

1.1 The Architectural Profession

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Canadian
Handbook of
Practice
for Architects

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International Architectural Organizations

Introduction

Most nations have some form of professional or legal organization for their architects. This Handbook cannot outline them all, but will briefly describe one international body, three multilateral organizations that have relations with the architectural profession in Canada, and those organizations within North America which affect the Canadian architectural community. In the past, Canadian architects were closely affiliated with Britain and the Commonwealth, and many were members of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). Today, however, most architects in Canada have closer ties with their colleagues in North America and often provide services worldwide.

International Organizations

International Union of Architects (UIA)

www.uia-architectes.org

The International Union of Architects, or Union internationale des architectes (UIA), was founded in 1948 in Lausanne, Switzerland, as a federation of professional societies from several countries. From the 27 delegations present at the founding assembly, the UIA has grown to encompass the key professional organisations of architects in 116 countries and territories, and now represents, through these organisations, more than 1,300,000 architects worldwide. The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is the member section for Canada within the UIA.

The UIA's mission is to represent the global community of architects and to promote the profession within the following organizations:

- the UIA Member Sections;
- other non-governmental organizations (in order to develop interdisciplinary contacts):
 - ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites);
 - ICSID (International Council of Societies of Industrial Design);
 - ICOGRADA (International Council of Graphic Design Associations);
 - IFI (International Federation of Interior Designers);
 - ISOCARP (International Society of City and Region Planners);
 - INTA (International Development Association);
- intergovernmental institutions (in which the UIA is the only officially recognized association for architecture):
 - UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization);
 - UNCHS (United Nations Centre for Human Settlements);
 - ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council);
 - UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization);
 - WHO (World Health Organization).

The UIA has also established the Professional Practice Commission, which has developed a basic framework regarding international standards of professionalism for architects. Adopted at the 1999 UIA Congress in Beijing, this framework assists nations and professional architectural associations in developing national standards and reaching mutual recognition agreements for the practice of architecture.

Architects Council of Europe (ACE)

www.ace-cae.org

The Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), as the only representative organization at the European level, aspires to speak with a single voice on behalf of the architectural profession.

It is based in Brussels and its Members are the regulatory and professional representative bodies of all European Union (EU) Member States, Accession States, Switzerland and Norway. Through them, ACE represents the interests of over 450,000 architects in Europe.

The principal function of the ACE is to monitor relevant policy and legislative developments at the EU level, seeking to influence those areas of EU Policy that have an impact on architectural practice, and on policies affecting the overall quality and sustainability of the built environment.

APEC Architect Project

www.apecarchitects.org

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. The APEC Architect Project was endorsed by the Human Resources Development Working Group of the APEC in 2000 following a proposal by the Australian government to facilitate the mutual recognition of skills and qualifications of architects in the provision of professional services between member economies. The project is self-funded by the respective architectural organizations. A Secretariat rotating amongst the 14 member economies provides the necessary support to APEC Architect Project members and maintains a website.

The purpose of the APEC Architect Project is to establish a common basis for the recognition of professional competence that will simplify access to independent practice as an architect in other participating economies.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is the member for Canada and hosts a register of architects interested in providing services within member economies of the APEC Architect Project.

Federation of Panamerican Architects' Associations or Federacion panamericana de asociaciones de arquitectos (FPAA)

www.fpaa-arquitectos.org

The Federation of Panamerican Architects Associations is an organization that brings together the associations of architects within the Americas (North, South, Central America and the Caribbean) and it represents Region III of the UIA (the Americas). FPAA is supported by a Secretariat in Uruguay and the working language of FPAA is primarily Spanish.

Although the RAIC has been a member of FPAA in the past, it is currently not a member.

North American Organizations

The American Institute of Architects (AIA)

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) was founded in New York City in 1857. The AIA is a representative body rather than a governing or controlling body. It divides the United States into regions, each of which is represented by a member on the Board of Directors. The regions have chapters; the number of chapters per region depends on the population density. The chapters' bylaws are set by the national body.

The AIA has more than 83,500 licensed architects (in 2008) and is a voluntary professional association dedicated to organizing and uniting the profession. The AIA requires its members to commit to a code of ethics and professional conduct, as well as to professional development through its program of continuing education.

Members of the RAIC may become associate AIA members. Refer to Chapter 1.1.5, *The Organization of the Profession in Canada*, for information on the RAIC.

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) is a not-for-profit corporation. All the legally constituted architectural registration boards of the 50 U.S. states and four territories are members. The NCARB assists its 54 Member Boards through the following activities:

- preparing and delivering a uniform examination — the Architect Registration Examination (ARE);
- establishing standards in education and training;
- verifying qualifications of applicants and certifying architects;
- developing standards for professional conduct;
- administering the Intern Development Program.

The provincial and territorial associations of architects work closely with the NCARB, and, in 1994, an Inter-Recognition Agreement was signed between the NCARB and the former Committee of Canadian Architectural Councils (CCAC). This agreement assists architects in Canada and the United States to obtain architectural licences in most jurisdictions in each other's country. In addition, Canadian provincial and territorial licensing authorities continue to use and recognize the ARE as an examination to assess the competency of intern architects.

National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc. (NAAB)

Formed in 1940, the National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc. (NAAB) is responsible for accrediting professional degree programs in schools of architecture in the United States. This is similar to the accreditation function of the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) which has adopted most of the NAAB's accreditation criteria. The NAAB has a board of directors comprised of appointees from the following organizations:

- AIA (The American Institute of Architects);
- NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Boards);
- ACSA (Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture);
- AIAS (American Institute of Architecture Students).

Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture is not-for-profit, membership association founded in 1912 to advance the quality of architectural education. The association is based in the United States.

