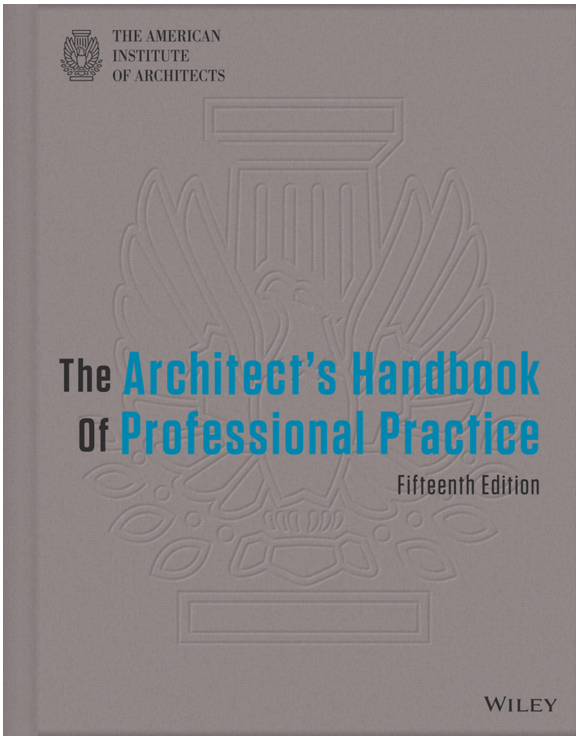


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Foreword

The Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice, published by the AIA since 1920, has become the definitive information source of architectural practice for over 90 years. While major changes have altered the demand for design and architectural services in the intervening decades, this handbook has kept pace and has risen in value to the profession.

The 15th edition, which you are about to read, reflects a range of current AIA initiatives aimed at improving the built environment and public well-being. At the same time, it reflects a contemporary ethos with emphasis on diversity and inclusion, small-firm culture, sustainability, and evolving representational and project delivery methods such as BIM and architect-led design-build.

How does the Handbook reflect these factors? By including expanded content for emerging professionals, such as information on career development, as well as expanded content for established architects who work for or own small and midsize firms. Case studies and targeted articles, written by real-world practitioners, portray a discipline that has been recently segmented by economic circumstances, technological change, and generational difference. Licensed architects, who are united in their professionalism, and those on the path to licensure—both are represented here, united in their desire to meet a high standard of excellence.

Architecture has become an adaptable enterprise for a world that requires nimbleness, pragmatism, and no small amount of ingenuity. From one architect to another, I think you will appreciate the strength of the knowledge base on which this 15th edition rests. I think you will also find it to be an indispensable tool in a time of great change and even greater opportunity for architects.

Robert A. Ivy, FAIA
EVP/Chief Executive Officer
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Preface

The 15th edition of the *Architect's Handbook of Professional Practice* builds on its long tradition as a definitive resource while providing new and significantly revised material. Since the release of the 14th edition, rapidly developing technologies saw greater adoption and the economy plunged into recession. These and other changing conditions influence firm management, project delivery, and other aspects of practice, and the 15th edition has been modified and supplemented accordingly.

When the AIA and Wiley's editorial team asked us to serve on the Steering Group, we were honored to help guide the development of the 15th edition. Our members reflect the diversity of the profession in terms of firm size, geographical distribution, services offered, technologies and delivery methods employed, involvement in academia, and stages of firms and careers. We shared a common goal of crafting a reference relevant to firms of all sizes, and useful to emerging firms and professionals as well as established practitioners.

The Steering Group started work by reviewing the 14th edition in depth. We met for intense conversations regarding how the profession had changed and would continue to develop, which topics were important to retain and update, and what needed to be set aside or added to the 15th edition. As the content took shape, editors called on steering committee members to continue their involvement by suggesting potential authors and reviewing submissions.

We hope you find that our efforts—and the efforts of many others—have contributed to a reference that is both timely and farsighted. We were privileged to be part of this endeavor and believe that the work of the many architects and allied professionals who undertook to develop and share their expertise has resulted in an indispensable resource. We expect you will turn to this Handbook many times as you make decisions related to participating in, developing, and managing a successful practice.

Linda Reeder, AIA
Associate Editor
15th Edition Handbook Steering Group Member

Acknowledgments

It has been my privilege to work with those who have participated in the creation of the 15th edition of the Handbook. I am deeply grateful to the contributing authors who have generously shared their knowledge. I especially appreciate their willingness to engage in our peer review process and work closely with the editorial team to produce excellent content.

At the outset of content development for the 15th edition, the Handbook editors turned to subject matter experts for guidance on many of the chapters. These "chapter captains," as we called them, advised us on the articles needed for their chapter and, in many cases, recommended authors to write them. Many were tireless in their work as peer reviewers and in assisting us in creating comprehensive chapters with minimum redundancy. I would like to extend special and heartfelt thanks to these expert advisers, including Jim Atkins and Phil Bernstein, who gave significant time and thought to the Handbook effort. Similarly, the guidance and insight of the Steering Group has been critical to the development of the 15th edition and their effort is also greatly appreciated.

To enable coordination between Handbook authors and their related topics, especially within a chapter, most contributors also served as peer reviewers for the other authors in their chapters. I truly appreciate the willingness of the authors to accept this extra task on top of producing their own articles. In addition, we had a number of peer reviewers who were not Handbook authors and we are sincerely grateful for their efforts.

The efforts of AIA's publishing partner John Wiley & Sons, Inc., are also most appreciated. Katherine Malm Bourgoine, Wiley's architecture and design Senior Acquisitions Editor, was always available to offer advice on publishing matters, and Senior Editorial Assistant Danielle Giordano was extremely helpful in addressing numerous administrative details.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank the Handbook editorial team for their excellent work throughout this process. Although our collaboration was conducted almost entirely online, we worked together with remarkable effectiveness. I can only describe the team as insightful and dedicated and I am honored to have been able to work with Linda Reeder, Mary Anderson, and Richard L. Hayes.

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