



MSBOA News

November 2025

See the articles below for official news from the Mississippi State Board of Architecture (MSBOA) regarding the regulation of architecture, landscape architecture, and certified interior design.

Fraudulent Use of Seals

Registrants are advised that there is a growing problem throughout the U.S. involving the fraudulent use of design professional seals by unlicensed freelancers operating through third-party websites such as Fiverr, Upwork, Freelancer, and others. Many of these unlicensed freelancers appear to be located in foreign countries, making enforcement difficult. Licensing boards and their national organizations, including the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), are currently discussing ways to better authenticate and verify construction documents to address this trend. In the meantime, it is recommended that you remain vigilant in the protection of the use of your seal and notify the Board if you are aware of any potentially fraudulent use of your seal or suspect improper use of another design professional's seal.

Proposed Architect Rule Changes



Proposed rule changes for architects were filed with the Mississippi Secretary of State on November 4, 2025. Below is a summary of the proposed changes:

- Amend Rule 4.5.2, regarding responsible control requirements, to require use of a disclaimer if drawings, specifications, reports or other professional work which were not prepared by or under the responsible control of the architect are shown on unsealed documents containing the architect's title block and to state that architects shall not delegate critical decision-making responsibilities to automated systems, technological tools, or artificial intelligence (AI).
- Amend Rule 5.9, regarding disciplinary penalties, to add a penalty for failure to comply with continuing education requirements.
- Amend Rule 6.11 to delete language regarding a penalty for late continuing education hours, which is being moved to Rule 5.9.

The Board invites your comments or questions regarding the proposed rules. Send them by email to jcothron@msboa.ms.gov by December 5, 2025.

[View the Proposed Rules](#)

NCARB Announces Updates to the AXP

The following updates to NCARB's Architectural Experience Program (AXP) were launched on November 18, 2025:

- Descriptions of each of the program's six experience areas were refreshed to reflect appropriate capabilities described in the [Competency Standard for Architects](#) that was released in 2024.
- The five-year reporting requirement was replaced with a new reporting policy. Under the new policy, candidates earn 100% credit for experience up to a year old. Experience older than

one year will be worth 75% credit, with no limitation on how old that experience can be.

- The opportunities through which candidates can gain experience for completing professional development courses were expanded.

The updates to the AXP do not impact the total hours required to complete the program, the hours required under each of the six experience areas, or the overall program structure.

NCIDQ Exam Updates

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) recently announced it will make updates to all three sections of the NCIDQ Exam, starting with the Spring 2026 testing window. The updates are based on the results from the 2024 Practice Analysis.

Some changes coming to the exam are:

- The Practicum Exam will be renamed the Interior Design Implementation Exam (IDIX) and will no longer have three case studies.
- Each exam section will cover two design phases:
 - IDFX will cover programming / conceptual design and schematic design.
 - IDPX will cover construction administration and project management.
 - IDIX will cover design development and construction documentation.
- Each exam will include all item types.
- Exams will be based on IBC 2021 and related ICC A117.1 Accessibility Code 2017.

More information about the changes, including new content outlines, can be found on the [CIDQ website](#).

New Data Reveals Generational Shift in Architect Population

New data from the 2025 edition of *NCARB by the Numbers* reveals a shifting landscape in the architecture profession. The number of architects dropped by 4% in 2024, falling below pre-pandemic levels—and likely signaling the beginning of a generational shift as baby boomers begin to retire.

At the same time, reciprocal (out-of-state) licenses reached an all-time high, indicating that architects are increasingly working across state lines. Encouragingly, the number of licensure candidates grew by 5% to nearly 40,000, and the average time to licensure dropped to 12.9 years, the first decline since



NCARB
BY THE
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2025 EDITION

the pandemic. NCARB attributes these trends to the fading impact of COVID-19, as well as recent programmatic changes aimed at making the path to licensure more accessible.

[Learn more about trends on the path to licensure in the 2025 edition of NCARB by the Numbers!](#)

New Landscape Architect Rules

[New rules](#) adopted by the Landscape Architecture Advisory Committee (LAAC) of the Mississippi State Board of Architecture in May 2024 took effect on June 2, 2025. A summary of the new rules is available on the [News](#) page of the Board's website.

Did You Know?

CIDQ announced the appointment of Rebecca Moden as the new Chief Executive Officer of CIDQ, effective May 1, 2025, following former CEO Thom Banks' retirement. Rebecca was formerly with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) for 21 years and brings extensive experience to her new role.

You can update your address and print a certificate through our [online portal](#).

Recent Disciplinary Actions

Every effort is made to ensure that the following information is correct. Before making any decision based on this information, you should contact the MSBOA. Disciplinary actions taken against registrants in the past three (3) years, along with copies of orders/agreements, are displayed in the [license search system](#).

Michael T. Johnson, Architect #6162

Plainfield, Indiana

Violation: Practice of architecture prior to licensure.

Penalty: Public reprimand and payment of \$1,000 fine.

Consent Agreement: August 11, 2025

Denver L. Terrance, Architect #5869 (inactive)

Bowie, Maryland

Violation: Practice of architecture prior to licensure.

