



Professionalism for the Built Environment

By Simon Foxell

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In the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, this new book provides thought provoking commentary on the nature of the relationship between society, the prevailing economic system and professionalism in the built environment. It addresses the changing responsibilities of professionals and in particular their obligation to act in the wider public interest. It is both an introduction to and an examination of professionalism and professional bodies in the sector, including a view of the future of professionalism and the organisations serving it.

Simon Foxell outlines the history of professionalism in the sector, comparing and contrasting the development of the three major historic professions working in the construction industry: civil engineering, architecture and surveying. He examines how their systems have developed over time, up to the current period dominated by large professional services firms, and looks at some options for the future, whilst asking difficult questions about ethics, training, education, public trust and expectation from within and outside the industry.

Professionalism for the Built Environment raises our awareness of the foundations of professional society and sets the agenda for a radical reappraisal of the educational and institutional structures we may require in the future. This book stimulates debate on the professions' responsibilities to civil society, company and self. It provides an authoritative briefing for practitioners, educators, clients and all concerned with creating a built environment that is equitable, fosters wellbeing and improves livelihoods.

John Worthington, Co-founder DEGW, Formerly Commissioner of Independent Transport Commission and Director The Academy of Urbanism

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