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Perception of the architect as a profession of public trust in Poland

Abstract

Since the establishment of the professional self-government of architects, the profession of architect-designer has evolved into a profession of public trust. This paper presents three perspectives of this perception – the legal perspective, the public opinion perspective and the perspective of the architects themselves. The aim of the research was to identify the specifics and perceptions of the profession of public trust in regard to architects. The research methodology used was based on literature studies, analysis of legal sources and case law, interpretation of data from public opinion survey reports, and original quantitative and qualitative social surveys of architects. The research showed that the former two perspectives on the perception of the profession are fairly convergent. It was found in the survey of architects that practising a profession of public trust has already become part of their professional identity. However, the position of architects compared to other professions of public trust leaves much to be desired – hence the importance of building a favourable image of the profession and regulating it more comprehensively.

Key words: profession of public trust, professional body, architects' profession

Introduction

Practising the architectural profession is subject to specific conditions resulting from culture, custom or the law in force. In many countries, the profession is regulated. In Poland, the profession of architect-designer is not only regulated, but it also belongs to a limited group of professions of public trust by virtue of law. Thus, for nearly a quarter of a century, it has been associated with the functioning of the professional self-government (Izba Architektów Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej – IARP [The Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland]), which supervises the practice of the profession¹. Over the last two decades, the functioning of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust has enabled an analysis of its perception from the perspective of various interested parties.

The concept of a profession of public trust is neither clearly defined nor well-established in public awareness. Additionally, its specificity varies between professions – its meaning differs in the case of such professions as a doctor, a lawyer and an architect. The following study aims to identify the specificity and perception of the profession of public trust regarding architects. The thesis of the work is that practising a profession of public trust can be seen as an element of architects' professional identity.

This article presents three perspectives on the perception of the architectural profession. Firstly, the legal perspective, under which legal provisions for practising professions of public trust are analysed with reference to architects. Secondly, the public opinion perspective; based on the results of social surveys, features that define the profession of public trust were distinguished and the perception of the architect's profession in comparison with other occupations was presented. Thirdly, the opinion of the architects themselves; based on original research by the author, the architects' perception of the practice of the profession of public trust has been presented. Finally, a comparative analysis of the attributes of a profession of public trust arising from the above three perspectives has been made and conclusions have been drawn.

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¹ The establishment of the statutorily obliged professional self-government was intended to establish rules of professional ethics and to supervise their observance. It represents a clear temporal caesura in this case. For nearly a century, the profession was regulated by the public administration only in terms of building qualifications.

State of research

A significant part of the state of research consists of literature on professions of public trust related to law-making and law commentary. It consists, inter alia, of post-conference materials published by the Polish Senate Publishing House entitled *Zawody zaufania publicznego a interes publiczny – korporacyjna reglamentacja versus wolność wykonywania zawodu* [The professions of public trust and the public interest – corporate rationing versus freedom of practice] (Legat, Lipińska 2002), and a thematic study by Biuro Analiz i Dokumentacji Kancelarii Senatu [Office of Analysis and Documentation of the Senate Chancellery] (Biuro Analiz i Dokumentacji Kancelarii Senatu, Krasnowolski 2013). An article by Joanna Smarż (2012) is devoted to the legal aspects of defining the concept of a profession of public trust. Magdalena Wólkowska (2018; 2024) described the juridical perspective with regard to the profession of an architect. Marta Woźniak (2023) presented an overview publication on the notion of public interest (inextricably

linked to any profession of public trust) in a spatial context. Few popular science publications, by architects, on the practice of a profession of public trust appear in architectural periodicals; among them, Piotr Zbierajewski presented a subjective critical account (2023). The state of research is supplemented by reports of public opinion surveys regarding professions of public trust (CBOS 2004; *Zawody zaufania...* 2008) and on architects themselves (CBOS 2014). The review of the state of research indicates a gap in scientifically detailed research on the practice of a profession of public trust by architects (in terms of qualifications, competencies, norms of professional deontology, regulation and image of the profession).

