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PROFESSIONAL AMATEURS

Architecture is a profession that is constantly assessing its principle, direction, and actions. As such, one question continues to be elaborated upon. What is the state of architecture—the profession, the act, the implementation of new ideas—as it stands today?

Historically, designers collaborating with non-designers has been seen as a necessity: '*We must cooperate in order to accomplish.*' However, collaboration is now taking on a new character. One which aims to improve the quality of life for all people: '*We should cooperate so that we can achieve more.*' The skill set of the architect is being applied to issues beyond buildings and beyond design in the traditional sense. This scale of collaboration and interaction allows for endless possibilities. As Arnold J. Thoynee so eloquently puts it:

The twentieth century will be chiefly remembered by future generations not as an era of political conflicts or technical inventions, but as an age in which human society dared to think of the welfare of the whole human race as a practical objective.

Arnold J. Thoynee
English Historian 1889–1975

This issue of Oz will explore various views on this extraordinary level of collaboration through not only the eyes of architects, but also the eyes of other designers and non-designers alike.