



Oklahoma Board of Architects, Landscape Architects and
Registered Commercial Interior Designers

FY24 Annual Report

Executive Summary—Year in Review

- The Board partnered with the Engineering board to develop and pass legislation with the purpose of removing confusion between the architecture and engineering professions. HB3253 was successfully passed by the Oklahoma Legislature, was signed by the Governor, and will go into effect on November 1, 2024.
- The Board also partnered with the Oklahoma Interior Design Coalition to develop statute changes to define a scope of practice for licensed interior designers. HB1793 was successfully passed by the Oklahoma Legislature, was signed by the Governor, and will go into effect on August 29, 2024. The new law will change the title from "Registered Commercial Interior Designers" to "Licensed Interior Designers," and will allow Licensed Interior Designers to perform non-structural, interior work in non-exempt building types.
- Board staff presented information about the Board, the professions, Oklahoma statutes and regulations, licensure, examinations, and enforcement at Oklahoma universities, at events held by the American Institute for Architects, and at meetings held by national organizations. The purpose of the presentations was to inform students, professionals, and members of other states' boards how the Oklahoma Board of Architects safeguards the public by ensuring that candidates for licensure have met the qualifying standards.

Purpose and Mission of the Board

- The Oklahoma Board of Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Commercial Interior Designers was created in 1925 to serve the professions of architecture, landscape architecture and interior design and the public.
- The Board's mission is to protect the citizens of the State of Oklahoma by establishing standards for professional qualifications, ensuring competence through examinations, setting practice standards, and enforcing the State Architectural and Registered Commercial Interior Designers Act.
- The Board is concerned with public safety and welfare above all other concerns and works to ensure that licensees remain up-to-date with regulatory requirements by:
 - Reviewing applications for licensure, registration, and certification.
 - Monitoring and disciplining unlicensed, reckless, dishonest, or fraudulent practice.
 - Reviewing and auditing licensees' continuing education credits to guarantee that they are knowledgeable of best practices in regards to health, safety, and welfare.

Board Composition and Membership

- The Board consists of 11 members, who are residents of Oklahoma, have worked in their profession for at least five years and are in good standing, and are directly appointed by the Governor, including:
 - 6 persons who are licensed Architects,
 - 2 persons who are licensed Landscape Architects,
 - 2 persons who are registered as a commercial interior designer, and
 - 1 member of the public.

- The term of office of each Architect, Landscape Architect, and Registered Commercial Interior Designer is five years; the public member's term is coterminous with the Governor.
- The Board's FY24 members are:
 - Chair: Nathan Baker, Architect, term expires 12/9/2025
 - Vice-Chair: Candace Dillingham, Landscape Architect, term expires 7/1/2026
 - Secretary-Treasurer: Vicki VanStavern, Registered Commercial Interior Designer, term expires 1/9/2027
 - James Hasenbeck, Architect, term expires 7/1/2026
 - Wade Scaramucci, Architect, term expires 1/9/2027
 - Scott Howard, Landscape Architect, term expires 7/1/2023
 - Elizabeth Glasgow, Architect, term expires 1/9/2025
 - J. Mark Taylor, Registered Commercial Interior Designer, term expires 7/1/2021
 - David Blackburn, Public Member, coterminous with the Governor
 - Betsy Guthrie-Brunsteter, Architect, term expires 7/1/2024
 - M. Bradley Gaskins, Architect, term expires 7/1/2024
- Current Board Meeting agendas and minutes can be found at https://www.ok.gov/Architects/About/Board_Meeting_Minutes_and_Agendas.html.
- The Board is a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' (NCARB) Region 5 committee. NCARB is a nonprofit organization made up of the architectural regulatory boards of the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories.
- The Board is also a member of
 - The Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB)
 - The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ), and
 - The Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB).

OBA Statistics for FY24

- Architect Licenses: 2745
- Landscape Architect Licenses: 243
- Registered Commercial Interior Designer Registrations: 255
- Total Licenses issued in FY24: 274
- Total Firm Licenses: 1098
- Total Firm Licenses issued in FY24: 87
- Emeritus: 194
- Disciplinary Complaints Received in FY24: 47
- Disciplinary Cases Closed in FY24: 38

Architectural Licensure and Practice

- Oklahoma offers two paths to licensure for architects, landscape architects, and registered commercial interior designers: one for initial licensure applicants, whose base state is Oklahoma, and one for applicants who are already licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction (known as reciprocal licensure).

