

CHAIR'S REPORT

Search on for new Executive Director

By David Brinson
AIA, NCARB



The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners is again faced with the task of attracting applicants and hiring a new Executive Director.

The current director, who came to us from NCARB staff in late 2016, is resigning due to pressing family issues and is returning to the Washington-Baltimore area. While there was consideration of allowing some sort of remote working arrangement, the Board decided that the Executive Director should reside and be physically present in the state and, more specifically, in Baton Rouge where the Board's office is located.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, LSBAE has been operating within Governor John Bel Edwards' mandates and policies by conducting virtual and hybrid meetings and other business. In accordance with the Governor's executive orders, at the beginning of the pandemic the physical office closed completely. Initially, the entire staff worked remotely and, more recently, the staff has alternated presence in the Board office. As all of this was occurring, the director conducted Board business by both virtual and in-person interaction with staff and Board members. The process (continued on page 2)



Help shape the future of architecture

NCARB is conducting an ambitious, once-in-a-decade study, the Analysis of Practice, that will shape their programs and initiatives over the next several years. The previous version, the Practice Analysis, was conducted in 2012 and led to the evolution of the AXP and ARE 5.0. For the current Analysis of Practice to be as thorough and insightful as possible, NCARB needs to engage a diverse cross-section of people across the profession.

What is the Analysis of Practice?

A profession-wide study that explores how architects are currently practicing and how that practice is likely to shift in the years ahead. The results will guide updates to NCARB's programs and services, including the national experience program and licensing exam, so that we can continue effectively protecting the public. LSBAE relies on these programs for candidates to meet the experience and examination requirements for licensure.

Why participate?

The profession is constantly evolving, and the path to licensure must evolve with it. To ensure these programs are aligned with modern architecture practice, NCARB regularly partners with researchers to conduct a comprehensive review of current practice. The previous study led to a restructuring of the Architectural Experience Program® (AXP®) and Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®).

The study's main survey will launch in March 2022 but they are currently collecting names of persons interested in participating in the survey. We encourage you to take a moment to sign up at <https://analysisofpractice.com> for further information from NCARB about the Analysis of Practice and to participate in the survey.

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Search for new director

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of hiring a new director has been ongoing for the past few months and we anticipate having a new director in place in early 2022.

Since Kathy Hillegas succeeded our previous, long-time director, the late Mary “Teeny Simmons,” she has assembled a very efficient and capable staff, evolved systems and procedures, modernized the Board, and brought it fully into the 21st century. When Kathy departs, she will leave a very significant legacy and standard for the Board and staff to maintain. She has done much to improve the board’s operations and procedures. Hopefully, she will remain a resource upon which the board can draw in the future.

Reflection on Kathy’s five-year tenure with LSBAE cannot overlook her introduction to Louisiana environs. When she arrived for an interview and familiarization with the area, she was greeted with an epochal storm and the unprecedented flood of August of 2016. Her flight was diverted to Lafayette, and she drove to Baton Rouge in a rental car.

Spending the night in Baton Rouge following the interview with the intention of returning to Baltimore/Washington via Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans, Kathy drove out of Baton Rouge on I-12 Saturday afternoon. She became stranded along with several thousand other vehicles and drivers near the Albany, Louisiana exit on Interstate 12 for more than 36 hours with no provisions. From this adventure, we were taught what an intrepid and amazing trooper Kathy really is. Stranded with no food, water, or restroom facilities, she braved near impossible conditions from Saturday afternoon until Sunday night when Ron Blicht was able to rescue her and get her to New Orleans, leaving her rental vehicle on the highway.

While we do not know where Kathy’s path may take her in the future, we do know that she has made invaluable contributions to the board, that her efforts are very much appreciated, and that her talent and dedication will be dearly missed.

Time to renew your individual license!

It is time to renew your license to practice architecture. A reminder notice was e-mailed to the address we have on file in early November and again in December. An architect who does not properly renew his or her license may not practice after the expiration of the license. An architect who continues to practice using an expired license will be subject to such disciplinary action as the board deems appropriate. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to [renew your license](#).

Once your renewal application has been approved, you will receive an e-mail indicating that your license has been renewed. The email will also contain a pdf of your updated license. Please be sure to print this for your records.



Reminder: All architects (both in-state and-out-of-state) are required to complete

12 CEHs of HSW in the calendar year prior to renewal in order to renew their individual Louisiana licenses. This means that you must have completed 12 CEH in HSW in calendar year 2020.

