

NZRAB Ethics Statement

Architects possess and maintain a systematic body of knowledge and theory of the art, science, technology, history and business of architecture, developed through education, training and experience. Registration as an architect assures the public that architects have met and maintain acceptable standards enabling the proper performance of their services.

One of the key requirements of this is that architects behave ethically and act with integrity.

This is because the work that architects do in shaping the built environment has a significant and enduring impact on those that use their services and the public more generally. This often takes place in a context where the users of the service and the public do not have the same level of knowledge as architects.

Architects thus occupy a privileged position and in return they are bound by a higher obligation to their clients and the public than required from the general public under the law.

To this end, it is expected that:

- architects act within the law
- architects undertake their work honestly, and with integrity and care
- architects work within their levels of competence
- architects strive to improve their professional knowledge and skills.

To give effect to these expectations, architects are required in their professional activities to comply with the Code of Minimum Standards of Ethical Conduct for Registered Architects, as defined in the Registered Architects Rules 2006. The code describes a series of behaviours covering personal conduct, competence and business practice as an architect. These behaviours are either mandatory or forbidden, against which architects can be held to account.