



# Columns

*The Newsletter of the Board of Architecture and  
Registered Interior Designers  
August 2025*

## President's Message



*Cathy Morrison, Board  
President 2025-2026*

I am honored to serve another year as your President. I appreciate the Board's trust and leadership and remain committed to advancing our mission of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the regulation of architecture and

registered interior design in North Carolina.

I am pleased to introduce the 2025–2026 slate of officers for the NC Board of Architecture & Registered Interior Designers:

- President – Cathy Morrison
- Vice President – Tim Hillhouse
- Secretary – Walt Teague
- Treasurer – Ilesha Patel

This year, we bid farewell to two Board members whose service has left a lasting impact.

Emmy Williams, Registered Interior Designer, completed her three-year term with distinction. Her leadership was evident well before her appointment to the Board, having played a critical role in advocating for the Registered Interior Designer legislation that brought title registration to North Carolina. Emmy's expertise and dedication to the profession helped shape the Board's framework for the implementation and oversight, and her voice brought important perspective to our work locally and nationally.

Roula Qubain, Architect, concludes five years of service to the Board, during which she served with thoughtfulness, integrity, and a strong commitment to public protection. Beyond her contributions at

### Board Members

Cathy Morrison	President/Architect
Timothy Hillhouse	Vice President/Architect
Walt R. Teague	Secretary
Ilesha Patel	Treasurer/Registered Interior Designer
Cora Cole-McFadden	Public Member
Fred Dodson	Public Member
Dia Holman	Registered Interior Designer
Eric Lindstrom	Architect
Elizabeth Pyle	Registered Interior Designer
Walter Sawyer	Architect

### Board Staff

Cathe M. Monte Carlo	Executive Director
Julie L. Piatek	Director of Administration
Tyler Barrick	Firm/CE Compliance Director

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 10, 2025, Raleigh, NC  
January 9, 2026, Raleigh, NC  
April 10, 2026, Raleigh, NC  
July 10, 2026, Raleigh, NC

### Board Office Location

434 Fayetteville St  
Suite 2005  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
NEW PHONE NUMBER  
919-268-7293

[ncba@ncbarch.org](mailto:ncba@ncbarch.org)    [www.ncbarch.org](http://www.ncbarch.org)  
All Board meetings are open to the public.

the state level, she served as a volunteer with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), where her commitment to collaboration and continuous improvement supported access to licensure for those on non-traditional paths.

With their departures, we welcome two new members:



Eric Lindstrom, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, is a graduate of UNC Charlotte and serves as Owner and Design Director of SFLA Architects. With over 30 years of experience in K–12, municipal, and university design across North Carolina, Eric is a recognized leader in high-performance building design. Under his leadership, SFLA has delivered ten net-positive buildings—those that generate more energy than they consume. In Fayetteville, he has played a central role in downtown redevelopment, rehabilitating nearly 20 historic buildings, including his own home—the city’s first downtown loft residence—and the CAMEO Art House Theatre. He currently serves on the North Carolina Arts Council Board and is an advocate for the arts as a tool for community and economic development.

Dia Holman (NCIDQ, RID, ASID) joined the North Carolina Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers on May 21, 2025 – appointed by Governor Josh Stein. Currently the Senior Lead Interior Designer at O'Brien Atkins Associates, she brings an abundance of knowledge spanning her 20+ year career. Dia designs commercial and educational centers that authentically reflect the vibrant communities they serve, including Duke University’s Reuben-Cooke and Wake County Public Health Building. She is honored to serve the State and join an esteemed collective of distinguished professionals.



This month also marks an extraordinary milestone: Cathe M. Monte Carlo (PKA Evans), our Executive Director, is celebrating 30 years of service to the Board. Cathe has been a steady, visionary force behind the Board’s operations for three decades. Her deep knowledge of architectural licensure, administrative leadership, and public policy has shaped the profession in North Carolina. Her work has not only supported the Board’s day-to-day function but also helped navigate legislative changes, emerging technologies, and evolving practice standards. We are immensely grateful for her dedication and service. We thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in all you do.

## Executive Director Message

Following you will find License and Registration Statistics that are current as of August 6, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Eastern.

### License and Registration Statistics

Architect licenses expiring on June 30, 2026  
7000

Break down:  
NC - 2751  
Out of State -4249

Architecture firm licenses expiring on December 31, 2025  
2123  
Break down:  
NC – 799  
Out of State - 1324

Interior Designer Registrations Expiring on June 30, 2026  
352  
Break down:  
NC -270  
Out of State - 82

Registered Interior Designer firms expiring on December 31, 2025  
82  
Break down:  
NC - 50  
Out of State – 32

## **Expired License and Registration Reports**

Individual Architect licenses that expired on June 30, 2025, can be found here.

