

Korea Institute of Registered Architects

KIRA

Country Report 2026

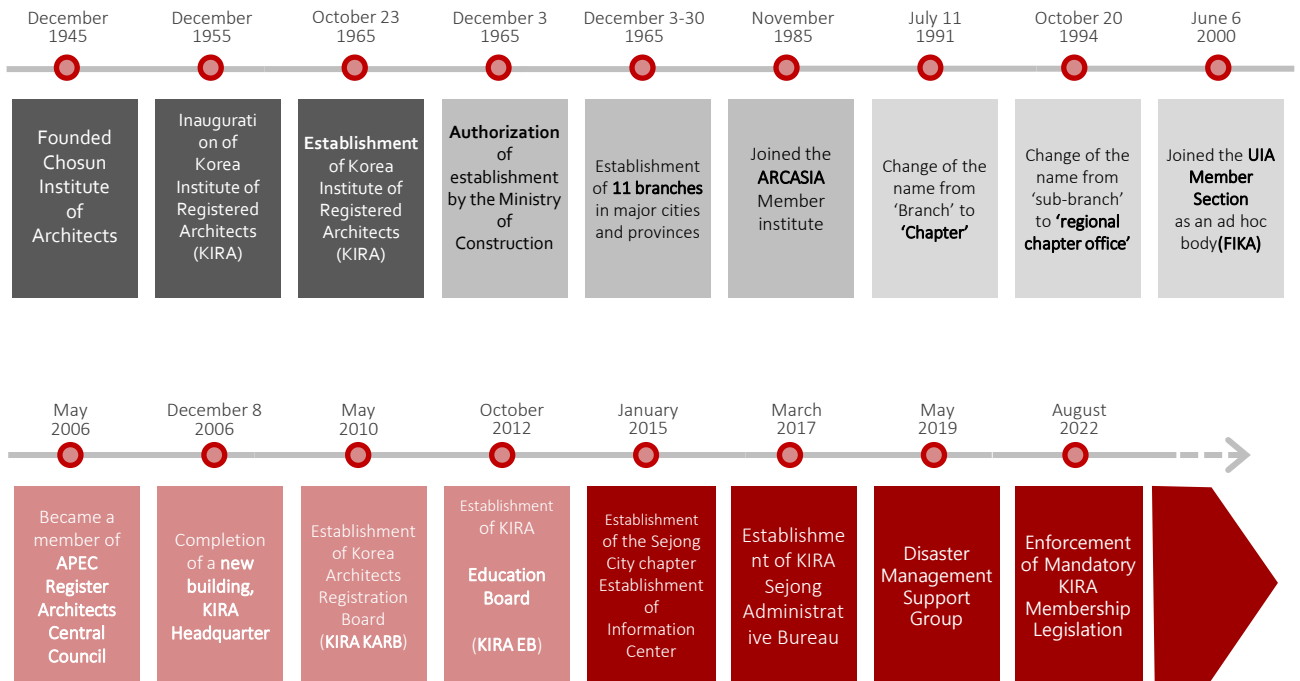


KIRA

Contents

- 1 Brief History
- 2 Office Bearers & Committees
- 3 Membership Strength
- 4 Budget
- 5 HQ & Chapters
- 6 General Assembly
- 7 Legal Status
- 8 Architects Registration Authority
- 9 International Affiliation
- 10 Qualifying Examination & CPD
- 11 Major Programs in the past year
- 12 Programs (Publications & Exhibitions)
- 13 Architectural Competitions/Awards
- 14 Resources of the Institute
- 15 Institutes Efforts to implement ARCASIA
- 16 Plan for Future

1. Brief History



2. Office Bearers & Committees



- President
Ar. KIM, Jaerok
- 8 Vice-Presidents
- 17 Directors
- 2 Auditors
- Total 28



- 10 Core Committees
- 18 Auxiliary Committees



- Central Ethics Committee
- Policy Committee
- Planning Committee
- Legislation Committee
- International Relations Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Members Rights and Interest Committee
- Investigation Committee
- Social Responsibility Committee
- Gender Equity Committee

