

Dissertation Synopsis.

What is the value of an Architect in Wales?

Introduction.

From day to day the name architect is used to describe someone that has influenced or controlled how something has been built/constructed. 'Built' in this context might not refer to anything related to design or construction. For example, one might say that Jonny Wilkinson was the 'architect' of England's Rugby World Cup triumph in 2003.

What does the title architect mean in its truest sense? What value do Architects have in Welsh society?

Methodology.

A series of comparative Welsh case studies will form the basis of this dissertation, showing how architects and non-qualified 'architectural designers' have left their mark on the country and impacted our everyday lives.

Surveys that accompany these case studies, and associated arguments are extremely important to quantify data and form a rounded response to the question stated.

A secondary survey that collates a general overview of the value of an architect will be written and sent to architects across Wales as well as members of the public.

These surveys will need to be concise and easy to complete, between 8 and 15 questions in length.

Aims and objectives.

- Establish the differences between 'Architect' and 'non-Architect' projects in terms of design, philosophy, character, architectural merit and quality of construction.
- What makes architecture, 'architecture'? A discussion around what makes Welsh architecture special.
- Are buildings not architecture if an architect is not involved?
- What qualities will projects lack (if any) should the client opt for a 'non-architect' alternative.

Literature Review.

This dissertation is a chance to collate architectural stereotypes and realities in an unbiased structured format.

Utilization of RIBA and similar surveys, (also surveys stated under **Methodology**) will be essential when striving to create a rounded argument, exploring all points of view.

Academic literature, specific to said case studies, such as the Architects Journal will be considered.

Once specific case studies are established, relevant sources of academic research can then be specified.

Limitations.

To enable a rounded response within the 10,000-word count, chosen subtopics and case studies must be carefully considered within the context of the specific question.

Other limitations may be that a COVID-19 spike would hinder the possibility to visit case study buildings.

Lack of responses to surveys could mean there is insufficient research to quantify an adequate conclusion.

Ethical Considerations.

When collecting essential survey response data, confidentiality must be maintained.

Professionals will be encouraged to give their honest, personal responses that may often be controversial.

Timeframe.

A structured timetable will ensure the completion and quality of research ahead of the hand in date.

Progress of this dissertation is subject to choosing case studies and consequently preparing relevant questionnaires/surveys (before November 2021). It is only then possible to begin forming a discussion once data is collected.

Conclusion.

This topic has an opportunity to explore the historical role of the 'Architect' or 'Pensaer' in Wales and how this role fits into society today. Exploring all perspectives is critical, drawing the right information from the right sources.

This dissertation may identify the need for architects to raise the profile of the profession and promote the value that an architect may offer. Highlighting the added value and knowledge an architect may possess, creating better quality places and spaces compared to the 'non-architect' alternatives.

549 words.