



KENTUCKY STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS AND REGISTRATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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To: Governmental Agencies and Organizations

From: Jane Alexander Gardner
Executive Director

Date: August 20, 2008

RE: The Practice of Landscape Architecture

It has come to our State Licensure Board's attention that a memorandum has been issued from the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors which incorrectly states the authority and abilities of licensed Landscape Architects under Kentucky Revised Statute 323A. We respect the Board's attempt to distinguish the roles of engineers and landscape architects, although inaccuracies within the memorandum require us to provide the following clarifications.

As defined in KRS Chapter 323A, the "**practice of landscape architecture**, means to render or offer to **render any professional service** in connection with the planning of outdoor space involving the relationships of people, flora and fauna, and facilities, with emphasis on the function, preservation, conservation, restoration and enhancement of the physical environment, **by arranging land and water and the elements thereon, including the alignment of roadways and the location of buildings, service areas, parking areas, walkways, steps, ramps, pools, and other structures, and the grading of the land, surface and sub-soil drainage, erosion control, planting, reforestation, and the preservation of the natural ecology and environment**, in accordance with the accepted professional standard of public health, welfare and safety."

Specific areas excluded from the practice of landscape architecture as defined by 323A are as follows: "design of structures for habitation or industry, public streets or streets intended for public dedication, highways, utilities, storm and sanitary sewers, or sewage treatment facilities if ordinarily included in the practice of engineering or architecture." However, the Statute further states, "**Nothing contained in this subsection shall preclude a duly licensed landscape architect from performing any of the services described in the first sentence of this subsection in connection with the setting, approaches, or environment for buildings, structures or facilities.**"

In addition, “professional service” is statutorily defined in KRS 323A as follows:
“**Professional services**’ means the providing of professional landscape architectural services for compensation. ‘Professional services’ may include consultation, investigation, reconnaissance, research, planning, **design** or responsible supervision.”

Our Licensure Board maintains a position that the definition of “**design**” is included as one of the elements of professional service, as reflected in the statutory language.

Our Licensure Board and governing statutes require Landscape Architects to be licensed through a national examination process based on a comprehensive scope of the profession. Subsequently, Landscape Architects are licensed to provide a broad range of services including the design of the land, grading and drainage of the land, stormwater management systems and vehicular use areas, to name a few. Licensed Landscape Architects have demonstrated their knowledge, skills and abilities with the planning and design of parks, road corridors, golf courses, sites for educational facilities, commercial, retail and multi-family developments throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In addition, Kentucky law requires Landscape Architects to annually demonstrate competency through 15 hours of mandatory continued professional development to insure the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Landscape Architectural Registration Board and its registrants operate within the Board’s authority as set out in KRS 323A and related statutes. The registrants of this Licensure Board are professionals and are mandated to conduct themselves as such. The accountability of the conduct and practice of a Landscape Architect is with this Board.

If there are questions of any nature pertaining to the clarifications summarized above, please contact our Board at 859/246-2753 or by emailing ky.labd@ky.gov.