

INSIDE



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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SPRING 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members;

As the 2009 legislative session gets closer, the TAID board is continuing to prepare for the introduction of our Practice Act bill yet again. The members of our board are concentrating on ways to get the interior design legislative information to all the different groups we would like to inform and educate about our issues.

Just to refresh you on what those issues are and why interior designer's in Texas need a Practice Act:

1. Currently we have a Title Act, which regulates ONLY the use of the title, Interior Designer. Any one, with any level of knowledge can perform any interior design task.
2. Interior Designers in Texas are regulated by the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners (TBAE), which also regulates Architects and Landscape Architects. These other two professions, who design the built environment along with Interior Designers, have Practice Acts. This means they have to design within the guidelines set by the TBAE's rules and regulations to insure they are protecting the health and safety of the public who use the buildings or outdoor areas they design. We are trying to educate legislators that Interior Designers, when we are designing the interiors of these public spaces, should be held to the same level of knowledge and professionalism in order to protect the life safety of those who use the spaces.

The TAID board does need the help of the registered interior designers in Texas. One of the most crucial ways you can help us is to give us examples of how people who have not been educated on how to protect the health and safety of the public have actually endangered or potentially endangered the users of code regulated public spaces. Since interior designers do not currently have a Practice Act, there are not recorded incidents of a decorator or an interior designer being at fault for any health or safety issues in a code regulated building. Because without a Practice Act anyone can create space plans and specify products for code regulated spaces and not be held to any standards. If you have been on a job where you have corrected a design issue that caused problems in a building, or you caught a potential problem and corrected it before it was built, we need to know about this. We MUST have this information to give legislators this session. No problem you corrected is too small, examples could be: correcting wallcovering and its installation to get rid of a mold problem; changing flooring to avoid level changes or safer surfaces to walk on; specifying fabrics that meet fire codes. Please email any incidents you have come across to me at marilyn@supporttaid.org. It will definitely help us.

Marilyn Roberts

Marilyn Roberts

Texas Association for Interior Design, President

www.supporttaid.org

Visit our website for additional information

Executive Director News

We just recently sent out a postcard mailer to solicit funds for a much needed media campaign (see page 7). I have not been surprised to get calls from some saying they had no idea or they had not even heard of the lawsuit. I wish I could shout from the roof tops and get everyone's attention and hopefully they would listen.

Our legislation is in jeopardy!! If TBAE loses the lawsuit there will be no title act. The hearing is scheduled for December. Regardless of whether TBAE wins or loses the title act, we will be filing for a Practice Act during the legislative session. If our attempts fail, the interior designers will be left without anything in the state of Texas. Here are the facts:

- Our legislation is in jeopardy!!!
- If TBAE loses the lawsuit there will be no title act.
- The hearing is scheduled for December.
- Regardless of whether TBAE wins or loses the title act, we will be filing for a Practice Act during the legislative session. If our attempts fail, the interior designers will be left without anything in the state of Texas.

The intent of a Title Act is to distinguish those that wish to demonstrate to the public that they have the education and experience to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. There are many qualified people who chose not to register in 1991 when the Title Act was legislated. Some of those people now wish we didn't have a Title Act because they did not 'grandfather' at that time and they don't want to sit for the exam and they want to use the title. Others have all the education, experience and have even passed the NCIDQ exam, but they did not register because they saw no need as long as it was a Title Act. These are the facts, sad but true. So yes, some of our very own, talented designers are against us. It is very hard for some of us to understand. The first appointed interior designer to the TBAE board was Mary Ann Bryan. Mary Ann had taken the old exam because that was the exam of the day. However, when she was appointed to the TBAE board and NCIDQ was the requirement, she registered, and took the exam – she was in her early 60's at the time!! It is never too late, if you want to prove you are qualified.

