

NZRAB's End of Year Round up

Congratulations to all those approved for registration in 2020!

The Board is delighted to welcome into the profession [89 architects](#) who have been approved for registration during 2020. We wish you all the very best for success in your practice of architecture, and we welcome the growing diversity of the profession.

Using technology for meetings

Professional conversations for becoming a registered architect this year had to be conducted via Zoom, due to Covid—it was a choice of Zoom or postpone until an unknown date. The Board thanks all those who were willing to try this new approach. Most of the feedback from applicants identified that pre-conversation anxiety had been felt, but that the Zoom experience ended up being positive. In particular, applicants identified the positive nature of being able to have the professional conversation from the familiar surroundings of home or work, and not having to travel.

Given the state of much of the rest of the world, there is continued uncertainty as to whether there could be further lockdowns here if community transmission of the virus occurs again. In June 2021, the Board will be reviewing the use of the Zoom platform. Depending on how the review goes, the Board anticipates continuing with Zoom for professional conversations and for any continuing registration reviews, until the pandemic is under control. This will help us maintain security of dates for these conversations and interviews.

Applicants feeling anxious about using Zoom are welcome to call the Executive (tel. 04 471 1336) to discuss their concerns. The Disability section in the application form also enables applicants to identify any particular needs they may have, including as to whether a face-to-face conversation would best meet their circumstances.

The NZRAB's [Initial Registration Policy](#) (at page 5) includes information on the processes for those with a disability impacting on the application process, and for those wishing to undertake their application in Te Reo Māori or New Zealand Sign Language. Covid permitting, an applicant may request a face-to-face assessment.

Changes to the Executive

We farewell our Registration Officer, Clare Davidson, on 23 December 2020, when she leaves to enjoy the fruits of her labours in retirement. Our new Registration Officer, Trudy Rook, starts on 5 January 2021.

We warmly welcome Jeremy Porima (nō Waikato-Tainui me Kāi Tahu), our new Executive Officer – Operations, who joined us in November 2020.

New CPD records management arrangements

Te Kāhui Whaihanga New Zealand Institute of Architects has been administering the CPD website since its inception, on behalf of the NZRAB. From 1 January 2021 the NZRAB will be taking over the website administration. The NZRAB thanks the Institute for their support in making this change. Jeremy Porima will be the key contact for the CPD website and

enquires from 21 December 2020. Jeremy can be contacted regarding CPD records, points and other associated enquiries at: cpd@nzrab.org.nz. Please bear with us as we build up our expertise in this role.

More from the Register, less impact on the environment

To assist the profession in promoting the value of using a registered architect, we are working on a downloadable, digital signature, with the [NZRAB logo](#), personalised to each registered architect with the practice year included in it. Architects will be able to use it in communications with clients and prospective clients. Only registered architects will have access to it, and we hope this will provide a point of difference from others in the building design industry who are not registered architects.

We are moving forward with our project to have digital Annual Certificates of Registration. The intention is to have this in place in time for the 2021/22 Certificate. Again, these will be downloadable from the Register. Other professions moved to downloadable annual practising certificates some time ago, so this was long overdue.

In response to suggestions from the profession, we will stop providing the plastic wallet card. This is a welcome initiative to reduce our carbon emissions and environmental footprint.

Public protection—complaints and discipline

Designing to the client's budget

[Cautionary Note 12](#) has been published by the NZRAB, following a 3 November 2020 Board disciplinary hearing. The hearing related to an architect who had received written confirmation from clients regarding their budget for their new build home. The architect incorrectly *assumed* that the clients had then revised their budget upward, after a higher than budget estimate was received from a quantity surveyor. The project was never completed. The clients paid significant fees for something they could not afford to have built. The architect was censured by the Board, ordered to pay costs of \$18,707.15 (incl GST), and required, as a condition of practice, to provide annually for the next three years, beginning on 1 November 2021, a report to the Board regarding budget and cost estimates, being matters included in rule 58B of the Registered Architects Rules.

Competency review 12 months after disciplinary action taken

The Board has amended the NZRAB Continuing Registration Policy to require a one-off competency review for any architect who has been subject to disciplinary action under section 26 of the Registered Architects Act. The competence review will be required 12 months after the Board's decision to take the disciplinary action.

The Report of the Investigating Panel, that leads to the Board taking the disciplinary action, will be made available to the Evaluation Panel for the competency review. This will assist the Evaluation Panel to consider the extent to which the architect is practising competently in their practice area to the standard of a registered architect.

Protecting the title 'architect'

Section 7 of the Registered Architects Act provides for the protection of the titles 'registered architect' and 'architect'. The protection only applies in the context of design and build services for a building.

The protection of title does not impact on titles such as, 'software architect', 'naval architect', 'systems architect', and so on. Clearly these professions are not that of designing a building. The protection of title in section 7 is aimed at those people who want to appear to be architects, or former architects or suspended architects, using the title architect or registered architect and offering design and build services for buildings, when they are not legally entitled to do so.

There is no protection of title for the terms 'architectural' or 'architecture' even in relation to design and build services for buildings, and they are free to be used by people who are not registered architects, such as architectural designers.

When reports of possible misuse of title are made to the NZRAB, the Executive follows up with the party concerned, to educate them on the protected nature of the title architect. The NZRAB typically receives an apology, and co-operation to quickly rectify the problem identified. Nineteen such issues have been raised so far this financial year.

To report a misuse of title, please email andrew@nzrab.org.nz with links to or screen shots of the relevant information, so that we can follow up. Note, however, that architects who are registered overseas *are* entitled to use the protected titles, but they must clearly state the jurisdiction of their registration wherever they use the protected title.

Architects can help educate the public by themselves promoting the title registered architect, for example by making a feature of their registration status on their website. In addition, a link to the [NZRAB Register and website](#) can be included on their website, to assist the public to check the status of their 'architect'.

Registration

Information for those aiming to register

There will be two registration intakes during 2021 for those looking to apply for registration under [Pathway 3, 4, or 6](#), and the usual three intakes for [Pathway 1 and Pathway 2 Stage 2](#). Click on the applicable Pathway to find out what's required for an application. New application forms are uploaded at times, so for those who use a downloaded copy it would pay to check that the most recent version is being used.

Graduates

Graduates who are working towards applying for registration may find it helpful join the CPD for Graduates programme. Information on this can be found at [CPD](#) (scroll down to the bottom of the page for the heading CPD for Graduates for a link to the application form). The programme also provides access to the NZRAB's informative webinars (presented several times a year) on working towards registration.

There is also a [registration programme](#) for graduates run by the NZIA, to help on the path to registration.

Meri Kirihimete



Our offices close on 23 December 2020 and reopen on 5 January 2021.

NZRAB wishes for everyone a relaxing and safe holiday season, after what has been a hard year for many. Here's hoping for better things in 2021!