



Kentucky Board of Architects Spring 2025



Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB, President of Board of Architects

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

Form vs. Function, the oldest debate in the built environment. Clients require a building to serve their necessary purpose well. An office, home, factory, school, shopping center, each with a specific use, but not necessarily a signature look. The unique part of a design could be responding to the site more than the use.

We can identify the use of a building by observing the form. We do not often mistake an office building for a school. The design driving factors include cost, return on investment, availability of materials, and of course building code. While we design, the health safety and welfare of the public is foremost in our mind, right?

Great works of Architecture are defined by their form, Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim in New York, Calatrava's Milwaukee Art Museum, Gehry's Concert Hall in Los Angeles, just by mentioning these buildings by name we can imagine each iconic building form. These buildings were commissioned by rare groups who choose to fund the emblematic design over the mere function of the building.

Society appreciates these buildings. This does not mean the public wants a renowned artist to be licensed without fully meeting the competency standards to be titled "Architect." The public requires a sound building that fully complies with code. The Board licenses competent, ethical practitioners. "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder."

We cannot misconstrue a license for excellence in design form. Some argue that beautiful buildings are in the best interest of public welfare. Traditionally Boards assess for function. Form or style can be elusive and trendy. The meaning of your license is that you are fully competent to design habitable safe buildings.

NCARB is slowly transitioning nationwide from the three-legged stool, Education, Experience, and Examination to a robust Assessment approach to competency evaluation. The three Es remain the backbone of the assessment. The Board of Architects will continue to keep our licensees, certificate holders, and candidates up to date on the changes. This revised approach will include the rigor necessary to ensure the public that their buildings are safe to occupy. Please reach out to board members or staff to discuss your concerns.

Kindest Regards,
Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB



IN THIS ISSUE:

BOA January Board Meeting	2
New CIDQ CEO	3
New Architects and CIDs.....	4
AIA KY & IIDA OH/KY Annual Legislative Day at the Capitol	5
AIA Legislative Update	6
Things to Know	7
Architect News/NCARB Summit Review	8
NCARB Competency Standard	9
ARE Exam Improvements.....	10
Educational Opportunities	11
Trends in Architecture	12
Trends in Architecture cont./L Wayne Tune Endowed Scholarship Award	13
Announcements.....	14

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOA QUARTERLY MEETING
April 22, 2025
Lexington, Kentucky

BOA Offices Closed
Memorial Day
Monday, May 26, 2025

BOA Offices Closed
Juneteenth
Thursday, June 19, 2025

NCARB Annual Business Meeting (ABM)
June 19-21, 2025
Scottsdale, Arizona



KY BOARD OF ARCHITECTS JANUARY BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 2025 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The Kentucky Board of Architects' quarterly meeting was held in Lexington on January 28, 2025. In attendance were Board members Jill Smith, President; Joey Nolasco, Secretary; Olivia Davis, Public Board Member/Treasurer; Jeffery Johnson, Ex-Officio; and Board members Sydney Goetz, Rex Cecil, and Chad Beyer. Also in attendance were staff, Cordelia Harbut, Executive Director; Yolanda Costner, Staff Assistant; Rachael McClain, Ex. Administrative Secretary; Addison Lowery, Board Counsel, McBrayer PLLC.; Christopher Bowling, AIA Kentucky President-Elect.

National Committee Reports

A. Licensure Research and Development task force - Ms. Davis, a member of NCARB's Licensure Research and Development task force, gave her report. The task force is charged to research and define how licensure works in other professions and in architecture throughout the United States, along with reviewing assessment methods and determining how the 16 competencies areas could be most efficiently and effectively assessed. She noted that most regulating boards like the KY BOA are accustomed to licensing based on education, experience and exam, and these methods will still be used as an assessment for the competencies, just in a different mix, based on the specific competency. Ms. Davis stated that instead of requiring all licensure candidates to follow the traditional education-experience-exam path, certain pre-existing credentials (such as those held by Professional Engineers (PEs), Certified Interior Designers (CIDs), and Project Management Professionals (PMPs) could potentially be recognized as fulfilling some of the required competencies for architectural licensure. She stated the presentation along with its purpose of change was well received by most everyone, including regulators, educators, and professionals alike.

B. CIDQ 2024 Annual Meeting - Mr. Beyer reported that Ms. Harbut, Ms. Goetz, and himself attended the CIDQ Annual Meeting held in November 2024, noting it was a celebration of CIDQ's 50th anniversary. They got the opportunity to meet several CIDQ's past presidents at the meeting. Mr. Beyer stated it was a two-day event, with several different sessions. The sessions he attended were centered around jurisdictions with title acts that have no authority for regulation of the profession. He noted that there is less national participation from these jurisdictions than those that have a practice act because of the relevance to their livelihood. They also reviewed the findings from the CIDQ practice analysis survey.

New Business

HB 133 Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses and HB 103 Professions and Occupations regarding criminal convictions were bills introduced in the 2025 Legislative session. The Board briefly discussed each and how each could potentially affect the board should they pass.

