

For much of the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) community, myself included, 2017 represents 25 years of working within shared data applications, distinct, from hand drafted documentation. Technology is often viewed from a contemporary vantagepoint, so this quarter century of experience may provide a basis of understanding the impact technology has had on the practice of architecture. Further to this point, some of the underlying advancements in computation that drive our present technology were introduced as early as 1957, providing the hindsight of sixty years for a frame of reference. (Fortran 1957, Lisp 1958)

To better understand the way the practice of architecture regards the effect of computation, a step by step reflection on shared terms may begin here with the mission statement for the AIA Knowledge Community most closely aligned to these concerns;

The AIA Technology in Architectural Practice Knowledge Community (TAP) serves as a resource for AIA members, the profession, and the public in the deployment of computer technology in the practice of architecture. Technology in Architectural Practice monitors the development of computer technology and its impact on architecture practice and the entire building life cycle, including design, construction, facility management, and retirement or reuse. (AIA, TAP)

The AIA TAP Knowledge Community of licensed architects along with members of the broader AEC community, pursue an understanding of how professional licensing protects the public and how technology effects the licensed professionals mission;

§ 5500.1, Practice of Architecture Defined;

The practice of architecture within the meaning and intent of this chapter is defined as offering or performing, or being in responsible control of, professional services which require the skills of an architect in the planning of sites, and the design, in whole or in part, of buildings, or groups of buildings and structures.

Architects' professional services may include any or all of the following: Investigation, evaluation, consultation, and advice. Planning, schematic and preliminary studies, designs, working drawings, and specifications. Coordination of the work of technical and special consultants. Compliance with generally applicable codes and regulations, and assistance in the governmental review process. Technical assistance in the preparation of bid documents and agreements between clients and contractors. Contract administration. Construction observation.

As a condition for licensure, architects shall demonstrate a basic level of competence in the professional services listed in subdivision (b) in examinations administered under this chapter (DSA CAB CA GOV, Amended by Stats. 1996, Ch. 184, Sec. 1. Effective January 1, 1997.)

Whether by affecting the responsible control of work or the standard of care of a submission, technologies consequential effects on practice necessitates informed professionals;

Section 6 Terms; (m) Responsible control: That amount of control over and detailed knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by licensed architects and landscape architects applying the required standard of care. (n) Technical submission: Designs, drawings, specifications, studies and other technical reports prepared or presented in the course of practicing architecture or landscape architecture. (WY Practice Act, Chapter 1)

In constructing an advanced discourse of technologies' effect on the practice of architecture, this set of articles begins here, near a base understanding of each. The goal of TAP is not to arrive at a particular understanding of technology but rather to facilitate productive deployments and thoughtful results.

-Lewis Matthew Miller, AIA
AIA WY TAP Representative