

The *2003 Internship & Career Survey* instrument concluded with an opportunity for respondents to enter any additional comments. 986 individuals took advantage of this opportunity. The comments fell into the following areas:

- 35% related to the ARE, IDP, registration, or NCARB;
- 31% related to the AIA, the profession, education, or mentoring;
- 12% related to compensation or careers;
- 12% related to the survey device; and
- 10% were simply stories or unrelated comments.

#### APPENDICES C1 & C2:

These two selections include a total of 306 individual comments on the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), Architect Registration Examination (ARE), Intern Development Program (IDP), general licensure issues, and issues affecting foreign-educated and –trained architects.

Go to [www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC1.pdf](http://www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC1.pdf) and [www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC2.pdf](http://www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC2.pdf) to access these appendices.

#### APPENDICES C3 & C4:

These two selections include a total of 339 individual comments on the American Institute of Architects (AIA), education, the future of the profession, mentoring, and previous careers.

Go to [www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC3.pdf](http://www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC3.pdf) and [www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC4.pdf](http://www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC4.pdf) to access these appendices.

#### APPENDICES C5 & C6:

These two selections include a total of 324 individual comments on the survey itself, compensation issues, alternative careers, and personal experiences.

Go to [www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC5.pdf](http://www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC5.pdf) and [www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC6.pdf](http://www.archvoices.org/downloads/appendixC6.pdf) to access these appendices.

## APPENDIX CI: RESPONDENT COMMENTS

*This selection (1 of 6) includes 146 individual comments on the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), Architect Registration Examination (ARE), Intern Development Program (IDP), general licensure issues, and issues affecting foreign-educated and –trained architects.*

"I am graduating this May. I have applied to some volunteer one-year building programs, such as Habitat, etc. I was wondering if I could receive IDP credit, somehow for this experience. I read somewhere on the ArchVoices newsletter that one can get credit for volunteer work. I have been accepted already to a couple programs, but at the same time in making a decision, I would like to know if I could get credit. Could you please email me back with some information? Look forward to hearing from you. Thanks."

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Maine, currently unemployed, undergrad pre-professional student is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [26].

"I do not agree with the premise of being able to take the ARE during college or during internship. I am strongly in favor of the current system of completing the IDP as a prerequisite for taking the ARE.

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [108].

"I sure wish I could have taken the structural sections of the ARE immediately after completing that coursework in school. This is a painfully boring subject to study and do practice problems in my limited free time. During school I considered studying to be my purpose for being there as opposed to another drain on my available time."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Hawaii, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [183].

"1. In my opinion, the NCARB Certificate processing after licensure takes too long (six months or more), If the requirements are met for education, training, and licensure, this process could be accelerated. 2. Also, IDP in concept is a good way for training graduates; however, in practice some firms are more cooperative than others in helping to satisfy hours in training categories other than design or construction documents."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [212].

"Just a note on the testing - I find the computerized graphic divisions very frustrating. I am very proficient at AutoCAD, yet when I took the site exam on what I would call a weak excuse for an AutoCAD program, I really struggled. I would rather draft by hand than learn (and get proficient) with a new program that is useless to me other than the graphic divisions of the test. Learning that program has really held me up on getting licensed."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [259].

"Communication with NCARB has been very difficult for me and my peers. Trained, competent employees must be hired. I didn't feel that the division of the ARE that I have taken and passed (Pre-design) was 'hard' necessarily, but I did feel it was somewhat unfair in that it tested material that I would have expected to find on other parts of the exam (mainly Contract Documents). In other instances, the wording was vague or imprecise, and there is no forum to comment on this. I would like to know to what extent the test questions are 'tested' for clarity. My real pet peeve is that we only receive a pass or fail grade. While I was elated to know I had passed, it would be profoundly beneficial to my practice to know which questions I missed, or at least what my score was so I could gauge my study habits (but that is of little aid without knowing what subject matter I was weak on)."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [346].

"My \$275 check for NCARB IDP registration fees was cashed over 2 months ago, but I haven't heard from them."

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [350].

"I wish there were local seminars available for people that want to study for the ARE prior taking the exams."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [399].

"I am a licensed architect in my original country. Although, I would like to get my license in the States, the coordinator of EESA does not seem to be very friendly and helpful when having a question."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from Iowa, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [419].

"The question that was not asked in this survey regarding the ARE is the adequacy of the software used to administer the test. For a profession that is so involved with precision and accuracy, the current software is inadequate. While it is understood that it was designed to allow for interns with/or without AutoCAD experience to have a level playing field, I believe it insults both. It eliminates the 'drawing' and demeans the architectural profession to a grocery list approach to design. We have a long road ahead of us to correct the graphic divisions of the ARE. When one spends more time learning the software and its nuances, the testing is counterproductive to producing well informed and trained architects that will be responsible for the life safety of buildings' inhabitants."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [420].

"I would very much like to become active locally. I have not had any exposure to the local organization, but would welcome the contact. I am also looking at studying and starting to take the ARE before the end of this year. I still need to fill out my IDP information, as well as have my current employer verify my work hours in the disciplines."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Indiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [474].

"I think NCARB needs to be revised and much more accessible to people. From watching a number of people complete the IDP requirements and take the ARE, all of the paperwork seems to get in the way of studying and preparing for the exam. NCARB and IDP seem to be a hindrance rather than a resource or support to preparing young professionals for the ARE. Architecture schools also need to be much more informed about what it takes to fulfill the IDP requirements and prepare for the ARE."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from Kansas, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [483].

"The biggest hole in an Architect's education and career is not working in the built environment. I think ALL interns (and architects) need some form of in-the-field construction experience as an IDP requirement. I have been around architects who have been licensed and practicing for 10+ years -who STILL don't know how things are actually built. I believe swinging a hammer for a couple summers is much more educational and valuable than 2-3 solid years drawing construction details. The IDP fees are ridiculous, I have yet to see any benefits or 'services' my fees are paying for. Instead of having to pay an initiation fee and annual maintained dues, interns should be offered the option to start the program AFTER they have completed all the IDP requirements. I have paid more than \$500 in fees and I believe more interns would participate in the program if it weren't so expensive. The ONLY reason I am in IDP is so I can take the ARE. I think the IDP requirements are important, but it really feels like I am getting ripped off (and so does every intern I talk to). Employers have the ability to keep an intern from getting the necessary training we need to fulfill the IDP requirements. While I have been fortunate enough to have worked for firms who have given me the experience I need -most of my colleges are stuck drafting (for years). Being trapped by an employer is a tremendous problem especially now that our profession is in recession -interns can't switch to another firm to get the experience they need (lack of job openings)."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [557].

"I think it is DEFINITELY a good idea to take part of the ARE immediately after graduation, i.e. structures, engineering, history. The graphic portion of the exam needs a HUGE software redesign, i.e. actually use Microstation and AutoCAD, so software familiarity doesn't interfere with taking the test."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Kansas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [704].