Individual Interior Designer registrations that expired on June 30, 2025, can be found here.

Architecture Firm Licenses that expired on December 31, 2024, can be found here

Interior Design Firm Registrations that expired on December 31, 2024 can be found here.

**These lists are current as of August 6, 2025, at Noon Eastern time.** If you renewed after that date you may check the status of your architecture firm or individual license by clicking here - [Architect Search – NC Board of Architecture \(ncbarch.org\)](https://ncbarch.org/ArchitectSearch) or to check the status of your interior designer or interior designer firm by clicking here - [Registered Interior Designer Forms/Information – NC Board of Architecture \(ncbarch.org\)](https://ncbarch.org/RegisteredInteriorDesignerForms/Information)

The staff for the Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers is dedicated to assisting you in keeping your license or registration active and in good standing. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions whatsoever. The Board office main number is 919-268-7293.

For Firm Licensure or Registration, Continuing Education – Tyler Barrick, Director of Firm/CE Compliance. [tyler@ncbarch.org](mailto:tyler@ncbarch.org)

For Individual Licensure or Registration or status and general information – Julie Piatek, Director of Administration. [juliap@ncbarch.org](mailto:juliap@ncbarch.org)

For official complaints, rules or laws or inquiries from Code Officials – Cathe Monte Carlo, Executive Director. [cathe@ncbarch.org](mailto:cathe@ncbarch.org)

Sincerely,  
*Cathe M. Monte Carlo (pka Evans)*  
Executive Director

## Fraudulent Use of Seals

The Board has observed an increase in the fraudulent use of professional seals. Over the past two years, the Board has investigated multiple cases where a professional seal was created and applied to plans for residential and commercial projects. Online platforms such as FiveRR and Thumbtack may allow individuals to offer professional services like architecture and registered interior design without verifying licensure. Instances have been reported where permitting officials or code reviewers contact design professionals regarding projects with their seals, only to discover that another party had generated and used the seal without authorization. As a result, project owners may receive non-compliant plans, incurring significant financial losses, while the responsible party cannot be located and website owners do not accept liability.

Professionals are encouraged to safeguard both physical and electronic versions of their seals and to report any unauthorized usage to the Board. The Board, in collaboration with NCARB and other state licensing boards, is continuing efforts to monitor and address fraudulent activities involving professional seals.

Additionally, there has been ongoing monitoring of phishing emails sent to design professionals, offering drafting or architectural services to firms. These communications often originate outside the country, so recipients are advised to exercise caution when interacting with these emails, as they may pose security risks.

## NCARB NEWS

Washington, DC—As part of its [Pathways to Practice](#) initiative, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) is implementing updates that will align its experience program and national licensing exam with its [Competency Standard for Architects](#). The updates, as further described below, will include adjustments to experience reporting requirements, updates to the descriptions of experience areas, and refining some exam objectives and case study formatting. These updates to NCARB programs will better reflect the capabilities necessary at the point of initial licensure as an architect, as well as address common administrative impediments faced by candidates on the path to licensure—including the experience program's reporting requirement.

## CIDQ News

The CIDQ FY24 annual report can be found at this link - [CIDQ Annual Report](#)

## NCBA/RID Enforcement Report

The following Enforcement Report is for the period September 1, 2024 July 12, 2025. The Board is not bound by precedence in matters of disciplinary action. It is the prerogative of the Board to be conservative in its review of cases and to enforce the rules and laws with sanctions and civil penalties as allowed by law. You may request a copy of the entire order by sending an email to [cathe@ncbarch.org](mailto:cathe@ncbarch.org) be sure to include the case number with your request. The Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers has jurisdiction pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §83A-15 and 21 NCAC 02 to receive and investigate complaints involving dishonest conduct, incompetence and unprofessional conduct and non-licensed practice. This Board does not have the statutory authority to discipline architects regarding complaints involving contract disagreements between a client and architect or allegations of ordinary negligence, nor can the Board mediate these situations. All civil penalties collected by the Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers are deposited with the Office of State Budget management where they are disbursed to school systems throughout the State.

The Board dismissed two cases without prejudice.

The Board issued one Letter of Caution to an architect.

The Board issued Consent Orders to the following individuals:

Case 1303 Michael McDonough

Case 1304 Mark Dean

Case 1306 Adam Grabiec

Case 1312 Drew Kepley