What can you do to help?? You can volunteer in several ways –

- 1.) Do you know your legislator? If not, you can still talk to them and explain the differences in an interior designer and a decorator. If you don't want to speak with them alone, let us know and we will go with you. If you need some help in what to say, please see pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.
- 2.) Work on a legislator's campaign. They would love to have your help. You can educate them along the way.
- 3.) Join TAID – sponsor someone else and buy them a membership.
- 4.) Solicit your friends, industry partners and students to become members.
- 5.) Donate to the media campaign.
- 6.) Give us information that will help us – Please see Marilyn's letter on the cover.

If you care about this profession, what you cannot do is – sit around and be complacent!!! I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,



Donna Vining, FASID, IIDA, RID, CAPS

Spotlight on our Board Members

David Hildebrand, RID, RA

I am a Registered Interior Designer and a Registered Architect in Texas. I hold a Bachelor of Architecture Cum Laude degree from the University of Houston. In my practice I am involved primarily with healthcare projects, higher education and library projects, and corporate commercial projects. I strive to design interior spaces that complement the architecture and create experiences for the occupants that are spatially and aesthetically stimulating. I have been practicing for 28 years.

I had been a member of TAID, but was surprised to be asked to join the board, considering that I do not consider myself to be a political person. After being on the board for 3 years I am coming to realize that we are all political to some degree or another. In fact we as Interior Designers should all be more involved with protecting and furthering our profession. TAID is here to do just that. With the Title Act, Interior Design became an official profession not just a job. By becoming a profession we also accept the responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest standards in our work and to protect the health safety and welfare of our clients, the public. In order to fully accomplish this task; however, we need to go to the next level as a profession and obtain a Practice Act. This will provide the same level of law governing our profession as other professions have, which allows them to enforce requirements and work done by their members. Currently our Title Act only allows enforcement about the use of the title “Interior Designer” restricting its usage to those who have met education and testing requirements of the State. A Practice act would still enforce the use of the title but would also ensure that only those who have met the education and testing requirements could “practice” Interior Design in regulated spaces.

Why is this important? All of us spend most of our time in “regulated” spaces; basically buildings open to the public. It is important that they be designed and built to protect the public that is using them. Interior designers are trained to be knowledgeable about life safety, building codes and regulations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the types of project I am involved with, meeting and or exceeding these is imperative. If the design is done by someone unfamiliar with codes etc. the public using these facilities may be endangered. Space plans must be arranged so as not to trap people in dead end corridors etc. in the event of fire. Materials and finishes must be selected to meet flame and smoke requirements to avoid creating toxic smoke and fumes that might prevent evacuation. ADA requirements must be met so that anyone can readily have access to all parts of the building, regardless of whether they are employed there or are a member of the public using the facility.

Licensure and continuing education for Interior Designers will help ensure that the Interior Design Profession is fulfilling its obligation to the public to protect them while creating interior environments to enhance and enrich all our lives.

If you value your education and profession, please consider getting involved with TAID and your other professional organizations. We need your support.

David Hildebrand, RID, RA



Executive Director News

Why Should We Be Licensed?

Because we affect the health, safety and welfare of the public!!

Every decision an interior designer makes in one way or another affects the health, safety and welfare of the public. Those decisions include specifying furniture, fabrics and carpeting that meet or exceed fire codes and space planning that provides proper means of egress. Additionally, interior designers deal with accessibility issues, ergonomic, lighting, acoustics and design solutions for those with special needs.

Do you want to apply for permits? Your title act has that privilege.

Permitting Privileges – Used to describe the ability of a state-authorized design professional to submit his/her own stamped or sealed plans to a building code official for the purpose of issuing a permit to begin work on a project.

Do you want to compete as a registered design professional?

Registered Design Professional – As defined by the ICC International Codes, an individual who is registered or licensed to practice his/her respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the state or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed. As individual states adopt the ICC International Codes, it is important that states maintain this inclusive definition of “registered design professional” and that states’ interior design laws recognize interior designers as “registered design professionals.”

What issues do you deal with on a daily basis?

