be an advocate
Special thanks to the
IIDA Northern Pacific Chapter

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As Interior Design professionals, we are accustomed to taking risks and dealing with complexity. On a daily basis, we are pressed to keep up with ever-changing technologies, juggle competing priorities and meet impossible deadlines. Yet when it comes to taking action to advance the practice, many designers feel overwhelmed. The entire topic can seem too complicated, too political, too abstract.

It doesn’t have to be. What follows are a few simple actions every Designer can take that will have a direct positive influence on the practice in our own communities and as a whole.

#talkinteriordesign

Know how to talk about what you do as an Interior Designer and look for opportunities to share that knowledge with others.

#engageinteriordesign

Keep up with current best practices and stay involved in the conversation.

#recognizeinteriordesign

Understand how the legal recognition of Interior Design impacts the profession, how it applies in other states and what it could mean for our state.
WHAT IS INTERIOR DESIGN?

Interior Design is the development and implementation of an interior environment that provides the highest level of safety, function and overall enhancement to the inhabitants’ quality of life.

WHAT IS AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

An Interior Designer is an individual who has been trained to identify, research and creatively solve problems pertaining to the development of an interior environment, and who possesses the knowledge and skills to implement these solutions. Interior Designers apply their expertise of Design and the built environment to solving problems at the interior scale and at the level of direct human experience.

These skills include:

- programming
- needs analysis
- site inspection and analysis
- budgeting
- preparation of schematic drawings
- space planning
- application of building codes and regulations
- interior architectural detailing
- equipment planning and coordination
- materials research and specification
- furniture/furnishings specification and coordination
- preparation of design intent drawings
- engineering coordination, including electrical, mechanical, plumbing
- preparation of construction documents, including drawings and specifications
- permitting (when applicable)
- construction administration; including site inspection, drawing review and coordination with the construction trades
- post occupancy evaluation
PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Public perception of our services impacts the Interior Design profession. It influences salaries, access to education resources and a Designer’s legal standing as a professional on both state and national levels. The words we use to talk about our profession provide an opportunity to shape public perception for the better.

WHAT’S IN
administer, manage
propose
choose
survey, specify
explain, develop solutions
explore, analyze
determine
fuse, integrate
construct
background, expertise, knowledge

WHAT’S OUT
watch over, influence
suggest
pick out
look at, point out
fix, help
look over, make
decide on
bring together, join
play around with
knack, taste, style
“The expert practice of Interior Design creates exceptional environments that encompass and support the breadth of human activity and experience.”

Cheryl Durst, Hon. FIIDA
Executive Vice President & CEO, IIDA
Interior Design is a continually evolving profession with constantly changing regulations and technologies. By maintaining current knowledge of the profession, educated practitioners make informed, safe and creative decisions. Participating in continued education programs serves as a creative outlet to promote awareness of pertinent issues within the practice.

Professionals maintaining current certification are knowledgeable of new code initiatives and key environmental strategies. They can promote awareness and knowledge of Interior Design strategies that reduce the negative impacts on our natural environment and improve the overall health and well-being of all people.

Being well informed about the profession allows you to be an advocate to the general public and to other design professionals, many of whom do not understand what the Interior Design profession involves. It also allows more experienced Designers the opportunity to mentor young Designers on the professional realities of practice and create a dialogue of issues relevant to the industry.

Interior Design is a continually evolving profession with constantly changing regulations, technologies and best practices. By staying in contact and staying current, Designers make their most informed, safe and creative decisions. At any given time, your community offers a wide variety of resources and activities that will help you keep growing as a professional.

**to be involved ... become a voice in the conversation**

- Form a study group and take the NCIDQ exam
- Attend events and programs by related professions
- Participate in industry panels
- Join event-planning committees
- Attend CEU classes and participate in design forums
- Join a mentoring program

Because “All Politics Is Local,” **YOU** are the most important and effective advocate for Interior Design legislation.

In building support for legislation, you should meet with, call or write **YOUR** legislator.

Tell **YOUR** legislator where you live and work [or go to school].

Tell **YOUR** legislator about yourself, what you specialize in, your scope of practice and projects that you have worked on.

Tell **YOUR** legislator about your business, how many people you work with or employ.

Invite your legislator to support Interior Design legislation.
WHAT WOULD LEGAL RECOGNITION DO FOR THE PROFESSION?

Authorize a board, similar to the architecture profession’s, to register Interior Designers who meet a minimum standard of competency based on education, examination and experience.

Establish the legal title “Registered/Licensed/Certified Interior Designer” without restricting the title “Interior Designer” or use of the term “Interior Design Services.”

Allow Registered/Licensed/Certified Interior Designers to stamp and seal drawings for the purpose of permitting.

Institute benchmarking and continued education requirements for Registered/Licensed/Certified Interior Designers.

THE BENEFITS

one. **expect more**

Expand the scope of practice. In some states, current law requires Interior Designers to do code-governed work under a registered architect or engineer.

four. **practice more**

Eliminate the need for professional Interior Designers to pay architects or engineers to redraw, stamp and sign their work.

two. **grow more**

Allow Interior Designers to own a controlling interest in their firms.

five. **control more**

Enable Interior Designers to act as primary contractors on jobs.

three. **do more**

Permit interior designers to bid on state and federal projects requiring “Registered/Licensed/Certified Design professionals.”

six. **compete more**

Encourage economic development by allowing a greater number of businesses to compete for commercial design work.
If you were to get laid off from your job, move to another state, or wanted to take your career in another direction, you currently may or may not have the option of establishing your own commercial practice. In some states, your work must be done under the supervision of a registered architect or engineer. Registration will be optional for those who wish to work on code-regulated projects. For those who want to continue practicing Interior Design within its current legal definition there will be no change.

The registration of Interior Designers may not create any new regulations; it allows qualified professionals to increase their scope of practice and work within an already-regulated environment.

There will be multiple paths to achieving recognition, including a range of education and experience options as well as a grandfathering option and an architect’s options.

Interior Designers are trained to focus on the built environment that directly affects inhabitants’ health, safety and welfare. Services such as space planning, anthropomorphic design, material selection and lighting design require detailed knowledge of specific safety and universal access code requirements. Interior Design is currently the only profession pertaining to the built environment that is not tested and regulated in some states.

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**myth**

I work at a large commercial design firm where I do not need to stamp and sign any drawings, so the legal recognition of Interior Design does not directly affect me.

The legal recognition of Interior Design will put non-registered Interior Designers out of business.

The legal recognition of Interior Design creates more unnecessary regulations.

The registration process would make it more difficult for early career professionals and places additional burdens on those already practicing.

As long as the architects and engineers are licensed, the project is adequately protected.

**fact**

If you were to get laid off from your job, move to another state, or wanted to take your career in another direction, you currently may or may not have the option of establishing your own commercial practice. In some states, your work must be done under the supervision of a registered architect or engineer.

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#advocate interior design

For more information, contact advocacy@iida.org

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