3. Membership Strength

■ KIRA Mandatory Membership & Institutional Strength

- **Mandatory Legal Membership:** Enforces compulsory membership for all 18,000+ practicing architects under the amended Architects Act.
- **Industry Unification:** Unifies the entire practicing architectural workforce nationwide into a single statutory professional body.
- **Sole Representative Voice:** Consolidates all professional consensus into one authoritative voice for legislative and policy affairs.
- **Statutory Self-Regulation:** Holds legal authority to investigate misconduct, including license lending, undercutting, and negligent inspection.
- **Direct Sanctioning Power:** Directly recommends administrative penalties, business suspensions, or license revocations to MOLIT.

■ Status of members : 2026

As of 31 July 2026

Category		2025		2026	
		No. members	Ratio	No. members	Ratio
Member, KIRA	Male	14,842	86%	15,098	85%
	Female	2,428	14%	2,595	15%
	Total	17,270	100%	17,693	100%
Member, KARB	Total	20,001	100%	20,861	100%
Architects' Office	Individual	11,576	72%	11,791	71%
	Corporate	4,608	38%	4,763	39%
	Total	16,184	100%	16,554	100%

* KIRA : Korea Institute of Registered Architects

* KARB : Korea Architects Registration Board

■ Membership Fees

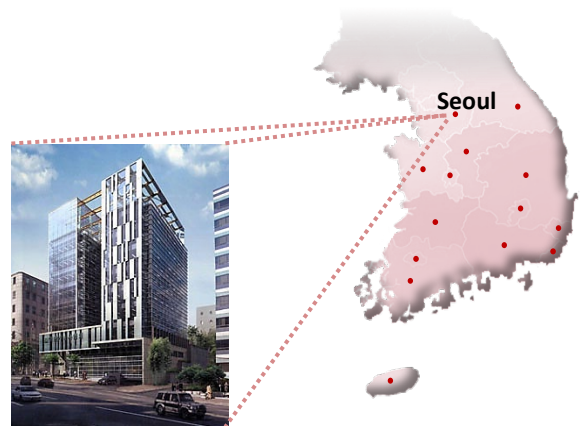
- Admission fee: 2,000,000 KRW (Approx. 1,125 USD)
- Monthly dues of 25,000 KRW (Approx. 18 USD)
- (Fees for Local Chapters are dependable)

4. Budget

- Total Account in year 2026 : 14,037,000 USD
(1,500KRW = 1 USD)

5. HQ & Chapters

- Headquarter Office located in Seoul
- 17 Chapters Institutes in Regional Cities and Provinces
- 138 Sub Institutes in Local Cities



6. General Assembly

- The 60th General Assembly was held on 26 February 2026
- Approval of 2026 budget and settlements 2005 Balance
- Election of office bearers



