

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE,
GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

In the Matter of

**STIPULATION AND
CONSENT ORDER**

Marcelo Valdes
Architect No. 46376

Board File No. 2025-0004

STIPULATION

Marcelo Valdes ("Respondent") and the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design's Complaint Committee stipulate that, subject to Board's review and discretionary approval, the Board may issue a consent order that imposes the following sanctions:

A. Respondent is CENSURED and REPRIMANDED pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326.111 (2024).

B. Respondent shall pay to the Board a civil penalty of \$2,500. Respondent shall submit the civil penalty by check to the Board within 60 days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Consent Order.

C. Respondent shall complete 2 professional development hours related to professional ethics, and provide proof of completion of the hours to the Board, within 60 days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Consent Order. These professional development hours are not to count toward the continuing education hours required by statute and rule for license renewal.

D. Respondent shall comply with all statutes and rules within the Board's jurisdiction.

See Minn. Stat. §§ 326.02--.15 (Supp. 2025) and Minn. R. chs. 1800 & 1805 (2023).

E. Respondent shall report in writing within ten days any and all violations of this Stipulation and Consent Order to the Board's Executive Director.

Respondent and the Committee enter into this stipulation based on the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and other stipulated provisions:

Findings of Fact

1. The Board issued Respondent an Architect license on February 22, 2008.
2. Respondent's Architect license expired on June 30, 2020.
3. On June 25, 2024, Respondent emailed the Board inquiring about reinstatement of his lapsed license.
4. Respondent works as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at a college in Minnesota and as a Principal at a firm that he founded and bears his name and the word "Architects," located in St, Paul, Minnesota.
5. Respondent worked on seven residential, single-family projects in which he was identified as an Architect during his lapse in licensure. Design of single-family homes is exempt from licensing requirements, but presenting oneself as an Architect without proper licensure in the State of Minnesota is not.
6. During his lapsed licensure, Respondent held out as an Architect in the following manners:
 - a. On his website as a "registered Architect in the State of Minnesota" and by using the American Institute of Architects (AIA) designation.

- b. On his business cards by using the AIA designation alongside his firm name and address in Minnesota.
- c. In a 2021 article in which he was identified as an Architect for a single-family project in Minnesota. His AIA designation was also used.

7. In his September 26, 2025 reinstatement application, Respondent inaccurately answered "True" to the following questions:

- a. "I have not represented myself as an architect, professional engineer, land surveyor, landscape architect, professional geologist, professional soil scientist, or certified interior designer without proper licensure or certification, either verbally or on any printed matter, in the State of Minnesota, nor will I do so until such time as my license or certificate has been issued/reinstated by the Minnesota Board of Architecture [sic], Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design;" and
 - b. "I have not performed or offered to perform any services reserved in statute to an individual who is properly licensed as an architect, professional engineer, land surveyor, landscape architect, professional geologist, or professional soil scientist in the State of Minnesota until my license has been issued by the Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design."
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8. Respondent held out and practiced in the State of Minnesota during his lapse in licensure.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Board has authority to license and regulate architects and to take disciplinary action as appropriate. Minn. Stat. § 326.111 (Supp. 2025).

2. Respondent violated Minn. Stat. § 326.02 subds. 1 and 2 (2024) and Minn. R. 1805.0200, subps. 2 and 4(C) (2023).

3. Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326.111 subds. 4(a)(1) and (5), and 6 (Supp. 2025).

4. This Stipulation and Consent Order is in the public interest.

Other Stipulated Provisions

1. This Stipulation and Consent Order must be approved by the Board to become effective.

2. Respondent agrees that the Committee may move the Board *ex parte*, with or without advance notice to the Respondent, to approve this Stipulation and Consent Order. Respondent understands that the Board may either approve the Stipulation and Consent Order or not approve it. This stipulation and the files, records, and proceedings associated with this matter may be reviewed by the Board in its consideration of the Committee's motion.

3. If approved by the Board, this stipulation and consent order shall be classified as public data. Minn. Stat. § 13.41, subd. 5 (2024). The Board will post a copy of this order on its

website. The Board will also send a summary to the national discipline data bank pertaining to the practice of architecture.

4. If the Board does not approve this Stipulation and Consent Order, then the matter remains unresolved and the Committee may either seek to negotiate a revised Stipulation and Consent Order with Respondent to present to the Board or issue an order commencing a contested-case hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the Court of Administrative Hearings. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 14.57–.62, 214.10, subd. 2 (2024) (describing administrative hearing process).

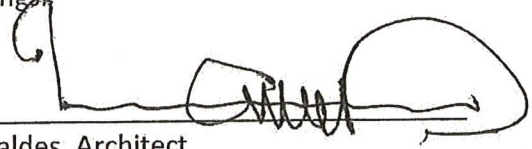
5. Respondent agrees that if this case comes before the Board again after it reviews and discusses this Stipulation and Consent Order, Respondent waives any claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this Stipulation and Consent Order and any records relating to it.

6. Respondent acknowledges that they were advised by the Committee of their right to a contested-case hearing in this matter before an Administrative Law Judge, to file exceptions and make argument to the Board after the hearing, and to seek judicial review from any adverse decision rendered by the Board. Respondent hereby expressly waives those rights. Respondent was further advised by the committee of their right to be represented by counsel and that they knowingly waive that right.

7. Respondent has read, understands, and agrees to this stipulation and has voluntarily signed it. It is expressly understood that this stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, there being no other agreement of any kind, verbal or otherwise. If approved by the Board, a copy of the final Stipulation and Consent Order shall be served

personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Board's order shall be effective when it is signed by the Chair of the Board or the Chair's designee.

8. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2024), any civil penalty imposed by this Stipulation and Consent Order shall begin to accrue simple interest in accordance with that section thirty days after the civil penalty is due. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.17 (2024), thirty days after any civil penalty imposed by this Stipulation and Consent Order is due, the Board may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the civil penalty as a judgment against Respondent in district court without further notice or additional proceedings.

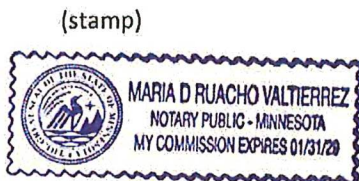


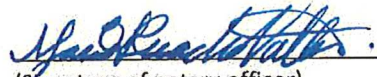
Marcelo Valdes, Architect

STATE OF Minnesota

COUNTY OF Washington

This instrument was acknowledged before me on Sep. 29, 2025 by Marcelo Valdes.

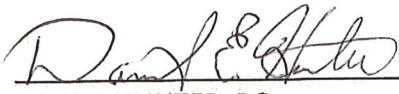




(Signature of notary officer)

My commission expires: 01-31-2029

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE



DANIEL HUNTER, PG
Chair

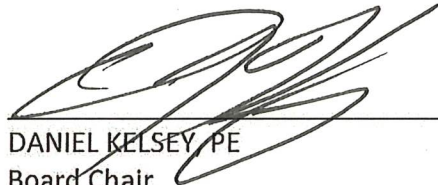
Dated: Nov 5th, 2025

CONSENT ORDER

Upon consideration of this Stipulation and Consent Order, and based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein, all terms of the Stipulation and Consent Order are approved. Accordingly, the Board hereby ADOPTS the stipulation and issues the ORDER described above.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE,
ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR
DESIGN

Dated: 11-5-2025 2025



DANIEL KELSEY, PE
Board Chair