

Colorado State Board of Architect Examiners

ARCHITECT NEWS

SPRING 2002

The Division of Registrations is Undergoing Major Changes

About a year ago, the Division of Registrations, which houses the Architects Board, began a major reorganization effort. For several years, the Division has “made do” with an inferior computerized licensing system that simply does not meet our needs. Last spring management staff decided we could wait no longer and with much help from the Information Technology section, we decided to scrap our current system and buy the best system we could afford to replace it.

We all knew it would be a big job to evaluate the various systems available on the market, go through all the work necessary to clean up our data and then convert it to the new system. However, most of us had no idea how big a project this would actually be. First, the Division began last summer with Business Process Reengineering (BPR). For those of you who are not familiar with this process, an organization evaluates all of its business processes (how the work flows or doesn't flow through the organization) in order to make these processes more efficient and to design new procedures that maximize the useful-

ness of whatever computer system is purchased.

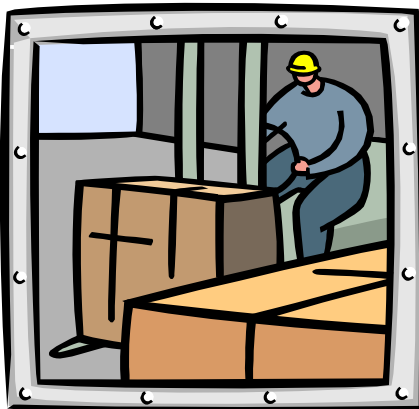
BPR resulted in significant changes to processes by which the Division does business. Several functions that are presently spread out in the Division will be grouped together in centralized units like licensing, cash management and central intake. The idea is to reduce the duplication of effort and create sections that specialize in certain functions.

Most of these changes have not yet been implemented because of the coordination of people, work space, computer system and new processes that must take place before the transition begins. In fact, an entire committee of stakeholders was convened to simply manage the changes that are required to make this project possible.

Nonetheless, the BPR reconfiguration will begin this summer and, hopefully, be completed by the summer of 2003 when the new computer system becomes fully operational as well.

In addition to the Division-wide changes that will be taking place during the next year, the Architects Board will be

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of Architects to improve communica-
tions between the Board and Colo-
rado Architects.**



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moving out of its current suite and joining the Engineers and Land Surveyors in suite 1370. The two Boards will not be merged. They will continue to operate as independent boards. The move will also mean a change in Program Administrators. The new Program Administrator will be Angie Kinnaird who is also the administrator for the Engineers and Land Surveyors Board. The move is scheduled for July 1, 2002.

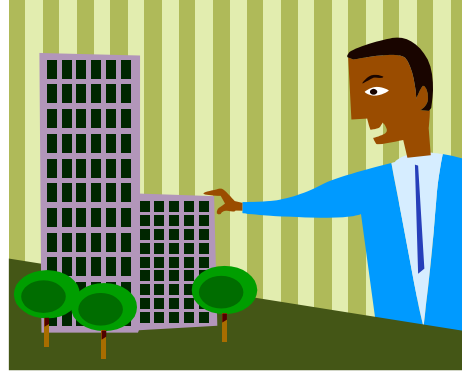
We will begin pilot testing two boards (not Architects) on the new licensing system in December with an eye toward ironing out any wrinkles before final conversion of the whole system in July of 2003. Eventually, our new system will be able to accept credit card payments and perform many online functions like renewal, license verification, name and address change and users will be able to request various services from the Board or Division.

From the standpoint of the licensees and the public, we hope that these changes are "transparent". Our intent is that customers to the Division will only see improvements in timeliness, automation (Internet/computer based functions), access to information and ease of interaction. At the same time, the Division and the Boards are very concerned about retaining those things that are working well now, such as good customer service, individual attention to needs and the general lack of a bureaucratic feel to our Division.

We are not totally naïve, however; and try as we might, our customers will feel some changes especially during the transition period. We ask for your patience and constructive feedback that will help us make the transition smoother and the final result better for everyone.

NCARB Validates idp and ARE through practice analysis

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) recently published the results of its Architecture Practice Analysis Study, a comprehensive analysis of the profession of architecture as it is practiced today. More than 1,700 participants, including practitioners, educators, interns, major consumers of architectural services and other professionals whose work interfaces with architects, contributed to this extensive survey.



NCARB services were also validated, including the NCARB's Intern Development Program (IDP). Survey findings support the need for the IDP, as respondents emphasized the need to minimize perceived gaps between education and practice. In fact, participating architects indicated that the IDP is a critical time for acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills for competent professional practice.

