



Protecting Your Work

Why Copyright Law Matters for Architects

Jason Davis, Esq., Davis Firm, PLLC
[Email](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Key Takeaways



What copyright law is specific to architectural works?

Enacted in 1909, the Architectural Works Protection Act, recognizes architectural works, including the design of buildings as embodied in plans, drawings or the completed building itself.



Why should you care?

Copyrights protect your intellectual property, establishing a legal presumption of validity.



How does a copyright benefit you?

If someone uses your copyrighted work without a notice, they can say they didn't know it was copyrighted, which could reduce any damages they owe you. But if your work has a copyright notice, they cannot claim they were unaware, protecting your right to seek full damages



How do I get a copyright?

The online submittal includes submitting an application form to the Copyright Office, a filing fee (> \$100) and sharing a complete copy in visually perceptible form of the most finished form of architectural drawings. An application covers only one architectural work. The notice consists of the word "copyright" or the copyright symbol ©, the year in which you created the document and the name of the copyright holder.

Resources / Links

- [Copyright Registration Kit](#)
- [AIA Documents + Copyright](#)
- [Register Architectural Works](#)
- [Lawyer's Point of View](#)

Upcoming State Representative Calls:

07.10.2025 **Citizen Architect**

08.14.2025 **Monetizing Social Media**