

Why License Interior Design?

While the term “interior design” applies to a wide variety of work, interior designers trained and qualified to work a code-impacted environment are currently restricted from practicing to their fullest abilities. As **the only major participants in the construction industry that are not licensed**, these interior designers lack the ability to independently stamp and submit their work for building permits as required by the building code.

Expand Opportunities for Qualified Interior Designers

Voluntarily licensing provides those interior designers qualified by education, experience, and examination the ability to **stamp and seal** drawings as well as the right to **bid on state contracts**, and advance their careers through **professional partnership opportunities**. Further, it requires that licensed designers maintain **continuing education** – critical in this fast-advancing field – and it does this without affecting other existing areas of interior design practice.

Create New Business Opportunities

Regulation creates opportunities for small business owners. It **increases market competition** and opens access for interior designers to work independently, as they are qualified to do, in non-structural code-based built environments. Opening this door strengthens a state’s economic outlook by providing **more opportunities for businesses** and employees, creating jobs in interior design as well as affiliated wholesale and retail sales. Without regulation, architects are the only professionals with permitting authority over commercial interior design work, keeping competition and other qualified professionals and businesses from the market. Licensing allows designers to establish independent small businesses that offer a full scope of services, **hire workers, increase payrolls and contribute to the tax base**.

Provide Accountability for Consumers

It will safeguard the public by creating accountability – offering consumers **legal recourse** against negligent or unethical designers who violate the law. Consumers will know they’re working with qualified, responsible professionals utilizing the latest information regarding health, safety, and welfare and who have met **specific, nationally accepted standards** of minimum competency.

Licensing also provides clients the opportunity to work directly and exclusively with interior design professionals on code-based interior projects, **saving clients both time and money**.

What do Licensed Interior Designers Do?

Licensed interior designers are trained to create a space that is not only aesthetically pleasing, but is functional and safe.

Create Spaces that are Functional and Safe

In **emergency situations**, the decisions made by interior designers are critical in protecting life safety. Interior Designers are specially trained in interior materials, including **flammability and toxicity**, and are qualified to select interior finishes that comply with applicable fire codes. Proper paths for **egress, alarm systems, and exit lighting** are all addressed by interior designers.

When designing for the workplace, interior designers are trained to provide for **ergonomic work spaces** and a built environment that can lead to **increased productivity**. Interior designers are also responsible for designing interior spaces that **conform to ADA requirements**, providing barrier-free designs for the handicapped and other persons with special needs.

When designing a space in **hospitals** a qualified designer understands the relevant **safety codes** and practices necessary to design a safe, effective space. A qualified interior designer will know which type of products and finishes are flame retardant, **antibacterial and anti-microbial**; which products will withstand harsh cleansers and **strict sanitary protocols**; and which colors and types of lighting will **aid recovery and enhance healing**, or help a surgeon focus while operating.

Promote Sustainability and Green Design

Environmentally conscious design is an integral and growing part of an interior designer's work. Interior Designers are able to specify products that are **environmentally safe**, use **recycled materials**, and result from **clean manufacturing** processes. Interior designers also contribute to **energy efficiency** by maximizing the use of daylight, selecting high-efficacy and efficient lighting, and selecting ceiling, wall, and floor surfaces to reduce the number of fixtures required to illuminate a space. As more and more states adopt **green building codes**, interior designers are qualified to help a project meet these new requirements.