

Contemporary Issues in Architecture and Design

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Introduction

Architecture develops an extensive history from the establishment of civilization. In the beginning, humans need shelter as protection from sun, rain, animals and nature; shelter was the simplest temporary construction at that time. Since humans started inserting permanent settlements, development of architecture has been started. A slow and gradual process required deep understanding of thought in knowledge and practice of architectural field. Accordingly, these theories and practices enhance architecture to be learned into academic curriculum. In this paper, the author will deliberate the overview of architecture disciplines.

Historical overview of Architecture disciplines

In the book of A Global History of Architecture, Ching F, Jarzomber M, and Prakash said that “The first settlement was found near cave along shores and streams in 12.000 BCE” (pg.1). Humans in prehistoric civilization made a temporary shelter by using branches as simple structure, as their civilization was nomadic, they moved from one area to another area. The civilization was then developed in 8000 BCE when the domestication of animal and plants started. Humans developed community and began to divide building based on function, for instance religious and communal purposes; this indicated permanent settlement had become a factor of life. In slow but relentless process, based on website History of Architecture (2015) in about 2620 BC the pharaoh Zoser entrusted his chief minister, Imhotep, to provide a royal tomb that is out of the ordinary. He invented the method of a stone-dressed building and stone columns structure to support a building named pyramid. At this point, the term of designer or builder or architect was seemingly used for the first time.

Development of Architecture is a unique process; one of the things that very interested in is the manner in which local histories imagine the world. Based on Ching F, Jarzomber M, and Prakash, “It mission is bound to the discipline of architecture, which requires us to see connections, tensions, and associations that transcend so-called local perspectives” (pg.xi). Each areas in the world has its own exclusivity in architecture, because architecture blends within the socio-cultural in local community. For instance, humans build a building for communal services as their demand of mutual cooperation. Humans also construct a building for religious purposes with its own ornamentation that has special meaning behind the symbols and icons. Nowadays, spectacular building that has been invented through the advancement of technology has

influenced directly or indirectly the consequences of economy, trade, and power integrity. Many countries race to construct the tallest building as the power symbolization of their country, for instances Petronas Tower, Twin Towers, Burj Khalifa, and many more. Architecture has its own differentiation and specification in each region that makes it is special, hence it is significant to record these unique into history.

Architecture is a discipline of knowledge that relates specifically with the arts, design, and structure. Shelter as the simplest structure that was built by humans from decades ago shows that architecture has existed as a discipline in long period of time. Today, it has been developed into more specific areas, for instances interior architecture, landscape architecture, health care architecture, sustainable architecture.

A gradual process of thought in knowledge and practice of architectural field enhances architecture to be learned into academic curriculum. Post secondary education program of architecture is Academia des Beaux-arts founded by Cardinal Mazarin in 1648, the purpose of the school was to educate the most talented students in drawing in drawing, painting, sculpture, engraving, architecture and other media (“Ecole des Beaux-Arts”, n.d). Comparing and studying ancient and contemporary architecture and design is essential. It allows an architect or designer to consider a buildings or cities as more than a visual phenomenon. Architecture is known as the art and science of designing for building and non-building structures, as it is one of the ancient architectural arts that man has known since he needs to build a shelter. Contemporary architecture essentially refers to the current style of architecture. For example, a house built this year according to current trends would be considered contemporary architecture. In general contemporary architecture is the movement where modern styles blend, sharing various features.

In the United States, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as the first educational institution that offer School of Architecture which at that time located at Metropolitan Boston. William Robert founded the school in 1865 as the first formal architectural curriculum in the United States, and formal instruction in architecture began in the fall of 1868 (Chewning, 1986, pg.ii).

Evolution of architecture brings development in professional agency that accredits university and college programs in Architecture. Based on Website About NAAB history, “National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) is the sole agency authorized to credit US Professional degree program in architecture”. Before NAAB formed, the first attempt to accredited architecture was with the founding of Association of Collegiate School of Architecture (ACSA) in 1921, however in 1932 the ACSA was abandoned the standard of architecture. Therefore the new accreditation board established NAAB in 1940 to accredit school of architecture nationally (“NAAB History”,n.d). Regrettably, there is no indication when NAAB accredit the first program.

Architect profession in order to practice especially in United States need to be licensed by NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Board), it established in May 1919. The organization was form during the American Institute of Architect (AIA) convention in Nashville. Illinois is the first state had laws in regulating the practice of architecture since 1897, since Illinois previously as the member of AIA. The objective of the board is to facilitate the exchanges of information on examining, licensing, and regulating architects. (“The history of NCARB”, n.d)

Conclusion

In the beginning humans started their shelter with temporary structure, than continued with a more complex building construction. In early centuries, term of architect as master builder is uncommon, they passed the building knowledge from generation to generation. Eventually in the 2620 BCE, after Imhotep appointed as master builder for royal tomb in Egypt civilization, terms of architecture was seemingly started. Than architecture developed into a more proficient through curriculum in academia. Nowadays architecture development is progressing towards a professional requirement. Architect is required to have specific qualification, consequently licensing in order to practice is highly recommended for architect.

Reference

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