Methods

The research methodology has been adjusted to the type of research – a chart presenting the course of the research process with a description of the main data sources, research methods and objectives is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Diagram of the research process with a description of the methods applied (elaborated by R. Idem)
Tabela 1. Schemat przebiegu procesu badawczego z opisem zastosowanych metod (oprac. R. Idem)

Analysis element	Main data sources	Research methods	Goals
The law	(Konstytucja... 1997; Ustawa o samorządach zawodowych... 2001; Ustawa o ułatwieniu dostępu... 2014; Wyrok Trybunału... 2015)	literature review, analysis of legal sources and case-law	synthesis of the features that describe the legal aspect regarding the practice of a profession of public trust, reference to the profession of architect
Public opinion	social opinion survey reports (CBOS 2004; 2014; <i>Zawody zaufania...</i> 2008)	analytical interpretation of data	synthesis of analyses of public opinion surveys regarding the perception of professions of public trust and architects
Opinion of the architectural community	social survey of architects*	–	identification of the perception of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust
–	– quantitative surveys	online surveys (<i>n</i> = 1006)	
–	– qualitative research	in-depth interviews (<i>n</i> = 15)	identifying the dimensions of the perception of the profession as a profession of public trust

* They were performed as part of the author's original broader study entitled *Postawy architektów wobec skodyfikowanych norm etyki zawodowej* [Attitudes of architects toward codified standards of professional ethics], the results of which have not been published before (Brosz 2018). Information about the study:

– The purpose of the study was to measure the attitudes of representatives of the professional group of architects towards codified ethical norms in the form of Kodeks Etyki Zawodowej Architektów [The Code of Professional Ethics of Architects], and to explore other spheres of professional activity in terms of the ethical dimension.

– Problems – the main issues: 1) attitude to the norms included Kodeks Etyki Zawodowej Architektów [The Code of Professional Ethics of Architects], 2) sense of connection with the professional community, 3) perception of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust, 4) copyright in the perception of architects, 5) competition activity.

– Person responsible: Robert Idem, data processing and report writing: Maciej Brosz.

– Implementation of field work: May–July 2018.

– Methodology/Method/Sampling: 1. A quantitative survey was conducted using an online survey method, the selection of respondents was purposive based on the operative of the members of The Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland. Access to the survey based on the internet link provided to members of The Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland via an email letter sent by The Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland authorities to each member. 2. A qualitative study was conducted using the method of individual in-depth interview. Selection of respondents – purposive. The purpose of the qualitative study was to identify and deepen the contexts and problem areas surrounding the main issues of concern.

– Research tool: 1. A quantitative survey: an online questionnaire on the limesurvey.org platform, with a high level of standardization, including 22 questions, of which 21 were closed, 1 open, 4 metrics, 3 scalograms. 2. A qualitative study: individual in-depth interview based on dispositions, covering 5 thematic issues.

– Respondent: licensed architect, member of The Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland.

– Sample size: quantitative survey *n* = 1006, qualitative survey *n* = 15.

The results of the work are presented in the next parts of the article in which perspectives on the perception of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust are described. These include the legal perspective, public opinion and the architectural community perspective. The conclusions provide a comparative analysis.

Results

Legal perspective

The concept of the profession of public trust first emerged in 1997 in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. Article 17.1 of the Basic Law stipulates that [...] *by means of a statute, self-governments may be created within a profession in which the public repose confidence, and such self-governments shall concern themselves with the proper practice of such professions in accordance with, and for the purpose of protecting, the public interest* (Konstytucja 1997). This provision is found in Chapter I, concerning the principal rules of the political system, which testifies to the rank of professional self-governments as one of the institutions of a democratic state of law.

The Constitution uses the term “profession of public trust”, but does not define this term; neither do other laws. With no detailed considerations of the definition of this notion (cf. Legat, Lipińska 2002; Smarż 2012), it has been assumed for the purposes of further considerations, following Waldemar Wołpiuk, that [...] *the constitutional legislator, while establishing regulations in which extra-legal notions are used intentionally, a priori assumes that their meaning will be clarified in the mode of application of the Constitution and in the mode of jurisprudence* (Wołpiuk 2002, 132).