7. Legal Status

■ Legal Status of KIRA

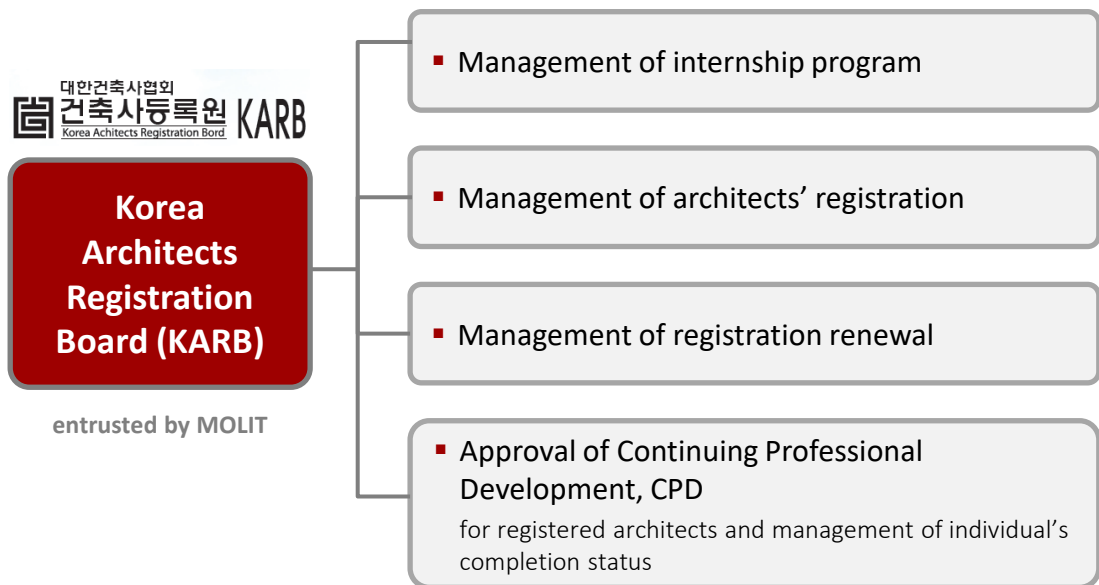
- Established on October 23, 1965, in accordance with the Certified Architects Act, the KIRA consists of registered architects as members.

■ Legal Status of Architects in Korea

- Official registration at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, MOLIT, is essential prior to commencement of practice.
- The term "architect" means any person who provides services under Article 19, including the design of a building and construction supervision after having passed a qualifying examination conducted by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport; (According to the Certified Architects Act, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport)

