

PB-04

INTERN ARCHITECTS

WHAT IS AN INTERN ARCHITECT?

Intern Architect is a category of membership in the Alberta Association of Architects available to an individual who holds a degree in architecture or its equivalent from an educational institution, whose educational qualifications have been certified by the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB), and is about to commence or has commenced practical training under the supervision of a registered architect. An Intern Architect has not yet obtained his/her “registration” as a Registered Architect.

TRAINING REQUIRED OF AN INTERN ARCHITECT

Intern Architects must acquire practical training in accordance with the criteria listed in “Intern in Architecture Program” (IAP). Such practical training includes programming and pre-design, schematic design, design development, preparation of contract documents, (e.g. preliminary working drawings, detail drawing, specifications, etc.) interview of clients and consultants, tender participation, and contract administration (e.g. site review and reports, shop drawings, preparation of certificate for payment, etc.).

HOW AN INTERN BECOMES ELIGIBLE

Intern Architects are required to work under the supervision of a Registered Architect for a prescribed time period. Experience is recorded in the Canadian Experience Record Book (CERB) and approved by the Association an Intern Architect must successfully complete the examinations prescribed by the Council of the Alberta Association of Architects.

Once these requirements have been met, the Intern shall submit an application for registration to the Registration Committee, who will determine whether all requirements for eligibility have been met.

LIMITATIONS OF PRACTICE AS AN INTERN ARCHITECT

An Intern Architect is entitled to perform all tasks required of an architect but must do so under the supervision of a Registered Architect. An Intern Architect must be careful that they do not leave the impression with the public that he/she is a Registered Architect. He/she is not entitled to seal plans, drawings or other documents.

If an Intern is found to misrepresent him/herself the Association may seek an injunction or pursue a prosecution in the Court of Queen’s Bench limiting the Intern’s activities.

OWNERSHIP IN AN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OR CORPORATION

The Act and *General Regulations* allow for individuals who are not Registered Architects to hold shares in an architectural corporation, as long as at least one or more Registered Architects holds beneficial number of the voting shares.(more than 50%). However, *the Act* also requires that individuals who are not Registered Architects to satisfy Council that they have “sufficient academic or practical training.

Since Intern Architects have not yet completed their practical training, an Intern Architect does not satisfy academic requirements of the Council and is not eligible to hold shares in an architectural corporation. If listed on a firm's letterhead, an Intern Architect must be listed as "Intern Architect".

"GRADUATE ARCHITECT" IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE TITLE

The use of the term "architect" is only permitted by those who are Registered Architects and those in the intern program, but in the latter case only when used together with the word "intern" in the title "Intern Architect". Having a degree or diploma does not fulfill enough professional criteria to entitle an individual to use the term "Architect" in any form. Those who do use the term inappropriately could face injunction or prosecution in the Court of Queen's Bench for misrepresentation.

SUMMARY

An Intern Architect is an individual registered with the Association who is training to become a Registered Architect. The IAP was created to provide a structured transition between formal education and architectural registration or licensure. By virtue of being in the internship program he/she is under the supervision of a Registered Architect and is in the process of becoming fully qualified. Recognition of this commitment to professional training is implicit in the title "Intern Architect" and as such should be used to openly identify such individual in print and in person.

Revised:

2012 – Jane Pendergast and Bill Kumlin, Practice Advisory Committee

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