Standing Committee Reports

A. Licensure, Certification Committee (L&C) reviewed three applications for licensure, one hardship request, and one request to take the ARE using an EESA evaluation. The L&C Committee made a motion to approve two applications, request additional information from one applicant; deny the hardship case; and approve the ARE application. All motions passed unanimously.

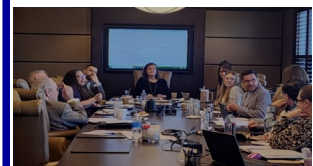
B. Investigative Review Committee (IRC): The IRC Committee made a motion to close a previous case that was no longer out of compliance; refer one case to the Attorney General's Office; send letters to cease and desist using a title tending to convey the licensure of to two unlicensed individuals. All motions passed unanimously.

C. University of Kentucky -College of Design (CoD): Mr. Johnson reported enrollment increased in the CoD for architects and interior designers. In fact, enrollment for the whole university has risen. However, they expect to hit a demographic cliff in the next year.



Former Board Member Presentation

Mr. Franklin Gray, past board member, was presented with an engraved julep cup for his service to the board. Mr. Gray expressed sincere gratitude to the Board and shared how grateful he was to have had the opportunity to serve.

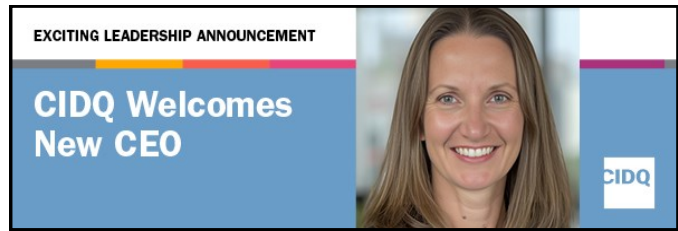


BOARD AGENDA JANUARY 28, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments
3. Presentation of Minutes
4. Presentation of Financial Report
5. Presentation of Interim Report
6. AIA Updates
7. National Committee Reports
8. NCARB FY25 Regional Meeting
9. New Business
-BOA Committee Meeting Date
-Emeritus Status for CID Certification
-HB 133 Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses
-HB 103 Professions and Occupations Criminal Convictions
10. Standing Committee Reports
-Licensure & Certification
-Investigative Review
-UK CoD Report
-Statutes and Regulations
-Continuing Education
-AXP/IPAL Report
-CIDQ Report
-Financial Report
-Newsletter Committee
11. Former Board Member Presentation.
12. Old Business
-Licensing Tool Update
-2023-2024 UK Endowment Report
-Alternative Paths to Licensure Ad-Hoc Committee
13. Adjournment

CIDQ ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP

On May 1, 2025, Rebecca Moden will become the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ). She will be replacing current CEO, Thom Banks, who is retiring after ten years of dedicated service to the interior design community.



Rebecca has a vast amount of experience in the built environment and a proven track record in establishing, maintaining, and evolving certification credentials and standards. She has worked with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) for 21 years and has served as Chief Operating Officer for four (4) years. Rebecca has a proven track record in the areas of leadership and vision through the oversight of international relations, finances, human resources, meetings and events, IT infrastructure, the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (LARE), as well as certification and records services.

Thom shared his thoughts: "I have full faith in Rebecca's ability to build on the strong foundation established. I am eager to see the new heights to which her leadership and fresh perspectives will guide CIDQ in the coming years."

Rebecca expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "I am excited to join CIDQ and look forward to collaborating with the talented team to achieve our ambitious goals and to continue our commitment to being the global standard for interior design competency."

The Kentucky Board of Architects looks forward to working with Rebecca and appreciates the leadership of Thom over the past ten years and wishes him a very happy and healthy retirement!

Certified Interior Designers

A reminder that if you currently hold an active *Kentucky Certified Interior Designer Certificate*, the renewal window for the 2026 fiscal year will begin September 1, 2025 and will last until November 30, 2025.

The renewal fee is \$200. Renewals submitted after November 30, 2025 will be revoked.



Renewals should be submitted online at www.boa.ky.gov beginning September 1, 2025. For questions pertaining to your Kentucky Certified Interior Designer Certificate, please contact our office via email at boa.irc@ky.gov or call us directly at (859) 246-2069.

HOW TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT

A screenshot of a "COMPLAINT FORM" from the Kentucky Board of Architects and Certified Interior Designers. The form includes fields for "Subject of the Complaint", "Complainant", and "Respondent", each with sub-fields for Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Telephone, Fac, and License No. There is also a "Statement of Complaint" section with a large text area. At the bottom, there is a small disclaimer: "I hereby state under penalty of perjury under the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky that the information provided in this complaint is correct to the best of my knowledge." and a date field.

Any person may file with the Board, a claim of unprofessional conduct, negligence, incompetence, dishonest practice, or other misconduct against an architect or certified interior designer. Any person may file a complaint against an unlicensed individual for a single act of unauthorized or illegal practice or representing himself or herself to the public as an architect or certified interior designer. *Click on the form to the left for a pdf version.*

If you have any questions please contact the BOA office at 859-246-2069 or email BOA.IRC@ky.gov.