Accessibility

With 79 million people over the age of 35, and the number growing daily, there is an increasing need for universal design, i.e., designing interiors and products to be useable by people of all ages and all



Executive Director News

physical abilities. With knowledge of Americans with Disabilities codes, Interior Designers make the interiors of public spaces barrier free. Interior designers are also capable of adapting home environments to be barrier free for a person who is physically challenged.

Ergonomics

Ergonomics is a growing concern in the workplace. It is the obligation of qualified interior designers to design workspaces that are ergonomic and functional. Interior designers create ergonomic workspaces by providing adjustable chairs, tables and footrests. An environment that provides the occupant with that ability to adjust his or her space to his or her own needs can prevent problems such as repetitive motion strain. Interior designers know that the best posture is one that puts the least amount of stress on the body. Interior designers know that the best chair is the foundation for all other adjustments to your workstation. Interior designers know that often used items in a work area need to be within reach to avoid awkward body movements.

Fire Safety

Interior materials play a major part in supporting flames or toxicity. Statistics prove that more people die in fires as a result of inhaling toxic fumes and smoke than from the flames themselves. Architects are not always involved when interior furnishings and materials are selected. Many public and commercial spaces are finished by the interior designer long after the architect is no longer involved. Additionally, residences utilizing an interior designer seldom involve an architect. Interior designers are interior finishes that meet or exceed local, state and national fire codes.

Indoor Air Quality

Typically, we spend 90% of our time indoors... Indoor air quality on an average is nine times worse than outdoor air. Interior designers pay attention to details within their control that impact air quality standards of their clients by specifying furniture and fabrics manufactured without formaldehyde and by knowing the components in products such as adhesives used in carpeting and wall covering installations and by specifying those that are compliant with air quality standards

Special Needs of the Elderly

According to the National Safety Council, the leading cause of death in the home, falls, took the lives of 10,700 people in 1998. More than 86 percent of these people were 65 years old or older. Understanding environmental needs for the aging has become a special design imperative for this century. In the year 2000, people 65 years of age or older represented almost 13% of the population. This number is expected to grow to be 20% of the population by 2030. Interior designers are creating environments that focus on the special needs of seniors and prevent possibly fatal injuries by selecting safe furniture, adding railings and grab bars where necessary and specifying non-skid surfaces.



TBAE News

(TEXAS BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS)

Introducing TBAE's new Chair and Board members

As winter turned to spring, TBAE staff received several pieces of exciting news about the Board's membership and leadership.

Recently, Governor Perry announced his appointment of Alfred Vidaurri, Jr., AIA to lead the Board as Chair. Mr. Vidaurri has served as one of the Board's four architect members since August, 2004, and as Vice-Chair since January, 2006. Mr. Vidaurri received his bachelor's and his master's degrees in Architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington, and is now a principal with the multidisciplinary firm, Freese and Nichols, Inc., where he is a certified planner.

Ring the TBAE staff office with more news, the Governor's staff also announced the appointment of two new Board members. Charles H. (Chuck) Anastos, AIA and Brandon Pinson, from Corpus Christi and Midland respectively, each will serve until 2013 on the nine-member Board.



Mr. Anastos, Co-owner and President of the firm Chuck Anastos Associates, LLC, will replace outgoing architect member and Chair Gordon Landreth, FAIA. Mr. Anastos graduated high school in El Paso, and earned his degree in Architecture from Texas Tech University in 1979. Now in Corpus Christi, he leads his seven-person design firm as Principal architect.

Mr. Pinson will serve as one of the Board's three public members, replacing Janet Parnell of Canadian. Mr. Pinson is a sole practitioner attorney at his Midland law office. Born in Lubbock, Mr. Pinson grew up in Brownfield and earned his undergraduate degree from Angelo State University. In 1995, he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Tech University's School of Law.



Continuing Education



TAID's First Correspondence Course

Earn .3 CEPH today in your own home

Rules and Regulations for Interior Designers in Texas

Course #7463

The materials necessary will be sent to you within two weeks. You will take the class online via your computer. When finished, mail or fax in your answers and we will send you a certificate within two weeks of receipt of your completed questionnaire.

