

# Northern Territory Architects Board

## Architects Code of Professional Conduct

### Introduction

Under the [Architects Act 1963](#) (the Act),<sup>1</sup> registered architects in the Northern Territory (NT) must adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct (the Code).

The Code outlines the standards that architects must adhere to when providing architectural services to their clients.

### Objectives

One of the functions of the Northern Territory Architects Board (the Board) is to “make codes of professional conduct to establish guidelines and standards to be observed by registered architects in their professional conduct and the practise of architecture.”<sup>2</sup>

The objectives of the Code are to:

- support architects in practising professionally and ethically when delivering architectural services
- foster and uphold public trust in the architecture profession
- outline the responsibilities and expectations for architects in the provision of services and their conduct
- encourage and sustain high standards in the services provided by architects.

All registered architects must comply with all relevant legal obligations. The code does not seek to duplicate legal obligations.

### Application

Compliance with this Code by all registered architects is mandatory, and any breach of these obligations can have serious consequences for the architects. Under section 23A(1A) of the Act, a complaint may be lodged against a registered architect for contravening the provisions of the Code. Upon investigation, the Board has the authority to suspend or cancel the architect’s registration if non-compliance is established.

### Standards

#### 1. Health, Safety, and Welfare

Architects shall prioritise the health, safety, and welfare of the public in all aspects of their work. This includes ensuring that designs comply with all relevant building codes, regulations, and standards, and that they contribute positively to the built environment.

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 19 of the [Architects Act 1963](#) (the Act)

<sup>2</sup> Section 5C of the Act.

## 2. Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

Architects are committed to promoting sustainable design practises that minimise environmental impact. This involves the use of energy-efficient materials, renewable energy sources, and designs that respect and enhance the natural surroundings.

## 3. Professional Competence

Architects shall provide services with the skill, care, and diligence that is expected of professionals in the field. This includes maintaining up-to-date knowledge of architectural trends, technologies, and regulations.

## 4. Confidentiality

Architects must respect the confidentiality of information obtained during the course of their professional duties and shall not disclose such information without the client's consent, unless required by law.

## 5. Financial Transparency

Architects must provide clear written quotations with detailed costs, and any changes must be communicated and agreed upon in writing. Invoices should be itemised and align with the original or adjusted quotation. Clients must fully understand and approve financial details before work begins or payments are made.

## 6. Agreements

Architects must document all agreements in writing, detailing scope, timelines, fees, and responsibilities. Any changes must be mutually agreed upon and recorded. Architects are committed to fulfilling all contractual commitments, ensuring fairness, transparency, and mutual understanding before work begins.

## 7. Conflict of Interest

Architects shall avoid situations where personal interests conflict, or appear to conflict, with their professional duties. Any potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed to the client promptly.

## 8. Dispute Resolution

Architects are expected to have a written procedure for handling the complaints in accordance with the Code. Architects should handle complaints courteously and promptly at every stage and as far as practicable in accordance with the timeframes mentioned in the procedure.

## 9. Transparent Communication

Architects shall provide clients with clear, accurate, and timely information regarding project progress, costs, and any issues that may arise. This includes presenting realistic assessments of project timelines and budgets.

## 10. Integrity and Professionalism

Architects shall uphold the dignity and integrity of the profession by conducting themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the architectural community. This includes honesty in all professional dealings and respect for colleagues.

## 11. Continuous Professional Development

Architects are committed to lifelong learning and professional development. This involves engaging in ongoing education, attending relevant workshops and seminars, and participating in professional networks.

## 12. Collaboration and Mentorship

Architects shall foster a collaborative environment within the profession by sharing knowledge, offering mentorship, and supporting the development of emerging professionals.

## 13. Respect and Courtesy

Architects shall treat all colleagues, clients and other stakeholders with respect and courtesy, fostering a professional environment free from discrimination, harassment, and intimidation.

## 14. Collaboration and Teamwork

Architects shall promote a spirit of collaboration and teamwork, recognising that diverse perspectives and skills contribute to the success of architectural projects.

## 15. Acknowledgment of Contributions

Architects shall give appropriate credit to the contributions of others, including consultants, contractors, and team members, and shall not claim credit for work or ideas that are not their own.

## 16. Adherence to Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Architects shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and codes governing architectural practise in the NT.

## 17. Reporting Misconduct

Architects have a duty to report any known or suspected misconduct by colleagues that violates this Code or legal requirements, to the appropriate authorities.

## 18. Disciplinary Actions

Failure to adhere to this Code may result in disciplinary actions, including suspension or revocation of registration, as determined by the Board.

## Review and Amendment

This Code shall be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains relevant and effective in promoting ethical and professional conduct within the architectural community in the NT.

## Amendments

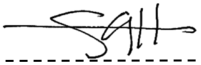
Any amendments to this Code shall be communicated effectively to all registered architects in the NT.

Registered architects are responsible for keeping themselves up to date with any amendments to the Code and must observe such amendments as they come into effect.

## Conclusion

By adhering to this Code of Professional Conduct, architects in the NT commit to upholding the highest standards of practise, contributing to the betterment of society, and enhancing the built environment for current and future generations.

Adopted by the Northern Territory Architects Board



-----  
Steven Huntingford

Chairperson

20/10/2025

Version	Date	Approver
1.0	17/10/2025	Northern Territory Architects Board