NEW KENTUCKY LICENSED ARCHITECTS			
LICENSE	ARCHITECT	EDUCATION	EMPLOYER
9262	Jeffrey Keith Douglas	Bachelor of Architecture University of Kentucky	Morris Workshop Architects Lexington KY
9265	Jason A Zavala	Bachelor of Architecture University of Kentucky	Jason Zavala Design, LLC Lexington KY
9289	Ye Jin	Master of Architecture University of Kentucky	Champlin/Haupt Architects Lexington KY
9299	Parisa Mohammadian	Master of Architecture Miami University	Denham-Blythe Company Lexington KY

“Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done.”
W.E.B. Du Bois

NEWLY CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNERS			
CID NO.	CID	EDUCATION	EMPLOYER
0422CID	Lee Ross Dinwiddie	Master of Architecture Savannah College of Art and Design	Graf Studio Franklin KY
0423CID	Alexandra Dodson	Bach of Sci in Interior Design Western KY University	Stengel Hill Louisville KY
0424CID	Mallory Plappert	Bach of Sci in Interior Design Western KY University	Stengel Hill Louisville KY
0425CID	Kelsey C Jones	Bach of Sci in Interior Design Western KY University	Mason & Hanger Lexington KY

“Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you are willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it.”

— Lou Holtz



AIA KY & IIDA OHIO/KENTUCKY

Annual Legislative Day at the Capitol, February 13, 2025

This day is scheduled annually to educate legislators and advocate for the design profession to ensure the voices of architects, interior designers, and design students are heard on policies impacting the built environment.

HB 133 Universal Occupation Licensure (Sponsors: Rep. Doan and Roberts)

The design profession opposed HB 133 for the following reasons:

- There already exists a robust and efficient process for licensure for architects moving into Kentucky.
- This bill would lower the requirements for licensure thereby potentially jeopardizing the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth.
- The added administrative requirements brought about by this bill would delay and add significant expense to the approval process. Which would result in additional barriers to licensure.
- If passed, architects should be exempted from this bill as attorneys have been.
- Bill Status: Died in the House Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations Committee



HB 163 Public School Facilities, aka “the Bathroom Bill” (Sponsors: Rep. Lockett, Doan, and Proctor)

The design profession opposed HB 163 for the following reasons:

- Attempting to legislate the assignment of plumbing fixtures by gender, which this already addressed in the Kentucky Plumbing Code, circumvents the building code review and updating process creating confusion and mixed messages.
- Current best practices in the design of restrooms for educational facilities create restrooms in which the toilet compartment is an individual, private space, but the sinks are in common space and more able to be observed by faculty and staff. This greatly addresses issues of violence and bullying in our schools. While not specifically prohibited, this best-practices-design seems to be the target of this legislation.
- Additionally, this bill takes the decision out of the hands of the local school system, who best knows how to address the needs of their student population. Options should be available for local decision makers.
- This is a significant safety and security issue for our students.
- Bill Status: Died in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

[AIA Central Kentucky Chapter](#); [Professional Organization](#) | [IIDA Ohio Kentucky Chapter](#)



Pictured on the left from left to right;

Richard Polk, Randall Vaughn, Cordelia Harbut, Jeff Stivers, Representative Chad Aull, Taylor Beth Huff, and Morgan Drake

Pictured above from left to right;

Taylor Beth Huff, Richard Polk, Randall Vaughn, Cordelia Harbut, Senator Reggie Thomas, Morgan Drake, and Jeff Stivers

“To work for the common good is the greatest creed.” —Albert Schweitzer

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bills Monitored by AIA During the

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Kentucky House Bill 133 would create new sections of KRS Chapter 335B to allow for the universal recognition of occupational licenses and government certifications. While the bill will, of course allow a person, who holds a current occupational license or government certification in another jurisdiction, to be eligible here in Kentucky. It will also include provisions that allow previous work experience and/or military personnel and their spouses to be a basis for licensure eligibility. The act will be cited as the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act.

Bill Status: Died in the House Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations Committee

SINE DIE: March 28, 2025

Kentucky House Bill 103 (HB 103) introduces reforms regarding professional licensing and public employment qualifications for individuals with prior criminal convictions. The bill amends KRS 335B.010 to clearly define terms related to licensing and public employment qualifications. The amendment will narrow the class of offenses that may disqualify an applicant from obtaining a professional license. The amendments specifically prohibit licensing authorities from denying a license on the grounds that an applicant lacks "good character."

When assessing an applicant's prior conviction, authorities would now have to consider: The applicant's age at the time of the offense The circumstances surrounding the crime; and evidence of rehabilitation and personal growth

In addition, before the hiring or licensing authority denies an individual a professional license due to a prior conviction of a crime, they will be required to notify the individual in writing of the specific offense that is the basis of the denial, the reasons the offense was determined to directly relate to the duties and responsibilities of the occupation and pose a reasonable threat to public safety.

The bill will also introduce the option of a pre-determination process. This will allow individuals with prior convictions to request an assessment before formally applying.