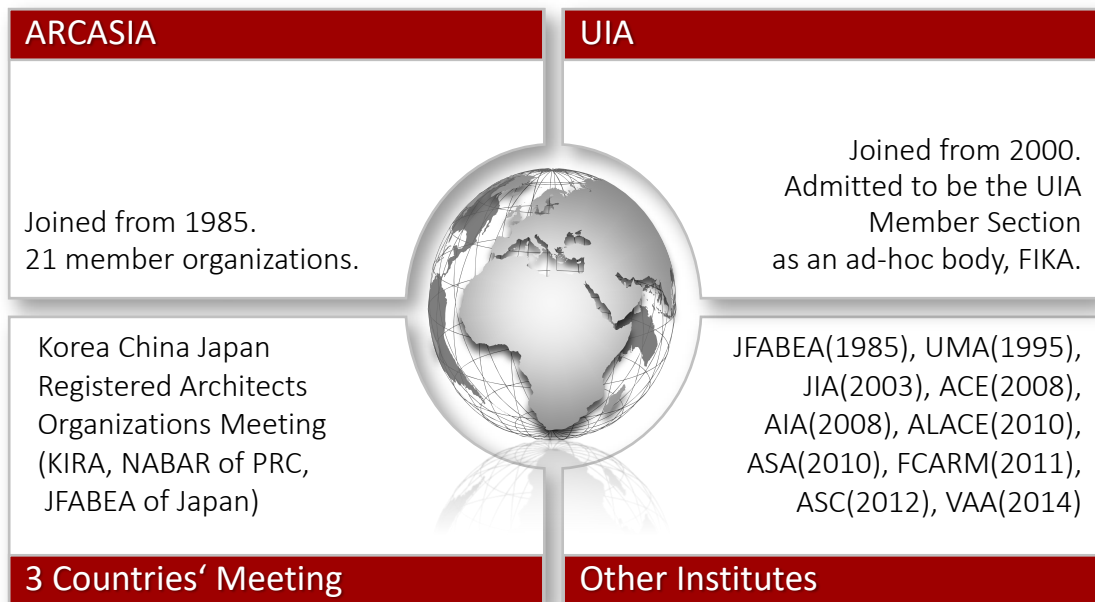
8. Architects Registration Authority

■ Korea Architects Registration Board, KARB



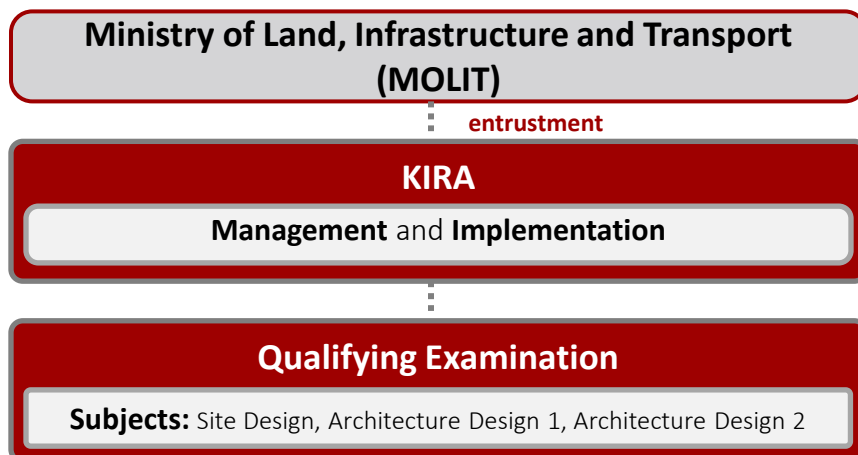
- 20,861 Architects are registered at KARB as of July 2026
- 25,237 persons are under practice training including internship as of July 2026

9. International Affiliations



10. Qualifying Examination & CPD

- Qualifying Examination for Architect's License



Category	Date of Exam	No. of Applicants	No. of Qualified
1st Qualifying Exam	March 8, 2025	7,607	617
2nd Qualifying Exam	September 20, 2025	7,716	526
1st Qualifying Exam	March 7, 2026	7,453	695
2nd Qualifying Exam	September 12, 2026	-	-

- System of Architect Preliminary Test has been terminated since 2019
- If applicants pass the Architect preliminary test before December 31, 2019, they will be eligible for taking an Architects Qualifying Examination until December 31. 2026

10. Qualifying Examination & CPD

■ The Korea Architectural Accrediting Board (KAAB)

KAAB is to accredit professional degree programs in architecture of Korea and promoting continuous improvements in architectural education.



- Accredited Programs(Domestic)

Category	Architectural Programs	Accredited	Non-accredited
No. of Programs	76	76	-

- Accredited Programs in Overseas

Category	Accredited Programs	Name of University
No. of Programs	4	Institute Technology Bandung(M.Arch) Universitas Islam Indonesia(B.P.Arch) Universitas Gadjja Mada(Ar.) Petra Christian University(M.Arch) (2025)

■ KIRA Education Board, EB

- Operate 150CPD Programs for Architect's Professional Practice in 2026.
(Ethics, Professional Practice)

- 17,455 Architects have trained in 2026. (excluding online education) As of July 2026

Type of Education	Programs	Number of Training Session	No. of Architects Trained
Total	150	65	17,455
Ethics	27	15	6,367
Professional Practice	123	50	11,088

■ Professional Education for 2026 Korea Architecture Fair and Festival (KAFF)

- Period: 3 days (2026.10.28 – 10.30)
 - Program : Exhibition, Conference, Professional Education, Architectural Material Fair etc.
- *In 2025, Approx. 150 companies participated the Exhibition and had Approx. 1,772 visitors including architects

10. Qualifying Examination & CPD

■ 2025 Professional Education for Consortium for HRD Ability Magnified Program

- Commissioned by National Human Resource Group

- Period: 2025. 1 – 2025. 12

Program	Number of Architects Completed
Practical Course of Documentation for Energy Saving Plan	122
Certification of Universal Design for Handicapped	78
Understanding and Case Study of BF Accreditation	30
Zero Energy Skill-up Academy	14
Architecture Law and Regulations for Architectural Firms	110
BIM Academy with ArchiCAD-Basics	17
BIM Academy with ArchiCAD-Advanced	23
BIM Academy with REVIT	15
BIM Academy with Sketch-Up	15
Total	424

■ Professional Education for Building Demolition (2025.1~2025.12)

