

# It Takes a Community - Architects as a Part

## *Subjects to be covered:*

1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...
2. What people need to know about working more effectively with Architecture Professionals...
3. How You (the fire service, Living With Fire, etc.) can work more effectively with the Architecture Professionals...

# 1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...

- *Firstly, Architects are generally knowledgeable regarding building and site design, but*
- *they need to educate themselves, both as individual professionals and as an organization, regarding all of the design factors that will mitigate damages from wildfires, and:*



# 1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...

*Learn how great the threat is from wildfires, especially from:*

- The facts that
  - >900 homes are burned per year
  - 90% of at-risk communities have no Wildfire Defense Plan



# 1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...

## *Learn How to Design for Defensible Space –*

- 30' zone of Fuel-Free or Very Low fuel-contributing landscaping around each home or building
- 70' zone additionally of reduced fuel environment



# 1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...

## *Learn How to Design and Draw plans in ways that reduce the threats (continued)*

- Building Design and Construction
  - Fire-proof/resistant Roof Construction
  - Fire-proof/resistant Exterior Wall Construction
  - Fire-proof/resistant Details



# 1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...

Learn How to Instruct home and building owners on the need to provide proper exterior maintenance

- Clean gutters
- Remove debris against the side of the home/building
- Trim branches to stay clear of chimneys
- Keep yards defensible by limiting the amount of fuel that grows &/or accumulates



Non-toxic & Fire-Resistant Sodium Silicate-Impregnated "Glass-Wood"

1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...

*Once Architect understand the risks and know how to better design, then they need to Learn how to talk with their clients and educate them on what must be done:*

- Proper Planning
- Proper Design
- Proper Construction
- Proper Maintenance



# 1. The Architecture Profession's role in reducing the wildfire threat to homes and communities...

*Come together as members of the American Institute of Architects ("AIA"):*

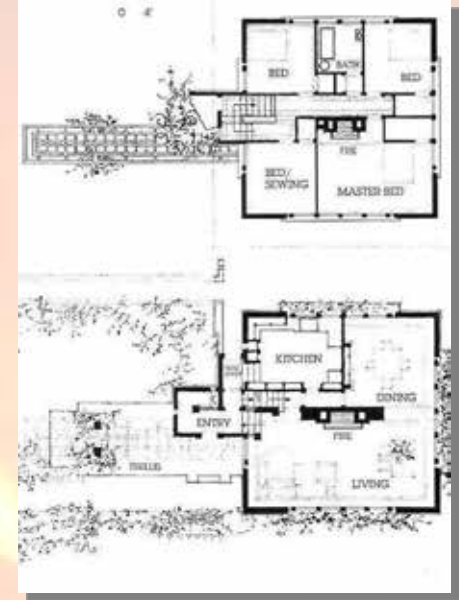
- Establish National, Regional, and Local AIA Committees to work with the various like-minded organizations
- Encourage and support the establishment of Laws, Regulations, and Codes that require proper Planning, Design, Construction, and Maintenance
- Lives are at stake!





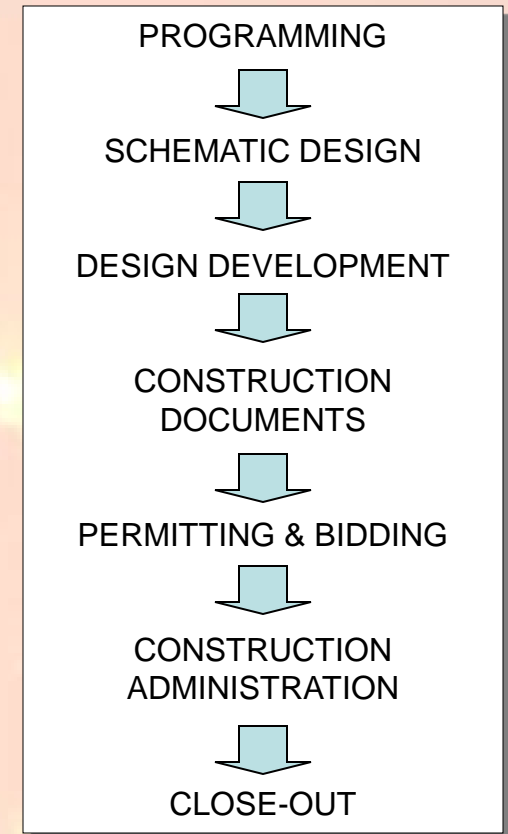
## 2. What people need to know about working more effectively with Architecture Professionals...

