This study considers the relationship between architectural records and the Copyright Act of Japan. There are three types of limitations and exceptions to copyright owners’ rights: (i) for the “National Archives of Japan, etc.” and “local archives, etc.”; (ii) for “libraries, etc.”; and (iii) for the consignor.

Based on the effects of the limitations and exceptions to copyright on the archival function of the architectural records, we clarified that (1) materials under the copyright protection period are unusable or unintentionally usable because the limitations and exceptions differ depending on the archives; and (2) it may be difficult for the archives to use and accept the materials because the consignee’s copyright is limited to ensure efficient work operations, such as architectural design.

Eventually, (I) archivists should recognize the different limitations and exceptions to copyright and employ an appropriate strategy; and (II) the record schedule in the agreement should be adopted so that materials without primary values in building construction can be accepted with secondary values.