

Exploring Architectural Ethics and Challenges for Sustainable Practices: A Qualitative Study in Bahrain*



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Abstract: *Globalization has an innumerable impact on society, irrespective of professional types. Architecture is one of them. Architectural practice, principles, and ethical perception have swiftly transitioned under the broad umbrella of globalization. Architects and architectural firms in today's world go beyond the epitome of national boundaries and work with diversified cultures. This brings us to a focal point of playing a dual role as a global citizen rather than being confined to the citizenship of the country of origin. This new role has posed a challenge to the architects to play a vital role in balancing client expectations, design ethics, local cultural values, and traditions while abiding by the local regulations in the global market, further deepening the ethical paradoxes of fair, transparent, and integrity in the profession. Hence, the purpose of this study is to investigate the moral issues and challenges posed to practitioners by the architecture profession. It aims to comprehend the synergistic impact of how ethical, cultural, social, and legal considerations influence decision-making in Bahraini architecture businesses. The study utilizes thematic analysis and in-depth interviews to collect perspectives from professionals, stakeholders, and active practitioners in the architectural field. The results will help raise ethical consciousness in architectural standards.*

Keywords: *Globalization, Ethics, Architecture, Professional Practice, Culture, Bahrain*

Sürdürülebilir Uygulamalar için Mimari Etik ve Zorlukları Keşfetmek: Bahreyn'de Niteliksel Bir Çalışma

Özet: *Küreselleşme, mesleki türlerden bağımsız olarak toplum üzerinde sayısız etkiye sahiptir. Mimarlık da bunlardan biridir. Mimari uygulama, ilkeler ve etik algı, küreselleşmenin geniş çatısı altında hızla dönüşüm geçirmiştir. Günümüz dünyasında mimarlar ve mimarlık firmaları, ulusal sınırların ötesine geçerek farklı kültürlerle çalışmaktadır. Bu da bizi, menşe ülkenin vatandaşlığıyla sınırlı kalmak yerine, küresel vatandaş olarak ikili bir rol oynamaya odaklanmamızı sağlamaktadır. Bu yeni rol, mimarlara, küresel pazarda yerel düzenlemelere uyarken, müşteri beklentileri, tasarım etiği, yerel kültürel değerler ve gelenekler arasında denge kurmada hayati bir rol oynamaları konusunda bir zorluk getirmiş ve meslekte adalet, şeffaflık ve dürüstlük gibi etik paradoksları daha da derinleştirmiştir. Bu nedenle, bu çalışmanın amacı, mimarlık mesleğinin uygulayıcılarına getirdiği ahlaki sorunları ve zorlukları araştırmaktır. Bahreyn'deki mimarlık işletmelerinde etik, kültürel, sosyal ve yasal hususların karar verme sürecini nasıl etkilediğinin sinerjik etkisini anlamayı amaçlamaktadır. Çalışma, mimarlık alanındaki profesyoneller, paydaşlar ve aktif uygulayıcıların bakış açılarını toplamak için tematik analiz ve derinlemesine görüşmelerden yararlanmaktadır. Sonuçlar, mimari standartlarda etik bilincin artırılmasına yardımcı olacaktır.*

Anahtar kelimeler: *Küreselleşme, Etik, Mimarlık, Mesleki Uygulama, Kültür, Bahreyn*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The world is rapidly progressing towards global transformation, manifesting the economic demands. The factors responsible could be market-based, consumer decisions, client behavior, world trade patterns, etc. Alternately, all the professional sectors are changing, and architecture is one of them vouching for the challenges posed; one of the main concerns is the ethical dilemma during the tenure of practice. The challenges could be beyond the boundaries of playing the dual role under the diversified social and cultural boundaries datum. The evaluation of the ethical standards of architecture should be connected to the natural moral capacity of architecture to interact with a culture. The challenges that platformed the ethical ambiguity are client management, ethical design morals, valuing local culture, transition, and adherence to the local regulatory framework. Hence, this raises an important question on how architectural professionals in practice perceive and address these ethical considerations in the landscape of Bahrain.

Recently, there has been an increase in violations of engineering offices, which sometimes require closing engineering offices and preventing violators from practicing the profession. According to the *Al-Arab International Economic Journal* (2016), violations of engineering offices require a penalty because of significant violations, such as forgery, bribery, and ignoring safety standards, which threaten the lives and property of the residents of those buildings.

Violations and errors are varied. Between offices and architects who commit such errors deliberately and with a prior intention in order to serve personal interests. And unintended that is perpetrated (by new employees/new graduates) due to ignorance of professional ethics,

The architect may make a mistake because he is not sufficiently aware of professional ethics and the extent of the consequences of his mistakes. The situation differs between an architect who commits the violation with premeditation and determination and another who commits simple mistakes out of ignorance that can be avoided through awareness and guidance at the beginning of the architect's professional journey.

Ethics in architecture signifies much more than creating structures based on urban philosophies, from the design philosophies of Jane Jacob about mixed-use, small-scale, pedestrian priority to the contradictory version of Robert Moses about the modern approach to a large-scale development, the output of this difference in the approach was evident in the lower Manhattan expressway project where it was required to wipe out the neighborhood for this project to be implemented, this is when Jacob's philosophies played a pivotal role in support of the population to cancel the project. The ideologies of both had a significant impact on the urban datum. Jacob's ethical approach emphasized community engagement, preserving the cultural heritage of the place, and keeping environmental and social justice at pace, while Moses supported a top-down approach with modernist ideas of the minor importance of historic buildings. This exemplifies how ethical intimations could be multifaceted in architectural practices [1].