"Although I have 11 years of experience in 2 firms, I can probably complete and acquire my architectural license through established procedures anytime (I passed all ARE's 7 years ago). However, I personally do not feel I deserve to declare myself an ARCHITECT because I do not have enough experiences in ALL the processes of an architectural project from beginning to end. There are many areas I still lack the skill and confidence: design, budgeting, spec. writing, contract admin, liabilities. I believe complete architectural skills take many years to develop, and I believe the current process is too systematic. Every project poses unique problems from beginning to end and for a candidate to be exposed to minimal amounts of projects/processes over a minimal time frame, does not

deserve to qualify for the title of Architect, in my opinion. I estimate I will be in my late 40's to finally reach my threshold of experience before I will complete the licensing requirements. I hope the system will not punish me for allowing my internship-licensing process to lapse."

— 35-44 Asian male from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [711].

"You can't take more than 5 years to pass the exam! So that choice isn't valid. Also, no questions asked about money related to length of time it takes to pass exam--you have to have it to take it."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from North Carolina, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [825].

"Clarification Re: IDP & my degree: I have a BA of Architecture from UC Berkeley which is not accredited and so IDP can not give me reciprocity. I was interested in doing IDP until I found out I would not get any professional advantage, and the administrative cost was too high. Plus there was no incentive from my firm or the state of California (who will be requiring it after 2005.)"

— 25-34 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [946].

"I graduated as an Architect in Argentina, my native country, and I registered there. I have worked in the U.S. for about 10 years and I am completing the NAAB requirements to obtain my license in PA."

— 45-54 Hispanic female, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [973].

"I understand that Canada has recently revised the ARE program to allow for professional graduates to write the ARE without waiting for IDP completion. This is a wonderful concept, NCARB US should follow."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [1092].

"The burden of the tremendous cost of the IDP, ARE, and licensure processes discourage many newly graduated architectural interns from seeking a long-term position in the architectural profession. The difficulty in even the simplest of communications with the NCARB organization simply compounds this frustration."

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Iowa, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [1108].

"I'm from Belgium and I did my 5 years of Architecture school over there! In Belgium, after school, you have to find a mentor and work for him 2 years as an intern. After that, you become part of the Architect Border and you can have your own practice. No need to pay \$1,000 to have the license!"

— 25-34 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, intends to become registered [1196].

"I'm always keeping my eye out for a good design/architecture career, and am willing to relocate to the US.

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Canada, in an allied field, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [1250].

"The ARE should be taken very soon upon graduation. In order to do this Architecture schools need to take on the task of preparing students. The current IDP ARE program strategy is poor to say the least."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, in an architecture-related job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [1263].

"NCARB Stinks...I can be an Architect in TX, NY, CA, etc...but not other states...yet someone from a third world toilet can."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [1439].

"I am a chartered architect in the UK, in ownership of a firm based in Guam USA, and took the ARE to be able to practice in the US."

— 35-44 white foreign male has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [1502].

"I feel that if you've gone through Architecture School, you should be able to take the exam w/out going through some qualification process. Other than personal gain, taking/passing the exam does nothing for me in my office."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [1592].

"ARE should be offered quicker after school. IDP requirements should not be measured in hours."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [1642].

"Since architecture is my second career, I may not exactly fit the mold for your survey. When I started taking the ARE it was all drawing and coloring in the dots on the scan sheets. I passed the 'written' sections before I passed the 'design' sections on the computer. The old and new tests were little more than a gateway to 'licensure.' Taking a test and not being able to see what you missed is a poor way of learning, as anyone in the education field will tell you. I can't imagine any of the firms for which I worked having a code official fail their CD submittal without the architect getting a written response as to what he/she missed in the design or at the very least a meeting to discuss the design decision. IDP and ARE have been the two most wasteful uses of time/money/effort. Neither prepared me for the work. It was my belief in me and my personal commitment to complete the licensing procedure that pulled me through a very humiliating experience. The exam experience almost destroyed my enjoyment in drawings buildings that were constructed and enjoyed by their occupants. What a price to pay for passing tests that I have never had to experience in real life work! I cannot recommend this profession to anyone without providing some insight into this truly dark side of the profession so that the candidate can make an informed decision. "

— 45-54 Caucasian male from North Carolina, in an architecture-related job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [1696].

"After receiving a degree from an accredited architecture school, one should be able to be called an architect. One would then become a registered architect when completing the ARE. Why else have accredited programs and place any weight on a diploma? Surely it means more than being a prerequisite for spending more money on registration fees, NCARB fees and after a long road in practice, taking and passing an anonymous test that bears little resemblance to skills actually required in practice."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [1769].

"I cannot stand the amount of information 'junk mail' that AIA sends to me via US mail and email. It really upsets me that the minute they get my email address or my mailing address they put me on a mass mailing list to distribute to anyone who wants to buy my information. That is very unprofessional in my opinion. It is a waste of my time and is very environmentally 'unfriendly.'"

— 25-34 male from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [1817].

"I think that NCARB is a monopoly that seeks to maintain the status quo and keep young Architects from entering the profession. I think registration laws and boards are an unnecessary burden on the Architecture profession, it is also non-representative of the electorate nor representative of the views of most Architects. I believe they were set up to collude with monopolies like NCARB to keep new talented Architects from entering the profession and protect the principals and heads of big Architecture firms from competition by young Architects. In that it is a violation of the Sherman anti-trust act that prohibits any entity from placing undue burdens on educated citizens in the pursuit of their right to earn a living in the profession of their choice. I question the legality of all Architectural registration boards in that they are not elected by the voting constituents of their respective states but are appointed by state mandates in which citizens have not been asked for their vote for or against registration laws."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Texas, in an architecture-related job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [1937].

"Greater respect by the AIA and NCARB of 5 1/2 years of work experience in Germany would simplify my life greatly in terms of being licensed."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Oklahoma, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [2100].

"I think a number of elements of AIA membership were created more from self-preservation than for the betterment of the profession. CE credits are the best example. I would like to see them steadily more accessible for less cost. Provide better guidance on self-reporting, because most of us should have no trouble with credits in due course of active practice."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [2130].

“NCARB tends to be very difficult to work with. AIA does not do enough for there members that are noticeable. AIA Documents should be free to members and you would have a much larger group of members, guaranteed.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [2303].

“NCARB doesn't acknowledge reporting forms in an appropriate time frame. This has led me to feel a lack of importance to report my credit hours in a timely fashion. Thus resulting in being registered with NCARB for 5+ years. The addition of website report tracking is going in the right direction, however it's long overdue and according to my last visit to the web site, it still is not completed!”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from New Hampshire, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [2389].

