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To apply to states for registration, most require prior accreditation of one's architectural degree by the National Association of Accreditation Boards. Although NAAB has, to date, not accredited any Canadian degrees, there are strong indications that they will do so by the end of 1987.

There is no uniform code of ethics in the U.S.

Unlike in Canada, there is no uniform code of ethics covering the practice of architecture in the U.S. Although such codes of conduct are virtually universal in Canada, in the U.S., two sets of recommended codes exist. NCARB has a set of "Rules of Conduct" which is not binding on a state board. In addition, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has a code of ethics. It governs the conduct only of those individuals who are members of the AIA (approximately 75% of American architects). Since membership in the AIA is not a requirement for state registration and practice, individuals found guilty of professional misconduct by the AIA, and not by a state, could continue to practice.

Enforcement lies with the state governments who are often reluctant to prosecute for professional misconduct.

In the United States, the responsibility for enforcing professional conduct is left in the hands of state attorneys-general (ie. the profession is not self-governing). According to senior administrators of the AIA, it seems that, since the attorneys-general are elected officials - and since professional misconduct cases do not carry a high profile - there is little motivation to prosecute and enforce state rules of conduct.

RAIC and AIA are working on an Accord on Professionalism.

In an effort to address ethical concerns, the RAIC and AIA are negotiating an Accord on Professionalism that will set forth the principles that should govern the practice of architecture in both countries. It is expected that these principles will be reflected in regulation of architectural practice at the state level.

Although there are difficulties, there are many market opportunities. Several Canadian firms are succeeding admirably.

Although the above-noted factors may appear daunting, so also is the size, scale and excitement of the U.S. market. Several Canadian firms have found ways to mitigate or otherwise deal with these constraints and have considerably expanded their practices and professional interests.