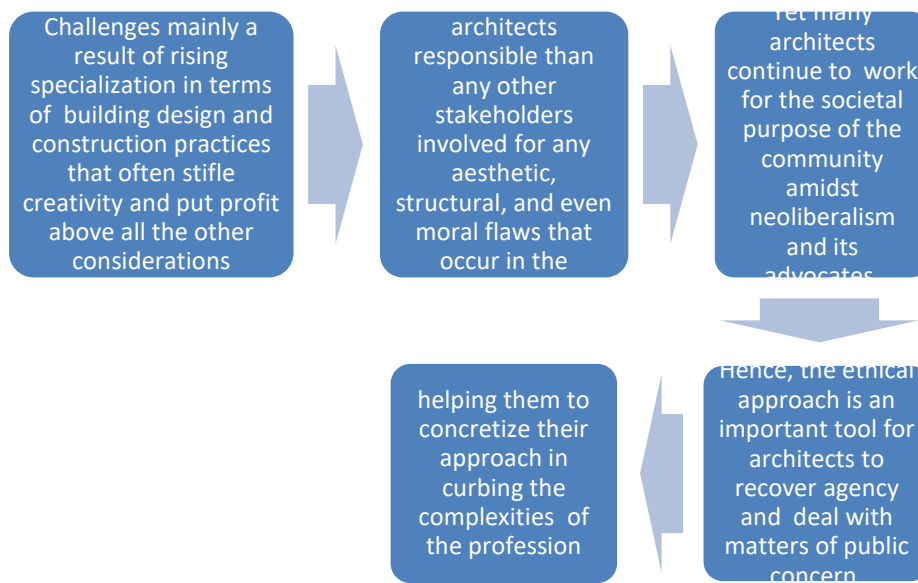


Figure 1. Scenario of the ethics problems in the architecture professional projects, Source: Author

The moral dilemmas faced in architectural design due to globalization, posed by socioeconomic inequality, require advocacy for sustainability as the top priority considering the community engagement and local context, hence ensuring suitable and pertinent designs amidst the constraints of globalization [2], hence holding architects responsible than any other stakeholders involved for any aesthetic, structural and even moral flaws that occur in the buildings, yet many architects continue to work for a societal purpose of the community amidst the neoliberalism and its advocates. Hence, the ethical approach is an essential tool for architects to recover agency and deal with matters of public concern, helping them to concretize their approach in curbing the complexities of the profession [3].

Being an architect is a challenging professional choice, acknowledging the lengthy education, training, and licensing prerequisites since architects are responsible for public health, safety, and welfare, creating a perception of knowledge and reliability. Having said that, the real-world scenario mainly depends on the customers and actual projects, yet architects must face many ethical dilemmas in the conflict between customers and sustainability practices. This is when ethical knowledge comes into consideration to balance the situation while satisfying the customer's expectations and also improving their professional image by resolving various ethical transgressions [4]. The National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB), a United States Licensing Board, emphasizes the professional dedication of architects with moral conduct and integrity in the profession, stressing the importance of safeguarding the public health, safety, and welfare under the code of morals conduct to comply with violations of the same have been disciplinary actions and penalization also advocating to nurture the interest of architects [5].

Bahrain, the study area, has a rich backdrop of heritage and culture that provides a base to explore the ethical parameters in architectural practice. The uniqueness of the Bahraini local culture and traditional dynamics, in line with globalization, opens an arena for architects to steer through these ethical considerations; comprehending these ethical challenges becomes essential for the architects in Bahrain to obtain a symbiotic built forum and socially responsible architectural practices. It is noticed that some violations resulted due to the architect's lack of awareness and experience in ethics, such as publishing pictures of designs for one of the clients without obtaining his consent or consulting, promoting a product manufactured by the company, and using it in the project without indicating that to the client in addition to failure to introduce sustainability techniques in the projects to the client... etc.

Having said that, the Civil liability of Architects in Bahrain is given the most attention by Bahraini legislators with a distinct body to govern the profession, that is CRPEP (Council of Practicing Engineering Profession), which arranges the rights and responsibilities of architects according to law No 51 for 2014 for all the engineers in Bahrain [6].

Therefore, the significance of the study came from the need for more literature in the field of impacts of the intended and unintended ethical violations in architectural offices in Bahrain. Accordingly, the study focuses on the significance of ethics for architects' professional practice. This research attempts to bridge the literary gap mentioned by focusing on new employees' most prominent mistakes in small companies. Efforts are needed to spread awareness among contemporary architects and reduce common errors by fixing this gap in understanding ethics issues.

Hence, it aims to delve into the exploration of ethical challenges and issues faced by architects in Bahrain's architectural sector as they practice their profession, to assess challenges while striving to create equilibrium between client expectations, ethical design, and domestic cultural values, to analyze the impact of local regulations and legal framework on ethical decision making and comprehend the cultural values and traditions influencing the ethical interpretation and application in Bahrain's architectural sector and to recommend ethical awareness and responsible building practices.

The study's framework is intended to understand ethics in professional practice from different points of view. It will target Bahraini construction firms to understand what ethical practices are followed and what unethical practices are. Benchmarking from various agencies will be considered. Further, the research intends to identify the missing gaps in ethical practices in Bahrain and then recommend meaningful codes to be considered by the employees and employers. Figure 2 illustrates the Framework of the Study. Figure 1 illustrates the Framework of the Study.