- **Initial Licensure:** Applicants must meet the requirements for education, examination, and experience as follows:
 - *Education:* The applicant must hold a degree from a National Architecture Accrediting Board-accredited university or college, or have at least five years of education credits using equivalent standards outlined in the Board’s current Rules, found in section 55:10-5-4.1;
 - *Examination:* The applicant must have passed all sections of the NCARB Architect Registration Examination (ARE) and must have passed the Oklahoma Act and Rules exam; and
 - *Experience:* The applicant must successfully complete at least 5,600 hours of NCARB’s Architectural Experience Program (AXP).
- **Reciprocal Licensure:** Applicants must already be licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction and meet the requirements as follows:
 - The applicant must meet all of Oklahoma’s requirements for education, examination, and experience, including passing the Oklahoma Act and Rules exam.
 - The applicant must not have violated any statutes, laws, or regulations in Oklahoma, or any other U.S. jurisdiction, which would call into question their ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- **Practice Requirements:** A firm, which is seeking to provide architectural services as a corporation, limited liability company/partnership, or a professional limited liability company/partnership, must obtain a Certificate of Authority from the Board.
- **Renewal Requirements:** Oklahoma-licensed architects, landscape architects, registered commercial interior designers, and firms must renew their license or Certificate of Authority every two years.
 - *Continuing Education:* each renewal period, a licensee must present a record of 24 completed Continuing Education units, all of which must be “HSW” (health, safety, and welfare).
 - Upon renewal, each licensee will complete a renewal form, updating current contact information, answering a series of questions regarding continuing education, current good standing in base state, and any professional disciplinary action or investigation.

Landscape Architectural Licensure and Practice

- Oklahoma offers two paths to licensure for architects, landscape architects, and registered commercial interior designers: one for initial licensure applicants, whose base state is Oklahoma, and one for applicants who are already licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction (known as reciprocal licensure).
- **Initial Licensure:** Applicants must meet the requirements for education, examination, and experience as follows:
 - *Education:* The applicant must hold a degree from a Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB)-accredited university or college, or have at least five years of education credits using equivalent standards outlined in the Board’s current Rules, found in section 55:10-5-4.2;

- *Examination:* The applicant must have successfully passed the Landscape Architect Registration Exam (LARE), as well as the Oklahoma Plant Materials exam and the Oklahoma Act and Rules exam; and
- *Experience:* The applicant must earn at least three years of training experience following the completion of the education program, or as established by CLARB.
- **Reciprocal Licensure:** Applicants must be already licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction and meet the following requirements:
 - The applicant must meet all of Oklahoma’s requirements for education, examination, and experience, including passing the Oklahoma Plant Materials exam Oklahoma Act and Rules exam.
 - The applicant must not have violated any statutes, laws, or regulations in Oklahoma, or any other U.S. jurisdiction, which would call into question their ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- **Practice Requirements:** A firm, which is seeking to provide landscape architectural services as a corporation, limited liability company/partnership, or a professional limited liability company/partnership, must obtain a Certificate of Authority from the Board.
- **Renewal Requirements:** Oklahoma-licensed architects, landscape architects, registered commercial interior designers, and firms must renew their license or Certificate of Authority every two years.
 - *Continuing Education:* each renewal period, a licensee must present a record of 24 completed Continuing Education units, all of which must be “HSW” (health, safety, and welfare).
 - Upon renewal, each licensee will complete a renewal form, updating current contact information, answering a series of questions regarding continuing education, current good standing in base state, and any professional disciplinary action or investigation.

Commercial Interior Design Registration

- Oklahoma offers two paths to licensure for architects, landscape architects, and registered commercial interior designers: one for initial licensure applicants, whose base state is Oklahoma, and one for applicants who are already licensed in another U.S. jurisdiction (known as reciprocal licensure).
- **Initial Registration:** All applicants must meet the requirements for education, experience, and examination as follows:
 - *Education:* Applicants must hold a degree in interior design from a program accredited by the Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), or obtain an equivalent education to an accredited professional degree in interior design;
 - *Experience:* Applicants must obtain two years or 3,520 hours of training under an Oklahoma Registered Commercial Interior Designer, a CIDQ-Registered Interior Designer or a licensed Architect, or meet equivalent training, as outlined in the Board’s current Rules, section 55:10-5-10.
 - *Examination:* An applicant must successfully complete the CIDQ examination.
 - For applicants with fifteen years of interior design experience prior to July 1,2007, see 59 OS § 46.40.

- **Reciprocal Licensure:** An applicant may seek registration in Oklahoma if they have been issued a valid registration from another U.S. jurisdiction, provided the requirements for registration are equivalent to the requirements of this state.
- **Practice Requirements:** A firm, which is seeking to provide services under a registered commercial interior designer as a corporation, limited liability company/partnership, or a professional limited liability company/partnership, must obtain a Certificate of Title from the Board.
- **Renewal Requirements:** Oklahoma-licensed architects, landscape architects, registered commercial interior designers, and firms must renew their license or Certificate of Authority every two years.
 - *Continuing Education:* each renewal period, a licensee must present a record of 24 completed Continuing Education units, all of which must be “HSW” (health, safety, and welfare).
 - Upon renewal, each licensee will complete a renewal form, updating current contact information, answering a series of questions regarding continuing education, current good standing in base state, and any professional disciplinary action or investigation.