Kazimierz Ferenc (2011) noted that the public interest, that is care for spatial order, has been referred to as an argument for the establishment of the self-government of architects. As Marta Woźniak observed, the notion of public interest belongs to vague terms and is included in the category of vague general clauses (yet, on the grounds of planning and spatial development law, it has its legal definition that limits this vagueness). However, the [...] *permanent state of tension between the public interest and property rights* [...] is observable (Woźniak 2023, 87)².

In 2001, the Act on the Professional Self-government of Architects, Civil Engineers and Urban Planners (Ustawa o samorządach zawodowych... 2001) came into force. Thereby, the architectural profession is among the few occupations with statutorily established professional self-government. In general, these self-governments can be classified into four groups representing the professions:

- legal (e.g., advocates, legal advisers, notaries),
- medical and related professions (doctors, veterinary surgeons, pharmacists, nurses and mid-wives),
- business-related (expert auditors, tax advisers, patent attorneys),
- technical – architects, construction engineers (cf. Waligórski, Pawłowski 2005).

The statutory confirmation of the status of a profession of public trust through the establishment of professional self-government is far from certain and unchangeable. Already in 2004, the draft of the Act on Professions of Public Trust and amendments to certain acts thereof did not include the profession of architect (Taczewski 2024). In 2014, on the basis of the so-called Deregulation Act, the professional self-government of urban planners was repealed (Ustawa o ułatwieniu dostępu... 2014). Furthermore, the Constitutional Court considering the constitutionality of this law ruled that the profession of urban planner bears no characteristics of a profession of public trust³.

In the same judgment, the Constitutional Court approved the previous case law on how the concept of a profession of public trust should be understood and; taking into account the views expressed in the legal doctrine, the Court assumed that the features of such a profession include:

a) *the need to ensure that the profession is properly exercised in a manner that remains consistent with the public interest* [...],

b) *the provision of benefits and the fact that the members of the profession in question come into contact with individuals in the event of a potential or actual threat to specific goods (e.g., life, health, freedom, dignity, reputation),*

c) *the diligence and care of the representatives of the professions in question for the interests of the individuals who use their services, concern for the personal needs of such individuals, as well as ensuring the protection of the subjective rights of individuals guaranteed by the Constitution,*

d) *the requirement of specific qualifications for exercising the professions in question; this includes not only the relevant formal education but also the experience acquired and the provision of warranties for the proper exercise of the profession in accordance with the public interest, taking into account the specific norms of professional deontology,*

e) *the acquisition of information concerning the personal and private life of individuals who use the services provided by members of a profession of public trust; such information constitutes professional secrecy and may be exempted from that secrecy under the conditions specified in the rules of law* [...],

f) *relative independence in the exercise of the profession* [trans. by the author] (Wyrok Trybunału Konstytucyjnego 2015, 15).

² The Act on Spatial Planning and Development in Article 2 defines the terms: public interest ([...] *it should be understood as a generalized goal of aspirations and activities, taking into account the objectified needs of the general public or local communities, related to spatial development*); and spatial order ([...] *it should be understood as such shaping of space that creates a harmonious whole and takes into account all functional, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, as well as compositional and aesthetic conditions and requirements in orderly relations*) (Ustawa o planowaniu i zagospodarowaniu przestrzennym 2003).

³ Judgment of the Constitutional Court of March 24, 2015. (Ref. K 19/14): *As a result of the activities of urban planners, as a general rule, the individualized well-being of individuals is not threatened* [...]. *Direct relations or special ties between urban planners and individuals are lacking. Even if an urban planner [...] has access to information regarding the private lives of individuals, it is not essential for the formation of architectural and spatial order* (Wyrok Trybunału Konstytucyjnego 2015).