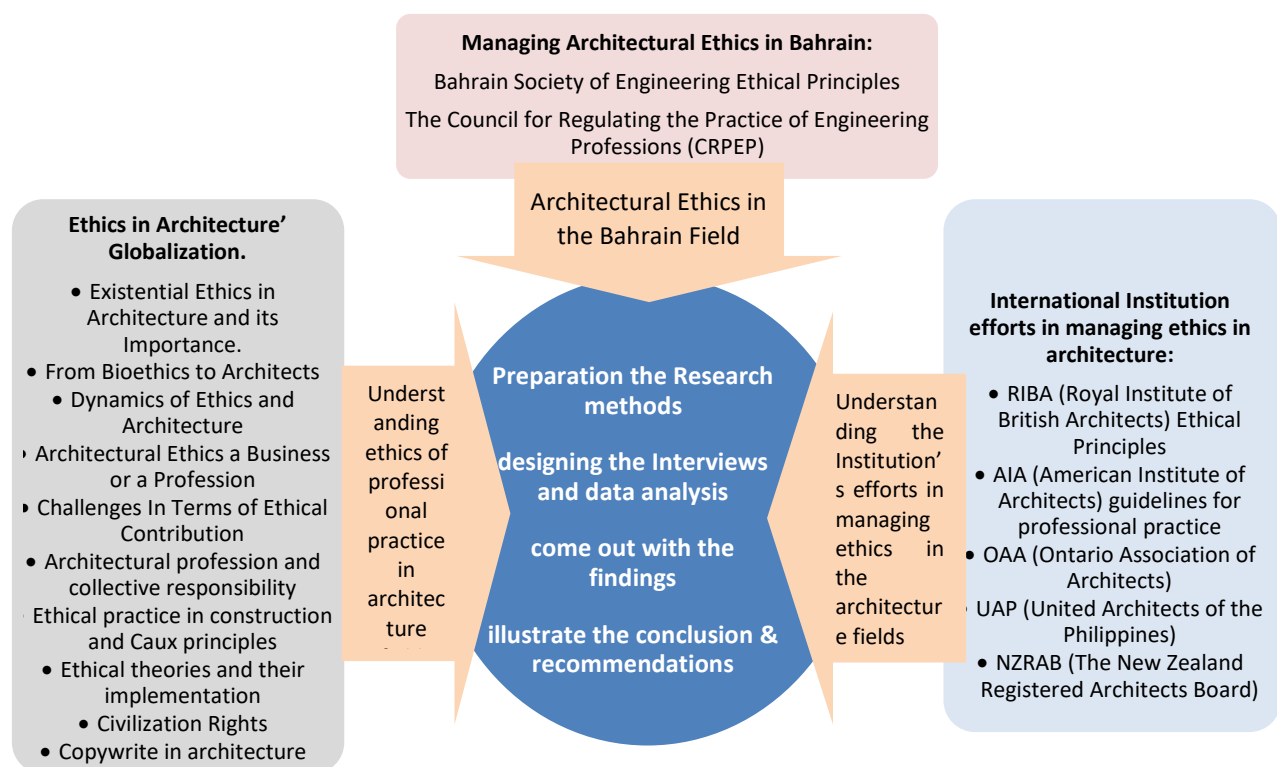


Figure 2. Flow Chart of the study. Source: Authors.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Existential Ethics in Architecture and its Importance

On the contrary, D'Anjou P (2011) argues that subjective and objective freedom is not a largely accepted platform for teaching ethical practices in architecture; he stresses Jean-Paul Sartre's philosophy of 'existentialism', emphasizing the significance of freedom of expression accompanied by their design choices. The design choices could be "Authentic" or "Inauthentic," later being the peer pressure or external views. Hence Sartre's philosophy could be an ethical structure for implementing ethical consciousness in practice. D'Anjou P (2011) further delves into Vitruvius's proposed qualities of architecture as "solidity,

functionality, and beauty”, which is the ethical responsibility of the architect to present the three virtues in the building design as well as the client relationship.

Another faceted dimension of architecture is moral values embodied through the buildings designed in the form of addressing the issue of accessibility, climate change, and racial injustice; remodeling the existing non-aligned buildings to these moral values helps lessen architectural injustice, hence demonstrating humility and possibility that future generations will question our architectural decisions.

2.2. Architectural Ethics a Business or a Profession

Carrolln (2015) elaborates on the complex relationship between architecture and ethics than any other art form. Architects as professionals have a moral duty to demonstrate integrity and prioritize the clients' well-being, which could be refraining from using inferior materials or cutting corners, resulting in structural instability. Hence, architects bear an ethical cap, ensuring their creations can adhere to anticipation challenges. In reality, an additional factor that dominates the architecture that collides is ‘commerce’, drawing it to the realm of a business and with the due moral responsibility of any business is refrain from deceiving the clients, “Potemkin villages” an age-old example of non-ethical standards. Architecture as a business, if it seems a bit off context, could be rephrased as ‘services’, where one provides, “The Architect is a provider-a provider of services-and her clients have the right to expect that their contracts and their agreements with their architects will be fulfilled, including expectations grounded in prevailing social expectations, such as that houses not fallen down” [7]. Ethics could be general regarding varying socioeconomic relations and societal expectations, opening a thought process of whether ethical architectural practice as a business or a profession.

2.3. Architectural Profession And Collective Responsibility

Sadri (2012) explores the book ‘The Rise of Professionalism’ by Magali Sarfatti and states that professionalism, irrespective of any field, is a structured attempt to establish a symbiotic relationship and preserve it against societal pressures. Social morals and legislation secure the position of professionals, which is the privileged base to avoid any intrusion. He further talks about the code of professional ethics conducted by the ‘Chamber of Architects in Turkey’, influenced by the International Union of Architects, and the moral principles to nurture and safeguard the dignity of architectural professionals [8].

2.4. Ethical Practice In Construction And Caux Principles

Architecture and construction are like two faces of a coin, working in harmony to ensure a responsible outcome, Kang (2007) talks about the significance of ‘ethics management’ in construction, specifically during the progression of the socioeconomic arena in the 21st century. Construction, irrespective of multicultural datum, still has a scope for ethical training for ethical decision-making during the process of implementation, the core being the cultural dimensions as the stakeholders involved are “Architects, clients, contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers and end users, have various levels of moral developments and ethical standards”, therefore the conflicts in term of the ethics might quickly rise unless regulatory, ethical standards are set. To tackle this effectively Caux Round Table's (2003) global principles for Businesses, an international ethics code “in collaboration with business leaders from European Countries, Japan, and the United States”, alternately Global Sullivan principles(2005) to encourage social responsibility all around the globe and “support economic, legal, social and political justice; encourage equal opportunity at all levels; train and advance disadvantaged workers; assist greater tolerance among all the people; improve the quality of life for communities; and support human rights”. Idowu (2013), explains in depth the Caux Round Table (CRT) principles for businesses delineating a globally encompassing perspective on ethical conduct.

The seven fundamental principles that serve as the basis for ethical conduct among businesses worldwide. This universal benchmark aims to evaluate the societal and ethical conduct in the business sphere. The seven principles are as follows:

- a. Respect Stakeholders Beyond Shareholders.
- b. Contribute To Economic, Social, and Environmental Development.
- c. Build Trust by Going Beyond the Letter of the Law.
- d. Respect Rules and Conventions.

- e. Support Responsible Globalization.
- f. Respect the Environment.
- g. Avoid Illicit Activities.

2.5. Ethical Theories And Their Implementation

The values of making moral decisions demonstrate that it is connected to concerns like sustainability, social responsibility, and client relations. It becomes an essential aspect of the professional integrity of architects towards society, thinking through the influence of their designs on a community in terms of cultural sensitivity, environmental sustainability, and accessibility, which delves deep into the process of safeguarding the public interest first and even if it means contradicting the expectation of the clients in order to make a beneficial impact on the society as architects are viewed as a guardian of the built environment stewarding through the resource conservation and energy efficiency taking account of the whole life cycle of the building designed hence actively participating in the moral decision making to design constructed environments that are sustainable, socially conscious and considerate of the need and values of the people they serve [9].