“There is a great disservice being done to interns in that there is no one to guide an intern through the ARE process. NCARB information is vague and not specific as it relates to each section of the ARE exam. The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners is no help at all to interns. If I was not happy in my current place of employment and didn't really enjoy what I do, then I doubt I would have gone through all of the 'hoops' and agony to get registered. Between TBAE and NCARB, the intern is left confused and disillusioned. I am all for personal responsibility, but it appears that with the fees that are being paid - just for the 'opportunity' to sit the exam, the return service is lacking (and in most cases non-existent). Interns have no one, no organization, nowhere to turn to for help during the process of taking the ARE. TBAE and NCARB, at least the folks that interns are allowed to talk to, are not Architects. It would be very beneficial to interns if there were some division of TBAE or NCARB that's main purpose was to actually HELP interns, or at least someone that could relate to the 'trials and tribulations' of interns. I am not asking for someone to complain to, I am asking that someone (who is informed) be available to give interns the straight story. The current system repeatedly confirms that the intern is truly on his own: it is the intern's duty to wade through bureaucracy and misinformation, weeding out the information that does not apply...or does it apply? What are the particular sections of the exam REALLY testing? Because the concepts described in the NCARB literature are no help in studying. The ALS books sometimes relate to the types of questions on the test and sometimes are completely different than the actual test material. I spent countless hours and money on various seminars, study material, and practice exams from several different sources. It finally occurred to me, when I was attempting to get more information prior to signing up for another worthless seminar, that the folks offering the seminars and writing the study material have even less of an idea of what will be asked on the test than I did! I do not know of a person who has gotten their license in the last 10 years, that has agreed with, enjoyed, or benefited from 'the system' or the information covered on the ARE or the types of questions on the ARE. The questions, at least to me, seemed like they came from a giant lotto machine that randomly spits out a different question, no rhyme or reason or order. And no way to prepare differently for the next time, should you not pass the particular division the first time. It would be extremely beneficial to see test results, whatever the confidentiality agreement or waiver or whatever that needed to be signed. Give access to results on line but not 'printable' results. Each division is different every time the test is given, what is the harm in letting people see what they missed? The only benefit from the entire intern experience is the obvious - the end result of getting a license to practice architecture.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [2513].

“Most important benefit of AIA membership \*should\* be the role AIA plays educating public and policy makers about the need for architectural values and promoting policy and law that better supports quality design, reasonable culpability under law combined with appropriate fee structure (risk/return), and public policy as it relates to the built environment.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [2516].

“Not one architect I know or have worked with has said anything positive about the AIA. To me, it's a little scary to be getting involved in a career that has so little communication, functionality, and unity between its practitioners and the organizations that are supposed to govern, teach, and advocate on their behalf.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, undergrad pre-professional student, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [2538].

"I do wish the NCIDQ and IIDA organization were as organized as AIA. I enjoy being a member of AIA, because the seminars and CEU luncheons help me stay updated on the latest technology, so I can talk more intelligently to the architects when helping them design."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Kansas, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [2575].

"The IDP program is redundant, overly detailed and too expensive. Too much time passes in getting responses. It should be enough to have the education required and should be enough if you can pass the ARE, without all the steps, time and money in-between."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [2580].

"I think anyone who wants to sit for the ARE should be allowed regardless of education. If you pass the ARE, you are qualified to be an architect."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [2638].

"I think that the computerized version of the ARE is a joke; especially the vignettes. Using a computer to grade design competence w/o any way of contesting the score is absurd. I do much more complex site and grading design on a daily basis, yet failed the parking lot layout of the Site Planning Exam. There was no explanation. Just a piece of paper indicating which sections I failed. AND I repeat, no recourse to explain the failing grade. Architecture as a profession has the prestige, but not the compensation that it deserves."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [2705].

"I had a very negative experience with the ARE, particularly with Chauncey and Sylvan. I know at least five people, including myself, that had computers lock-up during their test, and they subsequently failed that test. In spite of the testing sessions being videotaped, I could not get anyone to admit that my computer was shut off mid-exam by the proctor. Neither organization will take responsibility for the computer glitches causing candidates to fail exams. This happened to me on my last exam after breezing through the first eight, and cost me a six month waiting period and thousands in lost salary due to a delay in receiving my license. This problem is endemic in the Youngstown area and needs investigated thoroughly. It has happened to too many candidates to be a coincidence. NCARB needs to establish who is responsible for this problem and rectify it. It is dissuading potential candidates in this area from testing because it is such a negative experience."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [2777].

"As I have a young family I find it exceedingly difficult to participate in professional events, (most are an hour's drive away). I wish the AIA were of more value to me, but I find that I only use it for the prestige."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [2802].

"I am embarrassed that my chosen profession has provided a licensing exam in which the computer program which is the testing agent is so poor; and with some of the instructions I've witnessed while taking the ARE."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [2860].

"It's good to have passed the ARE. It took a lot of work but no more than it should have."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [2909].

"Thank you for forwarding your survey. I find the most perplexing thing about ARE Exams are the fragmented subdivisions and the seemingly juvenile or idiotic questions & problems posed, for the most part. Also multiple choices & so many written questions do not test true architectural knowledge of skills. I am sorry but I think the exams are terribly flawed. Seems that they test average abilities at good standardized test-taking skills rather than any realistic ability to produce comprehensive quality logical architecture. Far too much emphasis on computers not only the exam but the entire profession! Thank you again!"

— 45-54 from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [3360].

“Because of a very negative experience with trying to take the ARE back in 1994, I delayed taking the exam several years. In a nutshell, the folks I sent my IDP updates to in DC sent me a confirmation of eligibility to take the exam and then reneged on the letter (found one signature missing on a form) after I'd paid my exam fees and I was never reimbursed although I did not get to take the exam. Needless to say I was angry for a couple of years. Now I've only managed to take one exam because I'm so busy with career/life that it's difficult to find the time to study. I think IDP is a great concept....just disagree with the tendency to prioritize paperwork/bureaucracy above the actual educational process that I noticed in the early 90's.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [3361].

“I began IDP in Virginia because it was required there but dropped it when I moved back to New York City, because at that time (1995) it wasn't required. My experience of it was as a source of annoyance and anxiety - although at that time it wasn't as expensive.”

— 35-44 female from New York, in an allied field, MArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [3371].

“They did not have IDP when I was coming up through the ranks. I had to have the equivalent of 15 years education and experience to qualify to take the Qualifying Exam, which I passed, before I could sit for the Professional Exam, which took me three years to pass. All my answers have to do with my knowledge of the IDP program at the firm I work for. I have been a non-licensed residential designer (Associate AIA); a licensed contractor; a licensed remodeling contractor; a licensed architect in private practice and full AIA member. I have been on Boards of my local chapter and have been a voting member at AIA conventions. I flunked out of architecture school.”

