

FOCUS

The Newsletter of the Nevada State Board of
Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design

July 2020
Vol. 29, No. 4

COVID-19 Update

In accordance with Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak's order, the NSBAIDRD office remains closed to the public. Staff is working remotely and is available through [email](#) or phone during regular office hours. When the office reopens to the public, we will update our website and social media channels, and advise of any new procedures in place for safely visiting the office.

For the latest information on Nevada's response to COVID-19 and Governor Sisolak's latest directives, please refer to nvhealthresponse.nv.gov.

Board Meeting

The August 19, 2020 board meeting will be held virtually. Information about connecting to the meeting virtually will be posted on the meeting agenda. The meeting agenda will be posted August 14 on the [board's website](#), as well as www.notice.nv.gov. If you have any questions or need help connecting to the meeting, please contact the board's office prior to the board meeting.

Residential Design Exam

The August Residential Design Exam, originally scheduled for August 13-14, 2020, has been postponed due to COVID-19 and for the safety of all candidates. The written exams are now scheduled to be administered in Las Vegas on Monday, September 28, 2020. The graphic exam has been postponed until further notice. Exam registration forms are available from the [board website](#).

NCARB and ARE

Prometric Test Centers are returning to normal operations in compliance with local guidelines. Social distancing requirements may vary depending on location. Some test centers are now "fully open," which may mean a return to normal occupancy, where social distancing of six feet may not be maintained or required.

As of July 22, 2020 both Nevada locations are operating at "full capacity." If you are uncomfortable testing without guarantee of social distancing, NCARB recommends you defer your test or reschedule to a test center operating at limited capacity. To see a current list of open sites and if those sites are operating at full or limited capacity, visit the [Prometric Site Openings page](#).



Calendar

August 19, 2020

Board Meeting
Virtual

September 7, 2020

RID Supplemental Exam
Las Vegas

September 28, 2020

Residential Design Written Exam
Las Vegas

October 20, 2020

Board Meeting
Location TBD

November 19, 2020

NSBAIDRD / AIA CEU Seminar
Virtual

Board Members

Kimberly Ciesynski
Chair

James Mickey
Secretary/Treasurer

Gregory L. Erny

Ann Fleming

George F. Garlock

NCARB recognizes that COVID-19 disruption has led to some candidates having their exams canceled or rescheduled multiple times due to ongoing test center closures or displacements. NCARB has implemented a temporary refund policy that allows candidates who have had the same division appointment displaced two or more times the ability to cancel the appointment outright, and receive a refund of the original seat credit fee.

Candidates can request refunds by contacting NCARB customer service and identifying the ARE division they would like canceled. Upon verification of the refund request, candidates should expect the refund within seven days.

To read the latest update on NCARB's services, please visit the [NCARB website](#).

CIDQ and NCIDQ Exam

The scheduling window is now open for the Fall NCIDQ Exam. Candidates can schedule their exam now through September 30. The testing window for the fall is October 1 – November 24.

As of this writing, the NCIDQ Exam is classified as an "essential exam," allowing candidates to schedule appointments at any open test center offering "all programs" or "essential only" services. If you have had difficulty finding an appointment time, CIDQ advises you continue to check Prometric's list of open sites to see if other sites near you are opening or adding additional testing seats.

For the most up to date information about the NCIDQ Exam, please visit the [CIDQ website](#).

NSBAIDRD / AIA Annual CEU Seminar Registration Open

The 2020 NSBAIDRD / AIA Annual CEU Seminar will be a virtual event. It is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020, 8:00am – 5:00pm. Registration for all four classes is \$95. Full-day attendees will receive all 8 CEUs required for registration renewal in Nevada.

To see course descriptions, a detailed schedule or to register, visit [AIA Las Vegas](#). Topics presented will include:

Scoping for Accessibility in New and Existing Buildings

Presented by Todd Snider, SE, CBO / Regional Manager WC3

The Future of Design and Its Impact on the Health, Safety and Welfare of All Stakeholders

Presented by Jared Zurn Jared N. Zurn, AIA, NCARB, CAE, NCARB Vice President, Examination and Andy McIntyre, NCARB Vice President, Marketing & Communications

Introduction to the IEBC

Presented by Todd Snider, SE, CBO / Regional Manager WC3

Navigating Contract and Legal Issues Facing Nevada Design Professionals in 2020

Presented by John Wendland, Esq. and Jeremy R. Kilber, Esq., Nevada partners of Weil & Drage, APC

John Morelli

William E. Snyder

Nathaniel Waugh

Tina Wichmann

Board Staff

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Laura Bach
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T. Nani Aguada
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Leilani Quenga
*Licensing Specialist/
Bookkeeper*

Moving? Changing Jobs?

Registrants have 30 days to notify the board of a change of address or place of employment per NRS 623.720.

