

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Endangered Environment

There is a growing awareness of the difficulties that the earth has in continuing to support increases in population and consumption. Mankind is threatening its own existence, in addition to that of many other forms of life, through global pollution and excessive consumption of limited resources.

Architects and the Environment

Because of their professional training and background, architects have an important role to play in the protection of the environment.

One way in which architects contribute to environmental planning and management is in their ability to realistically assess the cost implications of measures proposed relative to environmental considerations. The ability to compare practicability and relative merits of solutions with their cost is an essential element of the decision making process.

The involvement of architects should result in:

- 1 Careful evaluation of the environmental benefits and adverse impacts of proposed projects.
- 2 Conservation of energy.
- 3 Reduction in the use of non-renewable resources and increased re-use of materials.
- 4 Effective transfer of environmental knowledge and experience.

Architects are trained and experienced in solving complex problems. They can combine their traditional skills with other disciplines to lead interdisciplinary teams directed at achieving acceptable environmental solutions.

Therefore Compton Lacey will, in relation to its project work:

- 1 Keep informed on global environment trends and issues.
- 2 Encourage discussion of environmental problems with professionals from other disciplines.
- 3 Provide information to clients and others concerned about environmental problems and how adverse effects can be minimised.
- 4 Recommend that environmental studies are undertaken as part of all relevant projects.
- 5 Make clients aware that architects can reduce but not always eliminate adverse environmental impacts. The legal and financial responsibilities of all parties must be clearly defined.
- 6 Encourage clients to prevent or minimise adverse environmental effects of projects in all phases, ie initial planning, design, construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning.
- 7 Clearly record views if a client is unwilling to support adequate efforts to evaluate the environmental issues or to mitigate environmental problems.