— 55-64 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, has completed IDP [sic], already registered [3408].

“The advantages of taking the ARE are non-existent anymore. The only thing that is fulfilled when passing the ARE is the personal gratification that you are able to finally able to call yourself an Architect, even if you were doing the same thing before the test.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [3443].

“I marked that I would take the ARE if it was available to take sections upon graduation, only if it was the current means to licensure. I do not support the ARE to be administered prior to completion of IDP and feel that the question is slightly slanted to obtain a specific response.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from West Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [3468].

“Please simplify the ARE exams. The computer is clearly as much a challenge with regard to the ARE as the content. The practice tests are cumbersome, although helpful for learning computer skills, but not for actual Architectural learning and demonstration of that knowledge. The emphasis appears to be solely on process and less and less on knowledge. Emphasizing HOW to demonstrate knowledge does not seem to be what should be tested in the exam. It has always been my understanding that what the exam aims to do is ask for the demonstration of skills and knowledge. The content seems to be degraded as well, in favor of process and data entry (e.g. actually getting your answers/information into the correct order for the machine to accept it). How absurd, I came thinking they wanted to know if I could build, think, analyze, develop, etc. which are the things I will be doing from graduation for the next 50 years.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [3481].

“I personally do not think that ARE should be taken during school or right after. The experiences at work help understand all the different aspects of the profession and also it gave me a chance to review what I have learned but forgotten. ARE should not be something that you just fulfill for the sake of fulfilling.”

— 35-44 Asian female from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [3496].

"Really, really need to change the bureaucracy of IDP & ARE. Crazy to have to deal with NCARB, Chauncey & state boards. Should really be one organization with one set of requirements & one set of contacts."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [3512].

"The ARE Exam graphic sections taken on the computer have no relevance whatsoever to the reality of the profession. They are more about puzzle solutions than being an architect and making the decisions about designing and putting together a building as a project architect. It is common that once you pass all of the exam, you forget all about it because it is relatively meaningless now!"

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Nebraska, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [3552].

"IDP approval process is flawed. It is too expensive. It takes months to get an answer. Correspondence is very slow and tends to get lost."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [3564].

"The ARE exams do not capture my education as well as the internship. There is no relationship among the three."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [3681].

"It seems from my experience that it can be quite confusing about all the processes attached to the ARE."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [3683].

"Finished MArch thesis presentation in 1989, worked fulltime in shareholder position thereafter (IDP not an issue at that time), submitted final 2 credit thesis summary for MArch in 1995, still working, now as shareholder and associate in firm and opening/managing new office (IDP comes into requirement without my knowledge), became a partnership breaking away from initial firm, now a corporation....always working fulltime plus...no possibilities for IDP credit within my own firm or within firms where I am a shareholder or partner for the last 16 years....I cannot qualify for IDP credits without leaving my own company for employment elsewhere....this is a really unfortunate result of the success of my business and my residential practice!"

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Minnesota, in an architecture-related job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [3815].

"There should be credit allowed for the number of years working / practicing in an architectural office & passing the ARE exam, that would allow you to get your registration without a 'professional' degree - BA or MA. It appears that the AIA does not really care about the person who has worked in this field for 10+ years and dedicated their life to this profession. While education is, and always will be very important, so is the work experience as equally important. A BSA degree along with the work experience is a good solid base to work from. For young adults entering this field, the education route is fine since they usually have the time to commit to school & able to relocate, but as you become an older adult w/ families this becomes impossible, your chances of going away to school is slim to none. I strongly feel this should not be a life penalty and should be changed. Thank you ."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [3841].

"I have been unhappy with my experience with NCARB and IDP in almost every respect. I am currently pursuing an opportunity to take the ARE in a different state from the one I live in so that I can take the exam concurrent with IDP. I am not concerned with getting a license in my state anymore, rather just getting licensed at all. I wish my graduate school, Harvard University, had introduced IDP and NCARB requirements at some point during my 3.5 year Masters degree. I was unaware of the requirements when I began working and have been frustrated with the loss of countable experience towards IDP and eligibility to take the ARE. On a different note, ArchVoices rocks! It is the best resource I've seen in a long time, and certainly the best for young architects. I have found it extremely useful."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [3950].

"I prefer to have more books for NCARB that I can buy at book stores."

— 25-34 Asian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [4026].

"Personally speaking, the effectiveness of my internship experience was directly related to my OWN ability to pursue the necessary experience required by IDP. The other aspect that added to the quality of my internship experience was a consistent duration of employment with my first firm (i.e. six years)."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from New York, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [4069].

"I think it is very important that the IDP takes into account that there are other specializations in the world of architecture, like preservation and planning, for example, where you gain practical experience but can't use that to fulfill IDP points. For this reason it has taken me a lot longer than I thought to fulfill my IDP points. My firm doesn't do a lot of typical activities that others do, but I chose this firm because it offers me great experience in the preservation world. Please think about the great variety available in the profession of architecture and make that available when participating in an IDP program and taking the ARE."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [4130].

"I believe that the ARE has become too hard for immigrants that have English as their second language. Personally I have passed all graphic sections but encountered that the multiple choice questions are too hard to comprehend without a dictionary. Also, different sections of the test are mixed together (i.e. architectural history is mixed with materials and methods of construction). I have passed one of the multiple choice sections but on my second try and became discouraged after not passing 2 other multiple choice sections."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from Kansas, in an allied field, BArch, graduate non-architecture student, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, does not intend to be registered [4139].

"NCARB and IDP are far too rigorous. I went to Catholic U/School of Architecture after a BA/MBA + 10 years consulting work experience, and none of that was allowed to count towards requirements, NOR was work in a registered architect's because it was unpaid (during a bad time for arch. employment) and I had to fight for some credit for work in urban planning as an intern at PADC. The barriers to entry in this profession are high and sexist and show no signs of coming down."

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Connecticut, in an unrelated field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [4161].

"I've applied for my NCARB council record under the late application with the intent of taking my exam within 12 months from applying. 11 months later, I am still waiting for my application to be processed. Within the last 2 months, my phone calls in regards to my status have remained unanswered. All my NCARB requirements have been fulfilled (and then some), I am just waiting on the certificate to be issued to my state board. My entire career has been on hold because of the slow processing. Better communication and better efficiency in the application process needs to be established."

— 25-34 native Hawaiian female from Hawaii, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [4192].

"In my preparation for the ARE, I have found that the items being tested are not comparable to the realities of the practice of Architecture, and the extended IDP is causing the delay of interns to seek licensure."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [4216].

"In school, I was a student member of the AIA, and went to the state convention, where I attended IDP meetings. A faculty member, at the technical college I graduated from informed us that we could possibly become licensed architects. That we should contact NCARB to try to get grandfathered into starting the licensing process since the state was changing its requirements to "you must graduate from an accredited school". I don't know if the requirements where ever changed, but my employer only looked at graduates from accredited colleges as candidates to study for the state licensing exam."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Michigan, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member [4222].

