

Magid Youssef

I would like to play a role in regaining the importance of the architecture profession in today's commercial-driven construction of buildings. The architect's role is diminishing as more and more of his usual activities and scope are being taken away. I would like to help protect the title of "architect" from being borrowed loosely by other industries (like IT and Networks). The current role of the architect has been narrowed down to project management without any real authority to control the quality of the architectural scene. Squeezed between public guidelines and developer's commercial interests, the architect has little to say. We need a stronger authoritative role for architects and regain our position in the construction industry.

In addition to the above, a big factor contributing to shrinking the role of the architect is the quality of the education that architectural graduates are receiving and what actual skills they can provide to the industry. We need a focus on training architects to be leaders of the construction industry not followers!!

I would also like to broaden the scope of architecture to include its social impact for developing communities in terms of providing affordable housing, energy-efficient design and environmentally-friendly use of materials. I volunteer in several initiatives that assert the role of architecture in building rural communities into sustainable neighbourhoods. These include Reach Studio Architecture initiatives in Congo and the Olive Branch for Children in Tanzania.

We need to play an active role reasserting our impact in the quality of life of people. Yes, the quality of life!!! Something rarely mentioned when squeezing higher residential densities onto tight lots or when budget dictates construction blindly.

Please give me the chance to elevate our profession by nominating me to sit on council and achieve a brighter future for our profession and the many people whose lives are impacted by our design decisions.

In achieving the above we also need to establish strong ties with other industries and technologies to get a stronger foothold into the scientific and industrial arenas that can recognize the role of architects within the production of knowledge and development of technology in such arenas.

The business of architecture is a challenging business to run and we need a stronger supportive structure to help architecture businesses thrive. I will help focus more of the OAA strategy to support the growth of businesses in architecture and eliminating a lot of the roadblocks that young entrepreneurs face in this struggle to have their practice survive.

I appreciate your role in supporting the above initiatives by voting for me to sit on council to be able to serve your direct interests and promote the profession of architecture in Ontario.