

APPENDIX C2: RESPONDENT COMMENTS

This selection (2 of 6) includes 160 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.

“IDP reform is something that really needs to be looked at.”

— 25-34 male from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [9572].

“The ARE is unrealistic. I have a hard time believing that the people who wrote it have ever worked in this profession. Also, I think the idea that some sections are timed is crazy. That’s not how we work, so why should we be tested that way? My family and I will be very happy to have the test done.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Missouri, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [9641].

“I live in a remote location and it takes 1-1/2 hours to travel to an administered location for ARE. Will Sylvan Learning Centers around the country/state be eventually able to administer ARE testing?”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [9800].

“The lack of prompt feedback from NCARB, and ‘the run around’ an intern receives from NCARB about his or her Learning Units or the disqualification of L.U.’s is driving talented interns away from the profession.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [9856].

“NCARB takes too long to process paperwork.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [10056].

“Technically, I have completed all components of IDP, however I have yet to get my NCARB certificate due to some paperwork glitches at IDP. Since California does not require NCARB, this has not been a priority for me. I could have had my NCARB application complete in November of 1999 - when I completed my State of California licensure process- if the paperwork glitch had been worked out.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [10065].

“I have had the opportunity to take both the old style test and the new test graphic portions. The new test graphic portions do not adequately test the understanding of coordination between section, elevation, and plan.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [10296].

“ARE in Alaska is difficult to take. The Computer center for taking the exam is located in Anchorage. I currently reside in Fairbanks. Without any support from my firm I had to take time off and pay for the trip to Anchorage. I also had to break the test up into several trips since I could not schedule all parts of the test at the same time. The testing facility in Anchorage only had 2 computers with the ARE test. I was competing for time with all kinds of occupations for time to take the exam. I would like to see satellite stations ever 6 months to be set up in other areas of the state to reduce the financial burden of the intern taking the exam.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Alaska, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [10425].

“I wish that I could have taken sections of the ARE exam upon graduation. Here it is 9 years later and the anxiety of taking the exam keeps building.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Maryland, 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 [10529].

"There exists blatant discrimination against foreign qualified architects by NCARB and the local licensing board, in terms of recognizing foreign qualifications for ARE eligibility."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Utah, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [10551].

"Fulfilling the community service has taken the most time."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [10570].

"I moved to NY in order to get a license because I have a BED 'Non-professional' degree. I completed IDP but was not able to get my license without going back to school for a 'professional' degree. I think NCARB should allow experience to supplement the professional degree requirement. It defeats the purpose of IDP to make someone leave the professional environment to go back to school just to be eligible for registration. This is a BIG problem among the interns that I know. Even though I will have a license in NY State, it will not be NCARB certified which is ridiculous."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from New York, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [10590].

"NCARB is very difficult to deal with. I should have been able to begin the ARE 6 months ago. However, they have slowed the processing of my paperwork so much that I'm still waiting on them despite many contacts."

— 25-34 Hispanic male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [10668].

"The structural component of the ARE is irrelevant in my practice, as we always use a structural consultant. To relearn statics, etc. at this point in my career is absurd."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Indiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [10780].

"I have had an extremely difficult and frustrating time obtaining the NCARB certificate, despite the fact that I met the requirements and became licensed about a year ago. There seems to be poor communication between the state licensing board and NCARB."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [10807].

"Enough with the grousing about IDP being too hard to complete, NCARB being hard to communicate with... I regret that this survey may indicate people think it's too hard/too expensive and no one is supporting them through internship. No one is going to lead you by the hand. You are in charge of your own destiny. Be in charge of your job activities, your IDP requirements, communicate with your boss when you fall behind and take the tests already! If it's too expensive, lay off the lattes and save a few bucks to achieve your goal."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [10840].

"I am registered in VA which didn't require IDP. In mentoring interns in my office, IDP seems not to encourage any intern growth, rather it is extremely expensive for the participants, and generates far too much paperwork. This profession is too challenging for young architects to add additional cost and work toward licensing."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from New York, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [10843].

"With regards to ARE preparation, I felt my internship with my firm was appropriate for the graphic divisions, and a few of the writtens, but for example, the structures exam is not something I will ever utilize at my office nor have I ever since my structures classes in school."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [10848].

"I came from another country and I have found that although I am a Foreign licensed Architect, I would like to encourage AIA to let us apply easily to be licensed here without the process of taking ARE. I know it is a little difficult to get it like I am thinking so. I would like to see a new program for ARE where the time for each Division to be more intensive I mean 3 months with 6 Hours per week with tests and a closer relationship with the tutor."

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, intends to become registered [11162].

“The NCARB paper work and interaction process has consistently been unprofessional and a great source of time consuming aggravation. These people do not consider the fact that we are the source for their jobs. It has been a slow moving bureaucratic process that does not lend itself to protection of the public safety. The time frames for processing are without warrant and quite frankly unbelievable.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Kentucky, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [11197].

“We should take the ARE in school and do the IDP when we are out. The real life of 70 hour work weeks, marriage, and kids make it very difficult to take nine parts of the exam and for what my employer could not care less! Most people I know have taken six plus years to finish this process and the rewards are not great for most of us. Maybe the top ten percent in the architectural profession enjoy what they do. All I can say, why is this process so difficult?”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [11213].

“Overall, the path to licensure is a BIG challenge to those who desire to become registered but did not graduate from an NCARB accredited school. Without their blessing, it's just about impossible (except for maybe 2-3 states) to fulfill a dream. I for one would like to see alternate ways for licensure that would not be dictated by NCARB. I understand that from a consistency standpoint they like to control the ways and means that an architect becomes registered, but by limiting the path to certain colleges and certain programs, the numbers in our profession may continue to fall. Perhaps one way this can be done is with the IDP program. Maybe more units could be required for those without an NCARB degree.”

— 35-44 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 [11214].

“Becoming a professional Architect should not be as difficult as it is for the rewards received.”

— 55-64 black male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [11274].

“I'm a registered Architect in Mexico, I have worked in the US for the past 2.5 years and I'd like be a registered architect in Texas in the near future. If you have some information for foreign applicants, I'd appreciate it if you would get in contact me. Thanks.”

— 25-34 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 [11300].

“I wish that architect interns would be able to take the ARE exam without 100% completion of the IDP program.”

— 45-54 Hispanic male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [11355].

“I am currently providing my firm with all expected duties of a principal architect (except for stamping drawings). Licensure seems to be only a legal technicality that opens me up (as an individual) to a greater amount of professional liability, without greater responsibility.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [11371].

“I registered to take the exam in 2000. NCARB and the testing agency did not have themselves coordinated. I had a lot of phone calls that rarely got me any answers. I received my papers to get started taking the ARE. The papers told me I have until 2009 to complete the exam. Now, I'm being told that I only have until this September 2003. It is in some fine print in the State Licensure Rule book that is not brought to anyone's attention. You read the book but it is written in legal language that most architects are not familiar with. And now I'm being told I'll have to redo IDP requirements that have changed since when I fulfilled mine in 2000. This is additional time and money on my part for a lack of communication on NCARB and the testing agency from the beginning. Why should I be penalized for their mistakes?”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [11407].