The concept of a profession of public trust generally refers to a profession exercised rather than learned. However, while in the case of, e.g., a lawyer (a Master of Laws) and an advocate, a clear distinction can be made between a practised and a learned profession, it is not obvious with regard to architects. The “architect” title is not legally protected in Poland. The professional self-government (IARP), by virtue of the regulations, unites a small fraction of architects in total – only those who practice the profession of a designer (those who hold building qualifications and perform independent technical functions in construction)⁴. On the other hand, also by virtue of the law, it does include non-architects (persons with related education, holding a construction license for design in the architectural specialization to a limited extent). The lack of legal protection of the “architect” and the confusion as to who belongs to the IARP may cause consternation in the public perception.

Certain features link the concept of a profession of public trust with the concepts of a liberal profession, a regulated profession and a sectoral profession. The concept of a liberal profession is of the oldest tradition and lacks a legal definition; it is associated with practising a profession on the basis of appropriate training, independently, under one’s own responsibility, offering intellectual or conceptual services, in the interest of the client or the public (Biuro Analiz i Dokumentacji Kancelarii Senatu, Krasnowolski 2013). Regulated professions, on the other hand, include those that require the fulfilment of certain conditions (in the form of qualifications or licences) in order to practice them. Several hundred regulated professions can be identified in Poland. With regard to the profession of an architect, this refers to the legally regulated standard of education that prepares for the practice of the profession and for the performance of independent technical functions in construction. On the other hand, sectoral professions are those in relation to which the regulations provide for the recognition of qualifications acquired in particular countries of the European Union (this applies to a narrow group of professions: architects, pharmacists, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, nurses and midwives).

It is worth remarking, following Wólkowska, that the regulation of the architectural profession is fragmented and incomplete (especially in terms of who has the right to practice it). Among the sectoral professions, only architects have no act regulating the profession. It is only the functioning of the self-government and recognition of qualifications that are regulated. Therefore, an opportunity for the appropriate establishment of the profession is seen in the adoption of the *Act on the architectural profession*, for which the self-government has been striving for years. It is to specify the elements that formally regulate the individual professions, i.e., the required qualifications, protection of

the professional title, or the forms and principles of exercising the profession (Wólkowska 2024).

Public opinion perspective

According to public opinion surveys on the professions of public trust (CBOS 2004), people in these professions should:

- be characterised by irreproachable moral and ethical attitudes,
- provide high-quality services,
- be obliged to observe professional secrecy,
- practise a profession of importance to the society as a whole,
- have completed a prior professional apprenticeship or internship (as a condition for obtaining the professional licence),
- have a special relationship of trust with the client.

Compliance with the above statements was indicated here by 96% to 79% of the respondents. In public opinion, mandatory membership of a professional corporation was not an immanent feature of the professions. The majority was also in favour of the postulate to limit the competencies of professional self-governments on behalf of independent ethics committees, namely in terms of deciding on admission to the profession and controlling its practice in favour of governmental bodies, and in terms of defining the rules of professional deontology.

The above-indicated obligations describing the social definition of a profession of public trust were confirmed in a study *Zawody zaufania publicznego w świadomości Polaków* [Professions of public trust in the awareness of Poles], prepared for The Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers by Pentor Research International S.A (Zawody zaufania... 2008). According to the majority of respondents, representatives of these professions should:

- be characterised by irreproachable moral and ethical attitudes,
- be obliged to comply with statutory regulations and the code of professional ethics,
- provide high-quality services
- be committed to professional secrecy,
- perform work of major importance to society,
- be subject to verification of their skills (at the completion of their education and during their profession).