2.6. Copyright In Architecture

Architectural work is the most experienced and pervading of all forms of artwork; it encompasses architectural designs, blueprints, elevations, and any other visual representations that are susceptible to copyright protection. It's crucial to remember, though, that the utilitarian elements of design, like a building's practical features or construction techniques, are not covered by copyright protection in architecture. Copyright infringement happens when someone uses copies or reproduces a significant portion of an original architectural work without permission. In these situations, the owner of the copyright may, in the lawsuit, uphold their legal rights and obtain remedies, including injunctions, monetary compensation, or an end to the infringing activity. The rights of architects to restrict how their works are used have been significantly impacted by Baker V dot's seldom decision. In that instance, the code determined that copyright protection only covers any idea's precise presentation or form, not the underlying ideas or concepts in our work. [10].

The literature review revealed that the existing literature on ethical challenges and interventions is scarce. This emphasizes the need for additional research and analysis in this field, and the findings of this study could potentially contribute to lobbying a platform for more sustainable and ethical interplay, for sustainable social-cultural harmony within Bahrain's architectural professional communities.

2.7. Civilization Rights

According to research by the Egyptian Innovation Bank, the notion of civilization rights to construct a civilization is a novel meaning of a framework of the intellectual property system that considers the process of preserving human civilization and heritage. The cultural legacy, nations, and civilizations have moral and material rights that must be acknowledged and respected. The campaign "Civilization Rights to Build a Civilization", highlights Egypt's moral and material rights, tackling many issues like science, law, archeology, history, architecture, diplomacy, tourism, and economy. It aims to draw attention to the Egyptian state's morals and material rights over using pictures, logos, replicas, names, and other commercial exploitation of its cultural heritage to acknowledge Egypt's sovereignty and ownership of its cultural legacy. [11].

2.8. International Institutions managing ethics in architecture

2.8.1. RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Ethical Principles

On the contrary, Roberts, D. (2018) mentions the RIBA's ethics, a professional membership organization founded in 1837 "for the general advancement of civil architecture, and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various arts and science". The RIBA lists, "Honesty, integrity, and competency, as well as concern for others and the environment, are the foundations of the Royal Institute's three principles of professional conduct". Sadri H(2012) elaborates on the RIBA's principle of honesty, which anticipates unbiased and responsible professional conduct, avoiding the promotion of any kind of illegal conduct. Further, the competency requires architectural professionals to adhere to continual skill development and utmost care in the area of their work, and lastly, in relations in terms of clients, to be

transparent when it comes to project communication to be transparent keeping in mind the time, effort, and cost of the client. Hence, the RIBA'S ethical code of conduct demonstrates a strong basis of professional integrity in the field of architecture. The Rebus knowledge schedule outlines six primary responsibilities for an architect to carry his or her responsibility on the path of ethics. These six duties include:

- a. Duty to the broader world: Architects must consider the more significant effects of their work on society and the environment.
- b. Duty to society and the end user: Architects must keep the well-being of the community and the individuals who inhabit the dwellings and balance society's demands on a larger frame.
- c. Duty to those commissioning services: Architects have to uphold the customer expectations in terms of openness and responsibility and providing services that advance their goals.
- d. Workplace critics must provide their employees with a secure, welcoming, and encouraging work atmosphere, considering the work-life balance and continuous professional development.
- e. Duty to the profession: Architects are duty-bound to maintain the standards of the profession as well as integrity, including professional behavior, adding to the skills of the knowledge in the field.
- f. Duty to oneself: the architect should prioritize their own well-being as well as the advancement of their careers and personal lives. They should also make ethical decisions and behave according to their own beliefs and principles.
- g. Riva emphasizes the ethical principles necessary to make responsible moral decisions considering the broader impact of architectural work. She acknowledges the importance of architects in building a safe and secure environment [12].

2.8.2. AIA (American Institute Of Architects) Guidelines For Professional Practice

The American Institute of Architecture (AIA) is a professional association for architects in the US. AIA is a 155-year-old established organization that has had a significant impact on the field of architecture. The Architectural Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct was updated in 2007 with the guidelines for professional commitment. The code is structured into 'Rules of Conduct,' 'Ethical Standards,' and 'Canons.' The first canon highlights the "General Obligations", which talks about continuous knowledge enhancements and honoring the previous achievements that foster growth considering the impact of societal and ecological implications on their professional expertise. The second canon highlights "Obligations to the Public". It stresses architects' responsibilities to gain the public's confidence in their field of work. The third canon, "Obligations to the Client," emphasizes professional services and maintains ethical standards, preventing conflict of interest and demonstrating truthfulness and honesty. "Obligation towards their profession and the market", the fourth and the fifth canons highlight the fact that architects have to uphold the honor and integrity of their profession.

Overall, AIA's code of ethics and professional conduct amplifies the fact that architects should demonstrate value addition morally, professionally, and with integrity (Sadri H,2012). The AIA supports the architecture profession and enhances public perception through education, government advocacy, community regeneration, and public engagement. To help organize the building sector, the AIA collaborates with various design and construction community members. The core courses were sorted according to the four main categories discussed in the AIA handbook: ethics and professional practice, firm management, project delivery, and contracts and agreements. Next, the number of courses was converted into percentages and examined accordingly.

Martin and Schinzing (2010) specified most of the errors that may occur in engineering offices in general. Errors are classified according to the code of ethics and professional conduct of the Bahrain Society of Engineers and the AIA. Violations will be summarized and linked to the rules in the manner of an instruction booklet for new company employees. Each heading contains two lists, the first that the employee recommends avoiding and the second that the employee tries to do. The booklet also includes cases to facilitate understanding and quotes encouraging compliance with the code of conduct and avoiding

violations. The booklet outlines an architect's responsibilities and requirements under Betterteam, a platform for hiring small to medium businesses. Then it discusses five main headings inspired by the AIA: general obligations, obligations to the public, obligations to the clients, obligations to the profession and colleagues, and the environment. The method of booklets was used to clarify ideas or to explain work instructions in many institutions. The Saudi Technical and Vocational Training Corporation is an example, where it published a booklet of the rules, regulations, work structure, rights, and duties. This aims to understand the regulations and instructions in human resources; it is a service for new employees in particular and a reference for employees in general.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

The aim of the study, which was discussed in the introduction, will be delved into depth in this section to understand the process of conducting the appropriate Research, the method used for collecting the data, and tools for analyzing the data for gauging the ethical challenges to understanding the best practices in Bahrain's architectural industry. The systematic analysis of the secondary data in the literature review flows through the investigation of the effect of globalization on architectural ethics to probe into the freedom of expression to make ethical design decisions, on the contrary, explores the ethical obligations to architects to uphold the design values, progressing to using ethics as weapons against bureaucratic corruption followed by exploring the ethical principles globally and in the context of Bahrain. Looking at the perception of architects, setting them from the perspective of historical context, the evolving challenges that drive to reimagine the future professional practice [13].