"I do not think that intern architects upon graduation should be able to take the ARE. Architecture education alone does not prepare one for the licensing exam. Having been through it, I believe that the internship period is essential."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [11418].

"I think that the ARE results should be released to show what your actual grade was rather than just a pass/fail. A person may be just barely passing the exams and thus have a false confidence in an area they should really learn more about. Nobody seems to know what percentage needs to be attained to pass. Why is this entire grading process kept such a secret?"

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Nebraska, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [11451].

"Design/build firms are not as IDP-friendly as one thinks. The fast pace of the projects and the specificity of each person's job in a design/build firm gets an intern pigeon-holed into a drafting position. I have yet to do any cost analysis, bidding, or office management because of all the other people whose jobs it is specifically to do so. Small firms are the way to go for completing IDP in an expeditious manner."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Kentucky, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [11455].

"There is no true internship in architecture, and in return less of a sense of urgency by the intern. There are many firms that choose to alter the record of an intern to obtain registration for that individual, as opposed to providing the true apprenticeship that is needed. Firms need to say what they mean and mean what they say in hiring interns. Don't promise design opportunities to an intern, but delegate them to door or stair details for a year. Schools have to be in a better position of transitioning students into the profession."

— 35-44 black male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [11463].

"When I went to school and got into the architecture field the IDP program was not available and because I have been out of school for 20 plus years IDP is still not available to me."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [11514].

"I feel that when the ARE went to computer - that the process became nothing more than 'who else could jump on the band-wagon'. It has been staffed for 5 years with anything from test center trainees to retired persons - who are now (probably) finally trained to be professional about test administration, thanks only to the ARE Candidate(s). NCARB 'sold' this to the local boards in '97 and they 'bought' it, with many problems embedded in its early years only for the ARE Candidates to later 'learn' about. I've been delayed at test sessions, have had one test administrator 'run her hand across the back of my neck from shoulder to shoulder' and other distractions and notified not only the Texas board and NCARB but my attorney - only to not have test fees waived or ANY reciprocal mention to me of their handling things correctly. My wife told me not to sue the living daylights out of them - so I have not. But really, where is it that a state administering board or the test administering entity has ever EARNED their positional role in all of this. Basically, when the local board relinquished control of the ARE, at least in Texas, that began the separation of my passing exams and starting failing exams; not only because of content but because the esteem and preparation of such was simply not in any authority. It is better with a convention center full of the same pursuit people instead of a test booth where the person next to you is 'going for their high school GED' or some other such nonsense."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Texas, BArch, graduate architecture student, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12059].

"I feel like I have to figure this all out on my own. It seems like nothing but red tape and confusing and non user friendly procedures. I do not look forward to figuring out how to complete my IDP requirements."

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Connecticut, currently unemployed, MArch student, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [12115].

"I would have taken the ARE sooner than I did except that it was necessary to also complete the IDP."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [12256].

"The graphic divisions of the ARE are a joke. Not only are they too easy to solve, but the computer grading has presented many people problems. The graphics portions should grade a candidate's intent rather than how precise they move the mouse. This can only be done by hand grading - computer grading of the graphics portions has proven not to be a good idea. It is costing people not only time, but money earned (and lost) because they have to wait 6 months before they can take the exam again, and then pay the fee another time. There are too many variations that one can come up with to solve a problem than is programmed into the computer. Just by its very nature, graphics tests should be graded by hand - and possibly even taken by hand as well."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [12301].

"I can speak for many who have put off taking the ARE due to the process that one must go through in order to take the exam. Not too sure what can be done but it seems there is an easier way of collecting one's information for IDP credits."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Louisiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [12350].

"The computer program for the design portions of the exam is extremely frustrating and awkward to use. Most of the profession uses well-written programs like AutoCAD and I think you could do much better."

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Utah, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [12380].

"Your question about the ARE isn't helpful. I think the ARE is too easy in some respects and not fair in others. The questions are tricky rather than really a good measure of what you know."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [12444].

"I honestly think that IDP is a flawed, money-making scheme that should be eliminated, and I am glad I started my exams before it was required in California."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from California, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice already registered [12471].

"I am a fourth-year undergraduate student and am not sure what I need to do before I can become an accredited architect. I wish schools would inform the students more thoroughly about the ARE, required internships, etc. I would appreciate it if you could send me some straightforward information about the steps to becoming an accredited architect. Greetings and regards."

— 18-24 Caucasian female from New Mexico, in an unrelated field, undergrad preprofessional student, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [12930].

"I would like to say that the most important issue to me is that the 3-year hiatus that is required prior to taking ANY portions of the ARE is ridiculous. Certain sections could be taken without diminishing the 'integrity' or 'value' of what it means to be a registered architect. As I understand, some states allow specific sections to be taken prior to the fulfillment of IDP, why is this not the rule across the board?? Are some states 'better' than others? I'm not certain as to what, if anything, NCARB is doing about this, but it should be addressed. I do think though that this adjustment to the requirements should be strongly considered in order to encourage graduates of professional architecture programs to continue on in the field."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from New Jersey, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [13059].

"I have found that the IDP or other intern activities are most valuable when the individual is motivated to pursue these goals and make the most of their situation. I have found inspiration from sustainable design issues and after recently being laid off (I have found new employment). I have been surprised that my current and previous employers did not have an active intern group or even have an ARE Study Material Library. Again, my experience has been that when support is requested, I have seen results."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [13195].

"I am from Argentina, I have been in the US for 5 years and some of the answers were specifically related to the time that I have been in this country. Thanks for the survey. It is very well done and it seems very complete."

— 35-44 Hispanic female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [13282].

"I graduated from Architecture School in Venezuela back in 1996 and have been in the process of completing my architectural registration in the US for the past 3 years. You could have included some questions for alien architects in your questionnaire. It would be nice to know how many registered architects in the US got their education overseas. Thanks."

— 25-34 Hispanic male from Massachusetts, in an architecture-related job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [13474].

"IDP system is not a good system. I would prefer to see something more like the medical licensing system which you pass the exam then the residency (IDP). There is no reason why one cannot take the exam after getting the professional degree. The cost of IDP and the ARE is not a small amount of money for a young architect. The system discourages people from becoming an architect. If the profession wishes to support the young architect, at least make the process less costly and less complicated. The intent of IDP is good, but the requirement for management experience is difficult to achieve without four or five years in the field or one would have to be more 'creative' in the IDP reporting."

— 35-44 Asian male from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [13620].

"My office would rather lie for me than give me the experience I need to complete NCARB. I'm not in the position to find another job nor will I accept credit for something I haven't done. So I may never have the opportunity to become licensed."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Oregon, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP [13882].

"Since I only have a 4 year BS degree in an architectural related field, I am unable to sit for the exam as a Michigan resident. So, I am currently working on taking the ARE for the Wisconsin Board. I now have become eligible and will start studying for the ARE."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [13899].

"ARE should be allowed to be taken concurrently with IDP. Some units are hard to get and time is wasted."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [14048].

