

MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI BUILDING OFFICIAL'S GUIDE TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE REQUIREMENTS



Mississippi Landscape Architecture Advisory Committee
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MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE

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Website: www.archbd.state.ms.us

Can a landscape architect seal and sign documents prepared by his consultants?

In cases where the services of an unlicensed consultant are utilized, the landscape architect should only seal plans and documents produced under the landscape architect's direct control and personal supervision. In the case of licensed consultants, the licensed consultant should seal his or her own documents.

Are change orders, technical submissions, or drawings accompanying or related to change orders required to be sealed?

Yes, if the changes, technical submissions, or drawings are of a type that must be prepared by a licensee.

Must licensees seal presentation documents (renderings used to communicate conceptual information only) that are not a part of a set of drawings?

No. However, if the plans are submitted as part of a permit package, yes.

Can a landscape architect licensed in Mississippi seal documents prepared and sealed by an out-of-state landscape architect who is not licensed in Mississippi for submittal?

No. A landscape architect can only seal design documents prepared by him or her or under his or her direct control and personal supervision.

UNLICENSED PRACTICE AND PRACTICE OVERLAP

Can a landscape architect registered in another state or country seal plans for submittal in Mississippi if he or she is not licensed in Mississippi?

No. Only design professionals currently registered or licensed in Mississippi can submit plans to a building department.

Can an owner, contractor or building official make changes to plans prepared by a landscape architect?

No. Changes or modifications to technical documents prepared by a registered professional can only be made by that professional, or by another landscape architect who has been granted permission by the original preparer.

Can a landscape architect perform planning services?

Yes. A landscape architect can prepare site design and master plan documents, along with zoning applications, special use permit applications and other land use approval documents.

Can a landscape architect prepare and seal site plans that incorporate a variety of site amenities and features?

Yes. A landscape architect can prepare and seal plans or details that include garden pools, outdoor fountains, water falls, retaining walls, decorative walls, raised planters, fences, handicapped ramps, outdoor stairs/steps, play structures, pedestrian bridges, decks, gazebos, picnic shelters, trellises, patio covers and other similar non-dwelling structures that are incidental and necessary to a project's dominant purpose.

In regard to structures, when should a landscape architect not seal plans?

A landscape architect should not seal plans for commercial or public buildings exceeding 5,000 square feet or those that are three stories in height or more. For projects of this type, an architect is required.

Can a landscape architect serve as the principal design professional on a multi-disciplined project?

Yes. Mississippi architects, landscape architects, and engineers can serve as the principal design professional, as long as they are providing services in conformance with their practice as defined in state law.

Can a landscape architect plan for and develop a conceptual site plan which locates the buildings on a project site?

Yes. A landscape architect can plan for and establish the relationship between the site and its structures for an overall site and landscape theme.

SEALS

Must the licensee seal, sign and date each sheet of original drawings issued for bidding, permitting or construction, and/or the cover sheet of specification manual?

Yes.

PURPOSE OF THE BOARD

The Mississippi legislature enacted the Landscape Architectural Practice Law, which is codified at Miss. Code Ann. §73-2-1, et seq. The provisions of the law are enforced through the Mississippi State Board of Architecture with the assistance of a five (5) member Landscape Architecture Advisory Committee comprised of licensed landscape architects appointed by the Governor. The Board and Committee are tasked with a mandate to safeguard the life, health and property of the people of the State of Mississippi.

HOW DOES THE BOARD PROTECT THE PUBLIC

The Board and the Committee accomplish their legislative mandate by issuing landscape architectural licenses to qualified applicants and by enforcing rules, regulations and the professional code of conduct in order to regulate the practice. Without benefit of this regulatory body, those who are incompetent and/or unlicensed in the practice have a greater likelihood of harming members of the public through defective or deficient workmanship and unethical or illegal practices. The Board's regulatory function requires it to discipline licensees who are incompetent, unethical or who do not practice according to the rules and regulations of the Board. Furthermore, the Board has the authority to seek civil action against unlicensed individuals who practice in violation of Miss. Code Ann. §73-2-1, et seq., or to file misdemeanor criminal charges against them.

WHO CAN PRACTICE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

In state law, Miss. Code Ann. §73-2-1 states, in part: "No person shall practice landscape architecture in this state or use the title "landscape architect" on any sign, title, card or device to indicate that such person is practicing landscape architecture or is a landscape architect, unless such person shall have secured from the board a license as landscape architect. . . ."

