

COOP  
DESIGN  
RESEARCH

—  
M.S.C.  
PROGRAM

# OPPORTUNITIES OF CARE THEORY

IN PROPOSING BROADER ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS  
FOR ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

—  
Tsyon Feleke

---

## ABSTRACT

This paper examines how the application of care theory in building renovation can propose broader ethical considerations for architectural practice within the context of building renovation. Current ethical frameworks applied within the industry often prioritise professional obligation, while little emphasis is placed on codes and considerations which are not purely rooted in professional conduct and instead aim to care for ecology, environment and humanity through the lens of feminist care theory. The objective of the study is to understand how caring perspectives, inspired by feminist theory can propose broader ethical consideration within the context of building renovation for architects within the European Union. These research objectives are interrogated through qualitative and mixed methods approaches including a textual analysis of key governance documents which outline ethical obligations for architecture in the European Union, personal correspondence and interviews with architects in practice, opinions from expert online architecture communities and a case study analysis to identify how caring principles can enhance current modes of practice and demonstrate how architects can consider care as part of their professional practice. The study is informed by Schon's methods of theory in practice where practical knowledge and theoretical understanding inform one another, and identifies how this can occur through both implicit and explicit approaches in the case of building renovation. This investigation aims to contribute to existing scholarly knowledge on the topic whilst highlighting the potential and significance of incorporating caring principles in the practice of architects through cases reflecting large, medium and small scale organisations.

**Keywords:** Care Theory, Building Renovation, Ethical Obligation