"The exam is really much too expensive. I do not feel that the firm I work for should have to pay the exorbitant fees associated with NCARB or the ARE, but interns certainly struggle to afford it. I pay \$600/month in student loan payments. When combined with the cost of living, I don't know when I'll be able to afford to take the exam! Additionally, I have heard that the ARE continues to get easier, which can not be a good direction for the future of architecture. We do not need an easier test & we do not need to be taking it earlier (most of us are barely ready when we complete IDP, although I don't know how many interns realize how much they have to learn.) A more difficult test ensures that we put better architects into the professional world. What we really need is to pay less!! Personally, I have had more difficulty with the IDP program than it's worth. I can never get in touch with them, and if I do, they can never answer my question. They have gotten my file number wrong, they haven't sent me an update in over a year (even though I requested one), and why am I paying them to keep my records when I am the only one that keeps proper records of my work history!!! Maybe if there weren't so many salaries to pay at NCARB the exam could cost less!"

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [14104].

"I attended UIC and did not realize the number of years of internship required with the type of degree I received. And, I attended school as an older student. This was very disheartening!"

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Indiana, in an architecture-related job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [14130].

"Every time over the last three years I have contacted (or in many cases unsuccessfully attempted to contact) someone at NCARB regarding the status of my NCARB file, I have dealt with individuals who either do not care enough to send me what is requested or are simply so incompetent they are unable to perform the basic functions of updating my file or notifying me what the status of my file is, despite my having made payments and repeatedly communicating with them. To perform one minor function correctly requires multiple calls and considerable investment of time. Any help would be welcomed. Thank you."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Arkansas, in an allied field, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [14197].

"Better services for currently charged fees."

— 35-44 Caucasian male in an unrelated field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [14242].

“Educated in an East-European country.”

— 45-54 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, does not intend to be registered [14424].

“NCARB is a very difficult and time consuming organization to deal with!”

— 35-44 Hispanic female from Kansas, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [14504].

“ARE testing and reporting procedures need revision. In particular, if a candidate fails a particular exam, the limited diagnostic information provided with the test results is not adequate to provide the testing candidate with direction on how to improve study methodologies for the next time the exam is taken.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Idaho, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [14596].

“I feel disappointed with the law of the Registration Board: I feel capable to take the ARE and I'm not eligible to do so because I don't have an accredited certificate. I have wasted many years going to school and working under the supervision of a registered architect that is not yet enough to accomplish the requirements. Is the money what I have to put besides (to get an accredited certificate) in order to be allowed to demonstrate my knowledge in an ARE?”

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Minnesota, in an unrelated field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [14642].

“NCARB: My experience with NCARB has been difficult as of late and the overall use of NCARB I question. After completing IDP and starting to sit for the ARE, NCARB did not contact me - newsletter, etc. And I did not receive any correspondence from them in regards to renewal fees to keep my record active, etc. Now, as I am completing the ARE, I realize I have not kept my NCARB fees up to date, and find out that I won't be able to update my fees until after I finish the ARE and am licensed, which will require a penalty fee to reactivate my record. I believe that this is unfair, since NCARB choose to disassociate itself from me - someone who paid fees to establish the record, etc. I don't see the value of NCARB for most architects, I believe as do many of my colleagues - licensed and non-licensed, that NCARB is not necessary for the profession. It's another layer of bureaucracy - an impediment to licensing. It's perceived that the AIA receives fees from NCARB (kick back) for what it does. NCARB needs to become more member-friendly and accessible.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [14725].

“1 - Dealing with IDP & NCARB has been a nightmare. They are the slowest people on the face of the earth. 2 - Architecture firms do not pay very well and it is very difficult to have a career in architecture and have a family. 3 - Between IDP, the AIA and the ARE, there are simply too many fees for an intern to pay. 4 - For the amount of hours that architects give to their employers, they should be compensated with overtime pay or paid time-off.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [14790].

“I would be registered now if it weren't for IDP!”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [14817].

“NCARB should be mandated in every state for fairness. Abolish 5-year BArch degrees. Allow for taking the ARE while enrolled in IDP, but after graduation (similar to bar exam).”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Massachusetts, has a traditional architecture job, MArch student, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [14827].

“The ARE is very tricky in nature and they throw every discipline at you in extreme detail. You need to read many books and have a wide range of experiences in order to pass or get very lucky.”

— 35-44 black male from California, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [14910].

"We need to encourage more students to seek their licenses after they finish school. We have a large retention problem in our profession."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [15001].

"Need to restore alternate paths to licensure, such as 'broadly experienced' route."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice does not intend to be registered [15135].

"My main problem with the IDP program has been a lack of information (or plethora of misinformation). Depending on whom you talk to on a particular day, crucial information is changed (that's if you can get someone on the phone at all). I graduated in 1995... You would think that NCARB could have worked all of the bugs out of this fiasco by now. And yes, this has made me bitter enough to start pursuing other career opportunities."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Maryland, in an architecture-related job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [15193].

"There are parts of the ARE that are obsolete to a certain extent. The Mechanical and Structural sections need to be completely conceptual tests rather than calculation. In the working environment, an architect is not allowed to calculate the loads (either mechanical or structural). The rise in Consultant responsibility has taken that responsibility from the Architect, except in the form of conceptual design. For example, an Architect might tell a Structural Engineer that he wants a glulam beam structure, exposed, with a certain finish, but he would not calculate the loads."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15324].

"I got my pre-arch bachelor's degree in California, then married and moved to Arkansas unexpectedly. AR only allows people who have a professional degree to become licensed and I had to move out of state to attend the closest MArch program (which was terrible and received harsh criticism at accreditation). I moved back home before finishing my thesis due to family illness and am now trying to complete that program while juggling a fulltime job and family! Why have all of the alternative paths of education, experience, and then licensure disappeared? I never wanted to go back to get a master's but I had no choice if I wanted to stay in this field. I was perfectly happy and capable at my job as an intern but in order to progress had to quit and move out of state to get licensed in this state!! I have tons of work experience but only 1 year of it will count toward my IDP record. By the time I receive the professional degree I will have worked full time for over 6 years but will have to document an additional 2 years before I can sit for the exam! Why so much emphasis on the order of things? I know I can pass the ARE. If I can do that, why this extra degree? Give people like me a chance to take it when we think we are ready. It may also generate more money for you in fees for taking the test. Arkansas will follow the lead of the AIA and NCARB on this."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Arkansas, has a traditional architecture job, MArch student, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [15374].

"IDP was a joke. I suspect most interns are forced to lie on the IDP submittal forms in order to acquire hours in certain management categories that interns don't normally have a chance to observe/work. I can't see how this situation would ever change since most employers would never be willing to absorb so many unbillable hours spent educating interns, as well as unwilling to give inexperienced interns a chance to get hands-on."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15471].

"I've been in the architecture profession starting as a draftsman since 1986. I became eligible to sit for the Colorado exam through their On the Job Experience program. A non-traditional approach which honestly leaves me feeling a bit subconscious as to my abilities, even though I'm highly respected for my work and talents. Passing the ARE will be a culmination of a life's dream, as well as proof to me that I really am capable of being a real architect."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Arkansas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [15618].

"The times that I have tried to contact either the IDP or NCARB, I have been met with an attitude of having to put up with me and being put out with having to help. Also, I sent in my final accumulation of hours for the IDP in December and have still not heard any

type of confirmation that it has been received or is being reviewed (it is almost April). I think the money that I am paying to 'maintain' my IDP record is a complete waste to a slow, inept, bureaucracy."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Arkansas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [15686].