Bill Status: Died in the House Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations Committee

SINE DIE: March 28, 2025



Other Proposed Legislation to be Aware of

HB 29 - State Electrical Standards for Buildings

This Bill expands the group of entities whose model code may be used as a source or basis for the standards required for electrical system construction, repair, and inspection as promulgated in the Uniform Building Code. HB 29 was assigned to the Licensing, Occupation & Administrative Committee

Bill Status: HB 29 died the House Licensing, Occupation & Administrative Committee

SINE DIE: March 28, 2025

HB 160 & SB 59 - Affordable Housing

Currently there are two bills that could help expand affordable housing across Kentucky. HB 160 would prohibit local government from adopting or enforcing zoning regulations that treat manufactured homes differently than site-built homes. SB 59 Would allow religious institutions to develop affordable housing without submission to planning units (Zoning) if the development is approved by a local government. HB 160 passed out of the House Local Government Committee and SB 59 Passed out of the Senate 34-3 with a committee substitute.

Bill Status HB 160: March 28, 2025, House concurred in Senate Committee Substitute (1); passed 95-0; enrolled, signed by Speaker of the House; enrolled, signed by President of the Senate delivered to Governor.

Bill Status: SB 59: March 27, 2025, taken from the House Committee on Committees Died in the House Local Government.

SINE DIE: March 28, 2025

HB 163 Public School Facilities

This Bill creates a new section of KRS Chapter 162 to define terms; require at least 95% of restroom facilities in a specified school building be designated for a specific biological sex. The current Kentucky Plumbing Code addresses the issue on the number of restroom fixtures required for each sex. HB 163 was assigned to the Primary & Secondary Education Committee. Design professionals have suggested that the issues should be addressed through the building code review process that is currently in progress rather than through legislation and additional regulations.

Bill Status: Died in Primary and Secondary Education

SINE DIE: March 28, 2025



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PROFESSIONAL TITLES IN KY



Q & A

Q: Who is a Certified Interior Designer?

A: "Certified interior designer" means a person who is certified to use the title "certified interior designer" in accordance with KRS 323.400 to 323.416 and 323.992 by meeting the criteria of education, experience, and examination as determined by the board.

Q: I have an architectural degree from a college; may I use the word architect in my title?

A: People licensed in Kentucky as Registered Architects (RA) are the only ones who can legally call themselves an architect. Without having a license, one is technically and legally not an architect and cannot use the word architect in a title or a description tending to convey the impression that they are an architect.

[Kentucky Board of Architects](#)

KRS 323.230

Who may be styled as architects.

Only persons licensed under this chapter may be styled or known as architects in Kentucky, or use any words or letters or assume any titles or description tending to convey the impression that they are architects.

Effective: June 16, 1960 History: Amended 1960 Ky. Acts ch. 218, sec. 20, effective June 16, 1960. -- Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts ch. 208, sec. 1, effective October 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. sec. 73-8.

KRS 323.402

Use of title indicating certification.

Performance of services by person not certified. (1) No person shall use the title "*certified interior designer*," the letters CID, or any acronym, abbreviation, or title that would imply certification under this chapter unless the person at the time holds a valid certificate to use the title "certified interior designer" in the Commonwealth of Kentucky as established under KRS 323.400 to 323.416 and 323.992. (2) Nothing in KRS 323.400 to 323.416 or 323.992 prohibits a person who is not certified as a certified interior designer from providing interior design services or from using any title, sign, card, or device indicating that the person provides interior design services.

Effective: July 15, 2008 History: Amended 2008 Ky. Acts ch. 59, sec. 4, effective July 15, 2008. -- Created 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 55, sec. 2, effective July 15, 2002

Legal Review Clarifies EESA for Initial Applicant Eligibility

The Kentucky Board of Architects recently considered a legal review of the Kentucky Statute KRS 323.050 (2) (b) regarding the qualifications for initial architecture licensure by examination. The statute requires that every applicant shall hold a degree accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) or its equivalent as defined in the statute.

According to Kentucky Administrative Regulation 201 KAR 19:215, Section 1, accredited schools and colleges must have a professional degree program accredited by NAAB to be considered a recognized program. The Board's legal counsel was asked to evaluate the Kentucky laws as they pertain to NAAB and NAAB's Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA). The EESA program is a partnership between NAAB and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). This program assesses non-accredited architectural education to determine whether it aligns with NCARB's educational standards for licensure or NCARB certification.

The Kentucky Board of Architects' legal counsel clarified that because EESA is a NAAB-endorsed program, and an approved EESA evaluation meets NCARB's education standards, a completed EESA evaluation satisfies the statutory and regulatory requirements of a NAAB-accredited degree. This legal clarification confirms that the Board has the authority to approve applications from individuals who have completed an EESA evaluation, recognizing it as equivalent to a NAAB-accredited degree for Kentucky initial licensure applicants.