"I am currently practicing independently and have had only one employer, from 1985 to 1996. My employer provided neither internship program nor specific training aimed at preparing me to take the registration exam (then offered in a 4-day continuous sitting.) I received no additional compensation for becoming licensed, other than my employer paying my AIA dues. My impression was that this was very typical of the times. I sincerely hope that interns now receive better training from their employers."

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, already registered [4256].

"Perhaps it is my region or my lack of experience, we seem to operate in a vacuum with regards to the AIA. While we do get the usual self-important newsletters and the required documents, pay the required dues, etc. There is a dramatic lack of involvement with either national or regional AIA components."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [4290].

"I thought the whole process of IDP and the ARE were needlessly tedious and unhelpful. During the process of taking the NCARB ARE there were no resources provided by NCARB. They were completely unwilling to help those who they claim to be advocates. I think the whole process should be completely revamped. It was a complete waste of my time."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [4296].

"The biggest change needed is that we should be taking ARE directly out of school like the Law profession."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Louisiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [4303].

"The reason I am a member of AIA is that my employer (Illinois State University) told me that I need to belong to a professional organization to receive tenure. The fees (+\$500) are a burden to any architect who does not have a large firm picking up the tab. AIA serves and represents large firms--period. In our area, the local AIA component is full of space planners from the insurance industry; the best design-oriented architectural practices are too cash-strapped to afford membership dues."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Illinois, in an architecture-related job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [4340].

"Appreciate being able to participate in a survey such as this. Would like to know more about active duty, reserve, or National Guard military members' experiences with completion of IDP and licensure/registration while serving in the DOD. What are the best ways to keep your IDP on track while working for the Government in one of its military branches?"

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [4486].

"I am glad to see improvement as a goal for the internship mess in Architecture today."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Nebraska, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [4522].

"Continuing Education as it now stands is a joke. IDP is a mess. NCARB needs to be taken out of the loop."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [5032].

"What the hell is an 'unregistered architect'??? I thought all 'architects' were licensed and registered and people who did not hold a license were not 'architects' at all. Is it possible to get respect in this field if you are not licensed? In the architecture field, if you are not a registered architect and not really an intern any more (accepted to take the exam but have not taken it yet, or maybe never will) what are you?"

— 35-44 female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it [5108].

"The challenge in not being able to take the exam upon/after graduation from college, is if you are married and have started a family, preparing for the exam is extremely time consuming and it takes longer to complete the exams. As a female, studying for exams happens only on flights to/from clients, and after 10:30 pm or before 5:00 am. Having the opportunity to take the exam upon graduation would be helpful."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [5115].

"Was not aware that the AIA offered free first year membership. Any and all opportunities to allow access to the ARE before completion of IDP should be encouraged by all -- architects, educators, code officials, etc. Despite recent changes, NCARB is still very bureaucratic and seems to answer to no one."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Georgia, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [5180].

"1. I like the activities that Young Architect Forum host. Once we went to visit Hearst Tower construction field in Charlotte. It is very interesting and helpful. 2. For people who get their professional degrees in other country, NCARB requires an EESA evaluation. It costs 800\$ and several months. It is very inconvenient for foreign professionals."

— 25-34 Asian female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [5225].

"NCARB & IDP excludes people from professional practice by narrowing the path to licensure. Licensure should be an option for anyone willing to do good work. I have 15 years of experience and I am unwilling to go back to school for a Masters degree just because NCARB says I have to. I want to be an architect but each year NCARB & IDP & AIA add new layers of requirements that keep me from being licensed."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Nevada, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [5268].

"Architects should look more closely to how engineers go through their licensing process: they take the Engineer In Training (EIT) exam right after graduation, after passing this exam they must practice for 4 years under a licensed PE, then they take their Professional Engineer exam. The cost for these two exams is minimal in comparison to the ARE. Also, there is no bureaucratic overseer like NCARB that costs the intern A LOT OF MONEY for review of their work experience. It's bad enough that engineers make a higher salary overall than architects, but the process that architects are forced to comply with costs them so much money out of pocket and WAY TOO MUCH paperwork to get to the final point of being able to call oneself an architect. One would think that architects would work together to increase the number of registered architects, NOT make the process so difficult that the actual percentage of graduates from architectural programs in comparison to those who actually achieve the goal of being a licensed architect a small population in number."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [5272].

"NCARB support really is horribly inadequate, I have had nothing but problems with my IDP process, from lost paperwork and checks, to NEVER returning phone calls, to disrespectful and non-motivated staff. Please help us! This is the ACTUAL number one reason for non-licensure among eligible candidates..."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [5310].

"I am frustrated with the control of the IDP/AIA system and how difficult they have made it to get licensed. I have been out of school with a Bach of Arch (WSU) for five years doing residential architecture the whole time: 1 1/2 years for licensed arch, 2 years for self through builders and licensed arch, and 2 years for an affordable housing builder. I love the work I do and would like to feel more prepared for future job changes by being licensed. However, I can't even get eligible. I would like the tests to judge that rather than people judging my work experience only for eligibility. My husband is a licensed architect and we talk about/read about/practice architecture and design in a lot of our spare time, too. I feel I have just as much right as anyone else to take the tests and get licensed. I've always been an efficient worker and very dedicated to architecture and improving the environment. I also went through architecture school as a single mom and very good student. Due to all this, I feel the AIA/IDP system has hurt rather than helped."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Washington, in an allied field, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [5325].

"I've been working in this business since 1979 and for my current employer since 1984. I am capable of every task except signing and sealing drawings without my degree. It is unfortunate that the State of Michigan no longer considers work experience a basis for taking the test to be a registered Architect. I conduct lectures and interviews for local high school students and am continuously saddened to see the lack of equipment and information available to them concerning an Architectural career."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [5327].

"Employment, under a licensed architect prior to receiving a professional degree should count toward IDP credits to sit for the ARE."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [5501].

"1) Students should be allowed to take the exam immediately after graduation, or based upon their desired timeframe. The IDP process does not prepare one for the exam, except for possibly the Contract Administration portion. The IDP process prolongs the student/interns timeframe of knowing how to study, be disciplined in the method of studying, and having a simplified life to permit one the opportunity to study. Passage of the ARE requires study for most individuals. 2) An internship may still be required, but could be satisfied regardless of the individuals ARE state. 3) A term, similar to EIT (Engineer in Training) should be developed for Architects. Intern is too broad and basic, not to mention unflattering. If one graduates with a BArch or MArch and is working through the process of charting hours towards a professional status, they should be permitted a title worthy of their intelligence, previous accomplishments, and certainly attainable accomplishments such as passage of the ARE."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [5510].

