintaining professional relationships.
- Achieving effective client interaction.
- Creating a stable work/ life balance for your employees.
- Understanding team working in the professional environment.
- Community regeneration and how you can help.
- Understanding Local Authorities' development plans for creating better environments for their communities.
- Understanding and ensuring positive community engagement.
- Working proactively with communities and stakeholders.
- Engaging with clients and understanding the economics of architecture with social purpose.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

- Understanding and promoting the business benefits of equality, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and in your work and projects.
- Understanding the difference between equality, diversity and inclusion.

Equality is the quality or state of being equal; of knowing and understanding that everybody's value in terms of status, rights or opportunities is the same and, by extension, treating them equally. In order to achieve equality, individuals must be fair and respect differences in people and their characteristics, recognising that such differences should not justify different or unfair treatment and that all people should be afforded the same rights and opportunities, irrespective of their differences.

Diversity is the quality or state of being diverse; it encompasses all the characteristics that make people different from each other. Diversity is a state of having and accepting differences, including age, condition, race, gender, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

Inclusion is the action or state of including and being included within a group, structure or organisation; it is a right of all people to be embraced and not excluded. Inclusion is about removing or altering 'barriers' – often the things that we cannot see, such as attitudes and prejudice.

RIBA CPD Core Curriculum: Study Notes

- Understanding inclusive environments and accessible buildings.
- Developing ethnic and cultural awareness.
- Understanding mental health issues.

Outreach: mentoring, volunteering and architecture in education

- Understanding how to effectively volunteer your time and skills.
- Understanding your role as a mentor or a mentee.
- Secondary school and sixth form engagement.
- Understanding your non-executive role in the third sector (e.g. school governor, parish councillor).
- How to deliver workshops and presentations on architecture as a career choice to schools.
- Transferring your knowledge through design tutoring.
- Charity movements in architecture: how you can get involved.
- Giving your skills to your church, mosque, synagogue or temple.
- Reflecting on and assessing the soft or technical skills that you gain from volunteering.

Links to other organisations and resources

ASF-UK www.asf-uk.org

UN Global Compact <https://www.architecture.com/about/ungc>

Equality & Human Rights Commission (EHRC) <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Act <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents?>

Modern Slavery Act 2015 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>

Fluid Diversity Mentoring Programme <https://fluidmentoring.org/>

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation <https://www.jrf.org.uk>