***"Do the right thing even when no one is watching."* – C. S. Lewis**

ARCHITECT NEWS

Architect Continuing Education—Calendar Year 2025

Twelve Continuing Education Hours (CEH) are required as a condition for the annual license renewal. The CEH requirement for the annual renewal shall be earned during the period beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of the previous calendar year (2024).

A minimum of 12 CEHs shall consist of structured educational activities on relevant topics addressing health, safety, and welfare (HSW) subjects as referenced in [201 KAR 19:087, Section 1\(3\)](#).

This year's renewal period will open as of June 1, 2025.



NCARB REGIONAL SUMMIT MARCH 1, 2025

Submitted by Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB

The NCARB Regional Summit was held February 27 – March 1, 2025, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sydney Goetz, Cordelia Harbut, and I attended representing our commonwealth. Kentucky is part of NCARB Region 4, also known as the mid-west region, including nine states. We participated in group sessions led by NCARB about pathways to practice, and artificial intelligence regulation. The excellent keynote speaker, “Dr. PBJ”, inspired us to look at “work burnout” differently and consider our priorities. Overall, the event inspired the attendees and gave us very positive insight in how we can better regulate our profession and assess future architecture candidates.

Highlights from the Regional meetings include:

- The Region approved holding our next Education Symposium in Minneapolis on June 24th, just before the 2026 Annual Business Meeting. Greg Douglas will serve as committee chair.
- The region actively engaged in a discussion concerning continuing education brought forward by the Illinois board. This included discussion about how much continuing education is required, how enforcement is handled by each state, and what services are available to assist boards with record keeping and enforcement. We have started developing a chart to track this and other major issues so we can more easily share this information with each other within the region.

The officers elected for Region 4 serving from June 2025 to June 2026 will be:

Director: Linda Alfson Schemmel, AIA, NCARB, Former Iowa Member Board Member

Chair: Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB, Kentucky Member Board Member

Vice Chair: Jennifer Myers, NCARB, Michigan Member Board Member

Secretary / Treasurer: Deveron Sanders, PE, Michigan Member Board Member



NCARB



The Architect Licensing Advisors

Community is a group of volunteers committed to assisting licensure candidates and architects as they navigate through the path to licensure and reciprocity. Architect licensing advisors provide guidance throughout the licensure process by facilitating the flow of information to architecture students, licensure candidates, and architects.



The Role of an Architect Licensing Advisor.

- Serve as an information resource for licensure candidates and architects on the path to licensure (education, experience, and examination).
- Provide guidance along the transition from candidate to practicing architect within the context of state regulatory requirements, reciprocity, and NCARB certification.
- Advise and assist licensure candidates with the NCARB Record application and documentation process.
- Please be advised that most volunteer positions have a two-year renewable term.

The Responsibilities of the Advisor.

- Regularly attend and/or participate in Architect Licensing Advisors Community training and development events.
- Communicate with NCARB to maintain a thorough understanding of the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®), the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®), and NCARB certification requirements, objectives, and resources.
- Communicate with your local licensing board to maintain a thorough understanding of registration requirements and procedures.
- Communicate and collaborate with professional support networks (including NCARB, student organizations, local and national AIA components, licensing boards, etc.) to strengthen awareness of the required components of licensure and the importance of becoming licensed.
- Maintain up-to-date contact and firm/organization/school representation information in [My NCARB](#).

To learn more about this program, contact:

advisors@ncarb.org

[Find Your Licensing Advisor | NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards](#)

NCARB NEW COMPETENCY STANDARD for ARCHITECTS

Design & Documentation Domain

1. Assess regulatory design requirements.
2. Evaluate existing project conditions.
3. Develop a program that establishes project criteria.
4. Create design solutions that support public and environmental well-being.
5. Integrate socio-demographic considerations and universal design principles.
6. Create design solutions that address project requirements.
7. Create deliverables that convey a design solution.
8. Coordinate the integration of building systems into a project design.

Construction Administration Domain

9. Prepare and administer documentation of the construction phase.

Construction Administration Domain (cont.)

10. Evaluate the progress of construction for conformance with contract documents and design intent.

Project Management Domain

11. Execute contracts for professional services.
12. Implement a work plan according to a project's scope, schedule, and budget.
13. Organize and coordinate an interdisciplinary project team.
14. Understand statutes and regulations that govern architectural practice within U.S. jurisdictions to provide services legally.
15. Understand ethical and professional standards that govern architectural practice.
16. Understand foundational business principles to operate a practice.

[Review the NCARB guidelines in its entirety here.](#)

What is the Competency Standard?

The NCARB Competency Standard for Architects is a document that establishes 16 knowledge areas, skills, abilities, and behaviors—called competencies—necessary for initial licensure as an architect. See [NCARB's Competency Standard for Architects](#)

How was the Competency Standard Developed?

The NCARB Competency Standard for Architects was developed by NCARB's Competency Task Force. The task force used findings from NCARB's [2022 Analysis of Practice](#)—which had nearly 20,000 architect participants—as a foundation for their efforts. The task force also shared a draft list of competencies for public feedback in October 2023, receiving feedback from nearly 5,000 architects. [Learn how the Competency Standard was developed.](#)

Why create the Competency Standard?