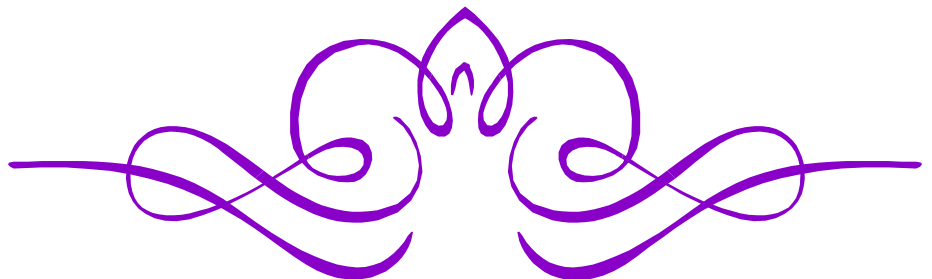
Some 4,600 architects, educa-

tors, and interns in the United States and Canada were invited to complete the survey. Nearly 40 percent of the surveys were completed and returned, an overall response rate considered to be excellent.

The study took a multi-method approach to identify the tasks and knowledge/skills that are important to the competent performance of recently registered architects. One function of the survey is to ensure that NCARB initiatives are in alignment with significant current, emerging, and future practices. An additional function of the survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). Survey results report the content validity of the current ARE and reflect that NCARB has a strong foundation to develop future versions of the exam.

Development of the Practice Analysis was based on information gathered from focus group sessions, visits to architectural firms, telephone interviews, discussions with architecture "trend spotters" and meetings with collateral organizations (American Institute of Architects, American Institute of Architecture Students, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, National Architectural Accrediting Board, and NCARB).

Based on the study results, other



Notes of Interest

February 2002 marked the end of the second term of our long time Board member, Cornelius (Kin) Dubois. Board members are limited to two four-year terms. Kin is a well known figure in the Denver Architecture community, a partner at *Klipp, Colussy, Jenks, Dubois*, a long standing member of AIA and a tireless volunteer and officer in NCARB.

Kin will continue his efforts with NCARB as an officer and director. At the regional meeting in March, Kin was nominated for Treasurer. If elected, this will place Kin in the lineage to eventually become President of NCARB. Of course, the Colorado Board will strongly support Kin in his campaign.

Kin was replaced at the April meeting of the Board by Karen L. W. Harris, President of the Denver firm, *Architecture Matters*. Karen has received the *CU Award of Design Excellence* and the *AIA Colorado, Presidents Recognition Award*. She has served on AIA committees and other professional organizations for many years. We look forward to getting to know Karen and working with her on the Board.



In January, the Colorado Engineers and Surveyors Board and the Architects Board published a *Handbook for Building Officials* based on a model provided by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). The focus of the handbook is to educate building officials and to help minimize problems associated with allowing the practice of unlicensed engineering or architecture. *A Handbook for Building Officials* highlights the basics of responsible control, stamping and signing plans, exemptions, minimum standards for code submissions and commonly asked questions about practice.



Board staff is delighted that the building community has responded so positively to the handbook. It has been a phenomenal success and met with a level of interest of which we were totally unaware. Smaller counties and municipalities in particular have responded enthusiastically to the information. The Board office has received several calls saying that *A Handbook for Building Officials* provides exactly the information field inspectors have been seeking for years. We are presently in our third printing and the requests continue to come in.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy or if you know a building official who might benefit from the information, please contact the Board office. At this time, copies are free. The publication is also available on the Internet in Adobe at www.dora.state.co.us/architects or www.dora.state.co.us/engineers_surveyors.

Bradford Publishing Company of Denver will soon publish a new legal book concerning the practice of architecture in Colorado. *Bradford Colorado Professional Series: Architects*, scheduled for release in July, will provide an overview and analysis of essential aspects of Colorado Law, including licensing and regulation of the profession, design and construction requirements, government contracting, legal action against architects and mechanics' liens.

The book is being published in association with the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and with the cooperation of the Colorado State Board of Architect Examiners. In addition to pertinent statutes and regulations, the book will include the AIA Code of Ethics, a synopsis of official AIA contract documents, and the Board's *Handbook for Building Officials*.

For further information, contact Bradford's Customer Service department at (303) 292-2590 or (800) 466-2831. "Bradford Publishing, printer and distributor of the official *Colorado Revised Statutes*, publishes books, software and legal forms and has been Colorado's trusted source for legal materials since 1881."

Licensing Reminders

RENEWAL The current licensing period began August 1, 2001. We sent out 6,200 renewal notices and renewed more than 5,600 licensees. There are presently about 6,150 registered architects in Colorado, less than half of these registrants reside in Colorado. The current licensing period will end July 31, 2003.

As always, there was a six-month grace period ending January 31, 2002 to allow Architects to continue to renew without additional

fees or separate applications. If your license is expired and you wish to practice, you will need to complete a reinstatement application. Holding out as an architect or stamping plans with an expired license is a violation of the practice act. Please be sure your license is current.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS In order for you to receive renewal notices, newsletters and other mailings from the State Board, you must keep us posted when you change your ad-

dress. You can notify us of a change of address by simply e-mailing us at architects@dora.state.co.us or, fax us at (303) 894-7802 or, if you prefer, you can write us at the address on the back of this issue. We cannot accept verbal (telephone) requests to change address. Please provide your old address, new address and license number. Also, tell us if this is your home or business address and if you want to change your preferred mailing address.

**COLORADO BOARD OF EXAMINERS
OF ARCHITECTS**

1560 Broadway, Suite 1340

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