"I would like to get registered some day, partly just to be able to call myself an 'architect' as I spent several years in college pursuing an MArch. However, I work with software development and implementation for architects and others in the building industry. My work experience will not qualify me for IDP completion under current requirements. Because of this, I have not yet started my IDP - even though I've been out of school and working for about 8 years. I would like to try and see where I'm at, and if it's even possible for me to test out or take courses in the appropriate areas."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Minnesota, in an architecture-related job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [5535].

"The IDP training requirements do not easily transfer into the aspects of regular work experience offered to most interns. I felt as if IDP was just a bunch of paperwork I needed to get out of the way before I could actually start the process of licensure. IDP did not even remotely prepare me for the exams. This is not necessarily a bad thing if you see IDP as a 'right of passage' or having served your time as an intern whereby you are ready to be 'admitted' and can then study your ass off to pass the ARE's."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [5552].

"I am currently organizing the ARE/IDP resources in our office and am in contact with our firms PAC committee that reacts to the needs of the staff regarding the ARE. The PAC committee is currently reviewing the responsibility of the firm to those participating in the ARE/IDP process. There is a great amount of interest on the part of those taking the ARE to have both hours and testing fees paid for by the firm. Is there anyway to see some of the results from this survey regarding what firms typically provide? In our office alone there are 8 people going through the IDP/ARE process - this could be a potential cost to the firm if it decides to provide this benefit - but we as a firm are committed to encouraging interns toward licensure as much as possible. Any feedback that this survey could provide would be very helpful. "

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Oregon, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [5563].

"I have a foreign license."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [5625].

"IDP and ARE are nonsense, a waist of time with NO practical applicability in the profession. None of the ARE questions are professionally relevant. You should try to impose a Diploma exam by the end of college, as practiced in Europe, which could prove that future architects are prepared to start for the future profession. Professional knowledge will be accumulated eventually."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [5718].

"IDP and NCARB are strange animals. I only made it through with the help of my peers. NCARB was not as helpful as you would hope - institutions are institutions. I started IDP prior to the creation of the computer testing and the old format was more difficult and challenging. I have found joining the AIA is only useful at work because clients recognize it and understand it as a good thing. Sorry about the rambling. Thank you."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, BArch a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [5901].

"The ARE must be restructured to reduce the difficulty in areas where most architects (in actual practice) are not required to be as knowledgeable as the exam would implies (i.e. MEP, site design and development, etc.) We hire consultants for this work!"

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [6052].

“Although having not attended a school of architecture, I've spent my entire career in and around architecture. I've amassed much knowledge and have been classified as a BEA (broadly Experienced Architect) by the State of Texas ARE. One day I expect to be an NCARB Licensed Architect- how, I'm not sure, but I will thank you in advance for this forum.”

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Texas, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [6314].

“I feel that reciprocity after taking the ARE should be based on passing the exams, not if you have a pre-professional or professional degree.”

— 25-34 female from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [6325].

“I am having difficulties getting NCARB certified based on a 4 year architecture degree that is not considered a BArch until 2 years after I graduated, and ever since my educational background is not taken as a true architecture degree and has made it extremely difficult to do anything related to architecture. University of Buffalo (SUNY) changed their program to the BArch after I graduated in '92 and left me and other graduates out there to struggle to get our degrees taken seriously. I am much more qualified than most students coming out of school, but can't apply for NCARB when those same students can with less experience and knowledge because of the degrees given now. I am sick of getting no help from anyone in any NCARB, AIA or any other architecture group that is supposed to use my membership fees and dues to aid me in this field rather than refer me to some rule book that simply states that your school's 4 year architecture degree is not valid for our application. I am in line to become a principal and owner in this firm of 45+years and have been working in architecture full time since high school graduation in '88. I have worked with 5 major firms, some in the top ten in the states as a project architect, designer and various specialist roles. I have been involved in every aspect of architecture since day one and am not even compared to the level of a student graduating this coming spring because they have a BArch degree? Sorry, but this is really a topic that is and will continue to disappoint me about our field and those that are out there NOT helping people like me.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, already registered [6330].

“I graduated from a university which is not accredited based on NCARB Standards but I am planning to join the IDP program. Until now, I still have the problem of getting an evaluation through EESA/NAAB. I just don't have the money right now to do that evaluation.”

— 25-34 Asian female from Arkansas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [6402].

“The licensing process takes a lot of personal initiative (and money) to begin. I don't feel like the process ensures that I will be a better qualified architect in the end either. It seems like many hurdles and red tape in a long process (certainly more than 3 years) that I have to endure to finally get to call myself an architect. I thought I had endured enough torture in the rigorous schedule required to get an architecture degree. I'm a self-confessed overachiever, and I can easily see myself burned out before I ever get registered.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [6528].

“I feel that the ARE does not test one's knowledge as an architect nor does it adequately test one's knowledge about life safety issues. The test has too many questions that do not justify knowledge necessary to be deemed worthy of an architectural license. The test really needs an overhaul if it is to remain in place as the licensure mechanism!”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from South Carolina, in an allied field, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [6646].

“It would be good if more information about IDP, internships, and professional career tracks were available at the undergrad level in the College of Architecture & Planning. It can be found, but it must be sought and is not readily offered for those who don't know they need to think about it and plan for it.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Colorado, in an allied field, BArch student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [6757].

"The IDP system needs to be re examined. It does not allow alternative routes to becoming eligible to take the ARE. My situation: the firm I was working at when I graduated and was earning IDP credit offered NO mentoring, NO structured education. The one and only licensed architect (the principal) was in the office only 20 minutes per week. During that time I was earning IDP credit and learning absolutely nothing. Now, I'm self employed as a designer, am forced to actually think about what I do and therefore have learned vast amounts more about the profession than I ever did while working for a firm. But because of the IDP structure I can never take the ARE & become registered. The system is very backwards in my case."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Oregon, in an architecture-related job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [6843].

"I feel that my passing the ARE is influenced by my education and my internship but mostly I feel it is a test of whether or not I am focused enough to study and stick with it and ultimately whether or not I am a 'good test taker.'"

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [6870].

"I recently moved to the USA; I am working in a small firm with very little opportunities to grow in the field of design, besides any kind of benefits. Is there any information that I can take advantage of to change this situation?"

— 25-34 Hispanic female from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [6943].

"NCARB is the biggest stumbling block for licensure - slow, bureaucratic, unresponsive, doesn't return phone calls, doesn't process information in timely manner, doesn't have answers. IDP is a well-intentioned program, but it is run by monkeys who do little to encourage licensure and are what most interns fear most in the process. In need of a major overhaul."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [7019].

