

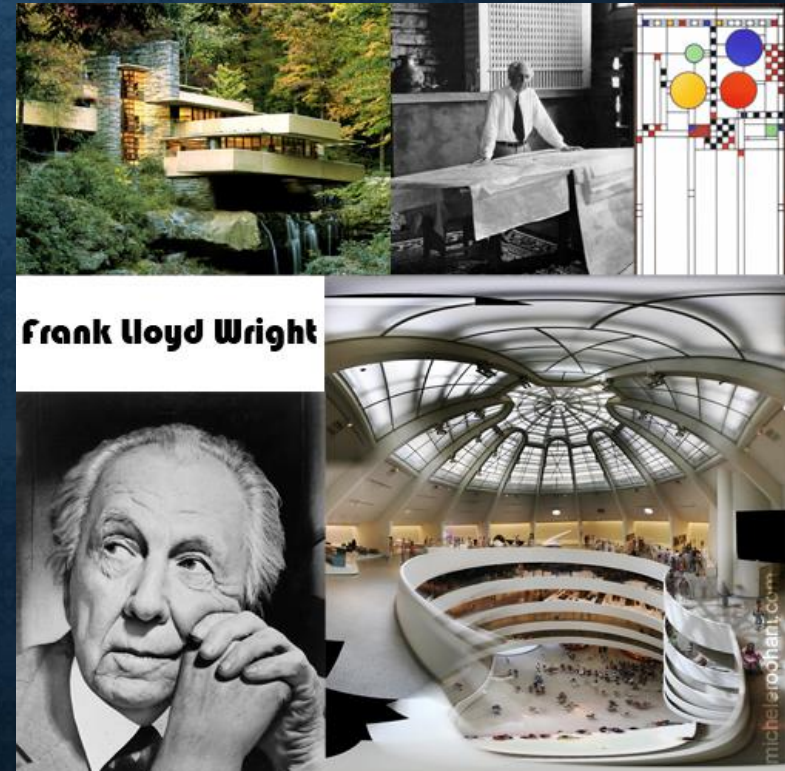
# WHAT MAKES AN ARCHITECT SUCCESS

SBS 2000- Research Methods

Jin Chen

Prof. S. MacDonald

Prof. D. Her



# WHY STUDYING THIS TOPIC?

- To reveal mysterious architect occupation
- Better understanding practical architecture office management
- Set up goals for students
- Set up study guild line



# DEFINITION OF ARCHITECT OCCUPATION

- Dictionary definition.: a person who designs buildings and advises in their construction
- National Council of Architectural Registration Boards: Additionally, architects may be involved with designing the total built environment—from how a building integrates with its surrounding landscape to architectural or construction details that involve the interior of the building to designing and creating furniture to be used in a specific space.“
- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada: Architects serve as trusted advisors, their role is holistic, blending diverse requirements and disciplines in a creative process, while serving the public interest and addressing health and safety matters.“

# PRECEDENTS

- Article "Architect Alvar Aalto Excelled By Design Focus On Form: Finnish master's eye for detail made him one of the world's premier architects" says architect need to work well on the **detail design**.
- Article "So you want to be an architect: you'll need **design skills** and **artistic flair**, plus the **ability to deliver on budget**." Near, Robert says architect is a "problem solver", it requires architect to be able to design complicated **details drawing**, and **socializing skills**.

# PRECEDENTS

- Article, “Hire architect with skills in kind of design needed” the author says architect mainly work in three main categories:
  - \* Architects **save money** by designing buildings to be efficient and economical;
  - \* Architects can **guide** the whole design and construction process because of their education, training and experience; and
  - \* Architects can **sort through building codes and zoning laws** as well as locate qualified contractors.
- The book “Architect’s essentials of presentation skills” by David Greusel emphasizes the importance of **presentation skill**, because at most time architects (right brain thinker) assume that their drawings can talk by itself; however, most clients (typically left brain thinker) prefer verbal and analytical explanation.

# RESEARCH METHODS

- Qualitative- focus group interview
- Quantitative- survey

# FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW DESIGN

1. Target group: architecture students
2. Set up interview questions: focus on what kind of skills they learned in school, and what they think of to work at an architecture office.
3. Interview and recording.
4. Aggregating the data from focus group using correlation analysis method:
  - count for the key phrases mentioned during interview. (i.e. computer software skills, artistic flair)
5. Identifying correlations between variables
6. Operationalizing variables- give definitions to key phrases

# FOCUS GROUP INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why you choose architecture major?
2. What occupation do you want to be after you finish school education?
3. What do you think of to be an architect?
4. Talk about some positive learning experience in City Tech?
5. What classes do you think are useful, why?
6. Which class do you like best, why?
7. What kind of skills that you have learned from City Tech? Are they useful? How it apply to your path to achieve the goal in the future?
8. Do you have any suggestion on our school curriculum or school system?



# SURVEY DESIGN

1. Target group: registered architects, college professors work in architecture field for years.
2. Set up survey questionnaire: use data collected from focus group interview, design questions using nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio scales.
3. Survey process.
4. Aggregating the data:
  - count for the number of skills been checked.
5. Identifying correlations between variables

# SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

What are the essential skills that make an architect success? (can choose multiple answers)

1. Technical Skills

- a. Software skills. (Auto CAD, 3ds Max, Revit, Photoshop ...)
- b. Construction knowledge. ( construction detail ...)
- c. Physical model making skill
- d. Machine/tool operation skills (printers, scanners ... )
- e. Structure knowledge (steel frame work ... )
- f. Others\_\_\_\_\_

2. Communication Skills

- a. Team work communication
- b. Negotiation skill with client
- c. Negotiation skill with developer
- d. Negotiation skill with officials (city agents...)
- e. Presentation skill
- f. Writing skills
- g. Others\_\_\_\_\_

3. Design Skills

- a. graphic design skill
- b. Innovation design skill
- c. Positive design skill
- d. Technical design skill
- e. Others\_\_\_\_\_

4. Regulation knowledge

- a. Zoning regulation
- b. Building code
- c. Local law (ADA.... )
- d. Others\_\_\_\_\_

5. Exploration skill

- a. Architecture history
- b. Analysis skill (case study ... )
- c. Foresight (future visualizing ... )
- d. Others\_\_\_\_\_

6. How do you think working experience is important?

- a. Very important
- b. Important
- c. Neutral
- d. Not important
- e. No needed

7. Do you like to provide internship for college students?

- a. Very likely
- b. Likely
- c. Neutral
- d. Maybe
- e. No

8. If you hire someone to work with you, what do you consider most?

- a. Technical skills
- b. Personality
- c. Working experience
- d. Portfolio
- e. Others\_\_\_\_\_

9. How are you satisfied with school education system?

- a. Very satisfied
- b. Satisfied
- c. Neutral
- d. unsatisfied
- e. very unsatisfied

# CONCLUSION

- Analyze the data differences gathered from focus group interview and survey research.
- Found out the gap between school education and real working experiences.

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

<http://micheleroohani.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/frank-lloyd-wright-falling-water-guggenheim-michele-roohani-desing.jpg>

<http://architecture.about.com/cs/buildyourhouse/g/architect.htm>

<http://www.prwatch.org/files/images/confused-character.jpg>