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## CEC/M – AIA MN Liaison Committee Survey

### Executive Summary

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The following is a summary of responses to a survey conducted in 1997 by a committee composed of members of the Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota (CEC/M) and the American Institute of Architects Minnesota (AIA MN). Its intent is to give a representative profile of the relationship between engineers and architects and to identify areas of concern between the professions. There were 78 responses from members of AIA MN and 45 responses from members of CEC/M.

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***Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with their design professional counterparts for a variety of activities and the level of importance of each activity.***

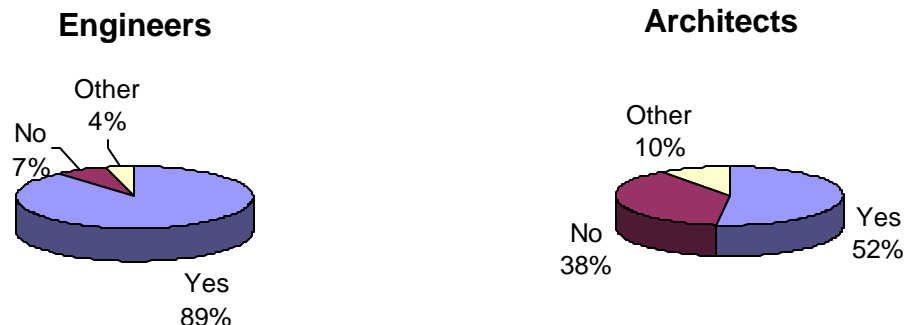
*Charts summarizing both group's responses to this question are attached*

The responses of engineers ranked technical competence and the quality of drawings from architects highest in satisfaction. Conversely, timely payment of fees and adequate fees for services were ranked the lowest in satisfaction. The two categories of highest importance were adequate fees for services and project coordination/management, followed closely by meeting deadlines.

Architects' responses were remarkably similar to those of the engineers. Ranked the highest in satisfaction were technical competence and the quality of drawings. Lowest on the satisfaction scale were communicating goals, leadership capabilities and project coordination/management. Ranked highest in importance were technical competence, meeting deadlines and quality of drawings.

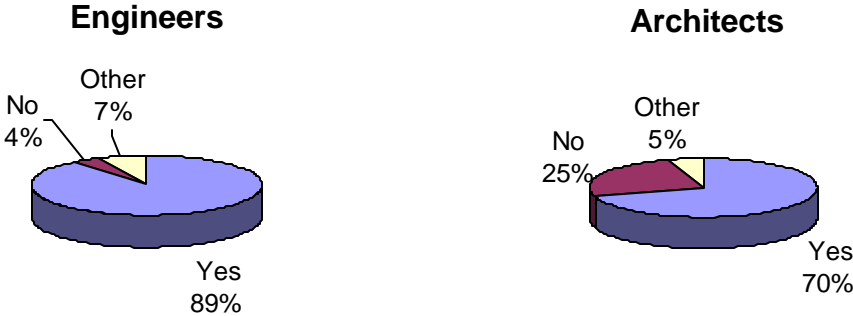
### ***Should the engineer be more involved in the marketing of projects to clients?***

Both groups had a majority of responses favoring increased project marketing involvement by engineers. The engineers were nearly unanimous in their support with 89% responding yes compared to 52% by architects.



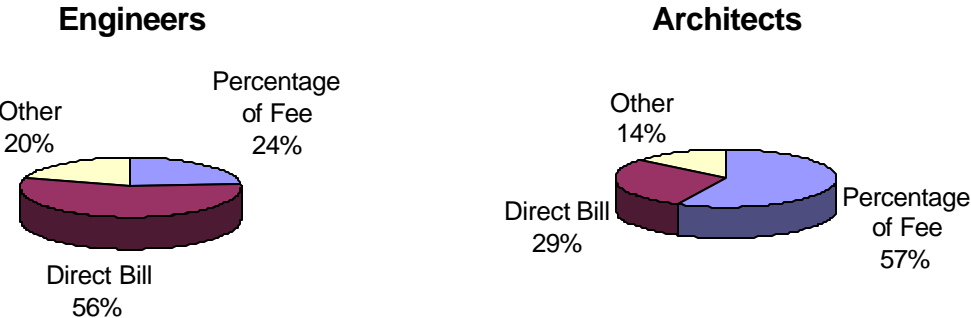
**Should project team members be selected and confirmed before contract negotiations with the owner are completed?**

Both groups preferred selecting and confirming team members before contract negotiations are completed. Engineers responded with 89% in favor while architects were 70% in support.



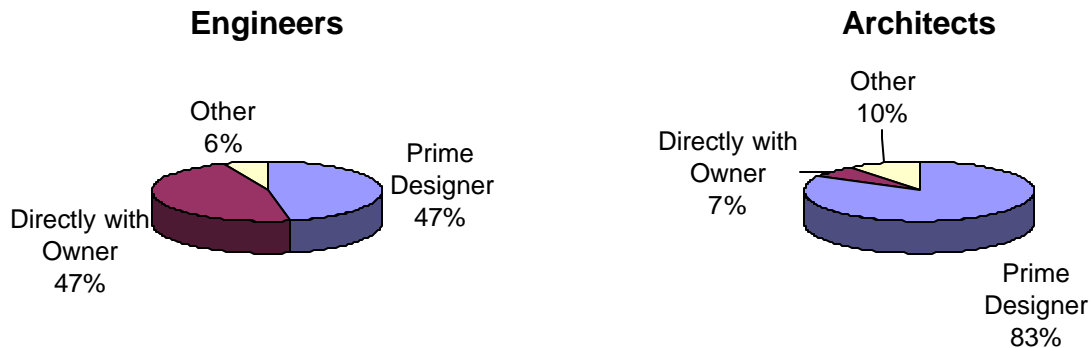
**How should the prime designer charge for administration of project consultants?**

Engineers and architects differed widely in their responses to this question. A total of 57% of the architects favored a mark-up as a percentage of the consultant's fee, while 29% preferred recording and directly billing for project administration time. The engineers reversed those numbers, with 24% favoring a markup and 56% favoring direct billing.



***Should project consultants contract through the prime designer (architect or engineer) or directly with the owner/client?***

Again, engineers and architects differed significantly on this question. A total of 83% of the architects supported consultant contracts through the prime designer, while only 7% favored contracts directly with the owner. Engineers were evenly split, with 47% preferring contracting through the prime and 47% selecting to contract directly with the owner.



***Please identify the most important issues that you feel need to be jointly addressed by the engineering/architectural community.***

There were over 140 comments submitted with the completed surveys. The following were the most common responses:

**Engineers:**

The issue of “bidding” engineering services was mentioned most often. Other important issues included timely payment of fees; adequate fees for services; coordination; cooperation; utilizing a team approach to projects; and more involvement by the engineer before, during and after construction.

**Architects:**

Coordination of documents and systems was the most common response, followed closely by responding to client/owner’s needs. Other common responses included knowledge of codes, quality of documents, the need for involvement by the engineer in educating the client on the M/E systems and options available.

The most common themes of the responses from both groups were the need to improve client services through cooperation and coordination, providing a high-quality product to the client and the necessary involvement of all team members from the beginning to the end of the project.

The complete survey results are available from the CEC/M and AIA Minnesota offices.