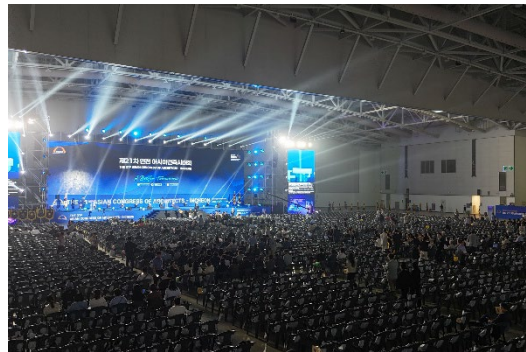
Program	Hours	Usage	Number of Completed
Inspector Course(New)	35	Hybrid	601
Inspector Course(Refresher Training)	14	Hybrid	3,260

■ Professional Education for Facility(Building) Management Law (2025.1~2025.12)

Program	Hours	Type	# of Completed
Responsible Inspector Course	35	Online	420
Inspector Course	7	Offline	860
Responsible Inspector Course and Inspector Course for Renewal	7		356

11. Major Programs

- **The 21st Asian Congress of Architects - Incheon**
 - Under the theme 'A Better Tomorrow,' ACA21 Incheon gathered architectural leaders from 24 ARCASIA member institutes in Songdo. The congress addressed key regional and environmental challenges through lectures, governance meetings, and cultural exchanges.
 - * Date: September 8 - 12, 2025
 - * Venue: Songdo Convensia, Incheon
 - * Theme: A Better Tomorrow
 - * Total Attendance: 31,944 participants (including 537 foreign delegates)



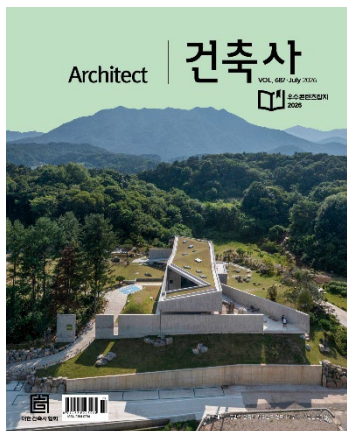
- **The 17th Seoul International Architecture Film Festival**
 - * Period : September 12 - 25, 2025
 - * Venue : Arthouse MoMo(Offline), Naver TV(Online)
 - * Asia's only architectural film festival
 - * Theme : A Better Tomorrow
 - * 33 Films were invited from 22 countries
 - * Event: Special Screening for the ACA21, Host Architect Forum, 'The Brutalist & Brutalism' Forum, Architecture Day Special Screening
 - * Number of audiences: 65,314



12. Programs (Publications & Exhibitions)

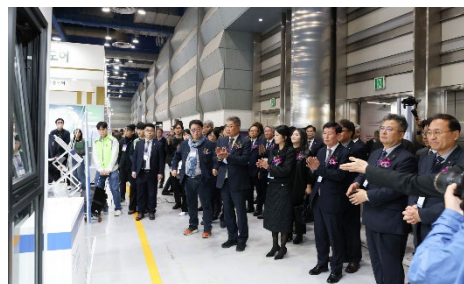
■ Publication: KIRA's Periodicals

- KIRA has been publishing the monthly magazine Architect since 1966 and published 17,900 copies at a time *The 687th issue published (July 2026)
- KIRA also publishes a newspaper, Architect News, in every other week from 2006
 - *Magazine : Published 18,100 copies at time, 12 times annually
 - *Newspaper : Published 5,000 copies at time, 24 times annually



■ Exhibition: 2025 Korea Architecture Fair and Festival (KAFF)

- Period : November 5-7, 2025
- Venue : Hall B COEX, Seoul
- Program : Exhibition, Conference, Professional Education, Architectural Material Fair etc.
 - In 2025, 121 companies and 4,529 pp participated in the festival



13. Architectural Competitions/Awards

■ Korean Architecture Awards

- Established in 1994, Hosted by the MOLIT and KIRA
- Goals : to find good architecture and encourage architects, clients and contractors for better architectural environments
- The highest architectural award program in Korea with presidential awards in 4 different categories
- Category : Public Sector/ Private Sector/ Housing / Hanok
- Awards : 4 Grand prize, 5 Gold, 6 excellence
- KAA includes both the Architectural Culture Promotion Category and the Student Design Competition.