"I think that if I was able to start taking my exams after graduation then I would have completed them sooner. Texas now allows interns to take exams after 6 months. I believe that a graduate of an architecture program should be called an architect. Once exams are completed an architect would become a registered architect. I do not feel that the ARE graphic sections really test knowledge but test one's ability to use a particular program. There are people that pass the exams that are not competent to be an architect."

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [15688].

"We need to emphasis construction methods and materials more in the ARE and in the profession. The reputation of architects in the construction industry is embarrassing."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Colorado, in an allied field, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice already registered [15784].

"I am presently in the IDP program on account of seeking licensure in Ontario, Canada -- (This...after having graduated in 1982 from abroad, and since then I have had a practice and have taught architecture design at the graduate and undergraduate levels)... Long live free-market!!! Should Foreign Architectural Associations in Asia and Europe force principals from North American firms like RTKL, SOM, and others to be local Interns in their countries for 3-5 years...when they go there seeking projects ????"

— 45-54 Asian male from Canada, currently unemployed, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [15981].

"I have found the entire IDP paperwork process to be needlessly cumbersome, and all contact with NCARB has been a horrible experience requiring monumental patience. No steps in the entire process have been streamlined or coordinated for the benefit of the individual, it has been quite frustrating, time consuming and expensive."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16103].

"I have a foreign degree in architecture. I would like to connect to other interns with similar problems."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [16128].

"The ARE tests trivia that is almost completely irrelevant to actually working and practicing in a professional manner. Having taken 7, I can see absolutely no reason why I couldn't have done this directly out of school."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16163].

"My internship period has generally been positive, though much longer than anticipated, based upon information I received at the outset. I am fortunate to have received a great deal of mentoring from more experienced colleagues, but generally this is informal and not within the context of the IDP program. I have found those, whose licensure predates the IDP/NCARB programs tend not to understand the complexity or expense of the current process and are not well prepared to support it either programmatically or in terms of the cost."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16257].

"Streamline the IDP process. Too much paper work."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [16300].

"I feel that the process toward licensure/registration is unnecessarily difficult, not to mention expensive. For a profession that doesn't pay well in general, we seem to have one of the more expensive testing fees. But there seems to be a bigger problem with IDP. I understand the intention is good, but in practice it falls short. It's unfortunate that just about all states require IDP now. IDP essentially turns into an exercise in documentation. Very extensive documentation. I have found that from the beginning of

architecture school, it seems that it's been a continuous process of discouraging people from the profession. That has also been my impression of IDP and the ARE (as far as cost is concerned) I would also like to know what IDP fees go towards. Because from most all people I talk to, they always seems to get at least \$500 out of every participant. They seem to increase every year. What do these fees go towards? When is it enough? Some consideration should be given to rethinking both the cost of IDP and the ARE, and also IDP in general. Thank you."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16373].

"We need better education on the process of becoming licensed along with more networked options of training."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [16472].

"This survey does not take into consideration people that graduated beyond the big water and came here with experience."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from California, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [16616].

"NCARB, the ARE and especially IDP are a disaster. A better way must be found to control admission to the Architecture profession."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [16646].

"I would have taken the ARE earlier if I didn't have to contend with the following issues: #1 the coordination of IDP completion is difficult enough without the incompetence of the managing parties at the national level, they only give enough information to complete a task, never the whole process, and they never call back when you leave a message; #2 the scoring criteria of the ARE is kept a mystery; #3 I know people who have failed graphic sections of the ARE because of the 'RETARDO-CAD' program that we are forced to use, I barely find enough time to study, why should I have to learn a new software system also, 90% of the nation uses AutoCAD or Microstation... 0% of the nation uses 'RETARDO-CAD,' given the option, I would rather take the graphic sections by hand; #4 the computer exam was supposed to be available at any time, in WV we have to use Sylvan Learning Centers, and it is impossible to schedule an exam any earlier than five weeks away."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from West Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [16736].

"NCARB seems very difficult to work with and the cost is prohibitive for young architects."

— 25-34 male from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17019].

"Worked 11 years abroad in profession and found reciprocity shortcomings negated any opportunity to obtaining registration prior to return. This issue needs more attention."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from New Hampshire, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17312].

"Simple: IDP filing procedures are overly complicated and the requirements are out of touch with current practice methodologies."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Michigan, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [17338].

"I wish: we could take the ARE before completing IDP, the IDP requirements were less strict, ARE tests were more real-world-related."

— 25-34 Asian male from New Jersey, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17439].

"It is not fair for recent graduates to be able to take portions of the ARE upon completion of their school, while the rest of us have to study the materials such as structures 6 years after school."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17617].

"It has been my experience that the smaller the firm the better chances an Intern can have a successful IDP because of the greater exposure to the varied phases of the profession. Larger firms tend to specialize people too much, thereby allowing less exposure to Interns. 'Leaner and meaner' firms tend to be more aggressive than the 'Established' firms which seem to move slower. So, growth for the Intern in a smaller firm is quicker than in a larger one."

— 45-54 Hispanic male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17664].

"I feel IDP is an excuse to charge more money for keeping track of the same information that the State of Oklahoma already has on file at no charge. The State sets the requirements for licensing, if followed, then that's all that should be required. Exams are too expensive. Architects pay more than MD's and get paid less."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Oklahoma, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [17701].

"A question asked if my education or internship adequately prepare me for the ARE. My answer was no, because by themselves they are not adequate. However, they certainly help. Work experience and ALS resources provide the final preparation for the exam, but without the education the exam would be much harder."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Wisconsin, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17705].

"I find the requirement for Section 16 -Community Service, at 10 Units to be burdensome, and of little benefit."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [17765].

"I am strongly opposed to allowing the ARE to be taken right out of school - it is the last hurdle to prove competency - one might be able to pass it right out of school based on knowledge but it is crucial to have experience first - so that the concepts are concrete and lived-thru - it will cheapen the value of licensure."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, MArch student, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [17910].

"I felt that the structural portion of the ARE was too long for the amount of time that we were given. Everyone that I know that took the test around the same time as me said the same thing. The graphic tests are based on ridiculous drawing software. It should be much more like AutoCAD. It made the test much more difficult to pass. I was tested on my skill with THAT drafting program rather than my skill as an architect."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [17918].

"I am grateful that the architectural profession still allows for apprenticeships, training and registration for non-degreed persons (although not everywhere). I hope this profession can learn to value the contributions and talents of persons without an architectural degree - like myself - who can pass all of the exams (first time through) and become a registered professional, with all of the privileges and responsibilities that it carries. I have heard few voices on this subject who recognize the need to allow qualified persons, with varying backgrounds and educations, the opportunity to seek and obtain professional registration. I hope we can continue keep the door open, and the standards high."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Arizona, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [18133].

"ARE is too difficult partially because it puts architecture history questions in tests where a person would not expect to find them or prepare for them."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Utah, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [18158].

"I have been a registered Architect in Great Britain since 1983, and have spent 9 very frustrating years inching toward a license in the US...next month, hopefully. I am therefore not a typical 'intern,' and the system needs a thorough overhaul to be of much help to anyone else in my situation."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Vermont, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [18196].

