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New Zealand architects gain registration fast track to the USA

The New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) today announced that next year New Zealand (and Australian) architects will be able to access a new fast-track procedure for registering as architects in the United States of America.

The same fast-track procedure will be available to US architects wanting to be registered in New Zealand or Australia.

This follows the New Zealand Registered Architects Board and the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia signing a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) with the US National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

The actual coverage in the US will depend on the number of US state registration boards that sign up, but a majority are expected to do so in the next few months, the MRA becoming active on 1 January 2017.

Cross-border registration between Australia/New Zealand and participating US states and territories will be as of right for architects of good standing with at least three years professional experience post registration or licensing, though some participating US states and territories may want to do some additional checks.

This new MRA does not change the automatic right to cross-Tasman registration for all Australian and New Zealand architects under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

NZRAB Chair Warwick Bell commented: "This Australia USA New Zealand MRA will open the door to an expanding trade in architectural services across the Pacific. For a New Zealand practice, doing business in the United States will be easier, especially if the practice wants some senior staff to be able to work as registered/licensed architects in both locations. For an individual architect who is migrating this is a great thing too.

"The NZRAB already has fast-track cross-border registration arrangements with Singapore, Japan and Canada developed in the context of the APEC Architect Project. The Australia USA New Zealand MRA is different, however, in that it is a one-off arrangement that allows for a greater degree of openness.

"In negotiating this arrangement, the NZRAB balanced its obligation to protect the New Zealand public and the Government's broader trade objectives," Mr Bell concluded.

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