The progressive step of primary data collection under the qualitative method of research. "Qualitative Research is a lived experience" [14]. According to Ciuk & Latusek (2018), qualitative research aims to improve the understanding of our world and deepen the examination of social occurrences. "... First-hand encounters with a specific context. It involves gaining an understanding of how people in real-world situations 'make sense' of their environment" [15]. The data collection was shouldered by a semi-structured interview process, directly in conversation with the participants, listening to the narratives, and observing the participants (Warnock, C. 2019) to gather their experiences and the challenges faced during the tenure of their professional practice, to brief in depth the role played by an architect.

The sample collection was facilitated through the interview process, as elaborated by Qu & Dumay (2011), the research interview being the most critical aspect of the qualitative data collection methods in ethnographic investigation practices. Research interviews are classified into structured and standard [16]; structured interviews involve pre-established questions with stipulated response categories. They might seem rigid but minimize the generation of biased findings (Qu & Dumay 2011) under the same purview is the context of this study, addressing the architectural professionals practicing in Bahrain and the interview questions framed to address the dilemmas that they are facing in their everyday professional life.

The framework of the questionnaire for the interview It was designed to find out the gap between the throes and the reality in the professional field in Bahrain. The questionnaire was designed after understanding the ethics based on the theories and the literature review and conducted included a flow of the patterned discussion, keeping in mind the study's objectives and relevant literature study from the interpretive perspective, keeping the essence of ethical communication intact. It included various themes and the topics collected: 1. duration of practice 2. Formal education obtained for ethical conduct 3. Importance of ethics in their professional life 4. Ethical crossroads 5. Balancing expectations and ethics 6. Importance to socio-cultural factors 7. Dealt with conflict of interest 8. Most challenging ethical dilemmas 8. Self-updating of ethical standards.

3.1. Ethical Principles in Bahrain

3.1.1. Bahrain Society of Engineering Ethical Principles

A parallel approach to implement a code of conduct to ensure "Transparency, Integrity, and Accountability for engineers to practice in Bahrain is the Bahrain Society of Engineers (BSE), established in 1972. The main motto of these principles is to ensure that engineers utilize their knowledge and skills to amplify humane well-being and ensure honest and unbiased service. Below are the fundamental principles (BSE. n.d.).

- a. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety and welfare of the public in performing their professional duties.
- b. Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.
- c. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers and provide opportunities for those engineers' professional and ethical development under their supervision.
- d. Engineers shall act professionally for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees and avoid conflicts of interest.
- e. Engineers should build their professional reputation on the merit of their competencies and services and not compete unfairly with others.
- f. Engineers shall avoid deceptive acts and not abuse public or private offices for personal gain.
- g. Engineers should issue public statements only objectively and truthfully.
- h. Engineers shall consider environmental aspects and sustainable development in their professional duties.
- i. Hence, the above code of conduct strives to increase the competence and morals for sustainable professional practice in Bahrain.

3.1.2. The Council for Regulating the Practice of Engineering Professions (CRPEP)

CRPEP is a regulating authority established to regulate the practice of engineering professions, which is responsible for issuing licenses to engineers and engineering offices. The legislation specifies the prerequisites for getting a license, such as high moral character, professional experience, and educational requirements for obtaining an engineering license. It mandates that government agencies or licensed engineers authorize engineering projects and forbids unlicensed persons from engaging in the engineering profession. The council offers rules and exemptions to engineers who are not Bahraini employees in the monarchy. It also establishes rules for engineering offices and disciplinary measures for breaking the legislation. Under Law No. 51 of 2014, enforcing regulatory principles in the Kingdom of Bahrain is under the purview of the ministry in charge of public works. Any engineer pursuing a career in engineering has to get a license from the council. A License is also required for engineering offices to engage in one or more engineering professions. On engineering concerns or projects, only licensed engineers and engineering offices are authorized to approve and sign the design and drawings [17]

- Article 1: summarizes the phrases and words used to address the context of regulatory principles.
- Article 2: It is forbidden for any engineer who does not possess a license from CRPEP to refrain from practicing in any sector or branch in the kingdom.
- Article 3: No person shall work on projects or engineering matters unless they possess authorization and signature from a government agency or an engineering office licensed to practice.
- Article 4: Engineering directorates in governmental institutions, public entities, or engineering offices licensed by this law shall be tasked with offering consulting, conducting engineering designs, and supervising the implementation of the engineering works.
- Article 5: the council for regulating the practice of engineering professions will be established, reporting to the minister. A seven-member committee was nominated by the Bahrain Society of Engineers and the chairman with a tenure of three years.
- Article 6: The council has the authority to provide licenses needed to practice the engineering profession and comply with the duties following the terms of this law and its implementing regulations.
- Article 7: Anybody having a license to work as an engineer must be a citizen of Bahrain, must possess an engineering bachelor's degree from an accepted university, and must meet the standards of licenses required category and the engineering field or branch.
- Article 8: An engineer who is not a Bahraini may hold a license to work as an engineer in the Kingdom of Bahrain upon the fulfillment of subsequent requirements and must meet all the requirements listed in Article 7 of the law after earning the engineering academic

credentials, one must engage in actual practice with a minimum of five years, must have an agreement to practice the profession with domestic or international business organization.

