

NSW Register of Disciplinary Action

[Section 55 of the Architects Act 2003](#) requires the NSW Architects Registration Board (NSW ARB) to maintain a Register of Disciplinary Action.

This Register is published in accordance with the NSW ARB policy that:

- Where an architect is found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct, the decision will be published in the Register of Disciplinary Action on the NSW ARB website for a period of 2 years unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- Where an architect is found guilty of professional misconduct, the decision will be published in the Register of Disciplinary Action on the NSW ARB website for a period of 5 years unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Name of Architect	Registration Number	Date of Determination	Description
Alexander Douglas Maurice Andrew SYMES	8525	24 March 2026	<p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(g) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act'), the Board finds that Mr Alexander Douglas Maurice Andrew Symes (the 'Architect') has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and fines the Architect the maximum penalty of \$1,650 in respect of the Architect's conduct for failing to enter into a written agreement with the client concerning the provision of architectural services in breach of clause 7(1) of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code'). Even if it is accepted that a fee proposal was provided to the client with a view to it being a written agreement, it failed to meet the requirements set out in clause 7(2) of the Code. The Architect also failed to provide the client with information relating to their professional indemnity insurance as required by clause 15(1)(b) of the Code.</p> <p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(a) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands the Architect for failing to provide competent and accurate documentation in breach of clauses 4(1)(a), 4(1)(b)(i), 4(2), 6(2)(a), 6(4), 13, and 14 of the Code, and sections 32(b), 32(d), and 32(h) of the Act. The documentation delivered by the Architect fell below the standard required by the Code and the Act. The inaccuracy and poor quality of the documentation required multiple revisions, led to the rejection of the plans by the certifier and caused delay in the Construction Certificate process.</p>
Michael Graeme BELL	6335	24 March 2026	<p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(a) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> the Board finds that Mr Michael Graeme Bell (the 'Architect') has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands the Architect for failing to enter into a written agreement with the client concerning the provision of architectural services in breach of clause 7(1) of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').</p>
Lin ZHU	10573	26 August 2025	<p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(a) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act'), the Board finds that Ms Lin Zhu (the 'Architect') has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands the Architect for failing to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the client is informed of the decisions required of the client in respect of the architectural services being provided by the architect, and the implications of those decisions in breach of clause 6(3) of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').</p> <p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(a) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands the Architect for failing to keep records concerning architectural services provided to the client relating to client instructions and meetings held with the client as required by clause 10(c) of the Code.</p> <p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(g) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and fines the Architect the maximum penalty of \$1,650 in respect of the Architect's conduct by failing to enter into a written agreement with the client concerning the provision of architectural services in breach of clause 7(1) of the Code. Even if it is accepted that a letter signed by the Architect was provided to the client with a view to it being a written agreement, it failed to meet the requirements set out in clause 7(2) of the Code.</p>

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			<p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(g) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and fines the Architect the maximum penalty of \$1,650 in respect of the Architect's conduct by failing to include their registration number on invoices, drawings, and emails, used or placed by the architect in connection with the architect's professional practice as required by clause 17(1) of the Code.</p> <p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(g) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and fines the Architect the maximum penalty of \$1,650 in respect of the Architect's conduct by failing to maintain a policy of professional indemnity insurance appropriate for the architectural services being provided by the architect and failed to provide the client with information relating to the insurance as required by clause 15(1) of the Code.</p>
Gary FINN	5774	24 June 2025	<p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(a) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i>, the Board is satisfied that Mr Gary Finn has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands Mr Finn for failing to ensure that the cost of architectural services accurately reflected the amount of work done or to be done in the provision of the architectural services as required by clause 7(3) of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct.</p>
Yao PENG	10639	14 May 2025	<p>The NSW Architects Registration Board applied to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (the 'Tribunal') for a disciplinary finding under Division 3 of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act') against Yao (Peter) Peng, with respect to a complaint against him.</p> <p>On 14 May 2025, the Tribunal made the following orders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Peng is guilty of professional misconduct. Pursuant to s 47(3)(b) of the Act, Mr Peng's registration be cancelled. Pursuant to s 47(5) of the Act, Mr Peng cannot apply to be re-registered as an architect within 3 years from the date of these orders. <p>In making its decision, the Tribunal made the following findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was satisfied that, contrary to Mr Peng's title as "Design Manager", when he was making the alterations to the Design Compliance Declarations ('DCDs') as detailed, he was performing an "architectural service" as defined in s 4 of the Act. It was satisfied that Mr Peng made material changes to the DCDs which are declarations made by others and found that to alter a declaration without the permission or knowledge of the person making that declaration is a serious matter. Mr Peng created false documents and, in doing so, acted contrary to his responsibilities as an architect, both practically or pragmatically and ethically. The amendments made by Mr Peng were not simply administrative but included matters of substance. In its view, Mr Peng's conduct in altering and creating the DCDs amounted to unsatisfactory professional conduct of a sufficiently serious nature to justify the suspension of an architect or the cancellation of an architect's registration within the meaning of s 32 of the Architects Act.