"I signed up for IDP once I made the choice to become licensed. I had moved up in my career freely up until two years ago when my firm made some adjustments and made licensure a critical issue. As such I started the process and with any luck I will soon get news of passing my last two exams. I graduated in 1991 during the IDP switch over and I was fairly put out by the whole idea, which seemed to me at the time as being just another level of red tape. I feel many felt the same way because I know a lot of people in my age group who are just now going for their license. Many firms as mine did had a change of heart with regard to licensure. My feeling is that this was vital to maintaining the legitimacy of registration."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [7073].

"In reference to NCARB, I found the organization very reluctant to help. They rarely would return phone calls or emails when asking questions. Also, the ARE study material that can be purchased from them is useless and expensive. In reference to the AIA, I found that the organization does not provide a 'welcome packet' that would explain services and continuing education requirements to new members."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [7080].

"I'm a recent licensee < 1 year. Although the exams are fairly easy in my opinion, most of what you are tested on is professional knowledge which is sometimes learned on the job, but is otherwise abstract. Getting a question correct is no guaranty of being able to act correctly- since answers are so rarely based on personal experience. Little of the practical knowledge on the exams is taught in school. This seems to have always been the case; it seems to have always been common knowledge that this is so, and it seems that it will always be so."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [7145].

"I have found that the ARE is painfully tedious to apply for and take, with paperwork that passes through numerous institutions and people. It took me over a year to complete the paperwork and receive my authorization to test. Upon receipt of this authorization, it was incorrect, stating that I was eligible for 6 of the 9 tests. I received my vouchers for the three tests that were not shown on my authorization prior to the authorization being corrected despite three calls concerning this problem to the Chauncey Group. The tests require not that we have knowledge of the material that is said to be covered by the exam, but of the material that is in the study guides. Although, I passed the last test I took, Materials and Methods, despite the fact that only 53 percent of the questions came from the study guide. The fact that we don't receive our scores for up to 8 weeks at times seems ridiculous in this

technologically advanced time we live. When we do receive our scores we have no idea how well we passed or failed, and without knowing what the answers are to the questions, we have no way of learning from the experience.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [7183].

“I have the equivalent of a Masters in Architecture from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. I am registered in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I have been in the Architectural profession for 20 years, half of it in Argentina with an extensive resume. I feel very disappointed with the way the NCARB has been unaccommodating to my needs, requiring that I spend all kind of moneys just to be equal to a student just graduated from a bachelor program in the USA. When a USA architect goes to work in Argentina he/she is received with open arms, I only hope that I could be given at least a level playfield. Thank you.”

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Tennessee, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [7265].

“Recently moved from Mexico.”

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [7283].

“The process of getting the NCARB certificate for someone graduating from a foreign architectural school is a nightmare. Global economy is not followed by global interconnected institutions.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Tennessee, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, graduate non-architecture student, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [7323].

“I feel that there is no support from Architects community, there is no actual classes or seminar (excluding books) to help us prepare for the ARE; I am talking about the actual refresh courses to prepare us for the exam. In my case, my degree is from a foreign country, and it has been a long time since I have graduated. In conclusion, we are practically abandoned by ourselves to reach such a difficult goal. Bottom line, I feel I am alone, and it is very hard, working full time, having family and the ARE. Overall it is a very hard process to obtain the ARE. Did any one look at the other professions for licensing? Also, I am not a hundred percent convinced that by getting the license, we become a better architect. Also, could you please tell me why we have to take certain divisions; such mech./elect., structure etc. when we hire engineers for those projects. I agree that we need to have a general knowledge/concept on those things; but aren't those supposed to come from the school/job experience. Thanks for hearing me.”

— 45-54 Caucasian female from North Carolina, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [7413].

“I would like to take some of the parts of ARE examination now.”

— 25-34 Hispanic male from Louisiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [7502].

“I am a Registered Architect in another country, could you let me know how my experience counts in order to get the eligibility to present the ARE? Thanks.”

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, intends to become registered [7567].

“,I'm interested in, and working at being a design-oriented architect. Have generally found the IDP, NCARB, the whole structure of the situation largely overpriced, over bureaucratized (the initial NCARB paperwork is preposterous, and a big disincentive to getting started on IDP, among other things, not to mention the long delays, high fees, propensity [noted among friends] for NCARB LOSING paperwork, testing companies going under, etc.). All told, aside from the good work of various individuals and some technical information, I have little use for the IDP, the AIA, and most American architectural journals--bland, bureaucratic/corporate, overpriced, and largely dead weight in terms of actually advancing good design or the profession's interest.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [7589].

“I am a registered architect from Germany and have worked there for 15 years, 10 of them licensed. I would have appreciated it very much if I just had to take the ARE exams without being forced to go through the IDP program.”

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [7621].

"The IDP process and paperwork is ridiculous. There must be a better way to achieve eligibility. It is discouraging and causes many people to defer the choice of taking the test because it is so laborious. There is too much looming talk about the exam and it seems that the exams don't test your ability to work in the field as much as it is memorization!"

— 25-34 Asian female from New Mexico, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [7638].

"For the ARE to be computer graded it costs entirely too much money and takes way too much time to get results back. My length of time for getting results back ranged from 10 days which was great to 8 weeks, which was the norm. The IDP process with NCARB was ridiculous. They would lose paper work, etc. Other than that, being a registered architect is great."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Oklahoma, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [7694].

"I graduated with a BSc (Honours) in Architecture from a foreign school. The degree is not listed with NCARB. I will need to obtain approval of my degree in order to be enrolled in IDP. The cost of this has delayed my licensing process."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [7719].

"How about an internet class or review class for ARE? Or (this could be wild, I guess) an exam over the internet!"

— 35-44 Asian female from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [7782].

"Seeking info re: credit for related experience."

— 55-64 male from Massachusetts, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member, intends to become registered [7875].

"I've never had much of a problem with contacting NCARB, getting a response, is a different story."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [7889].

"I would like nothing more than to be able to get registered, educated in Switzerland 4 year professional school certificate (apprenticeship) total of 25 years experience, when I inquired with my state AIA was told that I have absolutely no credit, my only option would be to go get a masters for which I would need an undergrad degree, and none of my years of experience will count for anything. In the meantime I have worked in numerous firms and have mentored many architecture school graduates. So please, let me ask you for your comment!"

— 45-54 Caucasian female from South Carolina, in an allied field, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, does not intend to be registered [8036].

"NCARB appears to be performing abysmally. Their responsiveness and record keeping are a serious problem. They are unreliable and their continued role in professional advancement and credentialing should be reconsidered."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [8053].

"The ARE is the last thing, honestly that I would want do in such a busy life, but I feel that it is necessary, so I will."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [8218].

"The entire process of getting licensed is a rip off. IDP cost. I would have to learn this stuff for the test whether I pay IDP or not!!!! Study test prices and study groups are more expensive than the test itself!!!!!! Why study if I know the material???? Questions on the test are wrong and I've proved some wrong from previous test questions!!!!!! So now I know I have to study and cough up money for the study tests/books so I can make sure I know all of the wrong answers for the exam!!!!!! It's a joke and it's frustrating for an educated person to have to subject themselves to this handholding while money is being stolen from us by the other hand!!!!"