- Article 9: Engineers employed by governmental agencies called mom industries and other public bodies should be granted a license to practice engineering given they fulfill the requirements outlined in Article 7 off the lot, and the hiring organization must submit a license request, which is free of charge and valid for the duration of the job without needing to be renewed the appropriate entity should implement disciplinary action against the personnel as mentioned earlier in compliance with laws and regulatory frameworks that apply to their positions.
- Article 10: An engineering office must fulfill the requirements outlined in Article 7 and be committed to practicing in compliance with the guidelines outlined in the implementation regulations. The council may allow one of its designated licensed engineers to manage the office full-time or part-time for a maximum of six months. The engineering office must obtain insurance policy coverage to protect against legal liability for professional mistakes following the terms and specifications provided in the implementing regulation.
- Article 11: The council may form committees to help carry out its studies. One such group is the investigation group that addresses the complaints pertaining to engineering professions.
- Article 12: the council has the authority to establish rules governing the registration of engineers, the cost associated with licenses, criteria for professional growth, and any other aspect of the engineering profession.
- Article 13: Any changes in an engineer's or engineering office's professional standing or circumstances might impact on the eligibility of licensing, which should be reported to the council in a timely manner.
- Article 14: To make sure that the law, rules, and professional standards are being followed, the council is able to carry out audits and inspections.
- Article 15: For professional misconduct, carelessness, or breaking the law as set by the council, disciplinary action may be imposed against engineers or engineering offices.
- Article 16: Disciplinary action might involve warnings, fines, license suspension, license revocation, or any other suitable sanctions decided upon by the council.
- Article 17: Disciplinary judgments rendered by the council may be appealed within a given time before a competent court.
- Article 18: to promote the growth and promotion of the engineering profession, the council may set up a fund. The fund is open to receiving grants, contributions, and donations from various sources.
- Article 19: the council shall annually report to the minister on the operations it has undertaken financial accountants' additions for enhancing the regulation of engineering professions.

3.2. Data Analysis

The data was obtained from interviews with explanatory questions posed to professionals. The questionnaire post explored ethical challenges within architectural practitioners in the Kingdom of Bahrain, intending to improve and spread ethical awareness and responsible building practices. Meanwhile, the participants were asked about their experiences as architects in Bahrain and various other factors. They were also interviewed about any ethical dilemmas they faced and how they resolved them. Assuming the social position as a facilitator of the project building through stakeholders, the data obtained from the interviews of explanatory questions posed to the professionals, as they offer distinct services to the community. Iders' active and committed engagement is connected to modern architects' difficulty, making them of Bahrain stop this. This vision matches Villalobos (2020), people have been socially constructed to acknowledge the roles of all participants, their contribution, and their limits that the questionnaire post explored ethical challenges within architectural practitioners in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Meanwhile, the participants were asked about their experiences as architects in Bahrain and various other factors. We made critical ethical considerations in practice. They were also interviewed about any ethical dilemmas they faced and how they resolved them. The questioner progresses, delving into the topics about

ethics in balancing client expectations with different patterns of question posts as mentioned above. This approach opens an arena to learn more about the strategies, goals and influences the architects hope to make in their industry. Gathering such information may encourage cooperation, spark creativity, and help make decisions that will improve society's quality of life. Assuming the social position as a facilitator of the project building through stakeholders' active and committed engagement is connected to modern architects' difficulty, making them of Bahrain stop this.

- a. The first question posed was the duration of the professional tenure in Bahrain’s architectural industry, and the responses received varied, with most fresh talents within five years of work experience until ten years or more, as shown in Figure 3 below. Hence, the output of professional experience tenure signifies an influx of new talent, resulting in a mix of fresh perspectives and, in the process, the finding of gaining acquaintance.

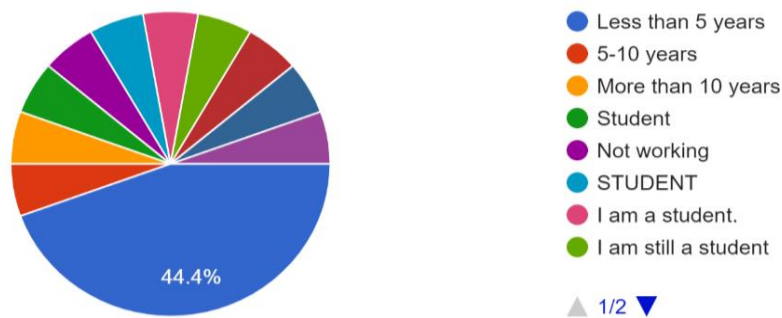


Figure 3. The duration of the professional tenure in Bahrain’s professional work. Source: Authors.

- b. For the successive question asking if any formal literacy was obtained regarding ethics in architectural practice, around the majority agreed to have received a formal education on ethics in their profession, as depicted in Figure 4. Below.

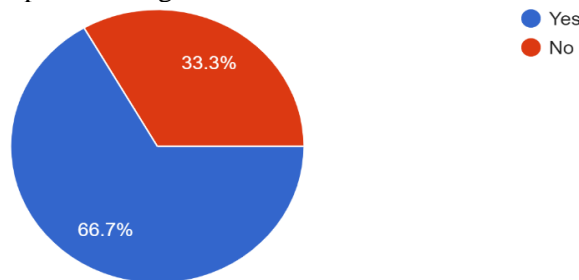


Figure 4. Asking if any formal literacy was obtained in terms of the ethics in architectural practice. Source: Authors.

The above result summarizes that most architectural professionals have received a formal education in ethics, which indicates a sound understanding and knowledge of ethical principles in their professional practice.

- c. The progressive question posed was whether ethical considerations in their architectural practice are or least important, for which the majority agreed to be most important and few to be essential and critical. At the same time, significantly fewer professionals were mentioned as unimportant, as shown in Figure 5 below.

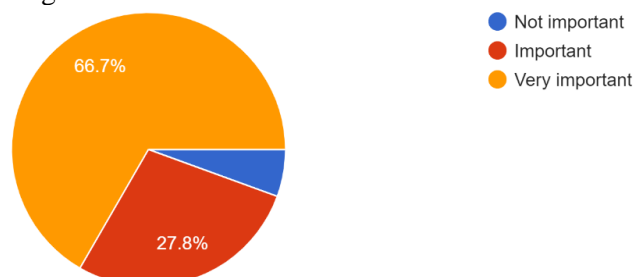


Figure 5. Asking about the ethical considerations in their architectural practice. Source: Authors.

Hence, the above data demonstrates that architects prioritize ethical considerations in their practice, demonstrating a diligent approach to ethical conduct in the field of architecture.