Penalty: Public reprimand, \$2,500 fine, voluntary surrender of license, and notification of withdrawal from Mississippi projects.

Consent Agreement: July 22, 2025



Richard McNeel Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Board of Architecture member Richard McNeel, pictured here with Steve Pickering, Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects Mississippi Chapter (AIA-MS), received a Lifetime Achievement Award from AIA-MS during the state convention in October 2025. Congratulations, Richard!

Governor Appoints Members

Governor Tate Reeves recently appointed or reappointed two (2) members to the Board of Architecture and its Committees:

Board of Architecture

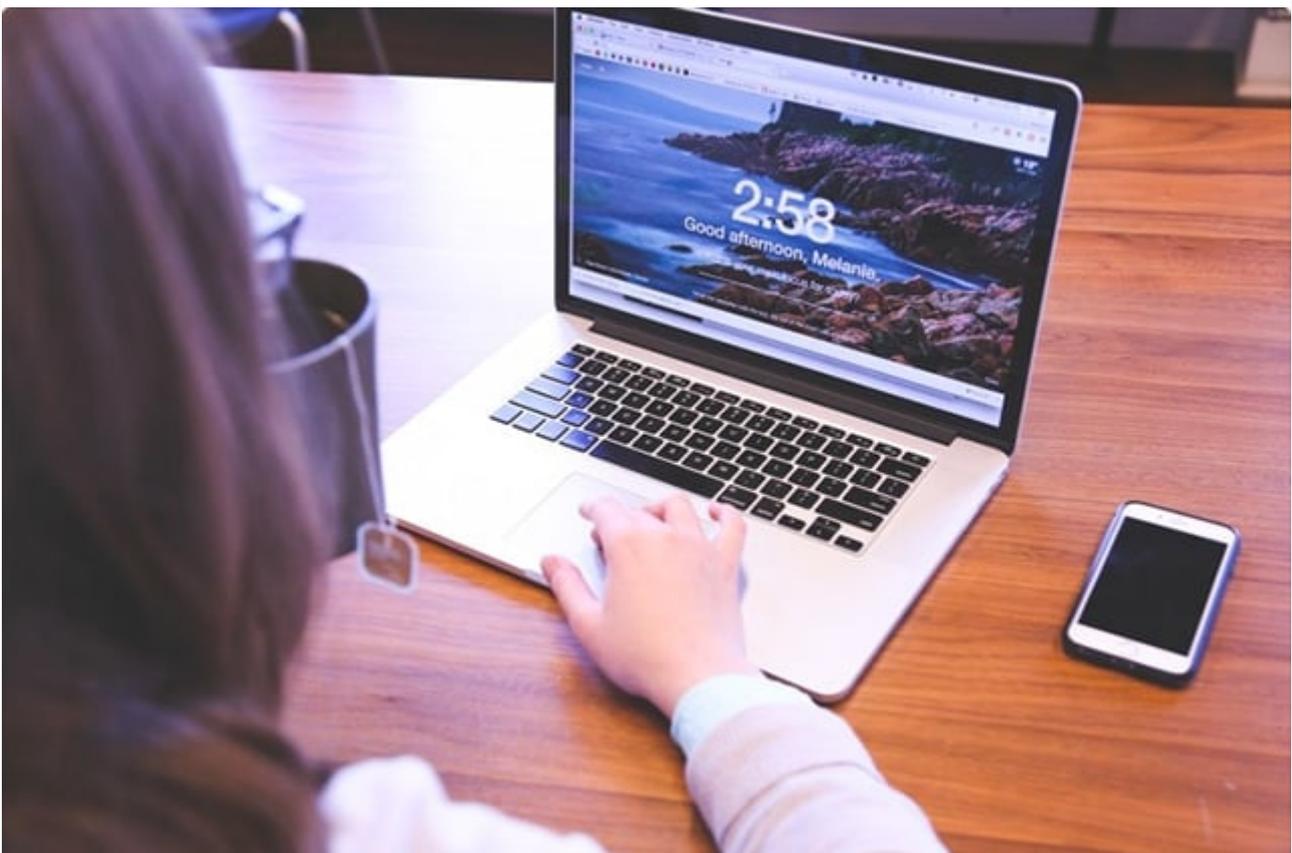
Bradford A. Jones, Ocean Springs

Landscape Architecture Advisory Committee

Jon Milstead, Tupelo (succeeding Martha Hill)

Congratulations!

A complete list of Board and Committee members is available on the Board's [website](#).



Have You Renewed?

Online renewal began on October 1, 2025, for architects and landscape architects, and on November 1, 2025, for certified interior designers. Don't let your registration lapse! Unsure of your registration expiration date? Look it up [here](#). Renewal FAQs are available on our [home page](#).

[Click here for online services](#)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MSBOA!

The mission of the Mississippi State Board of Architecture is to serve the State of Mississippi by protecting and preserving the life, health and property of the Mississippians and others who live, work, and play in the built environment through the regulation of the professions of architecture, landscape architecture and certified interior design.

Mississippi State Board of Architecture

Landscape Architecture Advisory Committee

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Interior Design Advisory Committee

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