

INTERIOR DESIGN FACT SHEET

WHO

Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Interior Designers

lsbid.org

The Board was originally created in 1984. In 1999 it was given the authority by the Louisiana Legislators to regulate the practice of Interior Design in code regulated spaces under its jurisdiction. It is self-supported and receives no funding from the State of Louisiana.

WHY

Why is the Interior Design profession regulated?

Interior Design is regulated by the Board in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. The Board accomplishes this mission by ensuring that those entering the professional practice of Interior Design meet and maintain the qualifications, standards and professionalism required to competently practice in Louisiana.

- All applicants must meet the minimum education, experience, and examination requirements before obtaining a registration with the State.
- Board must evaluate each application to ensure those minimum qualifications are met.
- Board requires Registered Interior Designers to take 5 hours per year of continuing education courses to maintain proficiency and competency in health, safety and welfare issues.

WHAT

What does an Interior Designer do that might affect you?

- Space planning ensures adequate size of fire exits; i.e. aisle ways to exits are wide enough for number of people, proper number of exits that are within distances allowed by fire code.
- Specify finishes appropriate to the space and code-compliance; i.e. flame and smoke spread, slip resistance, ease of maintenance, acoustical considerations, lighting requirements.
- Do you know why hospital bed curtains have net at the top? Inherently flameproof cubicle curtains with mesh allow sprinklers to function properly. Other hospital concerns include antimicrobial finishes and furniture adequate to meet the needs of patients served.
- Have you noticed that most hotels have wallcovering in the corridors? Hotels prefer it for durability but since the corridors lead to exits, that wallcovering has to be resistant to igniting and to creating smoke so that visitors are safe getting to the exits.
- Do you know someone or have you seen someone in a wheelchair try to maneuver within a space? There are design standards that make buildings accessible and help individuals with disabilities to more easily use the space.
- In planning a residence, every bedroom is required to have an operable window.
- Do you plan on growing old in your house? Allow for future grab bars in bathrooms by adding blocking in walls.
- Specify signage that is code compliant to meet the needs of the blind as well as provide ease of wayfinding for everyone
- Asthma is a very real problem. Something called VOC's are present in most finishes and can trigger asthma. Interior Designers have the knowledge and training to avoid VOC's and other environmental hazards in the built environment.