

TED N. PRICE JR., AIA, SUCCESSFULLY AUGMENTED HIS PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS BY EARNING AN NCARB CERTIFICATE THROUGH THE BROADLY EXPERIENCED ARCHITECT (BEA) PROCESS.



The Broadly Experienced Architect (BEA) program offers architects who hold non-accredited degrees an alternate pathway to certification. Ted N. Price Jr., AIA, is one of the most recent practitioners to successfully earn an NCARB Certificate through the BEA process. This is his story.

The BEA: An Alternate Pathway to Certification

by Bill Houseman

In its latest newsletter, the firm of LGS Architects based in Irvine, California, proudly announced that it “is now licensed in Texas.” The announcement gratified Ted N. Price Jr., AIA, the president of this fast-growing firm that has expanded its professional scope in recent years to include numerous commissions not only in Texas but in several other Western states as well.

Today, Price is an architect in mid-career who has practiced with notable success since he was licensed two decades ago in California. Not until lately, however, has he been licensed in any other state. Price is one of many registered architects who, when the NCARB educational standard was upgraded, found that he lacked the NAAB-accredited professional degree required for NCARB certification.

His case was typical. “I graduated in 1980,” he recalls, “from the University of Southern California with a four-year bachelor of science degree in architecture. My degree was the

last four-year degree offered by USC. Since 1981—the very next year—the [five-year] bachelor of architecture has been in place; and this is what I didn’t have when I applied to NCARB for certification.”

Like most practitioners in his situation, Price was motivated to get himself certified in order to keep pace with the dramatic regional growth of architectural practice across jurisdictional lines. “I felt I needed NCARB certification,” he says, “because our clients were becoming active outside California; in order to serve them better, multi-state registration was a ‘must.’” It was only when he applied to NCARB, however, that he found he was deficient in education credits. The one path open to him, he was advised, was the Broadly Experienced Architect (BEA) process, which was developed explicitly to accommodate experienced practitioners such as Price.

The process is administered through NCARB’s BEA Committee, which is charged with training committee members, processing new

applications, and conducting interviews with those applicants who meet the Council’s BEA criteria. The committee is further directed to evaluate the program for “fairness of process, degree of rigor expected of the applicant, and [adherence to] non-bureaucratic procedures.”

From the outset, Price was determined to complete the BEA process. It took him nearly three years. “I knew I had to complete it, regardless of the time and money spent, so the firm could grow, so we could challenge our employees and expand our architectural services to other jurisdictions.”

His favorite part of the process? The interviews with members of the BEA Committee. “I actually enjoyed them, because I am certainly not shy about discussing my projects with anyone!”

To learn more about the Broadly Experienced Architect process, visit NCARB’s web site (www.ncarb.org/certification/beam.html). DC