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1. The new National Building Regulations was launched in the latter part of 2011, stimulating a new thought process, as an aspiring architectural technologist, it would be a requirement that you become au fait with all the new rules and regulations as set out in the publication. Comparing the old and new regulations (1st year task) briefly describe some observations of changes brought about in SANS 10400A2010.

The regulations have introduced a whole new set of compliances to meet for energy usage and method of construction. Together with this, a whole new section on sustainability has been introduced, XA.

It is stated that a least an average of 50% of buildings heated water must come from a source other than conventional electric systems. Systems such as: solar heaters or heat recovery systems. The roof must now also have fitted roof insulation where as in the old regulations it was not a must.

The new maximum riser height of a stair is 175mm where the old height was 200mm.

When giving the windows specs, it is required to give the windows r-value as well as the specs of the mullions. Luckily some of the window companies have started to update their specs on their websites all ready so one can just read it from the manufacturer. The total amount of glass per wall % allowed has decreased from the old regulations

2. In your own words, describe the role of the architect, with regards to duties and responsibilities.

Apart from being the creator and designer of the building, the architect is the co-coordinator of information. The post office of the industry. They work with the client, acting as a building agent. Making their needs and requirements possible and functional, guiding them into what they really want.

Of course, it is also the architect's responsibility to draw up the construction plans after the inception of the building, making sure that all buildings requirements are met.

3. What is understood by the following terms:

a. Tender Documents

The tender document is written document sent to contractors and suppliers which would be capable to render the required service. They then reply to this with cost & time estimates. The client then chooses on the preferred contractor/sub-contractor

.b. Bills of Quantities.

This is a document compiled by the quantity surveyor after receiving a set of drawings which incorporate the total calculated estimated cost of the building with reference to materials & labour. Some important design decisions are made after the bill of quantities has been drafted up. The bill is used to discuss with the client why the building cost what it costs.

c. Signing of Contracts.

The signing of contracts is critical. The contractor and all relevant parties sign contracts where in they agree to the construction period and the agreed fees.

An up to date paper trail is one of the most important aspects of architecture. It is of outmost importance because when something goes wrong, the architect is one of the first to be blamed and when one cannot provide proof it is quite a dilemma.