[2025 Grand Prize]



Jurye Open Library
Public Sector



Kyochon 1991 Building
Private Sector



Seoul
e-Pyeonghansang
Urban Bridge
Residential Sector



Seohuijae
Hanok Sector

■ Korean Architecture Award – Idea Competition for Students

- Awards : 2 Grand prize, 4 Gold , 8 Silver, 7 excellence (2025)
- Theme : (General Category) A Moment of Village
(Hanok Category) Modam
- Eligibility : Graduate students in architectural program who do not have an architect license, Undergraduate Student in architectural program



A Moment of Village



Modam

14. Resources of the Institute

■ Architecture Research Institute, ARI

-ARI conducts :

- * Research to find out how to improve Architecture act, Architects act and others related acts to be applied to our industry
- * Research projects on improvement of architecture system and architect's business markets
- * Research to find countermeasures in terms of opening of architecture service global market
- * Research projects on mutual recognition of the architect qualification with others
- * Other research projects as requested by KIRA Council

■ 2025 Major Research Projects of ARI

No.		Title of Projects	Project Classification	Project Owner
Internal Projects	1	A Study on Measures to Introduce Permissible Tolerance for Convenience Facility Installation Standards	Basic Research	KIRA
	2	A Study on Architectural Firm Operational Measures through Incorporation of Architectural Practice		
	3	A Study on Standardization of Design Documents and Establishment of Quality Verification Standards Based on Korea Building Code	Occasional Research	
External Projects	4	Research Service on Advanced Reform Plans for Architect Qualification Examination	Contract Research	MOLIT
	5	Research Service on the 4th Fact-Finding Survey, On-Site Inspection, and Survey System Improvement for Halted Construction Works		REB
	6	Research Service for Establishing the 4th Master Plan for Halting Construction Works Remediation		MOLIT
	7	A Study on Systematization and Foundation Building for Architect Qualification Examination Reform Plans		REB
	8	A Study on Reform Plans for BF (Barrier Free) Certification Fees		MOHW

- * KIRA: Korea Institute of Registered Architects
- * MOLIT: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
- * REB: Korea Real Estate Board
- * MOHW: Ministry of Health and Welfare

16. Plan for Future

■ Direction of 2024-2028 Master plan for development

- Correspond to the Changes of Legal and Social System, Market Environment
Home & Abroad

Legal System

- Normalize the architectural market by legalizing standard design fee criteria for the private sector to prevent unfair low-price dumping
- Establish clear legal standards and guidelines for design changes and design intent implementation

R & D

- Develop a user-centered standardized classification database for building materials and templates to support practical BIM integration
- Formulate a green design manual and simplified certification procedures tailored specifically for small-scale buildings

Human Resource

- Collaborate with accredited architectural universities to strengthen core courses in structural engineering and construction
- Develop a systematic practical guidebook for trainees to assist with office work and preparation for the revised licensing exams

Social Contribution

- Deploy the Architect Disaster Safety Support Group to perform rapid structural safety diagnoses and emergency recovery operations
- Expand community welfare programs to repair deteriorated housing and construct public spaces in disaster-affected areas

Public Promotion

- Increase public awareness of architectural culture through major annual events such as the Seoul International Architecture Film Festival
- Maximize public outreach by shifting from traditional print media to online video archives, YouTube, and active digital communication channels

Global Network

- Establish a strategic mid-to-long-term roadmap for K-Architecture to promote Korean architectural designs globally
- Strengthen leadership and networks within international organizations by actively participating as members in UIA and ARCASIA

Thank you

More Information : www.kira.or.kr