*by **Anthony Nitche**: AIAS Professional Development Coordinator*
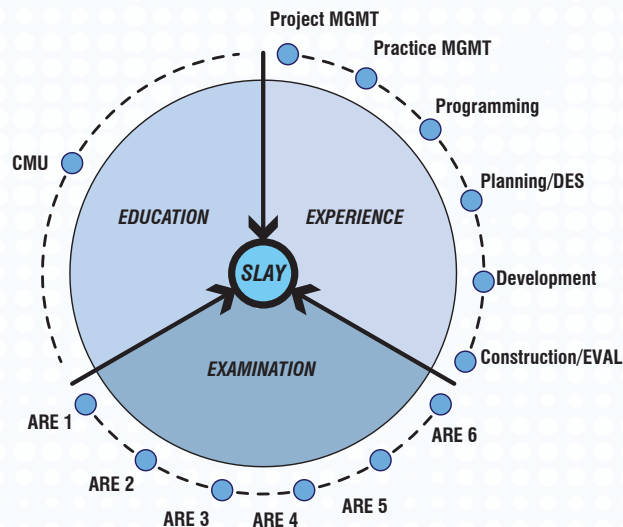
AIAS CMU
01 BECOMING AN ARCHITECT...

So here we are, another late night in studio presumably if you so happen to be reading this. In doing all your work, it may be easy to lose track of ultimate end goal for those of us aspiring to be architects someday. And that goal quite simply put is to be able to say officially, and lawfully on that one day *"I am an architect."* It may seem odd, but uttering those words comes with a ton of baggage. It identifies not only what you may become as a professional, but it signals to others in our field the tests and obstacles it took for you to get there. So, as student studying this whirlwind of a major called Architecture, do you know the steps involved to receive the golden ticket; of obtaining an Architecture license? ■
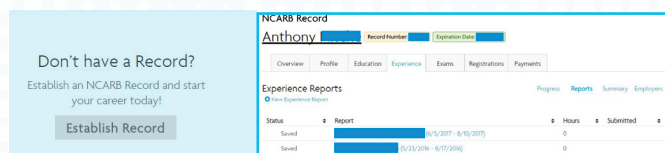
First off, if you're working in the States, the path towards licensure is through the ***National Council of Architectural Registration Boards [NCARB].*** Under NCARB regulations, the path to an architecture license falls under 3 distinct categories; Education, Experience, and Examination. In order to get your license and being practicing yourself, if thats a goal for you, you need to verify with NCARB that you have the relevant goods to become a practicing architect. So for starters, you'll need to set up a NCARB Profile at ***www.ncarb.org.*** You'll need to pay a fee to keep this account open, about $100 a year, so consider it an investment in your hopefully glorious future. ■

GET THAT RECORD

Click to login and Establish your NCARB Record; you'll be asked to fill in a basic profile of address and other generic info. Upon completion you should see a record as shown below, where you can input your relevant education, work experience, and where examination results will be posted when you get around to taking them. ■

STEP 1: EDUCATION

Hey good news! If you are reading this and plan to graduate sometime with a ***Bachelors of Architecture Degree from CMU*** then you will have fulfilled your education requirements (hence you being in studio at the moment?) Here at CMU we have a NCARB accredited degree program, which is not universal of other schools nationwide. You can pursue your license after our 5 year program, where elsewhere it may take 6. That's a year of sleep gained for you right there; pretty swell. ■

STEP 2: AXP EXPERIENCE

After you graduated high school, you became eligible to log your experience hours through NCARB. In total you require ***3740 hours*** of relevant experience spread across 6 main areas of practice; up to half of these hours must be logged in a traditional lawful practice of architecture, the other half may be done "outside the office" through a variety of auxiliary means and programs. To get these hours verified by NCARB, you will need to site a relevant ***AXP Supervisor; a licensed individual who* oversees and validates the hours you work professionally via internship or full time employment.** The 6 categories of experience, some of what pertains to them and hours required are as follows...

160	360	260	1080	1520	360
Practice Management	*Project Management*	*Programming and Analysis*	*Project Planing/Design*	*Project Development*	*Construction and Evaluation*
manage business procedure	*determine budget/schedule*	*establish project goals/impact*	*layout holistic building design*	*develop construction drawings*	*manage shop drawings*
secure project work	*monitor team performances*	*assess project feasibility*	*code analysis*	*get approval for construction*	*review field reports*
engage potential clients	*coordinate inhouse work*	*determine program/space lists*	*solidify material/technical base*	*employ technical aptitude*	*construction administration*
manage company protocol	*coordinate consultants*	*reconcile client/design vision*	*manage consultant feedback*	*communicate with partners*	*manage change orders/close outs*

WHAT YOU DO IN SCHOOL/STUDIO

STEP 2: AXP EXPERIENCE: CONTINUED

In getting AXP hours, you have some flexibility in how you can accomplish what you need, even if you have a burning desire to escape the confines of the dreaded desk. NCARB has stipulated that you can get hours through non-traditional practice settings, as defined by the two categories of AXP Hours; A or O.