"I have tried to qualify for the ARE. Using my state boards grandfather clause. However, the way my state board director has interpreted the clause it is impossible for me to qualify. His interpretation requires 12 1/2 years combined education and experience prior to 1978. Since I graduated in 1974, this is impossible. He states the experience has to be prior to 1978 as well as the education. All of my experience was acquired after 1978. This ruling is not logical to me since the more recent experience would seem to me to be preferred. How could I get 7 or 8 years of working experience in 4 years and what architectural firm would hire an intern without a college degree? I have over 8 years experience in different architectural firms plus an additional 15 years experience in the construction industry. I am not asking for a gratuitous architectural license, I just would like to take the exams. I am more than qualified for that based on knowledge and experience."

— 55-64 Caucasian male from Arkansas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [18234].

"Concerning the ARE: It has been my experience that the multiple choice ARE exams tend to try to 'trick' one rather than testing one's knowledge in the particular exam subject. This is quite frustrating, and in my opinion, unnecessary. I don't think that the difficulty of the subject matter should change, however the presentation of the questions should be altered."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [18437].

"I am a forty-five year old partner in a design firm who is finally taking the ARE. My education and practice has been in interiors however I have always gravitated towards the architectural side of design. My experience with taking the ARE unfortunately has not been favorable. Firstly I can't conceive of the fact the design portions are not offered in paper and pencil for those of us who have not mastered AutoCAD and secondly, I have serious concerns about the grading practice. Even though NCARB professes to utilize a computer graded scoring system, there are definitely inconsistencies with the convergence of computer and human evaluation. It is truly my belief, the grading of at least the design exams, is definitely skewed."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [18711].

"The company sponsorship for the non-citizen was an important factor for me to choose the company I want to work for."

— 25-34 Asian male from Missouri, in an architecture-related job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [18826].

"In general, I feel that the entire process of the IDP is an impediment to the process of taking the ARE. As a young intern, I was initially uninformed of the IDP requirements, and when I educated myself to the process, the fees associated with it made it prohibitive. Additionally, the process is unrealistic, because even in the most supportive of firms, the likelihood that an intern will receive real experience in areas like bidding and negotiation, contracts, construction administration, office management, etc. During the first three years of professional experience is slim to non-existent. Once a young architect's career has advanced to the point that these aspects of the profession are more applicable to their relative level of experience, finding time to take the exam in balance with work and personal responsibilities becomes more challenging. And again, the process is expensive, and the IDP paperwork, if backed up with honest, accurate figures, is laborious. All of these factors make taking the ARE a much higher hurdle than it needs to be."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from New Jersey, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [18870].

"Recent graduates should be allowed to take all exams necessary for licensure immediately upon graduation, to capitalize on the retention of knowledge fresh out of college, as opposed to waiting three or more years and having to relearn all that had been lost due to lack of use and the progression of time."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Louisiana, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [18887].

"I have found very little incentive to take the ARE. No salary increase, no deadlines. Also, IDP seems like a huge hassle. I first registered to take the ARE in California, where it was not required, now I have moved to Illinois and am working on my own. The thought of having to complete IDP now is quite unpleasant. I think it would make much more sense to tie licensure and a Masters degree together as they have in the law profession."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [18914].

"There were no questions about the ARE computer portion in graphics/design...i.e. the fact that you must learn a very cumbersome program that is not used in the profession and takes precious time to learn and be comfortable with, has been my greatest stumbling block in completing my exams...I have yet to make the time in life to get by this...wife, children, work responsibilities..."

— 35-44 Hispanic male from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [19128].

"During my ARE exam process, I have found that the procedure for getting IDP finalized, taking exams and waiting on exam response is quite time consuming and cumbersome. If this process could be reworked to be efficient and user-friendly it would be helpful. Thanks."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [19482].

"The only thing that delayed my completion of IDP was the lack of response and inadequate handling of documents by IDP. My folder was lost and had to do considerable leg work to get final IDP certification."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [19533].

"My firm does not put much emphasis on the rewards of obtaining your architecture license. Although I did recently complete the exam, there has been no real reward or incentive to do so. Is this true of everywhere, or just a big firm like the one I am employed by?"

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [19597].

"The ARE is frustrating for those of us who do not test very well, particularly under such time restraints."

— 25-34 white, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [19728].

"Myself and other registered architects I have spoken to do not consider the internship experience to have been influenced by the IDP requirements. Employers make the IDP experience what they want to and the charting of time spent in individual areas of experience seems to be rather absurd. It presents a level of detail of which few interns will ever measure so precisely. The internship period seems to be more accurately a waiting period in which the candidate gains work experience and fills out forms until they feel they possess the knowledge to pass the licensing exam. I can't think of anything from entering the IDP program which helped me pass the registration exam, however, I did pay what was a large sum of money to an architectural intern and filled out a lot of forms. All the knowledge which helped me pass the registration exam came from my education, work experience and time spent studying exam prep materials. None of this do I feel would be different if it were not for the IDP. It is about time we recognize the IDP program for the optional program which it is and license candidates on the degrees they receive and a rigorous exam process which demonstrates a knowledge derived from experience and education rather than overcoming the paperwork obstacle course of the IDP."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Minnesota, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [19831].

"REFORM NCARB!!! They do not answer their phone and do not respond to voice mail messages. Competency rather than seat time should be the measure of development. NCARB is the largest detriment to the health of the profession. NCARB is terribly dysfunctional. NCARB is the worst organization I have ever dealt with. NCARB does nothing for the development of interns- its sole function is to ensure an under paid and dependent work force of skilled labor. NCARB is the worst imaginable organization. You cannot measure the quality of IDP without field inspectors unless you measure the increasing competency of those subject to its regulation. IDP is irresponsible to measure seat time alone and its current state of dysfunction is an outgrowth of that policy. NCARB is the worst imaginable organization and the profession of architecture has seriously damaged itself by relying on the IDP program rather than local oversight. NCARB is slow to respond to letters, does not answer phones, and feels no need to actually support interns. NCARB is a very bad organization."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Georgia, in an allied field, MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [19923].

"I'm very discouraged about the ARE exam. I have 17+ years of experience, have managed very large and complex projects and yet it seems like an impossible task to pass it. It seems like, the longer you wait to take the exam and the more experience you get, it will work against you!"

— 45-54 Hispanic male from Utah, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [19971].

“ARE was incredibly frustrating...questions did not test knowledge... Only tested how well you memorized the specific questions in the study materials, which are coincidentally for sale?...questions were so awkwardly worded that several answers often were correct!”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [20087].

“I believe the arch schools and the AIA do not help/ support interns and new architects. NCARB is the only group that is currently helping improve the profession of architecture.”

— 25-34 male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [20126].

“I work in Washington State and plan to take the exams after becoming eligible. I will be eligible after 8 years of practice under a licensed architect and upon completion of the IDP. I do not have an architectural degree. This career path is only available in a handful of states, but seems to be never spoken of even in those states where it exists. Luckily the local IDP coordinator has been very helpful in providing information to me. I would like to hear from more people who are on this same career path as me. Perhaps ArchVoices could look into it. Thanks.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Idaho, has a traditional architecture job, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [20147].

“I am more interested in a program of exchange license from other countries, ARE may be too hard for us to clear and too time and money consuming for me. It may be prestige to get one though.”

— 35-44 Asian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [20151].