Notices regarding licensure status are sent only as a courtesy of the board. The ultimate responsibility for licensure renewal rests with the licensed professional. All renewals including payment must be either received in the board office by midnight CST on December 31 or be postmarked by that date.

Architect licenses run on the calendar year (January 1 through December 31) and Firm licenses run on the half-year (July 1 through June 30).

New feature to allow POC

Architects now have the ability to identify a Point of Contact (POC) who can act as their agent to receive communications regarding their registration and to conduct business with the Board on their behalf. To establish a POC, you must do the following:

- Log in to the [Licensing Portal](#)
- On the left side navigation of the screen select “Point of Contact”
- On the “Point of Contact” card, Select the “Assign Point of Contact” button
- Identify your POC by providing a name, e-mail address and phone number

A message will then be delivered to your designated Point of Contact. He/She will then have to do the following:

- Receive an e-mail notifying him/her that access has been granted to the architect’s record
 - The POC should then login to the [Licensing Portal](#) and create an account (User ID must be the e-mail address for the POC)
- Once the account has been authorized and confirmed by the POC, the POC will be able to login to access the architect’s file and complete the renewal application.

It is important to note that while you will be granting authority to another individual to conduct business (i.e. renew your license) with the Board, you will continue to receive communications from the Board and it remains your responsibility to ensure that all information provided to the Board is complete and accurate.



BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT

By Paul H. Spaht, LSBAE Board Attorney

New rules to take effect in late December

Rule-making -- The lengthy process for the amendment of the two rules and the adoption of the new rule discussed below is near completion. Legislative Fiscal Office approval was obtained in June of 2021. Initial approval of the Occupational Licensing Review Commission (OLRC) was obtained in July. Notices of Intent for such rules were published in the Louisiana Register in August. Final approval of the OLRC was obtained in October. Barring some unforeseen event, the amendments and new rule will be published in the Louisiana Register in late December and will be effective at that time. The changes will codify unwritten policies and allow the Board to be more responsive to architects and the public, as discussed below.

Adoption or amendment of board rules – The board has always recognized that any interested person may request that the board adopt, amend, or repeal a rule. However, there is nothing in the board’s existing rules, or elsewhere, which provides how this should be done or what the board should do when such requests are made.

The amended rule will provide that any interested person may petition the board requesting the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule, that the petition shall be sent to the board at its office, that it shall be titled “Petition for Rule-Making,” and that it shall include certain information. The board may request further information. The board shall decide whether to grant or deny a

petition for rulemaking within ninety (90) days of its receipt of the petition.

Declaratory orders and rulings – Although the board has long issued declaratory orders and rulings whenever such were deemed appropriate, the board has never had a specific rule providing how a request for such an order or ruling should be made or what the board should do in response. A new rule will answer those questions.

The new rule will provide that a request for a declaratory order or ruling shall be made in the form of a written petition to the board on a form provided by the board. The board may request further information. The declaratory order or ruling of the board in response shall be in writing. If the request for declaratory order or ruling is related to pending or anticipated litigation, the board may defer issuing a declaratory order or ruling until the litigation is final.

Members of the Military and Their Spouses and Dependents -- Since 2013, when it was mandated by the Louisiana legislature to do so, the board has provided by rule a path for obtaining a license to practice architecture in Louisiana for members of the military and military spouses who satisfy certain conditions. In 2020, the legislature modified the conditions for obtaining a license for such persons, made this path available to United States Department of Defense civilian employees assigned to

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BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT

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duty in Louisiana, their spouses and dependents, and mandated that professional licensing boards adopt rules implementing its provisions. In addition, in 2020 the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) adopted updates to their NCARB Model Law and Regulations which incorporate a suggested path to architectural licensure for military personnel.

To comply with the mandate of the 2020 legislature and acknowledge the proposed changes to NCARB Model Law and Regulations, the board is amending its existing Rule §1109. As mandated by the legislature, the proposed rule requires the board to issue a license, permit pending normal license, or registration to practice architecture in Louisiana to an applicant who satisfies the statutory requirements.

To obtain an initial license under the path contained in the draft 2021 NCARB Model Law and Regulations, the applicant must complete an Approved Educational Program, or its equivalent, complete the Approved Experience Program (AXP) administered by NCARB, and pass the Architectural Registration Examination

administered by NCARB. In lieu of completing AXP, the board may accept "professional training while in active duty" as it deems acceptable and in keeping with the experience requirements set forth by NCARB.