- d. The following question was asked whether any ethical dilemmas were encountered in their tenure of professional practice in terms of client conflict, compromise on safety standards, or cultural obligation, for which few mentioned they haven't come across any such challenges. On the contrary, many agreed to have faced such issues, and some shared their instances of the dilemmas faced during their practice a few are mentioned below:

“Yes, some clients requested elements that may harm people and do not follow standards”.

“Ethical dilemma in terms of client conflict when an architect is asked to design a building that goes against their personal values or beliefs. In this case, the architect may have to choose between their professional obligations and their personal convictions.”

“Yes, it happened during my training period in a proposal design for Muharraq neighborhoods by BACA recommendation. The supreme authority in the Ministry of Agriculture and Municipal Affairs insisted on using plants that do not comply with the sustainability standards that had to be adhered to during the project's design, which is considered one of the basics of design in the Ministry of Agriculture and Municipal Affairs. To resolve the issue, an agreement was reached with the Supreme Authority, and the reasons for the incompatibility of these plants were explained in a bitter manner and an open conversation in order to satisfy all parties and reach A solution that satisfies everyone”.

Hence, the above result mentions the fact that within the purview of architectural practice, some architects have encountered ethical quandaries and share the instances.

- e. In the preceding question about the sociocultural factors taken into consideration while making design decisions, the majority of the architects agree that they strive to create a local context-derived space that caters to community needs. In contrast, few others mentioned taking a path of initial research on social-cultural norms before delving into designing. Very few mentioned that they would go by the client’s choice, while the rest of the interviewees said they hadn’t considered any of it in their practices, as depicted in Figure 6 below.

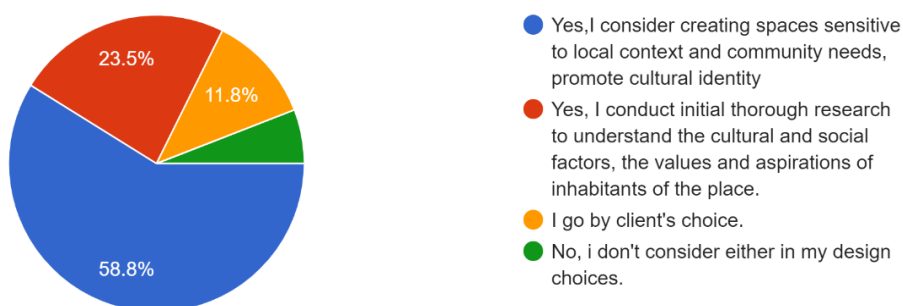


Figure 6. Question about the sociocultural factors taken into consideration. Source: Author.

Hence, the above data obtained states that most architects respect and consider the local sociocultural aspects. It's substantial to know that the professional architects in Bahrain understand the value of embracing the social and cultural context in their design to create spaces that reverberate with the community.

- f. The subsequent questions posed to professionals were whether they experienced conflict of interest in their professional practice and how they handled any. While most of them mentioned they had not encountered conflict at crossroads, very few did and suggested how they tackled the situation in Figure 7.

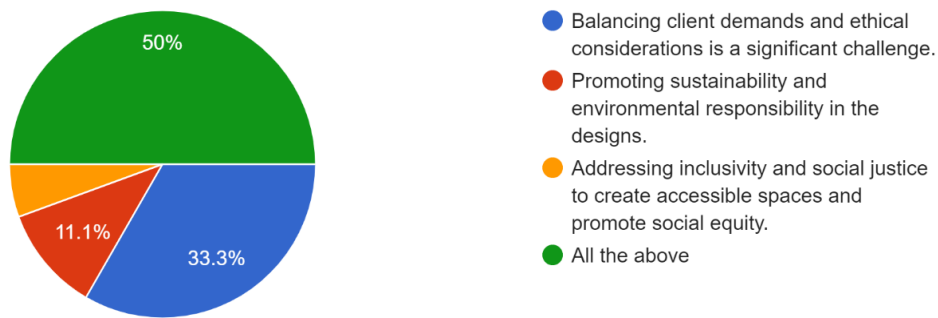


Figure 7. Question about experiencing any kind of conflict of interest in their professional practice. Source: Authors.

The data set demonstrates that the slightest report of experiencing a conflict of interest with no particulars of resolving the conflict was mentioned. Hence, it opens an arena to explore how practicing architects in Bahrain handle and navigate the conflict of interest to ensure moral decision-making.

- g. The following question posed the most significant ethical challenges faced by professionals. Most experts mentioned balancing client demands and ethical considerations, promoting sustainability in design, and addressing inclusiveness and social justice to create accessible spaces to promote social equity. In contrast, few mentioned balancing ethics and client demands, followed by very few professionals who mentioned sustainability in design and the meager professional populace. The data set answers mention that balancing client demands with ethical considerations is one of architects' most significant moral challenges in their practice. Hence, this emphasizes the delicate balance designs must strike to satisfy clients while upholding ethical integrity.
- h. Therefore, the last question was posed to the professionals about how they keep themselves updated on ethical best practices. The response received was a balance between the interviews and some attending conferences and workshops mentioned. In contrast, others engaged in discussion with the architects of the clan, and few mentioned having engaged with local authorities to get an update on the same. On the contrary, a meager number of professionals did admit that they least stay updated with the ethical standards, as shown in Figure 8 below.



Figure 8. Question how they keep themselves updated on the best ethical practices. Source: Author.

The data obtained from the above question summarizes that architects in Bahrain participate in conferences, workshops, and professional development programs to stay updated on current ethical standards and sustainable best practices. This proactive approach defines the dedicated professional populace to lifelong learning and advancement of moral behavior.

4. FINDINGS

As explained by (D'Anjou,2011), the architectural design approach fosters a unique comprehension of individual creative freedom and accountability while establishing an ethical framework. Moreover, following the thought of (Almaaouri, A.S.2019), limiting the design's decision that is harmful to the other,

whether the individual building site or nature itself, laying the architect's responsibility towards human society is a very general ethical obligation of architects towards society and its well-being.

As illustrated in the literature reviews, 'Ethics are, after all, a relative concept – the manifestation of a moral ideal – and one person's morality is another's immorality.' The ethical turn in architecture in the twenty-first century holds that the people most affected by architects' decisions and actions should be engaged and active participants in the design process, which begins with an empathetic understanding of diverse perspectives and a respect for cultural and climatic differences. Ethics plays a significant role in any professional practice. Though each engineering board has a set of ethical codes, the lack of proper application leads to unprofessionalism within the firms.

