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# Michael J. DeVere

Architect · Consultant

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## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Licensed Architect with 40+ years of experience spanning custom residential design, national restaurant chain construction and renovation, telecommunications infrastructure, and institutional projects. Qualified to provide expert opinion on building code compliance, ADA requirements, property condition, construction defects, standard of care, and zoning and permitting adequacy. Holds architectural licenses in 20 states with NCARB certification, providing broad geographic availability without out-of-state licensing complications.

## LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

**NCARB Certificate** #57487

**California (Primary License)** C-22291 · Licensed 1991

**Currently Licensed (20 states)** NC · SC · GA · FL · TN · VA · TX · AZ · NV · KY · LA · MD · MN · NH · OH · PA · RI · WV · WI

*As a holder of an NCARB Certificate with California as the primary license, reciprocal licensure is available in virtually any U.S. jurisdiction upon request. Attorneys with matters in unlisted states should inquire — licensure can typically be obtained on an expedited basis to support active litigation needs.*

## AREAS OF EXPERT OPINION

- **Property Condition Assessment (PCA):** Assessment of existing building conditions for acquisition due diligence, pre-sale evaluation, insurance, and dispute resolution; evaluation of structural and architectural conditions, code compliance observations, deferred maintenance, and remediation scope.
- **ADA & Building Code Compliance:** Review of existing conditions against 2010 ADA Standards and applicable IBC provisions; identification of specific violations, assessment of undue hardship claims, and evaluation of design and permitting records across commercial, restaurant, and retail properties.
- **Construction Defects & Professional Liability:** Assessment of alleged defects in design documents, construction detailing, material specifications, and field execution; evaluation of whether the architect, contractor, or owner met the applicable standard of care across residential, commercial, and restaurant project types.
- **Restaurant & Commercial Renovation:** Expert assessment of renovation scope, brand standards compliance, contractor performance, and construction administration adequacy; direct experience with Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba's Italian Grill, and Fleming's Prime Steakhouse renovation programs.
- **Zoning & Permitting Disputes:** Professional opinion on zoning compliance, permit application adequacy, plan review processes, and the standard of care applicable to permit coordination and jurisdiction relationships; demonstrated 98% zoning and regulatory approval rate across 335+ telecommunications sites.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Principal Architect / Consultant** · Michael J. DeVere, Architect — Tryon, NC · 2018–Present

- Delivered architectural services for 360+ restaurant locations across 10+ states for Outback Steakhouse, Carrabba's Italian Grill, and Fleming's Prime Steakhouse, maintaining a 99% client retention rate.
- Providing architectural design, consulting, expert witness, and construction administration services across 20 licensed states.

**Principal Architect & Partner** · MDS10 Architects — Asheville, NC · 2008–2018

- Led design and construction of the first non-residential Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) structure in the United States — a 76-foot bell tower — earning the Wood Engineering Design Award from the Wood Products Council.
- Directed diverse commissions including churches, liturgical projects, custom residences, retail, and restaurant developments across multiple states.
- Mentored architects on Building Code compliance, ADA requirements, and construction detailing.

**Staff Architect — Restaurant Studio** · DP3 Architects, Ltd. — Greenville, SC · 2003–2008

- Managed design, construction documents, and permitting for 42 new restaurant locations including Outback Steakhouse and Carrabba's Italian Grill, leading a team of four.
- Cultivated relationships with municipalities to reduce plan review and permitting time by 15%.

**Architect / Owner** · Universal Designs & Construction — Costa Mesa, CA · 1995–2003

- Licensed General Contractor (California, 1983) prior to obtaining architectural licensure in 1991 — providing direct field experience in construction management, subcontractor coordination, and project execution that informs expert opinion on contractor performance and construction standard of care.
- Led design and permitting for 335+ cellular communication sites across California and Nevada, maintaining a 98% zoning and regulatory approval rate on projects with an estimated construction value exceeding \$75 million.
- Implemented fiberglass component solutions in coordination with radio engineers, achieving a 95% reduction in signal loss at environmentally sensitive site locations.

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Architecture** Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) · Santa Monica, CA

## AWARDS & PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- Wood Engineering Design Award — Wood Products Council (2011): First non-residential CLT structure in the United States — Myers Memorial Lutheran Church Bell Tower, Gastonia, NC
- Most Creative Stealth Installation Award — Tower Industry Summit (1999): AirTouch Cellular & The Irvine Company, Spectrum Entertainment Center, Irvine, CA

## GEOGRAPHIC AVAILABILITY

Available to serve as expert witness in all jurisdictions where licensed and in federal courts. Travel available nationally. Remote consultation, written report preparation, and deposition available in all jurisdictions.

Available for consultation, site assessment, written opinion, deposition, and trial testimony. Inquiries welcome.