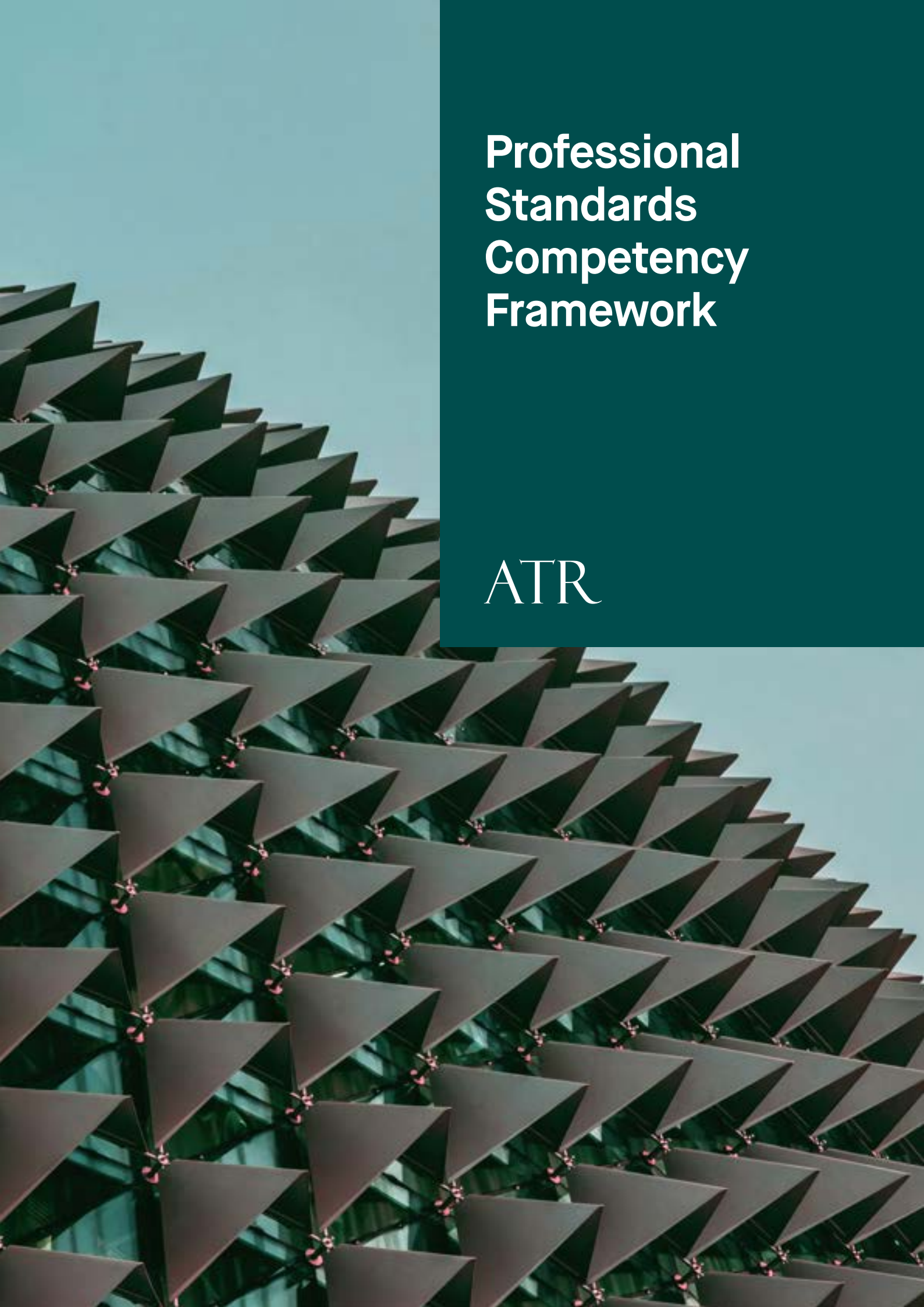
Professional Standards Competency Framework

ATR



Foreword

The Architectural Technologists' Register sets, assesses and monitors the competency standards for registered Architectural Technologists in the Republic of Ireland in order for them to provide the functions of Assigned and/or Design Certifiers under the Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2014 [BC(A)R 2014].