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [8230].

"I applied to take the ARE in 1996 and was denied. After studying and preparing my application with Architects helping me,(to assure that I had enough equivalency years served) THEY were even surprised when I was turned down. Since then I have accrued many more years of experience. Every time I check into applying again, they have increased the requirements. I can only

hope that one day the process will undergo a reform. I have been a project manager for almost 4 years, training new interns and employees WITH ARE registration. I am now an associate and stock holder with the firm. I was lucky enough to find a firm that does not require me to be registered. I would someday like to become registered as a matter of personal accomplishment. Thank you for conducting this survey. I am glad others are taking interest in this matter.”

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [8286].

“Always needed help to pass ARE graphic design section, never passed...now need to pass bd & bt...14 hours more of testing...terribly difficult program. ARE never was valid or fair. Options and alternatives should exist.”

— 55-64 Caucasian female from Wisconsin, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [8303].

“Programs need to be checked thoroughly.”

— 18-24 Asian male from Alabama, currently unemployed, BArch student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [8304].

“The architectural profession needs to evolve if it is to command the respect of the other professions i.e. medicine, law, engineering, dentistry, etc. If it is to do so the approach to professional licensure needs to resemble that of the aforementioned professions. Students should be required to begin qualifying before the professional degree is completed; as in the medical, legal, and dental fields. One should be required to begin sitting board exams towards the end of the 5-year BArch process with a view toward certification within 2-3 years of completing the professional degree. Any other approach only serves to undermine the integrity the profession as a whole, by prolonging the period of 'internship' ad infinitum.”

— 25-34 black female from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [8311].

“I would like to see the rules/requirements changed in order to become a licensed professional. I have a BS in Architecture, 1991, majoring in Building Construction. I worked for a General Contractor for 2 years; worked as a Project Manager for 8 years; currently employed (5 years) as a Construction Administrator for a national architecture firm that designs airports and hospitals. Also, I have 11 years of direct involvement in the production of Contract Documents and Specifications. But, without going back to graduate school for 3 years, I do not qualify to become licensed even though I perform the same responsibilities and duties as a professional. I currently hold CSI, CDT Certification and am pursuing CCCA Certification. Also, I am an advocate that as part of licensure qualifications, a candidate must work in the Construction Industry for a minimum of 2 years in order to become familiar with the construction industry and material installation procedures.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Virginia, in an architecture-related job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [8437].

“I graduated from 'Center for Environmental Planning and Technology' School of Architecture with a six (6) year course and I am planning to take the ARE but NCARB wants my transcripts to be evaluated by Education Evaluation Services for Architects (EESA), which is extremely expensive - \$800. I had my credentials evaluated by World Education Services in 1983 and received a letter saying that my education is equivalent to a 5 year degree. Why do I have to reevaluate my education? This is stopping me from being eligible to take ARE.”

— 45-54 Asian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [8521].

“Did take the exam in 1984 and did not pass. This was my 3rd time to take the exam. I will resend to NCARB the form to take the ARE exam.”

— 55-64 Hispanic male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [8548].

“The current ARE testing is flawed. The system is designed to test memorized information that most interns cram a few weeks before a test and don't use that information again in their respective offices for years to come if at all. By the time an intern is exposed to all the facets that the ARE attempts to test, the information that he or she memorized just to pass a test is already forgotten or irrelevant. I have worked with registered architects that are completely incompetent I have also worked with non-registered architects that are exceptional. Being registered did not make a difference in differentiating an outstanding architect from a mediocre one. Interns are expendable in most offices; there is a new crop every year for offices to choose. Mentoring and IDP is a low priority because it takes time away from billing hours. IDP forms are embellished all the time with inflated hours and

completed tasks just to qualify for ARE exams. Instead of using the ARE as a goal to reach after graduation and internship, the process has collapsed into a race to pass nine tests within the two year period so we can call ourselves architects. I think that the AIA and NCARB have missed a unique opportunity to reach architectural students early in the process of registration. Has anyone wondered why the NCARB registrations and AIA membership are down? By the time the interns get out of school their priority is to try to make a living and not to join phantom organizations that offer little or no support. If the student body is engaged from freshman year (AIA is a weak attempt) and if the ARE becomes part of the curriculum in architectural schools, perhaps we can begin to see an improvement in the current state of architects. Otherwise, the alternative is to keep the status quo and pretend that everything is fine in architecture land. .”

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Rhode Island, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [8677].

“I want to update IDP more often, like once in a month, so it would be easy for me to register my credits.”

— 25-34 Asian female from South Dakota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [8734].

“It would be easier if there was a way out for all the paperwork that is required by Asians for evaluation, specially knowing the fact that some colleges are really slow in responding.”

— 25-34 Asian female from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [8757].

“I want the IDP requirement to be realistic for the interns to be able to achieve. It's really hard to get the credits on the project management which needs long experience to get the position to manage the project.”

— 25-34 Asian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [8983].

“I would like to intern at an office in the states, but know very little about the procedure.”

— 18-24 Hispanic female from Puerto Rico or Virgin Islands, in an architecture-related job, BArch student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [9010].

“The AIA exam gets more and more stupid, it does not create better architects by knowing plumbing pipe dimensions.....”

— 35-44 white foreign male, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [9108].

“I believe ARE eligibility should be revised to qualify individuals by awarding more credit points for higher education and years of experience working in non-traditional architecturally related professions.”

— 35-44 black female from Texas, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [9122].

“My primary reason for not completing the IDP program and taking the ARE, is that my employer already trusts me with all the responsibilities of a registered architect and pays me well. There has not been a good enough reason for me to want to go through the paperwork nightmare of the IDP program.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [9143].

“NCARB is a much more reasonable program for becoming registered than the British Columbia Institute of Architects - in my home province there is an oral exam that can only be completed after 6 mandatory courses that are offered sporadically, once or twice a year and are available only to the first 35 people signed up and are open to all folks not just the Interns. I have had extreme difficulty scheduling the courses as they sell out in days. If the oral does not go well you are expected to log additional hours at the board's discretion.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Florida, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [9372].

“The work required to meet the IDP requirements provides very little help in passing the ARE. IDP only serves to limit the over population of architects. Many architectural graduates work in this profession for years and years without completing the IDP or sitting for the exam because there is no significant motivation for completing the IDP or passing the exam. They can do what they want to do in the profession and earn good salaries without completing either.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [9451].

“I had my architectural degree in Europe and it has been a very complex and difficult process to allow me just to take the exams, the process is taking more that 6 years from the moment I got my professional license in Spain.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Missouri, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [9526].