TAID will have more correspondence CEPH courses in the fall.

Send your name, address,
and check for \$65.00 to

TAID

11418 Hylander Drive
Houston, TX 77070

www.supporttaid.org



Remember...

When you complete your classes with TAID,
We track them for you; Your money stays in Texas; and
Your money goes to support your profession, not individuals.

FUTURE CEU DATES

DALLAS

June 6

Aug 1

Sept 19

Nov 7

All classes will be held at the
World Trade Center, Room 9065

Check our website for more details.

www.supporttaid.org

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Legislative Media Campaign

We do not know if you are aware of the lawsuit that has been filed here in Texas against the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners. On May 9, 2007, the Institute of Justice (a civil liberties law firm based in D.C.) filed a lawsuit on behalf of four people who are not registered as interior designers in Texas but are practicing interior design. For all the details and related documents visit www.ij.org. Click on 'cases' in the column on the left and then click on 'First Amendment' and scroll down to 'Texas Interior Design'.

We need to do everything we can to save our legislation. We need your help in educating Texans about the difference in a registered interior designer and a decorator.

We would like to do the largest media campaign we can afford and we need your help. We need money and/or contacts that could help us with this huge undertaking. You have spent a lot of time and money to become a registered interior designer, please make one more contribution to help us promote the profession. If each registered interior designer sends us a check for \$50.00 we believe we can make a difference. Obviously, we will accept any amount of donation.

If we do not get enough funds to launch a successful campaign, we will have to forego the idea. Please let us know if you want us to return your contribution or keep it to continue our work to protect our right to practice.





HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR DESIGN STAMP?

Especially for the Interior Design profession, exclusively from Texas Association for Interior Design.

TBAE Stamp

Stamp # **101** Rubber Stamp \$25.00
102 Self-Inking \$35.00

The Interior Design Rules & Regulations Handbook requires that the information on this stamp be provided to clients.

The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners
333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-350 PO Box 12337
Austin, TX 78701-3942 Austin, TX 78711-2337
Telephone (512) 305-9000
has jurisdiction over complaints regarding the professional practices of persons registered as interior designers in Texas.

Interior Designer Seal

Stamp # **201** Rubber Stamp \$28.00
202 Self-Inking \$38.50
203 Embosser \$42.00

***Non-TAID members add \$5.00 to the above figures

**NEW Design mandated by the State
EFFECTIVE January 1, 2006**

The Interior Design Rules & Regulations Handbook requires that the information on this stamp be provided to clients.



Name to be on Seal

TBAE certificate number

Drawing Stamp

Stamp # **301** Rubber Stamp \$20.00
302 Self-Inking \$35.00

ANY DRAWINGS OR SPECIFICATIONS
ARE FOR DESIGN INTENT ONLY.
THESE ARE NOT INTENDED FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING PURPOSES.

ORDER FORM

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Address: _____

Stamp #	Stamp	Cost	
101	Rubber Stamp	\$25.00	_____
102	Self-Inking	\$35.00	_____
201	Rubber Stamp	\$28.00	_____
202	Self-Inking	\$38.50	_____
203	Embosser	\$42.00	_____
301	Rubber Stamp	\$20.00	_____
302	Self-Inking	\$35.00	_____

Make all checks payable to **TAID**, and send check and this order form to:

TAID, 11418 Hylander Drive
Houston, Texas 77070

For additional information, call **281-257-3523**

Sub Total _____

Tax x 8.25 _____

***Non-TAID member \$5.00 _____

Shipping & Handling \$6.00 **\$6.00**

TOTAL

Not a member of TAID?

Simply fill out the short form below and remit \$75.00 for annual dues to participate in this important organization representing Texas interior designers.

Name _____ Business Name _____

Address/Phone & Fax # _____ Business Address, if different _____