The ATR Professional Standards Competency Framework (PSCF) outlines the standards and competencies required to join the Architectural Technologists' Register.

This framework is set out in two distinct stages that illustrate the mandatory standards that applicants undertaking the ATR Professional Assessment (PA) process must satisfy to achieve Registrant status with the Architectural Technologists' Register. The two stages comprise the Educational and Practice Standards.

The following sections set out the mandatory competencies.

Stage 1: Educational Standards

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the necessary underpinning knowledge required of an Architectural Technology professional, by satisfying the mandatory threshold Educational Standards.

The mandatory threshold Educational Standards for all Registrant Architectural Technologists are based upon the UK Quality Assurance Agency's Subject Benchmark Statement for Architectural Technology. Universities and other higher education institutions must use these standards when designing Honours and Masters degrees. To be exempt from Stage 1, the applicant must hold a CIAT Accredited qualification. Alternatively, these standards may also be demonstrated through equivalent knowledge attained in other learning environments, including the workplace.

The following criteria outline the threshold of Educational Standards:

Knowledge and understanding of:

E1. Local, social, technological, environmental, historical, contemporary, economic, political, legal and ethical factors that inform and influence the discipline and practice of Architectural Technology.

E2. Client, user and stakeholder needs through the analysis and interpretation of the nature of a project, including the evaluation of context to determine a project scope.

E3. Holistic building design in a range of typologies informed by current practice within the discipline to generate resilient, sustainable and inclusive design solutions.

E4. Architectural and technological principles of structure, fabric and service systems to create concepts and develop design solutions in complex contexts when working independently or as part of a team.

E5. Science and engineering of construction and environmental performance including building physics, fire engineering and pathology relating to the analysis, evaluation and application of appropriate methodologies when designing or working on new and existing buildings. The latter can include conservation, maintenance, retrofit, renovation and/or change of use projects.

E6. Health and safety requirements when generating design solutions to ensure welfare, safety and security of all stakeholders during the life cycles of buildings, including legal requirements.

E7. Compliance with legal and regulatory requirements such as health and safety including fire safety, as well as the use of advances in construction and sustainable technologies to design holistically from first principles, for production, sustainability, performance, quality of life and social wellbeing.

E8. Designing building elements and components, the use of materials, methods and their assembly, used in the construction and adaptation of different building typologies to critically and correctly detail and specify effectively and efficiently functioning buildings in accordance with applicable regulatory and technical standards.

