The Architecture Lobby is an organization of architectural workers advocating for the value of architecture in the general public and for architectural work within the discipline.

In order to redirect the public’s perception of what architects do, we need to reconceptualize our value. We need to walk away from contracts that don’t allow us to share in the profit of a building’s success. We need to prove that we know that the building’s success is determined not by its publication photos but by its 40 year-long habitability. We need to redefine the way media showcases us.

In order to reprogram our own identity, those of us in the discipline of architecture need to admit that we are workers. We are part of a global labor force fighting for and deserving fair pay, legal benefits, regulated hours, and termination policies. We need to stop giving away free labor.

In order to retrain our graduates, we need to convince them of their value. Those of us who teach must stop being proud of our students’ all-nighters doing our pedagogical bidding. When they look for work, we need to direct them away from practices that are abusive (If not Illegal) even if avant-garde.

**WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN THE LOBBY?**

**BECAUSE THE AIA’S SCOPE IS TOO LIMITED**

First, due to a pair of federal rulings (in 1972 and 1990) saying architect’s collective discussion of fees violates the Sherman Anti-trust Act, the AIA is unable to address how architects get paid. With the key issue of pay off the table, the AIA limits it attention to the pleasant aspects of the profession – awards and government projects. The Lobby wants to do more and we don’t need to be nice about. We want to challenge the Sherman Anti-trust act ruling for unfairly restricting architect’s discussion of fees while ignoring other professionals like lawyers.

Second, the AIA only represents registered architects, and of those only the 50% that are AIA members. The Lobby works for all architectural workers: registered/unregistered.

And third, we don’t cost anything! We don’t spend .... on national meetings that shuffle the deck chairs on the Titanic.

**BECAUSE IT’S TIME TO GET ORGANIZED**

The Lobby believes we can form a union (literal or social) shaped more by our common desire to be more affective vis-a-vis developers and contractors and less by our competition with one another.

**BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IS BOTH BOTTOM-UP AND TOP-DOWN**

From the top, we need to change the mindset of practitioners who feel it is acceptable to charge less than their expertise and time deserves just to get a job. From the bottom, fresh labor entering the profession should refuse jobs that pay less than their expertise and education deserves.

**BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IS BOTH ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL**

We need to make more money and we need to adjust, for ourselves and the public, our image. We need rebranding. We need to work on this ourselves and we need to work on the media to recognize and support that change.

**BECAUSE WE NEED A BETTER SUPPORT SYSTEM**

While we work toward solutions to the precarious nature of our profession, we need to develop a system of support that ameliorates it. What would an organization be that operates a work exchange offering positions to staff who are temporarily laid off when a project is delayed? That offers practitioners an alternative to firing staff they have trained, nurtured and come to rely on? That offers structures supporting maternity and paternity leave?

**BECAUSE ARCHITECTS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD BEYOND DESIGN**

We believe that until we identify as workers, cultural or otherwise, we won’t identify with other workers. And if we don’t identify with other workers, we don’t have a social mission.

---

Please contact us at info@architecture-lobby.org

visit us at www.architecture-lobby.org
On June 27, 2014, Peggy Deamer and Quilian Riano (below), members of the Architecture Lobby, read the manifesto at the AIA National convention in Chicago. The action was to signal to the AIA that they need to address the issues of unfair fees, pay, benefits, and hours under which the profession operates. The officials at the AIA escorted them out.

On June 7, 2014, Manuel Schvarzberg and Yolanda Daniels (above), members of the Architecture Lobby, read the manifesto at the entry to the Giardini at the Venice Architecture Biennale. The action was meant to alert visitors to the international pavilions that architecture is not just formally, historically, or nationally determined, but, rather, contextualized by the labor conditions under which it is produced, conditions that bind us internationally. The action was an echo of the 1968 protests that closed many of the art pavilions that year.

The Architecture Lobby's third public action took place July 17, 2014 in New York City's Ronald Feldman Gallery. The gallery was staging Labor Intensive, an exhibition that displayed art works devoted to the issue of labor that expands the defined role it plays in our individual lives and society. The exhibition featured artists including Eleanor Antin, Odilie Atkinson, Joseph Beuys, Heather Cassils, Nancy Chunn, Christine Hill, Simone Jones, Komar & Melamid, Maria Laderman Ukeles, and Hannah Wilke. All the work in the show approached labor from different viewpoints, but highlighted its beauty and dignity and its potential to be a powerful force for change. Two members of the Lobby read its labor manifesto to a supportive audience of art lovers, passersby, and friends. By popular request the manifesto was read a second time to a cheering audience in front of a poster pant drawing that read "the art of living consists of reconciling ones nature with ones work."
In a recent Architecture Lobby Survey taken by 236 architectural professionals...

### 37% report supplementing their income with outside work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does your firm pay overtime?</th>
<th>11%</th>
<th>43%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you do some other work outside of the office to supplement your income?
- n/a
- YES
- NO

### 51% report working one or more weekends a month in unpaid overtime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does your firm pay overtime?</th>
<th>11%</th>
<th>9%</th>
<th>17%</th>
<th>28%</th>
<th>40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How often do you work on the weekend?
- ALMOST ALWAYS
- THREE TIMES PER MONTH
- TWO TIMES PER MONTH
- ONCE PER MONTH
- RARELY

### 60% report working 45hrs a week or more a week in unpaid overtime.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does your firm pay overtime?</th>
<th>8%</th>
<th>11%</th>
<th>11%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>27%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many hours do you work per week on average?
- 70+
- 60-70
- 45-60
- 35-45
- 0-35