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) is similar to the Canadian Council of University Schools of Architecture (CCUSA). The Association is comprised of over 250 schools of architecture in several membership categories including all ten accredited university schools of architecture in Canada. A forum for "ideas on the leading edge of architectural thought," the ASCA publishes the *Journal of Architectural Education (JAE)* and a newsletter (*ACSA News*).

Federación de Colegios de Arquitectos de la República Mexicana (FCARM)

The Federación de Colegios de Arquitectos de la República Mexicana (FCARM), or the Federation of the Colleges of Architects of the Republic of Mexico, is a national professional organization, with headquarters in Mexico City. FCARM is comprised of 71 "Colegios" representing about 15,000 architects.

Most Mexican jurisdictions (states) have a professional association known as a "Colegio," and these associations have united to form the national federation. The Colegios, which are responsible for establishing codes of ethics, deal with issues of professional practice and public complaints.

FCARM's mission is to:

- coordinate the needs and interests of its members;
- encourage professional development;
- develop standards of practice;
- promote the profession to the public.

As a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the FCARM has signed a Tri-national Agreement with some provincial associations of architects and the US National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). Ratification and implementation of this agreement is underway.

Asociación de Instituciones de Enseñanza de la Arquitectura de la República Mexicana (ASINEA)

The Asociación de Instituciones de Enseñanza de la Arquitectura de la República Mexicana (ASINEA) has a similar function to the Canadian Council of University Schools of Architecture (CCUSA) and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA). Comprised of 81 schools of architecture, ASINEA has a multifaceted objective: the exchange of pedagogic, administrative, social, and academic information. As part of its efforts to continually enhance the several Schools and Facultades (faculties) of architecture within the Mexican Republic, ASINEA also deals with architectural criteria for education standards and curriculum.

Reference

Col.legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya. *Architectural Practice Around The World*. COAC, 2005.
www.coac.net/internacional/defaultang.html

Chart: Comparison of Licensing Procedures for Architects in Canada, the United States, and Mexico

	Canada	U.S.A.	Mexico
Education	Professional degree accredited by CACB or individual certification Graduation (professional degree) National	Professional degree accredited by NAAB Graduation (professional degree) National	Professional degree "Professional examination" 480 hours of social service Cédula ARCHITECT1 National
Certification of Academic Qualifications	CACB	NCARB	SEP2
Experience	Intern Architect Program (IAP) 5,600 hours experience National	Intern Development Program (IDP) 5,600 hours experience National (not mandatory in all states)	
Examination	Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) or the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) National	Architect Registration Examination (ARE) National	
Certification of Professional Qualifications	Provincial or territorial associations	NCARB (optional)	
Licence	Responsibility of provincial or territorial association of architects	Responsibility of state government agency	
Practice	Architect Most provinces have additional requirements for "Practice" (such as Certificate of Practice, Professional Liability Insurance)	Architect No restrictions	Architect and/or Director Responsable de OBRA No restrictions (in certain jurisdictions only)

- Notes:
- Information has been developed from site visits by U.S.A./Canada Team to Mexican architectural education institutions, as part of Tri-National Committee on Architecture and NAFTA. (March 1, 1997)
 - Information regarding Mexico is to be confirmed by Mexico.
 - This chart is a simplified graphic representation of general procedures for licensing.
 - "National" means that a national standard exists.

- Footnotes:
1. The scope of practice allowed at the initial "Cédula" is restricted with regard to building size and type.
 2. SEP is "Secretaría de Educación Pública".

List: International Organizations

International

- The Architects' Council of Europe
29, rue Paul Emile Janson
B-1050 Brussels, BELGIUM
Tel: 32 2 543 1140
Fax: 32 2 543 1141
www.ace-cae.org
- Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)
P.O. Box 508
Edgware HA8 9XZ
UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: 44 20 8951 0550
www.comarchitect.org
- PanAmerican Federation of Architects Associations (FPAA)
General Secretary: Gonzálo Ramírez 2028.
Montevideo, URUGUAY CP 11200
Tel: (598) (2) 419.34.63
Fax: (598) (2) 411.95.56
Email: fpaasau@adinet.com.uy
- Union internationale des architectes (UIA) / International Union of Architects
Tour Maine Montparnasse – B.P. 158
33 avenue du Maine
75755 Paris, cedex 15
FRANCE
Tel: 33 (1) 45 24 36 88
Fax: 33 (1) 45 24 02 78
www.uia-architectes.org

Mexico

- Federación de Colegios de Arquitectos de la Republica Mexicana (FCARM)
Yucatan 189-201, Tizapan, San Angel
Del Alvaro Obregon
Distrito Federal
México, D.F.
MEXICO 01090
Tel: (52 55) 55 50 60 49
Fax: (52 55) 55 40 41 80
www.fcarm.org.mx

United States

- The American Institute of Architects (AIA)
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006-5292 U.S.A.
Tel: (202) 626-7300
www.aia.org
- National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)
1801 K Street NW, suite 700-K
Washington, D.C. 20006 U.S.A.
Tel: (202) 783-6500
Fax: (202) 783-0290
www.ncarb.org
- National Architectural Accrediting Board, Inc. (NAAB)
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006 U.S.A.
Tel: (202) 783-2007
Fax: (202) 783-2822
www.naab.org
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006 U.S.A.
Tel: (202) 785-2324
Fax: (202) 628-0448
www.acsa-arch.org

Others

- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
66 Portland Place
London W1N 4AD ENGLAND
Tel: +44 207 580 5533.
Fax: +44 207 255 1541.
www.architecture.com
- Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA):
 - National Office:
Level 2, 7 National Circuit
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