“Study material for ARE exams need to be updated.”

— 35-44 Hispanic female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [20254].

“The 'ARE' exam fees are too expensive. A new architecture graduate cannot afford the ARE fees...not to mention obtaining their first job with out any prior experience. The IDP program should be revised. I agree that these value units should be obtained through actual work experience but the way in which they are obtained should be revised. Doctors have established actual training programs in hospitals maybe architecture should provide similar settings.”

— 35-44 black female from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [20273].

“I also teach ARE prep courses and have seen many talented architects come through my classroom lost on how to pass the exam, frustrated by how unrelated to the real profession the exam actually is.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [20341].

“I feel that the IDP process, when compared to the engineering profession, is cumbersome, costs a lot of time and effort on the employee and employers. I feel that I did receive some benefit from the program, but not when compared to the effort to get it all together. Also, others did not take it a seriously as I did, and their benefit would be negligible. I do feel that it weeds out those who are not serious about the profession, but I question how many other good potential architects it also weeds out.”

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [20351].

“While in school, I didn't feel that I had ANY choices about where I worked or why I worked there. I took three jobs while in school because I needed jobs and they were available. When you find a firm that will take you for 16 hours a week, you just count your blessings. Similarly, with the economy down, I chose to stay with the last student job I had because, with loans to repay, I wasn't prepared to take the risk of moving, getting settled, etc. And then being laid off, I find myself willing to settle for less IDP fulfillment (I'm at a residential only firm) until the timing is better to move on. On another note - how am I supposed to have faith in NCARB's ability to quantify my experience? The organization is hard to contact; at each time I've tried to reach someone by phone I can't

leave a voice message because the voice mailbox is full. I've heard lots of stories about inefficiency and long delays in response from NCARB in the IDP circles. Many of us wonder why you all get to tell us how much experience we have or haven't had, when you all seem to be out to lunch half the time. Things I think we need: -strong IDP presence in school, such as an IDP counselor - more value/incentive to remain active -regional networks to help interns get experience in the divisions that their firms can't provide; my firm doesn't write specs, so what about an exchange program? And, while I'm at it, let's lobby for affordable health insurance. And I want a pony for Christmas. .”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [20714].

“I feel the IDP process is too long. The paperwork is tedious, but necessary. Is there a way to incorporate the IDP workbook to direct link to NCARB? In turn, a process that we, as interns, could fill out weekly and be filed directly with updates of where we stand. There is too much time wasted filling out the forms and waiting for a reply back for our updates. Also, it would be more beneficial to interns to be able to take parts of the test as that portion of IDP is complete. Once we get to a point after graduation and through work, it becomes more difficult to be motivated enough to study for each part. Most people I speak with that have taken the test, recommend that you take one part at a time, allowing a month in advance to study. This becomes an even longer process. From my experience working, I want to strive to better myself as an Architect in learning, but tend to fall back with no hope of the day finally arriving to be eligible to sit for the test. With today's technology, there has to be a better and quicker way to process the information as we work day in and day out.”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [20719].

“I think it is VERY important that firms give monetary incentives and rewards for people who get their licenses. It is not necessary to have your license in my firm, and they did not increase my salary at all after passing. The recognition I received after passing was minimal, and it frankly disgusts me. In fact, I was told that just because I passed doesn't prove a thing. They feel experience holds more weight than the license. The only thing that makes me feel better about having it is the satisfaction of knowing I have my license and the people I work under don't. Their lack of recognition of my achievement is making me consider other career choices.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Connecticut, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [20910].

“The number of hoops that an intern must jump through, and the amount of red tape he/she must negotiate, is ridiculous for the type of work that an architect does and the compensation he/she receives. Both in school and as an intern, people in this field are expected to do an inordinate amount of work, keep absurd hours, and pretend that this is somehow normal. During the first several years after graduating, interns perform nearly all of the production work in an office and are given little if any real design projects. Seniority rules in this profession, regardless of talent. This is wrong. The requirements of IDP are unrealistic and, in many cases (depending on the firm) unachievable. They continue the 'inordinate amount of work for a disproportionately small amount of pay & satisfaction' caveat that is becoming the trademark of the profession. And we are forced to complete this BEFORE even being allowed to sit for the ARE! In the meantime, interns have forgotten all of the academics of the profession (because we don't do these things in real life, we hire engineers to do them), so now we must re-learn all of it before taking the exam. And through it all, interns are expected to pay for the upkeep of their 'records' and are responsible for figuring out how to fulfill the remaining requirements, even if that type of work is unavailable at the time or in their current employment circumstance. Hence, we see interns and mentors, more and more, who cheat, stretch, and 'fudge' the numbers of their IDP requirements. We also see interns who are forced to skip from office to office--sacrificing long-term employment, loyalty to their employers, retirement benefits, profit sharing, etc.--simply because NCARB requires 10 units of on-site CA experience rather than 5, or some other arbitrary discipline requirement that their employer cannot help them fulfill. THIS IS CRAP! Let us take the exam for crying out loud. Much of the exposure to the various disciplines of the profession should be done in school. An internship should be considered complete after an amount of time has passed such that most of the disciplines would have been explored. If the ARE is taken and failed, then obviously there wasn't sufficient exposure. Personally, I'm in the all-too-common but entirely uncomfortable phase of my internship where I must constantly nag my employer for opportunities in the final two or three areas that I have yet to fulfill NCARB's IDP requirements. Of course, these are types of activities that our office does much less frequently than others. On top of it, I'm competing with other interns and people who are actually part of the specific project for time on it. If the stars somehow miraculously aligned and I was given exactly the work I needed, I could be done with the requirements in about three or four weeks. Instead, I'm projecting about another 12 or 14 months before I will have the opportunity to complete everything. Of course, I suppose I could quit and try to find another office with PRECISELY the type of work that I need, work for them for a month, then pursue licensure. . . . Then quit that office and return to the original one. Or better yet, if the stars truly were aligned, and I had my way, IDP would be a recommendation and not a requirement and I would be allowed to sit for the ARE at a time of my choosing. Better get back to work though. . . . This profession is far too proud to ever let something like that happen.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Alaska, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [20924].

“Since I am originally from a different country, some of those questions are difficult to answer, since there weren't the same requirements, schools, organizations.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from North Carolina, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [20935].

“Currently I am a 4th year arch student working not at a specific firm. I work on campus as an intern for the university architect. I'm currently in IDP but am still a little confused on how to proceed with it.”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, undergrad preprofessional student, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21010].

“This is my 5th year of registration; originally registered in MN; reciprocity is a very important issue for me and my peers.”

— 35-44 Asian male from California, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, already registered [21033].

“There needs to be some way to require and enforce firms to train their interns in all the areas of the IDP program.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21092].