As NCARB works to envision the future of licensure—including the possibility of multiple pathways to licensure—it is essential that our programs share a core expectation of what competency looks like at the point of initial licensure. The NCARB Competency Standard for Architects provides that foundation and lays the groundwork for a flexible, accessible path to licensure.

What does the Competency Standard mean for licensure candidates?

Over the next two years, NCARB will use the NCARB Competency Standard for Architects to develop and implement updates to the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) and the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®). The changes will likely include clarifying the descriptions of the AXP's six experience areas and updating some of the ARE's test objectives. However, the updates will not include changes to the AXP's experience area structure or hours requirement, and they will not include changes to the ARE's divisional structure or length. Candidates will retain full credit for their existing AXP hours and passed ARE divisions, including exam credits transitioned from ARE 4.0.

What does the Competency Standard mean for architects?

While NCARB's immediate plans involve updates to programs for initial licensure, the Competency Standard may ultimately be used to update our programs for reciprocal licensure—including pathways to NCARB certification. In addition, it may lead to updated licensure renewal requirements (such as continuing education) in the future.

For more information about the NCARB Competency Standard for Architects, including how these changes fit within our ongoing Pathways to Practice initiative, visit www.ncarb.org/pathways, or www.ncarb.org/competency-standard.

ARE EXAM IMPROVEMENTS

NCARB is implementing two updates that will go into effect on April 28, 2025.

1. NCARB is retiring drag-and-place item types from the exam. NCARB strives to align with evolving testing best practices, which indicate that other item types used on the ARE assess candidates' qualifications more effectively. Beginning April 28, you should only expect to see three item types on the exam: multiple choice, check-all-that-apply, and hotspot. The format and scoring of the remaining item types will not change.

2. All candidates will automatically see provisional feedback at the end of their exam. Going forward, you will not need to indicate if you would like to see provisional feedback at the end of an exam division. The provisional feedback displayed on the screen will inform you of your overall likelihood of passing or failing the division.

How This Impacts You

If you are testing between now and April 28, 2025:

- You should still anticipate encountering some drag-and-place items. NCARB's exam prep content related to drag-and-place items will remain available until April 28.

If you would like to view provisional feedback at the end of your exam, you should follow the process outlined in the [current ARE Guidelines](#).

If you are testing on or after April 28, keep in mind that there will only be three item types on the exam (multiple choice, check-all-that-apply, and hotspot).

Tips for Online Proctoring

Before taking an online-proctored exam, make sure you take the following steps for a successful test day:

Ensure your operating system is up-to-date and that your test environment meets all of [NCARB's and PSI's requirements](#).

Schedule a free PSI test run to confirm with a proctor that your computer and testing environment meet the requirements. You can schedule this appointment through the "Exams" tab within your [NCARB Record](#).

Review the [ARE Guidelines](#) and website at [ARE Update: Upcoming Changes to the ARE Guidelines | NCARB - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards](#)



REPORTING CONCERNS TO PROTECT ARE EXAMS

ARE Security Tip Line at ARESecurity@ncarb.org.

Continuing Education Opportunities

MASTER/JOURNEYMAN TRAINING

The **Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.** of Indiana/Kentucky Chapter are offering continuing education on Master/Journeyman Electrical classes. The focus of the class is discussion of the most recent changes to the National Electrical Code which varies from residential and commercial to industrial.

- *All classes will be held on Saturday.
- *The cost of the Saturday class is \$70.00.
- *Doors open at 7:30 a.m. and class sessions will be 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- *Lunch will be provided for all classes.

Participants may sign up for the classes by contacting **Holly Baker at (270)792-1128** or via email at holly@abcindianakentucky.org. Louisville classes will be held at 1810 Taylor Avenue. Lexington classes will be held at 157 Venture Court.

<u>LOUISVILLE CLASSES</u>		<u>LEXINGTON CLASSES</u>	
April 26	July 26	April 12	July 12
May 24	August 23	May 10	August 9
June 21	September 27	June 7	September 13



**Kentucky Dam Village
Gilbertsville, Kentucky**

Registration

Use the links below to access registration for the Spring Kentucky Construction Code Forum to be held at the Kentucky Dam Village in Gilbertsville, Kentucky, on April 14-16.

Online registration is preferred at [2025 Spring Kentucky Construction Code Forum](#), or you can print the registration form and return the form and payment to:

CAAK – Cora Dill
48 Burney Lane
Fort Thomas, KY 41075

If paying by credit card, please use the online registration.

If you have any questions, please contact Cora Dill, caakky23@gmail.com or visit their website at [CAAK – Code Administrators Association of Kentucky](#).

DESIGN KENTUCKY INDUSTRY TRADESHOW & CEU DAY

Enjoy a day filled with professional development, offering **6 CEU's**, valuable networking opportunities, and vendor trade show! Half-day tickets are available. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided throughout the day.