Download a [change of address form](#), or [email the following information](#) to the board office:

- Full name
- Registration Number
- Prior Address & Phone #
- New Address & Phone #
- Email Address
- Effective Date of Change
- Type of Change (Business or Home)

Thank you to seminar sponsors Brayn Consulting, LLC and Nevada Sales Agency.



Frequently Asked Questions

Do registrants still have to comply with the CEU requirement for registration renewal since in-person continuing education classes cannot be held?

Yes, the requirement that Nevada registrants must complete eight CEUs for registration renewal is still in effect. Nevada law requires a minimum of four units must be earned in a structured setting, and a maximum of four units may be earned in a self-directed setting. Additionally, two of the eight units must be obtained from code-related research or learning. Nevada law does not require in-person CEUs.

Structured CEUs include:

- * Attendance at a meeting, convention or conference
- * Attendance at an in-house program sponsored by a corporation or other organization
- * Successful completion of a course sponsored by a college or university
- * Successful completion of a seminar, tutorial, short course, Internet course or correspondence course

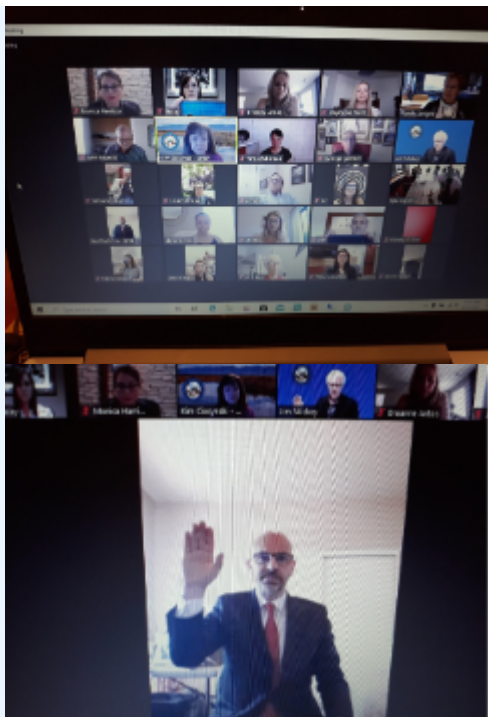
As a benefit to registrants, the board and AIA Nevada jointly host a low-cost seminar every year. This year's seminar will be held online, November 19, 2020. Attendees can earn all required CEUs by participating in the seminar. More information can be found in this newsletter or on the [AIA website](#).

Registrants who are unable to meet the CEU requirements due to illness, physical disability or undue hardship may apply to the board for an exemption from the requirement. **Applications for the exemption must be submitted by September 30, 2020** and can be found on the [board website](#).

For more details on what constitutes a structured or self-directed activity, please visit the [Continuing Education page](#) of the board's website.

New Registrants By Examination

Registered Interior Designers are sworn-in during the board's June 10 virtual meeting. The new registered interior designers are:
Breanne Antos, 258-ID, Reno
Julie Anne Brezina, 259-ID, Las Vegas



Ajla Kopicic, 260-ID, Las Vegas
 Dana Merck, 261-ID, Sacramento, CA
 Stephanie Nash, 262-ID, Sparks
 Cinthy Stauss, 263-ID, Las Vegas

Architect Santiago Gesell, 8376, Henderson, is sworn-in during the board's June 10 virtual meeting.

From Villa Gesell, Argentina to Las Vegas: The Journey to Licensure for Nevada’s Newest Architect

Santiago Gesell’s path to becoming a licensed architect was not what you would consider a “traditional” path. It began in Argentina and finally concluded in June 2020 in Las Vegas.



Gesell's passion to become an American architect is deeply rooted in his family history. His father was born in 1922 in Minneapolis, where his grandfather was developing the idea of a house that would store ice blocks in its basement during winter as a source to provide for cooled, natural ventilation in summer. Four years later, the family migrated to Argentina to run the trading business of Gesell's great grandfather, the German economist Silvio Gesell, whose monetary theory was chosen by Frank Lloyd Wright as the currency system to implement on his urban utopia Broadacres City. Upon Silvio's passing, Gesell's grandfather, Carlos Gesell, invested part of his inheritance to purchase six square miles of bare dunes by the Atlantic Ocean, which he afforested and developed into the coastal town Villa Gesell, where Gesell was born.

The achievements of his family, along with the artistic influence of his mother and scientific influence of his neurosurgeon father, made Gesell pursue his architectural studies at the University of Buenos Aires. After

earning his degree, he got experience in hospitality remodeling, so when the time came to migrate to the US, Las Vegas was a perfect fit.

Before moving to Las Vegas, Gesell researched the profession of architecture in the United States. He learned about NAAB, NCARB, AIA, and what would be necessary to become a US licensed architect.

Gesell started out in the US as a student, earning an associate's degrees in construction management from College of Southern Nevada (CSN). While he still wanted to become a licensed architect in the US, it seemed like a faraway dream. At that time Nevada, like many other states, required applicants complete the IDP (now AXP) before they could begin testing in the ARE. To earn IDP credit, Gesell needed a green card so he could be an employee at an architecture firm. After completing his degree at CSN, Gesell was offered a position in a construction company where he also earned a general contracting license and worked in design-build.

