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**BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE
BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION**

In the Matter of:

BENJAMIN ARANDA,
Non-Registrant; and

CHRIS LASCH,
Non-Registrant;

Respondents.

Case No. 20F-P17-049-BTR

BTR File Nos.: P17-048, P17-049

**CONSENT AGREEMENT
AND ORDER**

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In the interest of a prompt and judicious resolution of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration ("Board") and consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements, and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101 et seq., and A.A.C. R4-30-120(G), the undersigned parties, Benjamin Aranda ("Aranda") and Chris Lasch ("Lasch") (collectively "Respondents"), and the Board enter into the following Recitals, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

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RECITALS

1. Respondents have read and understand this Consent Agreement and have had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or have waived such opportunity.

2. Respondents understand that they have a right to a public administrative hearing concerning this case. They further acknowledge that at such formal hearing they could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering this this Consent Agreement, Respondents knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waive this right to such an administrative hearing as well as rights of rehearing, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review, or any other administrative and/or judicial action concerning the matter set forth herein.

3. Respondents understand that this Consent Agreement may be considered in any future

1 disciplinary action by the Board.

2 4. Respondents understand the Consent Agreement, any record prepared in this matter, all
3 investigative materials prepared or received by the Board and all related exhibits and materials,
4 are public records (as defined in A.R.S. § 41-158.18).

5 5. Respondents understand this Consent Agreement deals with Board case numbers P17-048
6 and P17-049 involving allegations that Respondents engaged in conduct that would constitute
7 violations of the Board's statutes and rules. The investigation into these allegations against
8 Respondent shall be concluded upon the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement.

9 6. Respondents understand that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or
10 resolution of any other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not
11 constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction
12 regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.

13 7. Respondents understand that acceptance of this Consent Agreement does not preclude
14 any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting any other civil or criminal
15 proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.

16 8. Respondents understand that, upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning this
17 document to the Board's Executive Director, they may not revoke acceptance of the Consent
18 Agreement or make any modifications to the document regardless of whether the Consent
19 Agreement has been signed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document
20 is ineffective and void unless mutually agreed by the parties in writing.

21 9. This Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and is effective only
22 when accepted by the Board and signed on behalf of the Board. In the event that the Board does
23 not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and
24 shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party.

25 10. If a court of competent jurisdiction rules that any part of this Consent Agreement is void
26 or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement shall remain in full force
and effect.

11. Respondents agree that the Board will adopt the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions
of Law, and Order.

1 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

2 12. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice
3 of several professions in the State of Arizona, including that of Architect. A.R.S. § 32-101, *et*
4 *seq.*

5 13. At no time has either Aranda or Lasch held any license or registration with the Board.

6 14. Respondents exercise control over Aranda\Lasch, Inc. (“A\L Firm”).

7 15. On or about August 12, 2016, the Board received a complaint alleging the Respondents
8 advertised and held out through the website of A\L Firm as practicing architecture without being
9 registered with the Board.

10 16. Board staff reviewed A\L Firm’s website. Under the “News” heading staff reviewed
11 linked articles and videos including:

12 a. interview with Respondents from Archinect, December, 2015, in which the
13 respondents are described as pursuing “their own uncompromising vision of
14 architectural practice”, and “[w]ith offices in Manhattan and Tucson and
15 projects on the boards around the world, they have cemented their place at the
16 forefront of cutting edge architectural practice...they have since recently
17 completed two buildings in Miami: the Art Deco Project (a retail space) and
18 the Design District Event Space.” In describing the early years of the firm
19 during the interview, Lasch stated “[w]e were a young firm starting out just a
20 few years out of school... [t]he opportunities that are available to young
21 architects are mostly the ones they can make themselves...”;

22 b. rOtring video from October 20, 2014, that displays “rOtring / Ben Aranda,
23 Architect / Aranda/Lasch” across the top of the screen for the entirety of the
24 video and “Ben Aranda, Architect” identifier when Aranda first appears;

25 c. Detour: Moleskine Notebook Experience video from October 8, 2010, which
26 displays Aranda/Lasch Architects across the top of the screen for the entirety
of the video and Aranda\Lasch Architects on the lower left of the screen for a

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short period; and

d. Venice Architecture Biennale Interview video from August 1, 2010, in which, in response to the question of how they came into architecture, Aranda replied “Like the very beginning? How we decided to be architects?”, and Lasch replied “How we started our practice, or how we started... how we decided to be architects?” In the same video, at a later point Aranda stated “...this idea of having, you know, a dream as an architect... is that maybe... like our dreams seem like increasingly like the same kind of dreams that architects had before in the 20th century... the architects that, that we admire from... even a hundred years ago kind of seem now to us as contemporary as... any of our peers.”

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over Respondents pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, *et seq.*

17. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact above constitutes grounds for an administrative penalty pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-106.02 as regards Respondent Aranda.

18. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact above constitutes grounds for an administrative penalty pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-106.02 as regards Respondent Lasch.

ORDER

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as stated above, the Board issues the following Order:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY.

a. **Aranda:** within ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Order, Aranda shall pay an administrative penalty in the total amount of one-thousand dollars (\$1000.00) directly to the Board by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.

b. **Lasch:** within ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Order, Lasch

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shall pay an administrative penalty in the total amount of one-thousand dollars (\$1000.00) directly to the Board by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.

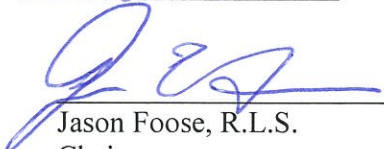
2. WEBSITE. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondents shall either:

- a. remove the content referenced in ¶¶ 16(a)-(d) of the Consent Agreement; or
- b. edit the content referenced in ¶¶ 16(a)-(d) such that the content shall not be in violation of Arizona law.

3. FEES AND COSTS. Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Order, Respondents shall pay fees and costs of enforcement in the total amount of eight-hundred and sixty-four dollars (\$864.00) directly to the Board by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration. Aranda and Lasch shall be jointly and severally liable for the full amount of Fees and Costs.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Order is the date the Respondents and Board sign the Consent Agreement. If the dates are different, the effective date is the later of the two dates.

ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 10th day of December, 2019.


 Jason Foose, R.L.S.
 Chairman
 Arizona State Board of
 Technical Registration

Consent Agreement and Order, Case Nos. P17-048, P17-049 accepted:


 Benjamin Aranda

11/22/19
 Date


 Chris Lasch

11/22/19
 Date

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ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
this 12 day of December, 2019, with:

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
1110 W. Washington Street
Suite 240
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

COPY of the foregoing mailed by
both Certified and First Class Mail
this same date to:

BENJAMIN ARANDA *CERT MAIL: 9214 8901 9434 4600 0644 00*
265 S. Church Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85701
ben@arandalasch.com

CHRIS LASCH *CERT MAIL: 9214 8901 9434 4600 0644 18*
265 S. Church Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85701
christopherlasch@aol.com

By: 