Compliance with the above statements was indicated here by 89% to 73% of the respondents. Additionally, the study revealed that:

- awareness of professions of public trust was low – one in three respondents had no associations with the term; among the professions most frequently associated spontaneously with professions of public trust, doctors, policemen, judges, teachers, advocates and lawyers were mentioned – meanwhile, among them, only doctors, judges and advocates are professions of public trust; the results of the survey placed architects among the little-known professions of public trust (it was spontaneously indicated by only 2% of the respondents, alongside civil engineers with a result of 3%);
- the social esteem for architects as a profession of public trust was average – it was held in high or very high esteem

⁴ There are currently several thousand members of The Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland, while the number of qualified architects is several times greater. The Chamber does not bring together architects who do not hold building qualifications, nor those who hold qualifications but wish not to belong to the Chamber, nor architects-urban planners, landscape architects or interior designers.

by 40% of Poles (civil engineers – 41%, urban planners – 27%); greater esteem was enjoyed by the medical professions (doctors, pharmacists and pharmacists, nurses and midwives – over 60%) and the majority of the legal professions (judges, solicitors, notaries, legal advisers – between 60% and 45%);

– architects belonged to the group of occupations whose recognition as a profession of public trust was relatively rare (support of 48%, similar to that for civil engineers; less legitimacy was given to urban planners – 38%); greater social legitimacy of public trust status was enjoyed by medical professions (doctors, nurses and midwives, pharmacists and chemists – from 88% to 70%), and legal professions (judges, lawyers, notaries, legal advisers – from 87% to 75%).

Additional information about the public perception of the profession was provided by the results of the public opinion survey *Polacy o architektach* [Poles about architects] (CBOS 2014). According to the results, the percentage of people using the services of an architect stood at as low as 20%. Respect for the profession was higher among those who use its services (68%) than those who do not (55%). Almost half of the respondents agreed with the opinion that architects are generally reliable and honest, and are concerned with delivering their work for the benefit of others – at the same time, 38% of respondents shared the opinion that they use their knowledge and acquaintances mainly for mercantile purposes. The aesthetics of Polish cities were accepted by 67% of respondents – at the same time, it was indicated that the appearance of urban areas is mainly influenced by local authorities (55%); only 11% of respondents indicated architects in this case. Respondents most often associated the architectural profession with a craftsman who designs buildings, a specialist responsible for the technical side of buildings, or a draftsman. Applying the results of these surveys to the present considerations, due to the weak link between associations with competence and care for the public interest, these surveys basically confirm the previously mentioned unfavourable social assessment of the architectural profession in the context of exercising a profession of public trust.

The perspective of the architectural community (IARP architects)

In the architectural community, the prevailing belief is that their profession is a profession of public trust (Fig. 1). When asked about the perception of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust, the vast majority – two-thirds (67.6%) of respondents provided an affirmative answer, in-

cluding a total of “definitely yes” and “rather yes” answers. The largest group of respondents, accounting for 39.9%, is definitely convinced of this fact (“definitely yes” answer).

The perception of the professional activity performed in terms of public trust is not influenced by the demographic variables included in the survey (gender, age, nature of the professional function), except the territorial scope of the activity performed. As visible in Table 2 below, the percentage of affirmative responses is higher among respondents whose professional practice extends beyond the local, voivodeship extent. Thus, the highest percentage was noted among architects declaring their practice to be nationwide (72.9%), and a slightly lower percentage was observed among those who considered their practice to be nationwide and international in scope (69.7%).

Respondents who replied in the affirmative to the question concerning the perception of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust were asked two additional questions. The first question concerned the perception of ethical obligations that result from such a profession, and the second question addressed any potential experience of difficulties in the implementation of such obligations.

The existence of ethical obligations arising from the recognition of the fact that architects are a profession of public trust was noted by almost all respondents (Fig. 2). It can, therefore, be concluded that ethical motives are closely associated with the concept of a profession of public trust. In this case, these obligations will be of a particular kind.

