



The Importance of Reasonable Regulation of Interior Design

The unregulated practice of interior design presents at least a moderate risk of public harm. The involvement of other regulated design professionals or building codes and inspections may not be sufficient to mitigate potential hazard to public health, safety, and welfare.”]

— Virginia Board for Professional and Occupational Regulation Final Report to the General Assembly, December 2020

The practice of interior design is a profession separate and distinct from the practice of architecture and has an important role in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public within the built environment. Reasonable regulation of the profession of interior design is necessary and important to ensure public protection in code-regulated spaces and allow qualified practitioners to take responsibility for their own work.



The Importance of the Interior Design Profession:

- Interior designers are professionals who have acquired expertise, knowledge, and skills, through a combination of nationally recognized post-secondary education, practical experience, and examination requirements. Practitioners create commercial interior environments that meet the requirements of their clients and the law.
- Interior designers design and help construct communal spaces used by the public in large numbers like hotels, convention centers, hospitals, houses of worship, and more. They have extensive knowledge of and training in construction codes, standards, and regulations, and adhere to these in their work while paying strict attention to the importance of accessibility, functionality, and client health, safety, and welfare.
- Interior designers are responsible for providing a safe, functional, and accessible environment for their clients and meet this goal through attention, adherence, and focus on codes, standards, regulations, and accessibility laws.

Twenty-nine (29) U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico recognize, through state law, the practice of interior design. *However, several states don't regulate or recognize the profession or allow qualified practitioners to practice independently.*

Reasonable Regulation of the Interior Design Profession:

- **Protects public health, safety, and welfare** by requiring independent practitioners to be minimally competent for independent practice
- **Creates equality of entry into the design marketplace** by allowing NCIDQ Certified interior designers to practice independently and stamp and seal their own interior, nonstructural construction plans for permit.
- **Encourages lower construction costs and greater consumer choice** by eliminating fees associated with hiring another design professional to stamp nonstructural plans they didn't design, which are passed onto the consumer.
- **Promotes growth in interior design jobs, small businesses, and partner industries** by allowing a female-dominant profession to realize its fullest potential.



The Consortium for Interior Design supports reasonable regulation of the interior design profession through voluntary title registration and accompanying stamp and seal privileges. As qualified professionals with competency developed through education, experience, and examination, NCIDQ Certified interior designers can protect the public through independent practice and should be able to take responsibility for their own work and practice to the fullest extent of their professional capability. **This is achieved through enactment of legislation that:**

- Does not limit, restrict, or prevent the practice of any other design professional from practicing as they do today, including decorators, architects, and engineers.
- Conforms with administrative requirements and other norms of the individual state.
- Does not limit, restrict, or prevent anyone from using the title "interior design" or "interior designer."
- Allows state-qualified interior designers to use the title "registered," "certified," or "licensed" interior designer.
- Allows state-qualified interior designers to perform additional services related to the practice of interior design as applicable governing jurisdictions deem appropriate, primarily, the voluntary independent ability to stamp & seal construction documents for permit for nonstructural interior design elements.



Support reasonable interior design regulation.

About the Consortium for Interior Design

The Consortium for Interior Design is a collaborative advocacy effort by the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), the Council of Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ), and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). These organizations are committed to advocating for legal recognition and reasonable regulation of the interior design profession.



<http://www.consortiumforinteriordesign.org>