As to future rulemaking, during the regular session of 2021, the legislature enacted legislation mandating that professional and occupational licensing boards issue a license, certification, permit pending normal license, or registration to dependents of healthcare professionals who relocate to and establish legal residence in Louisiana, provide healthcare service in Louisiana, and satisfy certain statutory requirements. The genesis of this legislation appears to have been the COVID-19 pandemic. This 2021 legislation concerning dependents of healthcare professionals appears to have been modeled after the previously discussed 2020 legislation concerning members of the military and their spouses and dependents.

It is anticipated that during 2022 the board will adopt a rule concerning the licensing of dependents of healthcare professionals, as mandated by the legislature.



Congratulations to our new licensees by examination

The LSBAE Board is pleased to announce that the following individuals were licensed by examination between June 22, 2021 and December 7, 2021.

NAME	CITY	NAME	CITY
<i>Christophe Blanchard</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	<i>John Kendig Rupley</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>
<i>Andras Kozicz</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	<i>Charlston Britton, Jr.</i>	<i>Baltimore, Maryland</i>
<i>Brad Michael Domingue</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	<i>Michael Dean Ballard</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>
<i>Mark James Hash</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	<i>Olivia Adams</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>
<i>Brian Jeffrey Cash</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	<i>Charles Francis Weimer</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>
<i>Dean C. Wild</i>	<i>Lafayette, Louisiana</i>	<i>Daisy Glenn Dodge</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>
<i>Randy Everett Hutchison</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>	<i>Justin Delatte</i>	<i>Shreveport, Louisiana</i>
<i>Amy Z. Finklea</i>	<i>New Orleans, Louisiana</i>		



Ascension Parish Courthouse
GraceHebertCurtis Architects

NCARB migration from Prometric to PSI for ARE administration

It is no secret that NCARB will be transitioning exam administration services from Prometric to PSI. The user testing conducted in October revealed that PSI's systems are not yet optimized for ARE candidates, so NCARB has decided to modify the migration timeline while they work with PSI to ensure the exam's delivery meets their delivery expectations for you.

The adjusted timeline will not impact a candidate's exam progress. Prometric has opened up onsite and online test appointments through May 2022. Candidates can continue preparing for and taking exams as normal. But please, remember that a candidate will not be able to move an existing appointment from Prometric's testing network to PSI's network, and any appointments scheduled with Prometric can't be canceled or refunded.

NCARB will provide a minimum of three months' notice prior to the launch date with PSI and that once all systems have successfully completed testing, they will announce the official launch date. Candidates should expect to hear more information from NCARB regarding the PSI migration timeline in early 2022.

Remember, this is simply a transition of exam administration services and there is no impact to the exam content.

Pilot Testing with PSI

To ensure operational pilot testing is ready for candidates, NCARB is also adjusting the timeline for the operational pilot with PSI, which was initially expected to take place in late 2021. Candidates will receive an updated timeline for pilot testing, as well as more information about how they can participate in this pilot, in early 2022.

Technical Issues

NCARB and their test delivery partners, Prometric and Zoomorphix, continue to address technical issues for both in-person and online exams. The majority of technical issues for online testers are caused by short lapses in internet connectivity from an online tester's service provider, which results in Prometric halting the exam delivery until a new internet connection is established. Candidates can decrease the likelihood of a potential need to restart by ensuring their internet service can support a consistent stable connection throughout the duration of your examination appointment. If you are testing online, be sure to follow all recommended guidance—including disabling all antivirus and internet security applications—prior to launching your ARE appointment.

[Learn more about the dos and don'ts for taking ARE 5.0 online](#)

All online test takers should complete a free [test run](#) appointment that allows candidates to verify their online proctoring setup, including testing environment, meets the necessary Prometric requirements. A test run can be scheduled at no cost through your NCARB Record.

NCARB is continuing quality assurance reviews of both Zoomorphix and Prometric updates that should improve the overall performance of the exam. Candidates who experience a technical issue, should immediately notify their proctor and then [contact NCARB](#) within 15 days. If you are not able to complete the exam due to a major technical issue, NCARB will work with you to reschedule the division at no cost.



Ochsner Center for Innovation
Trahan Architects



OSFM PLAN REVIEW CORNER

By: Joe Delaune, Chief Architect

With all of the hurricanes, pandemic, material shortages, and shipping delays lately you might think that construction in Louisiana is taking a hit, but you would never know by looking at the volume and scope of the projects coming through this office. We had already surpassed the number of submittals received in October than we had received all of last year. I project that by the end of this year we will have received approximately 17,500 reviews having a system estimated construction cost of over \$10 Billion, which would be about 95% of the pre-pandemic numbers and approximately 102% of the scope.

