SUMMARY

Traditionally, architects are seen as designers who are a special group of artists with creativity and flair not commonly found in other professionals. The practice of architecture, therefore, is perceived as one of concentration on design and presentation. Recent findings, however, have overthrown this assumption and showed that a contemporary architect spends as much as 85% of his time on administrative matters.

With this proportionally weighty responsibility of administrative role to be played by architects, employers find that new graduates of architecture cannot meet their expectations in practice. They lament the necessity to train such young architects on administrative skills and knowledge, which in their view should be the task of the schools of architecture.

Young architects have similarly denounced their education as impractical and insufficient to equip them for the rigors of practice. While they admit that design training has been sufficiently imparted and that they find no want for improvement in this area, management training is said to be grossly lacking in the curricula they have been through.

The above perception of young architects has been supported by the survey conducted for this dissertation. Similar results have also been obtained in studies done in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

This dissertation covers a survey of the historical development of architectural education and the administrative knowledge and skills required of an architect. The curricula of present day schools of architectural are also compared, with particular interest being placed on the teaching of architectural administrative subjects.
Recommendations based on the survey findings call for a definition of the goal of the local School of Architecture as the training of practitioners. Close collaboration of the profession and the academia on the internship monitoring of graduates aiming for professional registration is also urged. The ultimate aim is to achieve a truly professional architectural service in Singapore.