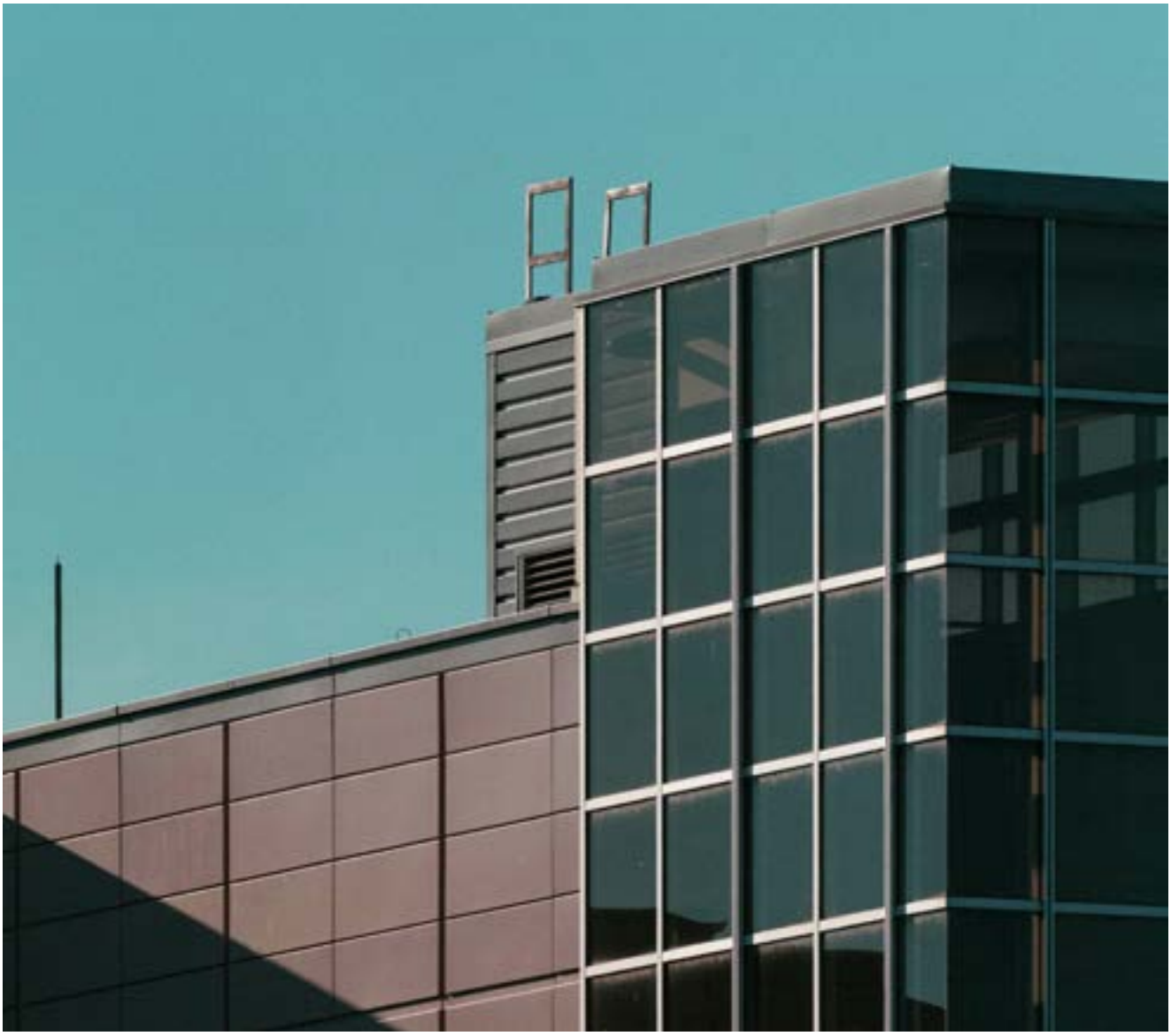
E9. Current technological practices to make data-driven decisions in a collaborative working environment based on and through the application of processes and technologies for modelling, production, management and communication of information.

E10. Procurement methods and contract administration, architectural practice, design leadership, management roles and functions (including, principal/lead designer, design management, project management, information management, compliance plan management, etc.) and professional behaviours, conduct and ethics.

E11. Continual learning to maintain currency and awareness with existing and emerging topics, technologies and practices that inform the discipline. This includes specialisation relating to new and emerging professional and industry trends and continuing professional development, in a range of roles and functions, to maintain competency.

Stage 2: Practice Standards

Applicants must demonstrate their skills and experience by outlining the project type, range and their involvement in project stages to evidence their role, function and responsibility to satisfy the standards. Their experience must cover four areas: Designing, Managing, Practising and Developing (Self) which are defined as:



Designing – demonstrating robust, sustainable and inclusive design solutions relating to the anatomy and physiology of buildings that satisfy regulatory standards and achieve efficient and effective construction that perform optimally and safely during use and reuse.

D1. Analysing and interpreting instructions/briefs to determine the project scope for design deliverables, including all stakeholder requirements.