During 2020, in the height of the pandemic, the overall volume of plan submittals was down by about 15% of previous years; however, the scope of the projects was in line at about \$9.8 billion. For comparison, the number of projects during the two years prior was 18,246 and 18,496, and the scope of the projects was \$9.7 billion and \$9.9 billion respectively.

Large fluctuations of these numbers occur due to hurricanes and other natural disasters, but they always seem to even out. Recovery is an on-going process in Louisiana. Soon after a disaster, there is a race to set-up temporary worker housing and man-camps in the affected areas. We then see an initial surge of repair projects within the first few months following the damage. The larger reconstruction projects will continue to trickle in for months afterward. There is also long-term effects caused by changes in demographics that spark development in other areas.

Construction numbers high despite pandemic, shortages, delays



Code adoptions

State law requires the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (council) to review, evaluate, and update the State Uniform Construction Code no later than five years from the date of publication. As such, the council is currently reviewing the 2021 editions of the "I" codes and is planning to begin the promulgation process in June of 2022.

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Resilient Hampton: Newmarket Creek Water Pland & Pilot Projects
Waggoner & Ball Architecture/Environment

OSFM PLAN REVIEW CORNER

Construction numbers high

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An effective date of January 1, 2023 is currently planned; however, there are some unanswered questions at this time regarding the federal “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,” and FEMA requirements that may affect this. An effective date as early as August 2022 could be required. The promulgation process for the 2021 editions of the NFPA codes and standards will once again be coordinated with the council’s process as much as possible.

These codes are also currently proposed for promulgation in June of 2022 with the effective date of January 1, 2023. A six-month transition period is typically provided for the NFPA codes and standards, allowing the option to comply with either the currently adopted editions or the proposed editions of NFPA. Note that compliance with all provisions of a selected code or standard edition is required.

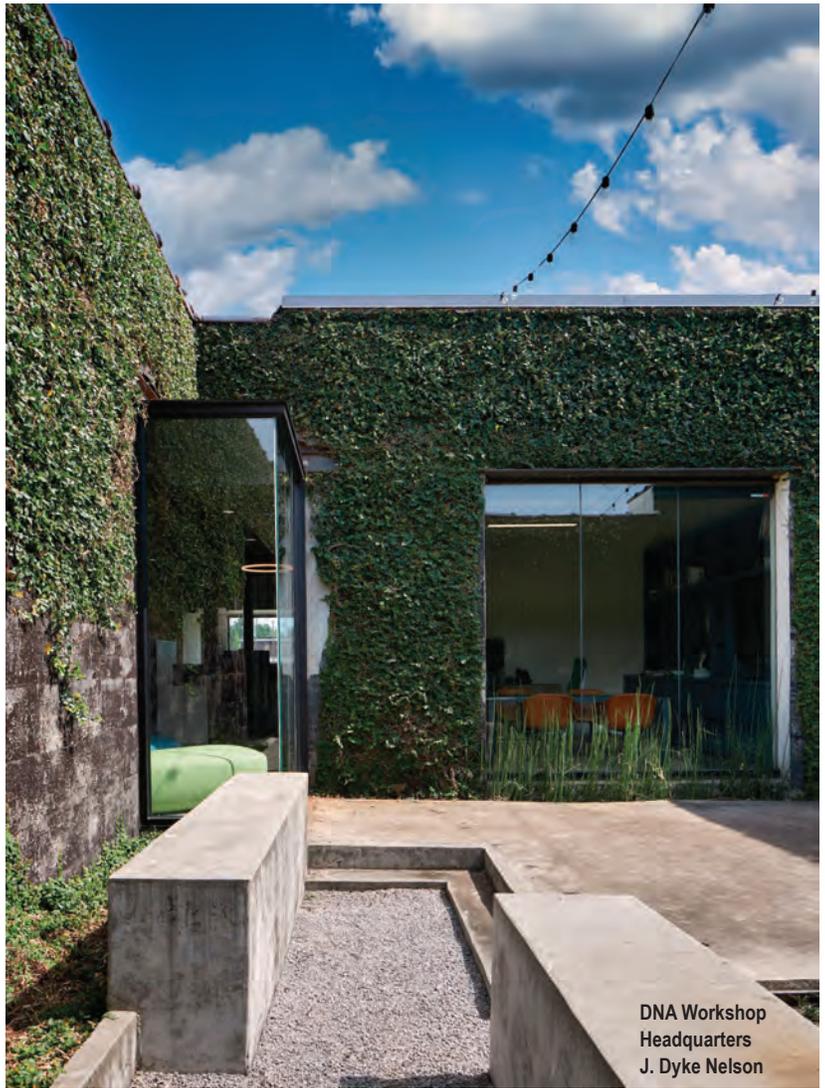
There are some provisions of the Federal “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act” that may affect the energy codes as well. There are later editions of this code referenced in the Act that may be related to funding. The Louisiana “Commercial Building Energy Conservation Code” editions are typically updated by law, and not adopted through the rulemaking process as other codes typically are. We will know if a bill will be proposed for adoption prior to the next Session.