- Many people do not know what architects really do.
- “You’re a drafting service, right? So why can’t I just get plans from my builder?”
- Well, you can get plans from your builder, but
  - A “Builder’s Set of Plans” is typically much less well- developed and less complete compared to an Architect’s set of plans.
    - They are almost always not prepared with the full set of analysis, understanding, planning, design, and coordination with the structural, mechanical, electrical, civil, and landscaping designs of other professionals.
  - Builders are Builders, not Architects.



## 2. What people need to know about working more effectively with Architecture Professionals...

- Actually, the plans are just one step in a full set of architectural services:
- Programming – Defining the Problem or “Opportunity”
- Schematic Design – Defining the Solution to the Problem/Opportunity
- Design Development – Fleshing Out the Solution – Best systems to be used
- Construction Documents (“The Plans”) – Creating a fully complete Set of Documents that are suitable both for permitting and for bidding to multiple contractors and subcontractors with minimal “holes” and “extra costs”
- Permitting and Bidding Assistance – Assisting the Owner in obtaining the Building Permit and in obtaining the most economical, responsive, and responsible bids for the project
- Construction Administration – Monitoring the progress of the construction at appropriate times by site observations (not inspections)
- Close-out Assistance – Assisting the Owner in obtaining acceptable warranties, lien releases, record documents, operating and maintenance manuals, and seeing to it that the Builder and its subcontractors complete all Punch List items for incomplete and defective work.



## 2. What people need to know about working more effectively with Architecture Professionals...

- Architects do much more than just “drawing plans”.
  - They help you create “Big Picture” visions of your Short and Long Term Goals, and
  - Help you create Objectives that become road maps for the future and help you achieve your Goals.
  - They are Problem Solvers.
  - They balance the sometimes competing criteria of
    - Quantity
    - Quality
    - Time, and
    - Money
  - The Plans are just the paper mechanism and contract that tells the Builder and his subcontractors what the Owner and the Architect have determined is the best solution for the particular need.
  - Of course, the “best solution” needs to be fully “constructable” without excessive costs or other difficulties



The Design-Down Planning Process

## 2. What people need to know about working more effectively with Architecture Professionals...

### Architects are only human -

- None are perfect
- All will make mistakes
- The Frank Lloyd Wright-like ego maniacs do exist, but
- Most architects are highly competent, considerate, humble, and client-focused professionals who consider the client's needs before their own



## 2. What people need to know about working more effectively with Architecture Professionals...

- Architects are not “expensive” –
  - Especially in this economy where about 60% of architects are unemployed,
    - It’s a Buyer’s Market
    - The investment in architectural services is just a tiny fraction of the construction and operational costs that a typical home or building will experience, so
    - wouldn’t you really want something to perform better and save you money while being more enjoyable?



## 2. What people need to know about working more effectively with Architecture Professionals...

- With rare exception, each Architect's Prime Goal is your satisfaction
  - If you don't succeed, then he or she too won't succeed.
- However, a shortage of architects is expected to occur by 2014 due to
  - The number of those who have left the profession and
  - Many potential students have chosen other occupations to study.



# How the fire service, Living With Fire, etc. can work more effectively with the Architecture Professionals...

Help the architects and the AIA educate themselves and others see the need to require proper:

- Planning
- Design
- Construction, and
- Maintenance for wildfire damage mitigation



# How the fire service, Living With Fire, etc. can work more effectively with the Architecture Professionals...

- Help educate yourselves and others in what architects really do and in the real benefits that come from hiring Architects to do more than just “plans”.
- Help the AIA and me establish laws, regulations, and codes that require Proper Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance to mitigate wildfire damages.





# How the fire service, Living With Fire, etc. can work more effectively with the Architecture Professionals...

- I am willing to take on the challenge of spearheading this effort with the AIA and our local governments and as far as my influence will take me.
- Let me help the AIA join your team and work with you so that the public is more safe.
- Living with Fire and others of you are already working towards these goals, so let's explore how we can expand upon these already established programs.



# It Takes a Community - Architects as a Part

## For All of Us:

Let's all do our part in creating  
safer conditions!



Thanks!

I look forward to working with you!