

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Joint Strategic Plan on intellectual property  
**Date:** Monday, March 22, 2010 2:52:35 PM

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Dear Madam,

ASMP, AIA-Vermont, and the Copyright Alliance have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as an Architect.

As with Photographers, Architects produce designs as instruments of service to our clients as a way to earn a living. These designs are by nature specific to the client, whether a homeowner or commercial corporation, and to the place and time of construction. Architects are also licensed in all States to maintain standards in the design of buildings for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Plagiarism of architectural designs may lead to unforeseen results with respect to the health, safety and welfare of the building occupants if a design is copied, adapted or re-purposed by parties who do not understand the technical basis of the design they have stolen.

All artists derive inspiration from their predecessors and colleagues, and so we need clarity in distinguishing inspiration from plagiarism and theft, and a reasonable timescale for the passage of copyrighted material into the public domain.

If a copyrighted song is stolen once by pirate recording, the musician and recording company lose a few dollars each, whereas if a copyrighted design is stolen by misappropriation of plans or other means the loss to the Architect and all the other technical professionals in the design team may run into many thousands. The advantage to the perpetrator of saving this amount are typically greatly outweighed by the damage to the victims, who serve the country as a whole by keeping up to date with codes and standards and endeavoring to export their services to many parts of the world.

Please proceed with care and with justice.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Robert Buchan AIA, CSI  
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[REDACTED]