A Hours done under the supervision of a licensed professional in a lawful established practice of architecture. [NO LIMIT]

LIKE? Any of these people

HOK HKS
RTKL SOM

O Hours done outside traditional practice where typically your supervisor does not need to be an established architect. #Bonus [MAX 1,870HRS]
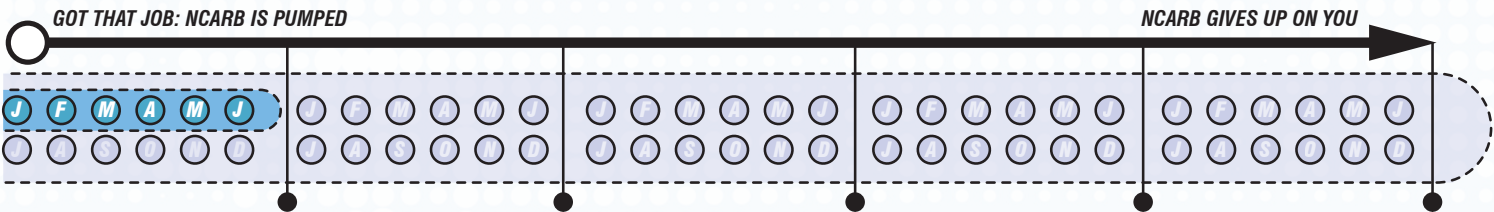
LIKE? Building Design Competitions, Construction Labor, Physical Site Visits, CSI Certifications

AND ALSO THIS: under Community Based/Impact Design

Look familiar? Well it just so happens that our Local AIAS Chapter has just the thing for you if you want to step out of the classroom and get some AXP hours booted off your list as well. To learn more about the Freedom By Design Initiative in general, visit *www.aias.org/programs/freedom-by-design/*

AIAS Freedom by Design

To get your hours verified by NCARB you must **submit the hours** worked in the previously mentioned 6 categories **within a 6 month period** in order for them to be counted towards full credit. If you wait around or get lost in the wilderness somewhere, you can still log your hours after 6 months but only for 1/2 credit. Any point after 5 years and well...NCARB probably assumes you died or at the very least no longer cares. ■

GOT THAT JOB: NCARB IS PUMPED　　　　　　　　　　　　　　*NCARB GIVES UP ON YOU*

PRO TIP: Log your hours monthly while you work, it will be easier for you and your supervisor to keep track of them. You can do in bulk after the fact, but it will be harder to verify what you are saying, especially after 5 yrs.
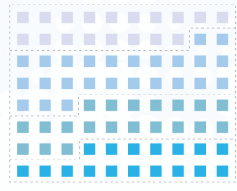
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: For those of you not from the States but intend to eventually practice here, *you can log up to half your AXP hours abroad in your country of choice*, as long as that person is a licensed individual in that country. What a friggin steal.
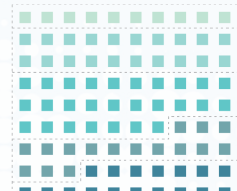
STEP 3: THE ARCHITECT REGISRTRATION EXAMS

So you managed to get all those AXP hours and now it comes time for some penmanship skill. The Architect Registration Exams are split into 6 components, matching the areas of competency done in the AXP process. The test contains *Multiple Choice, Fill Response and Case Study* scenarios which you must analyze and correctly respond to given certain realms of questioning.

NOTE: Each exam will cost you around $200, so anticipate an investment of around $1200. Some firms have policies for supplementing the cost of exams and even provide free resource study material for study. Be forward about this; it is for sure something to mention when interviewing! **Also as an AIAS Member, you get discounts on ARE material too!**
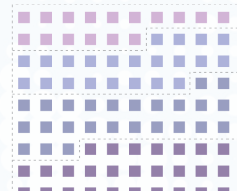
NOTE: **When starting the ARE's you have up to 5 years to complete and pass all the examinations for it to be counted as valid.** ■

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
80 ITEMS: 3.5HRS

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
95 ITEMS: 4HRS

PROGRAMMING/ANALYSIS
95 ITEMS: 4HRS

PROJECT PLANNING
120 ITEMS: 5HRS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
120 ITEMS: 5HRS

CONSTRUCTION/EVAL
95 ITEMS: 4HRS

GOLDEN TICKET BABY!

Well if you passed all your exams, you have officially #slayed the game and now have the credentials to practice architecture. Now open up a practice, change the world, and keep on keeping on. ■

SLAY