WHAT IS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Section §73-2-3 defines a landscape architect as: "A person who is licensed to practice landscape architecture in this state under the authority of this chapter and is engaging in the practice of landscape architecture within the meaning and intent of this chapter when he performs or holds himself out as capable of performing any of the services or creative works within the definition of landscape architecture."

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IS DEFINED AS

"Any service or creative work, the adequate performance of which requires landscape architectural education, training and experience; the performance of professional services such as consultation, investigation, research, associated planning, design, preparation of drawings, specifications and contract documents, and responsible supervision or construction management in connection with the development of land areas where, and to the extent that, dominant purpose of such services is the preservation, enhancement or determination of proper land uses, natural land features, ground cover and plantings, naturalistic and aesthetic values; the determination of settings, grounds and approaches for buildings and structures or other improvements; the determination of environmental problems of land relating to erosion, flooding, blight and other hazards; the shaping and contouring of land and water forms; the setting of grades, determination of drainage and providing for storm drainage systems where such systems do not require structural design of system components, and determination of landscape irrigation; the design of such tangible objects and features as are necessary to the purpose outlined herein, but shall not include the design of buildings or structures with separate and self-contained purposes such as are ordinarily included in the practice of architecture or engineering."

SEALING REQUIREMENTS

The landscape architect's seal must be affixed (with signature and date) on all plans, specifications and reports prepared by the landscape architect. By placing his or her seal and signature on a document, a landscape architect indicates that he or she has exercised responsible control through decisions and judgment on matters pertaining to the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Seals should measure 2" in diameter and should appear much like the example below, with the addition of the landscape architect's signature and the date of execution.



WHAT TYPE OF PROJECTS ARE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS TRAINED & LICENSED TO DESIGN

A practicing landscape architect must have a license issued by the state. Examples of areas of responsibility for landscape architects are provided below. The descriptions are not all-inclusive, but offer general guidance on the practice of landscape architecture.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION & STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Contract Administration; Construction Evaluation and Construction Practices; Inventory, Analysis and Programming; Governmental Policies, Laws & Regulatory Processes; Design Guidelines; Accessibility Regulations; Natural & Cultural Features and Systems; Natural & Built Site Conditions; Ecosystems and Performance Criteria

MASTER PLANNING & CONCEPTUAL PLANNING

Land Use; Regional, Urban, Community and Campus Planning; Park and Recreational Facilities; Golf Courses and Historic Preservation

SITE DESIGN

Codes; Consultant Studies and Principles of Sustainability; Building Siting; Amenity Features; Circulation Systems (Vehicular, Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian); Environmental Resource Conservation; Wildlife Habitat Mitigation and Restoration; Strategies for Security and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION

Site Layout and Dimensioning; Grading and Drainage; Storm Water Management and Treatment Systems; Demolition; Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans; Planting Material; Irrigation Plans; Construction Detailing; Amenities; Pavement Systems; Retaining Walls; Decks; Steps; Water Features; Overhead and Open Structures

SUSTAINABLE SITES & ENVIRONMENT DESIGN

Landscape designs which enable natural and built systems to work together to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

HOW DOES A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT BECOME LICENSED

In order to obtain a license as a landscape architect, an applicant must meet education and training requirements, and must take and pass the Landscape Architect Registration Exam (L.A.R.E.).

The L.A.R.E. is a national exam, administered by the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). The exam is designed to determine whether applicants for landscape architectural licensure possess sufficient knowledge, skills and abilities to provide landscape architectural services that protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The tasks, knowledge areas and competencies that are considered important for the protection of the public form the basis for the L.A.R.E., which is divided into five sections:

- Project and Construction Administration
- Inventory, Analysis and Program Development
- Site Design
- Design and Construction Documentation
- Grading, Drainage and Stormwater Management

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Can a landscape architect prepare and seal landscaping and/or irrigation plans in the state of Mississippi?

Yes. Landscape architects can prepare/seal landscaping and irrigation plans, as can architects and professional engineers.

Should a landscape architect seal shop drawings?

No, unless the drawings are prepared by the landscape architect. In most cases, a contractor produces shop drawings.

Can a landscape architect prepare and seal plans for storm water, site grading and drainages, erosion control, native re-vegetation, and wetland mitigation?

Yes. Such plans can be prepared and sealed by a landscape architect.