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LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS  
9625 FENWAY AVENUE, SUITE B  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1592  
(225) 925-4802

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	CASE NO. 2019-13
	)	
M3 DESIGN GROUP LLC	)	
	)	
RESPONDENT	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	

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**CONSENT ORDER**

The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners [hereinafter the “Board”], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and M3 Design Group LLC [hereinafter “Respondent”], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was not licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architectural firm and, therefore, was not authorized to use the title “architect”, or any term derived therefrom. Respondent subsequently became licensed in the State of Louisiana as an architecture firm, number LL0651, effective December 20, 2018.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board’s receipt of an Initial Application for Registration of a Limited Liability Company in which Respondent admitted that it engaged in the unlicensed practice of and/or offering to practice architecture in Louisiana. The investigation disclosed that the actual architectural work performed prior to licensure either fell below the thresholds that require licensure or were exempt from licensure requirements. However, between May 23, 2018, and December 20, 2018, Respondent used the terms “architectural” and “architecture” on its website (*m3-design-group.com*).

La. R.S. 37:145(A) provides that no person shall use the title “architect,” or any term derived therefrom, or display or use any title, sign, advertisement, or other device to indicate that such person practices or offers to practice architecture, or renders architectural services, or is an architect, unless such person shall have secured from the board a certificate of registration and license. La. R.S. 37:154(A) prohibits any person from violating any of the provisions of the Architect Licensing Law, R.S. 37:141 *et seq.* La. R.S. 37:145(A) *to wit* LAC Title 46: I§1527 prohibits using the terms “architect,” “architectural,” “architecture” or anything confusingly

similar to indicate that such person practices or offers to practice architecture without proper licensure. La. R.S. 37:154(A) authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:145(A), La. R.S. 37:154(A) and LAC Title 46: I§1527, upon finding of guilt following notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:145(A), La. R.S. 37:154(A) and LAC Title 46: I§1527 were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that between May 23, 2018, and December 20, 2018, Respondent was not licensed to practice and/or offer to practice architecture in Louisiana and that during this time period Respondent used the words “architecture” and “architectural” to describe its business activities and services in Louisiana without proper licensure.

By letter dated September 26, 2019, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that it may have violated La. R.S. 37:145(A), La. R.S. 37:154(A) and LAC Title 46: I§1527, relative to the practicing of and/or offering to practice architecture without proper licensure.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, and for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of its own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to **(a)** pay a fine of five hundred and no/100 (\$500.00) dollars, **(b)** pay administrative costs of five hundred eighty-one and 80/100 (\$581.80) dollars, and **(c)** the publication of this Consent Order on the Board’s website and a summary of this matter in the Board’s official newsletter, *Louisiana Architect*, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), all identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits that its conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above-referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that it will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth.

Respondent has been advised of its right to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in its own behalf, it hereby waives this right and its right to appeal, and it states affirmatively that it has been afforded all administrative remedies due to it under the law. Respondent further

acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Consent Order will remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and will be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive its right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in its behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents that **(a)** it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, **(b)** it has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with it by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument, and **(c)** the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners and Respondent agree that:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of five hundred and no/100 (\$500.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by a certified check payable to the Treasurer, State of Louisiana, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of five hundred eighty-one and 80/100 (\$581.80) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by a certified check payable to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

3. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be published in the official newsletter of the Board, *Louisiana Architect*, and reported to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), all identifying Respondent by name; and

4. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its

members, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

DATE: 12/13/19


BY:   
KATHERINE E. HELLE GAS, Executive Director

M3 Design Group LLC, Respondent

DATE: 10/16/19

BY:   
Myles M. Martin, Principal

Witnesses to the signature of  
M3 Design Group LLC

  
Print Name: KEVIN RADEY

  
Print Name: BENJAMIN ALLEN