While the distribution of responses to the question on ethical obligations is almost uniform in form, this is no longer the case when it comes to experiencing difficulties in fulfilling ethical obligations. Nearly a third of the respondents

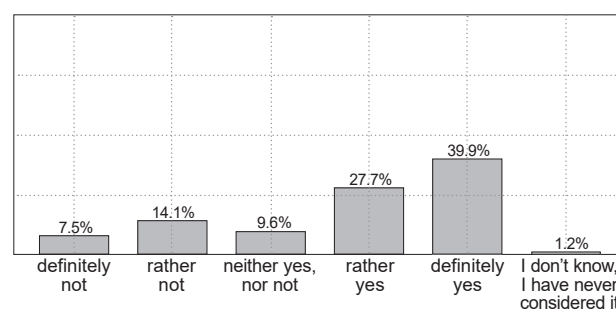


Fig. 1. Sense of exercising a profession of public trust among architects ($n = 1006$) (elaborated by M. Brosz)

Il. 1. Poczucie wykonywania zawodu zaufania publicznego wśród architektów ($n = 1006$) (oprac. M. Brosz)

Table 2. Perception of the profession of public trust compared to the scope of professional activity of architects ($n = 1006$) (elaborated by M. Brosz)
Tabela 2. Poczucie wykonywania zawodu zaufania publicznego na tle zasięgu działalności zawodowej architektów ($n = 1006$) (oprac. M. Brosz)

Scope of activity \ Answer	Definitely not, rather not [%]	Neither no, neither yes [%]	Rather yes, definitely yes [%]
Social, voivodeship	24.2	11.8	64.0
Nationwide scope	17.8	9.3	72.9
Nationwide and international scope	24.3	5.9	69.7

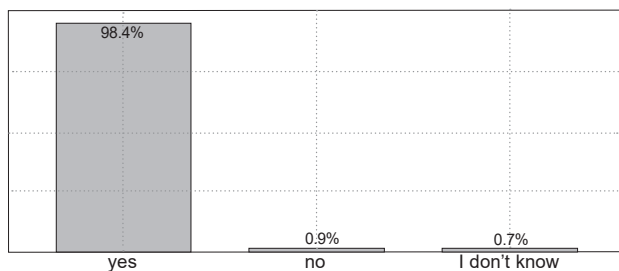


Fig. 2. Architects' perception of the existence of ethical obligations resulting from the recognition of architects as a profession of public trust ($n = 680$) (elaborated by M. Brosz)

II. 2. Dostrzeganie przez architektów istnienia zobowiązań etycznych wynikających z uznania faktu, iż architekt to zawód zaufania publicznego ($n = 680$) (oprac. M. Brosz)

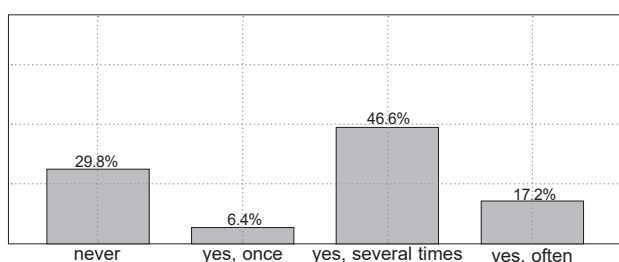


Fig. 3. Architects experiencing difficulties in fulfilling ethical obligations ($n = 680$) (elaborated by M. Brosz)

II. 3. Doświadczanie przez architektów trudności w realizacji zobowiązań etycznych ($n = 680$) (oprac. M. Brosz)

(29.8%) had never experienced difficulties. Almost half of the respondents (46.6%) had encountered difficulties of this kind several times in their professional practice. Noteworthy is the fact that the “yes, often” response was given by 17.2% of respondents (Fig. 3).

The community of respondents who experienced difficulties in fulfilling ethical obligations which accompany practising a profession of public trust constitutes a total of 70.2% of the respondents (however, it should be remembered that this percentage of persons was drawn from the community of respondents who consider the architectural profession to be a profession of public trust). The fact of experiencing difficulties in fulfilling ethical obligations remains unrelated to gender, age, professional role and scope of activity.

