



# GHANA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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INDUCTION 07/08/15 SPEECH.

Members of Council, Colleagues of the Ghana Institute of Architects and Colleague Architects-to-be,

It remains again my singular honour and pleasure, on behalf of the Council of the Ghana Institute of Architects to address this important congregation, assembled for the purpose of receiving into the fold of the Ghana Institute of Architects, new Associate Members who have completed an arduous course of study, lengthy internships and have been found entirely successful in the final professional practice examination.

At this combined occasion, we formally and legally, call these Architects-to-be first to be Associate Members of the Ghana Institute of Architects and subsequently to be registered practitioners on the roll of the Architects Registration Council.

Congratulations are indeed in order, in the first place, to our Architects-to-be who have worked diligently, against all distractions and shortcomings to attain success. The Ghana Institute of Architects thanks the Lecturers at the various seminars, the examiners who continue to work tirelessly in the background to steadily improve the quality and content of the examinations over the years and all Members of the Ghana Institute of Architects who have offered internships, tutelage, guidance and nurturing to this fine crop of young Architects-in-waiting. Our thanks above all else, go to the Architects Registration, who have held the fort admirably in patience, contributing in no small measure to the advancement of our profession.

Standing on the threshold of entry into the noble profession of the practice of Architecture, I address our Architects-to-be with a very important call to recognize the body of knowledge and ethic they are being called to membership in.

We are at an exciting time in the development of the profession. The practice of Architecture has benefitted immensely from the development of powerful tools and software over the years that have increased exponentially, the possible productivity and quality of service to our Clients in terms of the quality and content of design and construction information. Hardware prices for equipment critical to this productivity have dropped to levels that make it possible for the entering practitioner, such as our Architects-to-be, to be able to render a “level of service” comparable to larger firms in terms of modelling, visualisation and volume of information.

But be careful to observe that therein in this exciting milieu lies the great pitfall of a superficial practice devoid of depth of thought and content.

I was granted the opportunity earlier this year to evaluate an Architectural Competition organized on behalf of the Ghana Institute of Architects by the ARC and during my review of the schemes submitted, I came very quickly to realize the extent to which a great majority of the schemes emphasized on form and visualization to the detriment of good functional design and utility. This was so evident, that I cannot but quote the comment made by Madam Registrar of the ARC. She said in derision, referring to these schemes: “ Don’t mind the engine, mind the body”





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Fellow Architects and Architects-to-be, Architecture that has useful impact on society and development dwells not on renderings of cosmetic fantasies, nor on the current obsession with form endlessly achievable in all its possibilities by current software, but good design content born of functional utility and efficiency.

Beauty should and certainly will be the by-product of our endeavors, as we practice and refine our noble craft, but it must not be its superficial and cosmetic purpose to the detriment of function and utility.

As professionals, we are called to a moral obligation; one of serving our Clients in truth. Let us therefore render the perfect service we are called to give to our Clients. Let our service be obedient to the tenets and ethics of our profession, always in obedience to the by-laws of the Ghana Institute of Architects.

In closing, Colleague Architects-to-be,

You are now called to the membership of a body of knowledge called the Ghana Institute of Architects. Let us all reiterate that the Institute is a body of knowledge whose membership upholds the highest standards of calling in the practice of the profession. The Institute, in itself, exists and can only exist as a summation of the ethical and professional excellence of each of its members, each member an essential building block for the entire body.

It is therefore the quality of each individual which builds the Institute. We are therefore calling you into this body adjuring you to adherence to excellence in the service of your Clients, seeing each task not only as a duty to your Clients, but more importantly a duty to God. Let it not be found among you the pervasive corruption that threatens our nation today, but rather contribute to turn the tide with ethical and truthful practice.

I now bid you welcome, as full Associates, to the Ghana Institute of Architects....

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**Arc. Joseph. E. Hayford A.G.I.A.**  
**PRESIDENT**