April 16, 2025

8:00 AM-6:00 PM

ID&A

731 BRENT STREET

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40204

To register: [Design Kentucky Industry Tradeshow & CEU Day 2025 | IIDAOKY](#) or email: iidaohkyprofdevelopment@gmail.com

Trends in Architecture: the 2024 AIA Firm Survey Report **Submitted by Jon Tennent & Teddi Hibberd**

From a financial perspective...

One of the more striking financial trends highlighted in the AIA's Firm Survey Report was the average net billings per employee, which have risen steadily from \$86,000 in 2011 to \$143,000 in 2023. For some context, however, I ran these numbers through the US Bureau of Labor Statistics' CPI inflation calculator to compare those nominal billings per employee in 2024 dollars. Adjusted for inflation (to 2024 dollars), there has actually been relatively little growth over the past decade: \$144k in 2015, \$143k in 2021, and \$147k in 2023. There was, however, a material increase between 2011 (\$120k) and 2015 (\$144k) which is likely due in part to the improving economy as the country finally recovered from the 2008 financial crisis. While net billings per employee do not directly translate into wages paid to each employee, most firms would likely see a correlation between their billings per employee and how much they're able to compensate those employees. So what does it mean if these numbers, adjusted for inflation, remain relatively flat over time?

As with most things economic, the possible answers are myriad. But one common factor is productivity growth: if the output per worker is not increasing, that's one possible layer of meaning behind the flat numbers. Although worker productivity can be affected by soft factors such as training and even company culture, the biggest leaps in productivity are generally driven by technological tools that augment human capabilities. For example, the advent of BIM software not only made individual employees capable of more gross output, but it also increased their technical abilities.

What could be the disruptive factor in 2024 that could lead to the next leap forward in productivity? Most industries are anticipating some effect from the use of artificial intelligence, and this was also a question that firms were asked on the AIA's Firm Survey Report. Unsurprisingly, large firms (defined as 50 or more employees) were the most likely to be utilizing AI in some form – whether that be content generation, photo editing, code research, or AI embedded in CAD/BIM software. To me, however, the most shocking statistic was the percentage of firms reporting that they do not use AI at all in their day-to-day work. This was 39% of large firms, 58% of mid-size firms, and a whopping 73% of small firms. These relatively low adoption rates, contrasted with the near inevitability of higher adoption rates over the next ten years, may very well translate into increased productivity per employee in the industry and, therefore, could mean higher billings per employee as well. If so – ideally – these higher billings per employee could also foretell compensation increases across the industry.

From a design perspective...

As a design professional whose portfolio includes significant renovation work, I was struck by the recent decline in renovations and alterations cited by the Firm Survey Report, specifically in light of the critical role existing buildings will play in achieving the AIA's carbon neutrality goals. My initial concern was that these numbers were an indication that the ideology and the practice of our profession were not aligned. However, the details present a more nuanced story. With 40% of U.S. energy consumed by buildings, the AIA 2030 Commitment program states that architects are uniquely positioned to make consequential impacts in CO2 emissions and offers action items on how our buildings can reach carbon neutrality by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. While the path toward achieving carbon neutrality for any project is composed of a multitude of decisions whose collective impact make this goal possible, the single largest variable, most readily available across all regions and project types, is the decision to extend the life of our existing infrastructure. As stated by AIA President Kimberly Dowdell, AIA at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, "Simply put, there is no path to zero emissions without directly addressing America's 325 billion square feet of existing built environment." The AIA's Guide to Building Reuse for Climate Action states that "half the U.S. building stock is over 40 years old and an estimated 28% of global emissions come from the fuel and electricity consumed by existing buildings." There is clearly a need and corresponding opportunity to take swift and decisive action towards reducing our carbon impact, and renovations are a key way to accomplish this. So why, if renovations and alterations were on the rise, did they take a notable downturn between 2021 and 2023?

Looking at other data in the Firm Survey Report, the largest share of billings is driven by the institutional market, where the distribution of new construction vs. renovation/alteration dollars increased by 14 percent – with new construction rising from 37% of billings in 2021 to 51% in 2023. The top three sectors within the institutional market are healthcare (14% of billings), K-12 (10% of billings), and higher education (9% of billings). While all three of these groups are important to the conversation, I found the impact of healthcare industry standards to be the most notable. Healthcare was one of the few building sectors that continued to see gains during the pandemic, and spending is projected to continue as the baby boomers age. So what does the impact of this pressure mean for our nation's healthcare infrastructure? The American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE) states that the two key metrics of health care facility conditions are the age of plant (AoP), a financial ratio that measures how well a hospital is maintaining its facilities, and the facility condition index (FCI), a compilation of reported facility assessments translated into a ratio that represents the cost of repairing a facility over the cost of replacing it. While the AoP is a reasonable proxy for the condition of health care facility infrastructure, the FCI is the most common metric for evaluating a facility's condition with benchmarks for replacement of critical functions - hospitals and surgery centers - at .05 or 5 percent of the cost of total replacement. In other words, the industry standard for evaluating whether a facility needs to be replaced (new construction) vs. updated (renovation) is 5% of the total facility cost – a shockingly low threshold. As demographic and aging infrastructure demands persist, this metric will continue to guide the market away from renovations and towards new construction.