“Dealing with NCARB is a drubbing debacle in one's patience and tolerance to overcome dealing with the woefully inadequate derelicts that run the day-to-day customer service to achieve licensure. IDP is merely an egomaniac's out-of-touch and unrealistic vision and is the boot camp by which one is forced to endure a MOUNTAIN of meaningless paperwork and FEES, FEES, AND MORE FEES until one point at which some bureaucratic muckety-muck, getting paid far too great a portion of all these excessively high fees, waves an arbitrary magic wand that bestows the grace on a candidate to take the ARE, as though it is a precursor to some elite promised land. Unfortunately, licensure requires going through NCARB/IDP is a monopoly, so to become a licensed architect you must deal with it or choose another profession. Additionally, why isn't architecture education structured more akin to medical school where 'graduation' leads to your state license? I graduated the top of my class from a prestigious U.S. school and am a solid dedicated, and loyal, performer. Thank God I'm now licensed. However, had I'd known I would have to go through all this BS I would have become a lawyer or doctor and had far more money to show for it in the end. I often engage in conversation with my contemporaries regarding how screwed up the profession really is from the intention of the forefathers of architecture. Thomas Jefferson or even the architect of the pyramid at Cheops likely would not have dealt with NCARB.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, in an allied field, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [21100].

“NCARB is so slow in processing anything. I got sick and tired of checking and double checking my status and information. It is not very efficient.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Pennsylvania, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [21215].

“Frustrated with the lack of personal judgment and stereotypes on architectural training as opposed to focus on actual knowledge...”

— 18-24 Caucasian female from Maryland, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [21404].

“Hate to admit, I never felt supported through IDP or the testing process. The tests, even though I passed each the first time, were generally a bad experience. No local seminar help, very bad testing center, long torturous waits for results... It seemed to about paying money and jumping through hoops.”

— 45-54 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [21445].

“Process for completing IDP is complicated and takes too much time for coordination! NCARB never answers the phone and never returns phone calls! Generally, I work up to 25 hours over the required 40 hour weeks for full time employees but NCARB does not recognize overtime hours. Considering the responsibilities and hours worked for project managers and project architects compensation/pay is ridiculously low.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21713].

"Many have spoken of the fundamental disconnect between the values of the academy and the values of the working profession and the hell this plays with the process of internship, but I would like to address the disconnect between what I am expected to be doing as an Intern by NCARB and what I actually find myself doing from day to day at work. The IDP program is in need of a complete overhaul if the profession is to sustain itself over the course of the next century, and I believe that a replacement of the 'seat-time' method of recording experience with a 'performance' based accounting method is the best means to that end. The silliness of the current blindly quantitative method is the only thing that has allowed the IDP requirements to remain completely unchanged for a period of time greater than my own lifespan, a period of time that has witnessed dramatic change as to the roles and responsibilities of the architectural profession. I think the organization of NCARB as an entity responsible only to itself is in part to blame for this. When my school was reviewed for a renewal of accreditation, there were representatives from each of the five collateral organizations to oversee the process. If NCARB were to adapt a similar representative structure, where everyone who had a stake had a say, I think real progress could be made in transforming the barren wasteland of the current internship process into a fertile ground for the cultivation of the future leaders of the profession."

— 18-24 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, does not intend to be registered [21776].

"I'm a licensed architect in Brazil."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from California, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [21805].

"The current ARE/NCARB have not corresponded with much of my previous educational nor career experiences. What they do seem to be linked directly to ARE the study materials which may be purchased from a variety of sources. NCARB and the ARE could use an overhaul. Some checks and balances within their systems might serve us all well, too."

— 35-44 Caucasian female from Tennessee, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, not an AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [22066].

"The ARE didn't really have much to do with actual architectural practice. It would make more sense for someone right out of school to take it."

— 25-34 Caucasian female from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [22104].

"A potential category for response to why one has not taken the ARE - I don't feel that I am ready yet. I have not turned in the last few hours that I should report because I don't feel I have a grasp on a few categories of IDP."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from North Carolina, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [22117].

"Found the graphic section of the ARE to be truly terrible - the worst CAD program I have ever seen. If the intention is to measure an applicant's design process and knowledge it fails miserably...I also find the AIA to be a classic bureaucracy - self-perpetuation is the principal - it's expensive and of little use on an everyday basis."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [22118].

"The Mechanical / Electrical section of the ARE was the most unfair test I have ever taken."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Florida, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [22166].

"I think it really sucks that a person who has more construction experience, an architecture-related degree and more experience than someone who went to an accredited architecture school has to have a master degree to get a license in Illinois. What next, I have to have a doctorate to be able to whip my ass! I wish these people on these boards, who probably only have a B.A. Or even went thru the old 7 years rule, would think about when they were my age. I have had bosses that are licensed who are not legal by today's standards to take the ARE. How can a person today, pay for school and a family get a masters degree? I am currently taking the Wisconsin IDP program to get licensed. I will be taking the ARE near the end of this year to receive a Wisconsin License. I will then be a licensed architect; however, I will not be able to get a license in another state without going back to school. I think the AIA and NCARB needs to rethink the license requirement...education experience for becoming a licensed architect. Another thing about master's degrees, how is it that a person can get a masters degree over the internet for an engineering degree, but not an architect degree?"

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [22172].

"I was educated in Europe, registered in Nigeria, practiced Architect since 1985 and just completed the ARE preparation courses. I need an architectural firm to intern in order to fulfill the requirement of signing the log book and for NCARB to permit me to sit for the professional exams."

— No bio information available [22194].

,"I would like to see, in the future, NCARB recognize Associate in Applied Science Degrees and for firms to see the holders of these degrees as interns rather than 'CAD OPERATORS'. NCARB allows for people with high school educations but not Tech. College Degrees."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Colorado, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP because state did not require it, intends to become registered [22406]

"The qualifications requirements don't seem fair - as a contractor doing design build for over 35 years is a lot of experience to only receive a year's credit - or do I have that incorrectly stated. To receive experience for a contractor's license one may be illegally contracting without a license and get up to 60 - 80% of the requirement met?? It would seem that if you opened the doors to more people and only let in those who successfully pass all the exams you would have a greater pool of interested takers. I love my job in architecture more than I could have imagined, yet I only found out recently that I could qualify (with an internship) to take the license exams only three years ago, and I am on my third year now."

— 55-64 Caucasian male from California, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member , intends to become registered [22493].

"The M Arch does not prepare one for all that is required to be an Architect, nor should it. The IDP better qualifies one to be an Architect but not all, nor should it. The ARE prepares one to be licensed, but does not prepare one to be a complete architect. All of these things plus experience are needed to become an Architect."

— 35-44 Caucasian male from New Mexico, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, a full AIA member, has completed IDP, already registered [22563].

"Discouraged over ARE building exam as I took it 6 or 8 times years ago but did not pass. Had a re-evaluation meeting over one of the tests and was the only one out of about 18 individuals, whom the local board felt should have passed, but the state saw differently."

— 45-54 Caucasian male from Virginia, has a traditional architecture job, MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice [22573].

"I believe that too much pressure is placed on completing these requirements as opposed to letting designers take the course when they feel ready. Not everyone's situation fits the NCARB's profile of completing school and then moving towards completing these sets of requirements. Some finish college after having to leave it to make a living and then return to complete the degree. They should not be penalized for their financial and personal situation. Quite frankly, I do not see the need for all this paperwork and red tape. One prepares for the test and that is that. One's experience will show them if they are ready. I also believe that there are many talented designer's (not architects for AIA has monopolized this word) that are more knowledgeable and better suited for design than many 'architects' who really are just a title. This is a shame. As I said, not everyone fits the NCARB or AIA profile to complete the requirements. I believe AIA would benefit from more hands-on designers and their input than book-knowledge architects who have had the fortune to follow the steps required by your organizations. I will take your test, but it will not make me anymore an architect than I am already now. The reason for taking the test, I see NCARB and the AIA's continued pressure to make this the standard becoming a reality due to their hard lobbying and financial backing. Who said life was fair? What ever happened to 10-14 years of hands-on experience being worth something. NCARB's and AIA guidelines see this as inadequate training to take the test unless you have a degree. I guess a piece of paper is more important nowadays. Let's put it this way, would you have an architect design your house who has three years experience and has the title architect since they passed the test or would you have a designer who has been designing and creating residences for 14 years but does not have the stamp?"