Electronic Tagging

A module to our on-line system will soon be added that will change the way that life safety and property protection systems are certified and tracked for maintenance. These systems include fire alarms, automatic sprinklers, fire suppression, fire extinguishers, and elevators. The current process consists of paper tags placed on the systems that display the inspection and maintenance dates and the status of the system.

These tags will be replaced with “QR” code decals, or “electronic tags”, that allow the data to be uploaded into a database. Basic information regarding the system and the status will be available using any smartphone or QR reader, while additional specific data, maintenance records, and reminders will be available to the responsible parties. Beta testing has been underway for several months now and a slow rollout will begin early next year.

Thank you all for your partnership with the Office of State Fire Marshal and have a fantastic holiday season!



DNA Workshop
Headquarters
J. Dyke Nelson



Paris Parker Salon & Spa
John C. Williams Architects



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Katherine E. Hillegas, Executive Director

Five years ago, I was given the opportunity to work with the Board and the architects of Louisiana to uphold the standards of the practice of architecture. Those standards were established through the licensing laws and rules and protect the health, safety and welfare of the public in the built environment.

I was very fortunate to have had the support of the board in moving the boards operations forward. Much of this work has been focused on taking steps to bring the operations into the digital era. My first project was to complete digitization of the Board's files, which had begun just prior to my hiring. This included all licensing records dating back to the 1920's, as well as all of our operational and administrative files.

Following that, and partnering with an outside consultant, we developed and launched a new licensure database and application portal that resulted in a more efficient and timely review of licensure applications and issuance of licenses. Finally, you could apply and renew for your individual license or firm registration and pay with a credit card or check in one simple transaction! The completion of this task was a major milestone that we were only able to accomplish with the patience of you, our licensees. I am eternally grateful to each of you as we worked through those programming glitches in the early days following launch of the new system.

Simultaneous to the development of the licensing database and application portal, we also launched a fresh, user-friendly website that contains more detailed information and is (hopefully) easier to navigate.

At the Board table, we developed and began implementation of a new Strategic Plan, overhauled the firm registration process in an effort to simplify how firms register with the Board, and have enacted multiple rule changes.

We have defended the Board through a sunset review and have created a document that details the history of the Board and defends the regulation of the practice of architecture. These are but a few examples of the important issues that the Board addresses on a regular basis.

Nothing that has been achieved during my time with the Board could have been done without the support and dedication of each Board member and the staff. I had the great fortune to work and learn all there is to know about LSBAE and working within the state government from Mary Porche prior to her retirement in January of 2018.

In the past five years, we have developed a strong team of employees who are dedicated and passionate about the work

A lot accomplished with Board support & great staff

they do supporting the board in the administration of the licensing laws and rules. I have always strived to ensure that the gold standard of customer service that you all became accustomed to under the late Teeny Simmons continues to be met by our staff. For those who were fortunate enough to know Teeny, I can only hope that we have come close to achieving that.

I would like to thank you for welcoming this girl from Maryland to your great state and allowing me the opportunity to serve you. As I move on to the next chapter life has in store for me, I leave Louisiana eternally grateful for the hospitality and kindness you all have afforded me. I know that you will be in great hands with the Board and the staff that are in place.

I would be remiss not to mention that we have had two Board members term out in this calendar year. Knox Tumlin left the Board after 12 years of service last spring, and Allen Bacque will be leaving his position at the end of this year. They both served the Board, the architects of the state and the state in a stellar manner during their time with the Board, and are and will be sorely missed.