Continuation on Page 13

Continued from Page 12

Trends in Architecture: the 2024 AIA Firm Survey Report by Jon Tennent & Teddi Hibberd

K-12 spending also saw a boost following the pandemic when most schools were shut down. ConstructConnect reports that “the value of construction starts for junior high and high school facilities increased 20% through the first five months of 2023, college and university facilities starts were up 14%, while preschool and elementary facilities increased 9%.” However, it is important to note that these stats are not parsing between dollars spent on renovations vs. new construction. Both the K-12 and higher education markets are more inclined towards renovations depending on the unique project conditions – namely project types where the demand for student housing that leans toward new construction, whereas improved classroom and student programing space that lean towards renovation.

In summary, when parsing the decline in renovations cited by the AIA Firm Survey Report against the AIA’s 2030 Commitment, it is important to understand the immense market forces imposed by our stressed and aging healthcare system. Can we overcome this hurdle? I hope the answer is yes, but it will require the profession’s continued partnership with our K-12 and higher educational clients to leverage the opportunities of reusing their existing infrastructure.

In conclusion

There is far more data in the 2024 AIA Firm Survey Report than what we’ve highlighted here, and the report has some beautiful charts and graphs to help visualize the trends. We urge everyone to check it out in its entirety if these topics are of interest to you. Although trend lines don’t predict the future, they can show you where the momentum is – or isn’t.

Jon Tennent is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Senior Manager at Besten & Dieruf, PLLC, located in Lexington, Kentucky. Teddi Hibberd is an architect and Senior Associate at Omni Architects in Lexington, Kentucky.

2025-2026 L Wayne Tune Endowed Scholarship Award



Gavin Kendall, of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, was recently awarded the L. Wayne Tune Endowed Scholarship Award for his outstanding academic performance, innovative designs, and passion for shaping the future of architecture. The L. Wayne Tune Endowed Scholarship Award is one of the most prestigious awards for aspiring architects. It recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional talent, creativity, and dedication to the field of architecture. The scholarship aims to support the education of young architects who have the potential to make a meaningful impact on the built environment.

The scholarship will provide Gavin with the financial support necessary to further his studies, attend design conferences, and access resources that will enhance his skills and knowledge. His interest in architecture stemmed from his hobby of drawing and playing with Legos. He has always found the idea of putting things together fascinating, whether it be parts or mechanisms that come together to make a machine or toy that animates itself and comes to life. Architecture became a passion for him after his sophomore year of high school; he learned about design and engineering of structures and systems that go inside of them.

After graduating with his Master’s degree in architecture, Galvin plans to move back to Tennessee with hopes of securing employment with a Nashville firm.

Gavin’s advice to other students is to always get back up after failing and doing your best to be meet your goals. He has found that people only see the success you have achieved, but only the designer knows the failures they went through to get to the finish line.

As the field of architecture continues to evolve, Gavin’s innovative ideas and passion for sustainable design promise to make a lasting impact on the profession.

Announcements

NCARB ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

JUNE 19-21, 2025

Scottsdale, Arizona

AIA Kentucky/Indiana
Conference

September 18-19, 2025

Lexington, Kentucky

November 3-5, 2025

AIA Women's Leadership Conference
Atlanta Georgia

Network and learn from an extraordinary lineup of renowned speakers, trailblazing leaders, and industry experts who will share path breaking ideas to tackle challenges and lead change. Don't miss high-impact programming, networking, education, community, and inspiration designed to change the workplace experience and help create gender equity for women in AEC.



The Board would like to express our deepest gratitude to Franklin Gray for his dedication and service as a board member. His insightful ideas and unwavering commitment of protecting the health and welfare of the Commonwealth is greatly appreciated.

KY Board of Architects Member February 10, 2020 - October 14, 2024



Board Members:
Chad Beyer and
Sydney Goetz



KY BOA Quarterly Meeting Jan. 2025

The next meeting of the Kentucky Board of Architects will be held on April 22, 2025, located at the Gray Design Building | College of Design on the University of Kentucky's campus.



Board Member: Rex Cecil

BOARD MEMBERS

Jill Lewis Smith, AIA, NCARB
President

Joseph Nolasco, AIA, CID
Secretary

Olivia Davis
Public Member/Treasurer

Jeffrey Johnson, AIA
Ex-Officio

Chad Beyer, CID, NCIDQ, LEED
AP
Member

T. Rexford Cecil, NCARB
Member

Sydney Goetz, AIA, MHA
Member

STAFF

Cordelia Harbut
Executive Director

Rachael McClain
Ex. Administrative Secretary

Yolanda Costner
Staff Assistant

COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

Donna Rabbitt-Murphy
Donald Petrella
Michael Scanlan

2026

NCARB MEETINGS

NCARB MBE WORKSHOP

March 19, 2026

NCARB Regional Summit

March 20-21, 2026

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NCARB ANNUAL BUSINESS
MEETING

JUNE 25-27, 2026

Minneapolis, Minnesota