A feature of recent editions of the Annual Reports published by the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) is a concern about the deteriorating financial position and status of architects. This situation is not unique; other professional bodies such as the Royal British Institute of Architects (RIBA) have reacted to similar concerns as far back as 2009 when it commissioned a study into the future of the profession. While change is uncomfortable and many might wish to rather regain the position held 20-50 years ago, not all the respondents to the RIBA study regarded the changing status of the profession in the same negative light: a respondent to the survey remarked that the “invasion of the architect’s role shouldn’t be seen as a threat but as a natural change that can be exploited - we must find our own new opportunities and education should shift to accommodate that”\(^1\). During the 2014 Congress of the Union of International Architects (UIA), the organisation adopted the policy that it will promote and encourage “the continuing extension of the boundaries of architectural practice... ...and strive to ensure the corresponding extension of the knowledge and skills necessary to deal with any extension of boundaries”\(^2\). In support of this policy, this paper will report the findings of
an empirical study undertaken to explore how a sample of architects have extended the boundaries of architectural practice in order to establish if there are similarities in the initiatives undertaken, the way in which this was done, what were the obstacles experienced, and how beneficial the endeavour has proven to be.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship; architects’ firms; complimentary practice.


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