NSW Register of Disciplinary Action

Mike MOVAFFAGHI	11166	25 March 2025	<p>Pursuant to section 43(4)(a) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act'), the Board finds that Mr Movaffaghi has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands Mr Movaffaghi for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Failing to meet the requirements of a Client Architect Agreement concerning the provision of architectural services as required by clause 7(2) of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').(b) Failing to ensure that the cost of architectural services provided to the Complainant:<ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) reflects the fee structure specified in the agreement, and(b) accurately reflects the amount of work done or to be done for the client in the provision of the architectural services (including any variations to the architectural services and the incurring of any liabilities to pay employees overtime).
Matthew John Thorton RILEY	8236	23 July 2024	<p>Pursuant to section s 43(4)(a) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act'), the Board finds that Mr Riley has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands Mr Riley for failing to demonstrate compliance with Continuing Professional Development requirements for the 2022-2023 registration term in breach of cl 16 of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').</p> <p>In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Failing to take all reasonable steps to maintain and improve the skills and knowledge necessary for the provision of architectural services that the architect normally provides by failing to satisfy the Board that he had undertaken activities that demonstrate the maintenance and improvement of the architect's skill and knowledge as required by clause 16(1)(a) of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').(b) Failing to report to the Board on all steps taken by the architect during the relevant annual registration period as required by clause 16(2) of the Code.
Timothy Denis HOOKINS	4838	28 May 2024	<p>Pursuant to section s 43(4)(a) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act'), the Board finds that Mr Timothy Hookins ('the Architect') has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and reprimands the Architect for not providing a Client Agreement that met the requirements under clause 7 of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').</p> <p>Pursuant to s43(4)(g) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and fines the Architect the maximum penalty of \$1,650 in respect of the Architect's conduct by breaching section 10(2) of the Act, in that a person must not represent a corporation or firm, to be an architect if the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that any such representation by the corporation or firm itself would constitute a contravention of subsection (1).</p> <p>Pursuant to s43(4)(g) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and fines the Architect the maximum penalty of \$1,650 in respect of the Architect's conduct by virtue of section 83 of the Act. The Architect breached section 10(1) of the Act in that a corporation or firm must not represent itself to be an architect, and must not allow itself to be represented to be an architect, unless the corporation or firm has at least one nominated architect who is responsible for the provision of architectural services by the corporation or firm.</p> <p>Pursuant to s43(4)(g) of the Act, the Board finds that the Architect has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct and fines the Architect the maximum penalty of \$1,650 in respect of the Architect's conduct by virtue of section 83 of the Act. The Architect breached section 11(1) and (2) of the Act in that the corporation or firm represented itself to be an architect.</p>

NSW Register of Disciplinary Action

Chris Peter DOUFAS 9152	28 May 2024	<p>Pursuant to section 24(2)(h) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act'), the Board removes the architect's name from the Register for failing to meet a requirement relating to professional indemnity insurance in breach of cl 15 of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').</p> <p>In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Failing to maintain a policy of professional indemnity insurance appropriate for the architectural services being provided by the architect as required by clause 15(1)(a) of the Code; and(b) Failing to seek an exclusion or exemption from the requirement to hold professional indemnity insurance as provided by clauses 15(2) and 15(3) of the Code.
Keith MATHEW 11781	28 May 2024	<p>Pursuant to section 24(2)(h) of the <i>Architects Act 2003</i> (the 'Act'), the Board removes the architect's name from the Register for failing to meet a requirement relating to professional indemnity insurance in breach of cl 15 of the NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct (the 'Code').</p> <p>In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Failing to maintain a policy of professional indemnity insurance appropriate for the architectural services being provided by the architect as required by clause 15(1)(a) of the Code; and(b) Failing to seek an exclusion or exemption from the requirement to hold professional indemnity insurance as provided by clauses 15(2) and 15(3) of the Code.