— 35-44 Hispanic female from Georgia, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [22613].

"I am an alien, and as such I have always been treated... In spite of being a licensed and registered EU professional, in spite of extensive international practice in many countries and fields, I have only worked in the US as a CAD draftsman or model maker..."

— 25-34 Caucasian male from Georgia, in an architecture-related job, BArch, not an AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [22651].

“While attending school I was never informed of the problems of not having a professional degree as a requirement for other states’ registration. That contributed to me not continuing due to school expense. Now I need to wait both financially and for time considerations until my children are older and not as dependant on me.”

— 25-34 Caucasian male from New York, has a traditional architecture job, a full AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, already registered [22675].

“I have already taken and passed the former qualifying exam as a pre-requisite to candidacy for MArch degree, but my state refuses to recognize that achievement, and demands that I repeat sections of the ARE. Although I have been admitted to their professional exam, they now refuse to recognize that fact. Don't ask me to explain why. A clerk made an erroneous decision long ago and the state won't reverse it. Sounds like the Army? Probably. Could I prevail in court? Probably. But then I would not 'pass' my orals. Go figure.”

— 55-64 Caucasian male 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 [22719].

“As far as the graphics portion of the ARE, I feel they need to handout the program requirements of the exam. It is quite cumbersome to flip screens and rewrite the information, not to mention a strain on the eyes. The CAD program stinks, I feel a choice of CAD programs should be available. I understand some people don't know CAD, but they could use the NCARB CAD program if they wish. We are creatures of habit, which makes it harder to manipulate a different CAD program than what were used to. Another item, I feel that losing credits for those exams passed, if one doesn't complete all the exams in a certain time frame, is [not] fair or justified. Working and continuing education should solve the problems of professional experiences. I feel a fee should be an option to extend time for ARE completion, not starting over. Thank you.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [22741].

“I have a degree from a European University and did not fill out all the paperwork to enroll in IDP program. I find the forms very difficult to fill out. I am also questioning practicality of going through the process of registration at my age, but my company is encouraging me to try.”

— 45-54 Caucasian female from Ohio, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [22853].

“The IDP/NCARB connection and accessibility needs serious re-evaluation and must be more efficient. Information processing time was too long. NCARB employees were impatient, discourteous, and untimely. As a professional in a service based industry, I was disappointed with NCARB's response and professionalism. It took repetitive email or phone calls to contact someone and when that was achieved, the staff responded very poorly often disinterested and tired. I suggest that this dynamic be ameliorated ASAP for I would not wish this type of process for individuals in IDP. Architects already work long hours with questionable compensation and this dynamic adds to frustration, which, in turn, may lead to distaste in becoming licensed at all.”

— 25-34 native Hawaiian male from Hawaii, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [23029].

“General Structures exam is something that few if any Architects use daily and so is hard to test for.”

— 35-44 Caucasian male from Texas, has a traditional architecture job, an Associate AIA member, has completed IDP, intends to become registered [23128].

“IDP SUCKS. The best, most amazing, educational job I ever had was with a foreign, unregistered architect working in the US (he'd been here 15 years)... So, of course, IDP wouldn't bend, wouldn't give any credit, blah blah. Had to finagle a bullsh_t way through the system to get ANY credit for it. They have NO flexibility, no ability to keep up with a changing profession, or the reality of employment.”

— 25-34 Caucasian female from Washington, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, not an AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [23389].

“The process for the ARE is too extended. I think I would've been much more motivated to complete the process if I could have taken the structural/technical parts of the exam in order to graduate with the BArch, much of that information isn't really used in the first three years of practice and it's that much more tedious to go back and relearn the information not to mention the cost of all the

review material. If I had at least completed a part of the ARE while still in the 'student' mode it would have been more motivation to finish the parts that were left than it is to start from scratch once you have fallen prey to the work schedule in an architecture firm. Realistically, the profession doesn't provide an adequate environment to complete the IDP process and the ARE process without substantial sacrifice from the ARE candidate. In most cases, work and project deadlines take priority over study time and paper organization for the IDP/ARE process and it becomes increasingly difficult to tell a project manager or firm principal that you cannot meet a deadline because you had to take time off to study and take the exam. Finally, the benefits of taking the exam are not significant enough to justify the time and financial commitment required."

— 25-34 Hispanic female from West Virginia, in an allied field, BArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, does not intend to be registered [23409].

"The ESSA degree evaluation is too complex and does not make any sense. Every one that has a BArch degree should be able to take the ARE after fulfilling IDP requirements. It is a discrimination against people who get professional degrees from countries other than US."

— 25-34 Asian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch, an Associate AIA member, currently enrolled in IDP, intends to become registered [23512].

"- There should be some consideration for those architects who are permanent residents of USA with foreign qualification and 25 years or more of experience. Some of them may still have more to give, but may not be that young to pursue the license which normally take 3-4 years of internship requirements. It will be too harsh and impractical. - Such architects should be given an opportunity to appear for the ARE with six months of application/preparation. - To deny such opportunity for them will create a sort of professional vacuum and would deprive them the lawful practice of their chosen field of living. - It also will serve the AIA objectives of helping fellow architects who otherwise will find themselves too late to serve their community in a free society. - Though AIA is pursuing relentlessly on many fronts to give all the architects the supreme position of professional pride, integration of such category of architects in the mainstream will be a great step forward as well."

— 55-64 Asian male from Illinois, has a traditional architecture job, BArch and MArch, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [23538].

"How long does it usually take to take the ARE Exam?"

— 25-34 black male from Missouri, currently unemployed, undergrad preprofessional student, an Associate AIA member, is not enrolled in IDP by choice, intends to become registered [23605].

"Had I know what the real world of architecture was like when I went to school, I would have changed majors. I hated doing the IDP program; it was little or no advantage in going through the program. The ARE involves divisions that need to be updated. Parts were so easy, it was a joke and other parts were things I never used apart from learning in school. For example, the structural parts do not test on practical structural applications in the real world. In the real world, an engineer does the calculations. Matter of fact, we are not allowed to perform engineering tasks by law. My theory for ARE was relearn all that stuff I learned in school and pass the exam, then forget it. Pretty much like most of the stuff I learned in school was not applicable to the real world."

— No bio information available [99938].

"The focus of the ARE should be to test the candidate's knowledge. It should not be so difficult that only a few succeed. The examination has been the most difficult process that I have ever attempted. Also, we need to become more uniform with the reciprocity system - most states use the exact same ARE exam, but have other factors involved to become registered in various states. If you can pass the ARE, all states should accept reciprocity."

— No bio information available [99952].