Then, in 2014, Nevada changed the rules, allowing applicants to complete IDP and ARE concurrently. This was the incentive Gesell needed; his path to licensure just got a lot shorter. He submitted his education to NAAB for evaluation and was approved. Then he opened his NCARB record and began recording internship credits and studying for the ARE.

Like so many applicants, the journey to earning experience credits and passing the exams was not quick and easy. Because Gesell worked for a construction firm, he couldn't earn all his IDP credits there, he had to find opportunities to work under the responsible control of an architect. Gesell said the experience requirement (AXP) is very useful because you learn how to run and market an architecture firm – skills you don't often learn while getting an education.

At the same time, he began to study for the exams. Gesell started testing under ARE 4.0 and eventually took advantage of the transition to ARE 5.0 to drop the number of exams from seven to five. Gesell said his biggest challenge with the exam was understanding exactly what the question was asking and completing the exam in the allotted time.

Gesell completed his experience credits, and in less than three years, passed all sections of the ARE. On June 10, 2020, he was sworn-in as a Nevada licensed architect. Even though the board was not able to celebrate with Gesell in person, as this was the board's first virtual board meeting due to COVID-19, it gave Gesell's distant family and friends the opportunity to dial-in to celebrate his licensure. Gesell said feels proud and optimistic about having gotten his license during the pandemic, "Maybe it's a sign. Maybe, during all these challenging times of change, architects can proactively take the lead of development and construction, boosting sustainability, while creating an unprecedented demand for our work. Nothing like an architect's heart to understand the need for a sustainable future, both for the environment and our beloved profession."

New Board Regulation in Effect

Registration Fee Increased to \$180

In March the NSBAIDRD amended regulations pertaining to Chapter 623 of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). The proposed regulation change,

[Legislative Counsel Bureau \(LCB\) File Number R092-19](#), went into effect on June 8, 2020.

The amended regulation:

- * Eliminates the requirement that an application for registration be notarized and provides applicants the option of submitting applications electronically or by mail.
- * Revises certain requirements for applicants that do not have a social security number to provide another type of identification card issued by the state of Nevada. (This change was made in order to comply with AB 275.)
- * Increases the registration/renewal fee from \$150 to \$180 and prorated fees (for registrations issued in November or December) from \$75 to \$90.

Updated Blue Book Released

"The Blue Book: A Reference Guide for the Nevada Design and Construction Industry" has been updated for 2020. The Nevada Construction Industry Relations Council (NCIRC) completed review and update earlier this year.

The Blue Book was written to assist building officials, registrants, licensees, and the public in understanding the laws governing building design and construction in Nevada. It is a guideline intended as a source of basic information, referencing the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), Nevada Administrative Codes (NAC), building codes, city and county ordinances, board policies, and recommended minimum practices and standards. It also contains a "Frequently Asked Questions" section at the back of the book.

Copies can be [downloaded from the board website](#).

Members of NCIRC include:

Nevada State Board of Architecture, Interior Design and Residential Design
Nevada State Board of Landscape Architecture
Nevada State Contractors Board
Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
Nevada Organization of Building Officials
Nevada State Fire Marshal Division
Nevada State Public Works Division

Disciplinary Actions

(March 5 through June 10, 2020)

Inquiries are routinely sent to both registrants and non-registrants for alleged violations of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Codes (NAC).

There were two cases this period that were submitted for board consideration and approved. Additionally, 13 cases were closed because there was no basis for the allegations or the complaint did not fall within the board's jurisdiction.

The following cases were closed by means of settlement agreement; as part of the agreement respondents agreed to assure compliance with Chapter 623. Should the respondents be involved in a

subsequent case and found to have again violated NRS, NAC or Rules of Conduct, the case may be used as an aggravating factor. Every effort is made to ensure that the following information is correct. Before making any decision based on this information you should contact the NSBAIDRD.

Holding Oneself Out, Advertising, and Unlicensed Practice of Architecture, Registered Interior Design or Residential Design: NRS 623.360.1(a)(b)(c)

Case 20-057N

The allegations against *Timothy S. Adams* and *TS Adams Studio Architects Inc.* were that they held themselves out as being qualified to provide services that fall under the practice of architecture and engaged in the practice of architecture, without having a certificate of registration with the board. The matter was resolved through a settlement agreement incorporating an administrative penalty of \$7,500 plus investigative costs of \$1,500.

Case 20-059N

The allegations against *Aleksandr Sheykhet* and *Obermeier Sheykhet Architecture* were that they held themselves out as being qualified to provide services that fall under the practice of architecture and engaged in the practice of architecture, without having a certificate of registration with the board. The matter was resolved through a settlement agreement incorporating an administrative penalty of \$5,000 plus investigative costs of \$1,500.

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