D2. Creating design solutions for project(s) based upon architectural and technological design principles through the design, integration and co-ordination of structure, fabric and services.

D3. Developing design solutions that are inclusive, safe, resilient, robust and sustainable.

D4. Designing and specifying critically evaluated systems, components, materials and methods used within a project to satisfy both production and building performance parameters.

D5. Ensuring that the design solutions comply with contractual, regulatory and legal requirements for each stage of the project.

Managing – demonstrating appropriate leadership and management of people, processes, procedures, stakeholders and projects ensuring safe delivery.

M1. Leading or managing design projects independently and as part of a team within the scope of their responsibilities.

M2. Managing and controlling project contract deliverables in accordance with planning and programming requirements.

M3. Identifying and assessing design risks to mitigate impact on the project brief, people, climate and natural environment.

M4. Effectively and efficiently managing the planning and execution of design and work, addressing conflicts and resolving issues that may arise.

M5. Managing risk, compliance and approvals with the statutory and regulatory processes and procedures.

Practising – demonstrating awareness of local, social, technological, environmental, economic, political, legal and ethical factors affecting the practice of Architectural Technology through appropriate implementation.

P1. Applying and using current and emerging technologies in building design, ensuring that buildings and/or assets perform efficiently, effectively, safely and sustainably.

P2. Interacting and collaborating professionally with stakeholders, agencies and clients.

P3. Identifying factors affecting project evolution and delivery, including hazards and risks, by developing, implementing, and maintaining systems and records.

P4. Monitoring, applying and using relevant legislation, standards, regulatory frameworks, procurement and contracts.

Developing (Self) – demonstrating an awareness of the need for continuing development as a professional, to advance or maintain standards in roles and functions during their career through the acquisition and maintenance of relevant knowledge, skill and experience, as well as understanding the importance of behaving ethically to meet the needs of the industry, wider society and the environment.

SD1. Undertaking continuing professional development (CPD) to ensure currency and relevance of the skills, knowledge, experience, and behaviors required to practice.

SD2. Demonstrating self-reflection and continuous improvement in understanding current and emerging topics relevant to their context and jurisdiction of practice.

SD3. Identifying personal development, education, skills, experience and/or training needs and meeting them through regular action planning and monitoring to maintain fitness to practice.

Code of Conduct

All Registrants must adhere to the professional *Code of Conduct* which includes the requirement to obtain and maintain adequate professional indemnity insurance when providing services directly to a client and in compliance with the BC(A)R 2014.

Registrants must undertake the required minimum 20 hours of continuing professional development per annum, keeping themselves informed of current practices and developments appropriate to the type and level of their responsibilities.

The professional *Code of Conduct* places obligations on Registrants to practise in a professional and businesslike manner. Registrants are required to:

- endeavour to ensure that the services offered are appropriate to the client's requirements and that their terms of engagement are given in writing and have been accepted.
- act with integrity, faithfully and honourably.
- ensure that they have adequate resources to meet the client's requirements and not misrepresent the services available.
- obtain and maintain adequate professional indemnity insurance if providing services directly to clients. Professional indemnity insurance is an important provision for peace of mind for the Registrant and their client. It is an insurance against professional negligence to protect the client in the unlikely event of certain issues occurring; and
- only offer and provide services within their professional capabilities and decline to offer and/or provide a service to a client if they knowingly lack adequate resources or if appropriate, advise and recommend the necessity of assistance from a suitably qualified professional.

The ATR sets the standard for professional conduct in the discipline of Architectural Technology. In this way, ATR serves as a benchmark for anyone seeking to commission the services of a Registered Architectural Technologist to act as an Assigned and/or Design Certifier. In the unlikely event that any Registrant fails to reach the required standard of professional practice, the ATR has a procedure to deal with these occurrences.

For further information about this document or about becoming a Full ATR Registrant please contact atr@ciat.global

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