Hero's Origin
Robert Brooks, Architect



ENFORCEMENT REPORT

By Tyson Ducote, Deputy Director

LSBAE disciplinary and enforcement actions

One primary function of the Board is to investigate alleged violations of the statutes and rules which regulate the practice of architecture in Louisiana. Substantiated violations result in disciplinary, or enforcement action being taken either through a Consent Order or by Board Order following a formal hearing. The following are summaries of the disciplinary actions taken by the Board since the previous issue of the newsletter.

Multiple Laws/Rules Violations

Jeremiah Bell Sr. d/b/a 3JMS Drafting Services, an unlicensed individual d/b/a an unlicensed firm, was subject to enforcement action by the Board for practicing and/or offering to practice architecture and using the terms “architect,” “architectural,” and “architecture” without proper licensure, and presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another, in violation of La. R.S. 37:145 and La. R.S. 37:154(A), to wit LAC Title 46: IS1527.

The investigation disclosed that (a) since at least April 10, 2017, Respondent has represented on the 3JMS Drafting Services Instagram page that his firm is an “architectural design firm” and used the word “architect” to indicate that he practices and/or offers to practice architecture, (b) since at least April 11, 2017, Respondent has represented on the 3JMS Drafting Services Facebook page that his firm is an “architectural designer” and used the word “architect” to indicate that he practices and/or offers to practice architecture, (c) since at least February 2019,

Respondent has represented on his LinkedIn page that he is an “Architectural Designer at 3JMS Design Services” and listed his top skill as “Architecture,” (d) in October 2018, Respondent prepared, affixed the seal and signature of a Louisiana licensed architect to, and issued the plans for the build-out of an existing building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, (e) on or about February 11, 2019, Respondent submitted the plans which he had sealed and signed to the Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s office for plan review, and (f) the Louisiana licensed architect whose seal had been affixed had no part in the development or design of these plans and had no knowledge of their existence.

Mr. Bell entered into a Consent Order with the Board wherein he admitted to the referenced violations of the above laws/ rules and agreed to pay a fine of \$3,500; pay administrative costs of \$753.61; cease and desist from (a) practicing or offering to practice architecture, (b) using the terms “architect,” “architectural,” “architecture,” or anything confusingly similar in referring to himself or describing or promoting his business or activities in Louisiana, and (c) presenting or attempting to use as his own the certificate of registration or the seal of another, and from falsely impersonating any other registrant or certificate holder of like or different name; the publication of the Consent Order on the Board’s website; the printing of a summary of this matter identifying the firm by name in this publication, and the reporting of this matter to the NCARB Disciplinary Database.

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Emerald Street Residence
studio WTA

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Fraud, Deceit, Material Misstatement, or Perjury in Applying for a Certificate of Licensure or Registration

Shlomo Steve Wygoda, a licensed architect was subject to disciplinary action by the Board for making a material misstatement in connection with his applying for a certificate or registration.

La. R.S. 37:153(A)(7) authorizes the Board to discipline any registrant who has made a material misstatement in applying for a certificate of licensure or registration. The investigation disclosed that (a) on June 5, 2020, Respondent submitted an online Reciprocal License Application, (b) the online application asked the applicant, "In the past five years, have you been investigated, charged, arrested, convicted, found guilty or pleaded nolo contendere to any criminal offense (excluding non-criminal traffic infractions)?" (c) there are radial buttons for "Yes" and "No" on the application, (d) Respondent answered "No" to the question, (e) the online application also asked the applicant to certify the statement, "The information I have provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge," (f)

Respondent checked the box to agree with this statement, (g) on December 28, 2020, Respondent submitted an Architect License Renewal application online: therein he included information related to a conviction in New York for giving an unlawful gratuity in August 2016, (h) Respondent disclosed the conviction to other jurisdictions' licensing boards during their application processes, (i) Respondent did not disclose the conviction on his Louisiana Reciprocal License Application in Louisiana.

Mr. Wygoda entered into a Consent Order with the Board wherein he admitted to the referenced violations of the above laws/rules and agreed to pay a fine of \$1,500; pay administrative costs of \$1,500; the publication of the Consent Order on the Board's website; the printing of a summary of this matter identifying the firm by name in this publication, and the reporting of this matter to the NCARB Disciplinary Database.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been taken to ensure that the aforementioned information is correct; however, it should not be relied upon without verification from the Board office. Please note that the names of companies and individuals listed could be similar to other parties who have not had disciplinary or enforcement actions taken against them.



402
Charles Neyrey / M2 Studio



LCTCS Student Information System/Disaster Command Center
RHH Architects



LSU Tiger Stadium West Elevators upgrades
Holly & Smith Architects



Groundwork EarthLab
Albert & Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design

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