What are the dimensions associated with the perception of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust? What dimensions constitute this aspect of ethical attitudes in professional activity? The qualitative complementary research undertaken made it possible to transcend the limitations imposed by the standardised form of the questionnaire used in the quantitative online survey. In the opinions addressing the definition of the meaning and significance of the architectural profession as a profession of public trust, three narrative plans can be distinguished. Those relate to the spheres of (1) awareness of the role performed with emphasis on sensitivity and responsibility, (2) balancing against the interests of the stakeholders of one's activities, and (3) competence-related expectations.

The concept of a profession of public trust in the context of the activities of architects involves – or should involve – a deeply rooted awareness of the consequences of the actions taken. On the one hand, this involves a sensitivity towards the sense of quality of life of the recipients of architecture as a living context, and on the other hand, responsibility for the long-term consequences of one's actions. The actions of architects [...] *remain for years, leaving an almost historical mark, [...] which creates the risk of devastation for generations* (respondent's opinion, in: Brosz 2018, 14). In this context, it is worth remembering the individualistic tendencies of architects to leave their mark on space, [...] *the key element here is the inter-play of individual elements, [...] and in this environment, a saturation of individualists is present. One building next to another does not form a whole* (respondent's opinion, in: Brosz 2018, 15).

Respondents emphasised the importance of balancing the interests of different groups that are included in the professional sphere of architecture. Among these groups, respondents mentioned clients, investors, principals and end users, i.e., people who directly benefit from the individual developments – residents, passers-by, users of public space. According to respondents working in clerical positions, stakeholders also included petitioners/interested parties in offices where architects work. Balancing the interests of the different groups is, according to the respondents, a key issue and is directly linked to the aforesaid responsibility. *The whole trust aspect is about interacting with people and this cannot be forgotten. Designing to the dictates of the investor without consideration of the welfare of later users is, well... a disaster in this profession* (respondent's opinion, in: Brosz 2018, 15). In describing the different dimensions of the balance between stakeholders, the respondents directly included elements of *thinking about the world in architectural terms*, referring to *functional and economic design and the final architectural form* (respondent's opinion, in: Brosz 2018, 15).

The third dimension of trust inherent in the architectural professional role is related to competence expectations. Respondents uniformly spoke of expertise and knowledge of the field, [...] *trust is made very simple when the contracting party is confident that the architect knows his or her profession and, in addition, adheres to common law, construction law and professional ethics* (respondent's opinion, in: Brosz 2018, 15).

Conclusions

A comparison between the jurisprudential requirements in regard to professions of public trust, and the social expectations towards practitioners of those professions, and with the characteristics specific to the profession of public trust in regard to architects, shows no contradiction (Fig. 4).

Juridical requirements basically overlap and are complementary with social expectations; a particularly strong correlation can be seen in the area of qualifications and professional deontology standards. The architectural profession meets the legal requirements and social expectations arising from professions of public trust. The qualities indicated by architects in qualitative studies to be the sense

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Streszczenie

Postrzeganie profesji architekta jako zawodu zaufania publicznego w Polsce

Od czasu ustanowienia samorządu zawodowego architektów zawód architekta-projektanta stał się zawodem zaufania publicznego. W pracy przedstawiono trzy perspektywy jego postrzegania – perspektywę prawną, opinii społecznej oraz samych architektów. Celem badań było rozpoznanie specyfiki i postrzegania zawodu zaufania publicznego w odniesieniu do architektów. Zastosowana metodyka badań opierała się na studiach literaturowych, analizie źródeł prawa i orzecznictwa, interpretacji danych z raportów badań opinii publicznej oraz oryginalnych ilościowych i jakościowych badaniach społecznych architektów. Wykazano, że dwie pierwsze perspektywy postrzegania profesji są w miarę zbieżne, a badania przeprowadzone wśród architektów pozwoliły stwierdzić, że wykonywanie zawodu zaufania publicznego stało się już elementem ich tożsamości zawodowej. Pozycja architekta na tle innych zawodów zaufania publicznego nie jednak jest najlepsza, dlatego ważne jest budowanie dobrego wizerunku zawodu oraz jego pełniejsza regulacja.

Słowa kluczowe: zawód zaufania publicznego, samorząd zawodowy, architekt