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# NATIONAL ARCHITECT

*A newsletter for  
NCARB-certified architects*

MAY 2026



## **New Reciprocity Agreement With South Africa »**

NCARB and the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) have signed a new Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). Effective July 6, 2026, the MRA will expand access to opportunities for international architects.

[Learn About New MRA](#)

## **FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **Sustainability & Design: NCARB's Top CE Courses**

As an architect, staying current with the latest trends and practices in sustainable design is a commitment to creating a safer, greener built environment. Here are some of our most popular courses that can help you enhance your skills and contribute to a more sustainable future.

[Access CE Courses »](#)

## **WHAT'S NEW AT NCARB**

### **Listen: NCARB's Podcast on Pathways to Practice**

The first episode of the second season of the NCARB Podcast is now available. This episode dives into the history of architectural licensure and regulation in the United States—from the first state licensing board in Illinois to NCARB's current national programs for initial and reciprocal licensure.

[Listen Now »](#)

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## 4 Ways Building Safety Professionals and Architects Can Work Together

May is Building Safety Month, and NCARB is joining the International Code Council (ICC) to celebrate the role of building safety professionals in protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. Find out how you can partner with code officials and other building safety professionals near you.

[Learn More »](#)

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## How Regulatory Organizations Are Addressing Practice Overlap

The Interorganizational Council on Regulation (ICOR) has released new guidance to help licensing boards and practitioners navigate complex questions about overlapping practice in a more consistent, transparent, and defensible way.

[Download Guidance »](#)

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## Watch: Exploring New Ways to Assess Architectural Competency

As part of NCARB's Pathways to Practice initiative, members of our volunteer community have researched a range of potential future assessment methods for licensure, from self-guided courses to virtual reality-based exams to work sample-based evaluations.

[Watch Video »](#)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Serve on a Licensing Board »

Service on a state licensing board is a rewarding opportunity to contribute to the development of architectural regulatory policies that protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Thirteen state licensing boards are currently seeking volunteer architects and members of the public. [Learn more about the roles of state licensing boards](#), explore [how to serve](#), or contact us at [council-relations@ncarb.org](mailto:council-relations@ncarb.org) for more information.

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