The results of the data analysis emphasize the significance of ethical considerations for Bahrain's architectural industry. Architects exhibit an enthusiastic understanding of ethical principles and consciously try to incorporate them into their works. Furthermore, the results also demonstrate that persistent enhancement of knowledge and skills on ethics in architectural practices could motivate professionals to converse candidly and barter their experiences and best practices, enabling them to develop effective techniques to handle conflicts of interest. The narrative data shows that Bahrain's architectural field is multifaceted and intricate regarding the professional guidelines of ethical conduct for architects, similar to the international standards of ethical principles. The architectural community in Bahrain thus can ensure the evolution of sustainable and reliable solutions by combating ethical issues and enhancing the best practices to a greater height. Having said that, there is a potential scope for further, more profound research with broader variables to obtain a deeper understanding of the ethical conundrum experiences and ways of resolving the same, especially from the perspective of sustainable practices in Bahrain's architectural field.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study examines Bahrain's sustainable practices in relation to the ethical dilemmas architect's encounter. The results provide insight into the intricate relationship between cultural norms, local laws, globalization, and moral judgment in the architectural field. Several ethical issues exist in practicing firms in Bahrain. In comparison to other codes based on AIA and RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects), it is also found that several codes need to be in Bahrain and need to be employed. However, the lack of strict implementation of ethical codes leads to employee issues and creates an unprofessional office environment. Moreover, the lack of following ethical codes properly leads to losing one's credibility as well as that of the organization. The practice of architecture has been profoundly influenced by globalization, which has forced architects to operate beyond borders in various cultural contexts; hence, this research draws attention to the moral conundrums that result from this delicate balancing act, stressing the necessity for architects to handle these difficulties with honesty, openness, and thorough comprehension of the local context.

The establishment of organizations such as Bahrain's Council of Practicing Engineering Professions (CRPEP) indicates the commitment to ensuring architects' civil responsibility and defining their rights and obligations. This ensures that the architects uphold responsible architectural techniques and ethical, socially responsible, and culturally inclusive designs to the public's trust while demonstrating the importance of socially responsible design and culturally inclusive design in determining how ethical principles are interpreted and used in Bahrain's architectural industry. To produce ethically socially accountable and culturally inclusive designs, this paper delved into various aspects based on the narratives and the data collected to underline how architects must interact with stakeholders, considering the local environment and honoring cultural history.

One of the key findings is the importance of ethical design principles in addressing sustainability challenges and how architects play a crucial role in developing appropriate and timely designs essential in promoting sustainable practices considering community involvement while protecting cultural heritage.

The other key finding is that at the educational level, architecture students need extensive experience in ethics before being involved in professional firms to apply their knowledge to real-life projects and be ready to practice their profession efficiently. However, it is the university's responsibility to provide courses that

prepare students initially to start their professional careers after their graduation. Such courses should provide sufficient knowledge and practice for architecture students to meet the labor market. They must also seek to train students to compete and meet international market standards. This will occur by intensely increasing the attention to teaching deep ethics courses. If this occurs, the architectural programs in Bahrain will go deep in preparing their students to meet the standards of practice and professional conduct according to the AIA vision. It will provide several services to enhance the link between educational programs and the ethics of the professional practice of architecture.

Moreover, the results of analyzing the questionnaire show that fresh architecture graduates need more experience in the ethics of writing, reading, or understanding contracts. They must understand the appropriate implementation of the ethics in the architecture contracts, which are the agreements established in collaboration between sponsors and development partners regarding a specific service's deliverables, excellence, and suitability. Hence, understanding the ethics of such a topic needs sufficient knowledge and practice from the architect. This paper can act as an eye-opener and a chance for universities in Bahrain that offer architectural programs to enhance their curricula and fill the gaps in the modules they lack in. In addition to urging CRPEP to be involved more practically rather than theoretically with educational architectural organizations, they help enforce the link between architectural education and practicing architecture, creating better architects ready to practice their profession and serve their community once they graduate.

The practice of architecture has been profoundly influenced by globalization, which has forced architects to operate beyond borders in various cultural contexts; hence, this research draws attention to the moral conundrums that result from this delicate balancing act, stressing the necessity for architects to handle these difficulties with honesty, openness and thorough comprehension of the local context.

One of the key findings is the importance of ethical design principles in addressing sustainability challenges and how architects play a crucial role in developing appropriate and timely designs essential in promoting sustainable practices considering community involvement while protecting cultural heritage.

Because of the increase in professional violations in engineering offices, which sometimes are unintended and issued by new architects who are ignorant of the profession's ethics, it has become essential to raise awareness and reduce the occurrence of similar errors among architects. Awareness methods vary. This research recommends producing an ethics booklet as a method used in many companies to explain rights and duties, define the company's structure, and work by institutions, which is still effective. Ensuring that architects' work benefits communities and the environment, this research emphasizes the importance of prioritizing ethical sustainability and socioeconomic disparity in their practice tenure. It highlights how professional standards, and regulatory frameworks influence ethical behavior in the architectural context.

Therefore, based on the data analysis results of the research, it is recommended that architectural practitioners in Bahrain must continue to delve into enhancing ethical awareness and adopting responsible architectural methods. This may be accomplished by maintaining the current knowledge of the most recent developments and best practices in sustainable design, encouraging partnerships with diverse teams, and active engagement in professional development. Targeting the implementation of it, produce an ethics booklet that:

- a. Support the Bahrain Society of Engineers in educating the new architects in small C-class firms.
- b. Requiring companies to educate new employees by reading and understanding the ethics booklet.
- c. Serious follow-up of companies' plan implementation through the Bahrain Society of Engineers.
- d. Use the booklet in electronic copies so that it does not cost companies the cost of printing.
- e. Adding contact numbers to respond to inquiries and questions from new employees.
- f. Emphasizing the implementation of ethics in architectural professional practices, professionals must adopt an open dialogue with clients, stakeholders, and the public to ensure that society's goals and values are reflected in their designs.

Overall, this research underscores the emphasis on how important ethics are to the practice of architecture, especially regarding the goal of sustainable design. This is achievable through integrating principles in work

and resolving the ethical difficulties mentioned in the study; architects in Bahrain can create an aesthetically appealing, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible built environment.

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Conflict of Interests

The Author(s) declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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