

# **PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

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# 1. COURSE INTRODUCTION

- It deals with architect's relationship with *clients, other professional colleagues, contractors* and *the general public*.
- The architect's degree of professionalism like any other professional is measured through the success achieved and cordiality of his relationship with the above *four*.

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...1

- Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines it as:

*“doing for **money** what others do for **enjoyment.**”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...2

- Same dictionary gave a second definition as:

*‘a form of **employment** especially respected in society as **honourable** and is possible only for an **educated person** after **training** in some **special branch of knowledge**’.*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...3

- A member of the “learned professional,” a lawyer, Mr. Abbot Kominers, defines **professionalism** as a:

*“manner in which professionals **deal** with their **colleagues** and the **public** and the **spirit** that professionals carry in their heads and their **guts** about what they do.”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...4

- Mr. Kominers again said:

***“diligent self-policing of incompetence as well as intentional misconduct and abuse is a hallmark of professionalism.”***

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...5

- Mr. Kominers further asserts that:

*”To colleagues and the public, the professional is an **expert** in the **specialized knowledge** and mechanics of the field in which he or she practices.*

*To obtain that expertise, the professional undergoes a **formal training** process, frequently **academic** in nature. From that base, however, the professional must build an inventory of **practical skills** based on the world as it actually is, not on a textbook or stylized version of reality.”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...6

- Mr. Kominer rounded up by asserting that:  
*“Appreciating that no field exists in vacuum, a professional also remains **alert to events** and **information** in the world beyond his or her specialized area of knowledge. The professional remembers that common sense must not be lost to professional doctrine and processes.”*



# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...7

- Bernard Lawn, a professor of cardiology, asserts that being a professional is not limited to an allegiance to the tradition of morally embracing another,

*“It is also the source of **courage** in dealing with **pervasive uncertainties** for which **technical skill** alone is inadequate.”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...8

- Another medical doctor Peter Pressman opined that:  
*“The classical notion of profession always encompasses some large but circumscribed body of **specialized information** and **discipline**. Mastery of this material and associated skills requires a relatively long and standardized period of **education, training** and **apprenticeship**, all of which is **regulated** by an association of already accomplished members of the profession.”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...9

- In the same article, Peter Pressman explored the responsibility of a professional in conducting research that:

*“Improves the **quality** of their interventions and they report their findings, not only to their **colleagues**, but also to the **public.**”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...10

- Other qualities that define a professional according to Peter Pressman include:

*“The capacity to act in some highly  
**expert and efficacious** way in  
conjunction with **caring.**”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...11

- Robert Eleblaw and NFL Columnist, in his article titled *“Definition of Professional”* as a tribute to a Kansas City Chiefs star linebacker Derrick Thomas, who died as a result of car accident, asserted that: *“he truly exemplified the term “professional”*

*“in both football and his personal life..... he was a **team captain** and **emotional leader** on the squad, yet he **never bad-mouthed or thrash-talked opponents**. He let his ability on the field do the talking, and it spoke volumes..... Thomas wasn't all football, he had three aspirations in life: to be the **best linebacker** in the league, to be the **best businessman** he knew how, and to be the **most philanthropic** person on the planet. Thomas may not have been the best linebacker, but he was close. His **business holdings were good**, but not sterling,.... He certainly **took care of his employees**. That may not make him an excellent businessman, but it makes him an excellent human being. Thomas shined in the community. He was **generous both with his wallet and his time**..... Family was important to Thomas, he took care of his mother .....and father ..... You hear about sports stars being arrested or dying of disease or overdose. Thomas died in a tragic yet ordinary fashion, repercussions of a traffic accident. If his death can contribute to people as much as his life did, I hope you will remember him and drive more carefully.”*

# WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?...12

- Mike Tysons, responding to questions on his miraculous performance when he demolished Michael Spinks in 91 seconds of the 1<sup>st</sup> round said:

*“My objective in life is to be a Professional and the ultimate in being a professional is that no matter what happens in life, **the job has to be done.**”*

NOW TELL ME,

**WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL?**