

DESIGNING FOR

IMPACT

SHAPING THE
FUTURE OF
INTERIOR DESIGN

SPRING 2017

Bill introduced that would tax interior design services. IIDA hosted 1st Ohio Capitol Day, advocated against the bill which was defeated!

FALL 2017

IIDA HQ and lobbyists approach IIDA OHKY with plan to push for Ohio legislation in upcoming legislative session. Grassroot efforts begin.

2018-2019

HB 504 for interior design licensure is introduced. It passes through committee, but efforts are ended when 'Heartbeat Bill' takes precedence in Senate.

2020

With a new legislative session, HB 402 is introduced. Unfortunately with the global pandemic, the bill was placed on hold and efforts ended.

2022

After a pause and reset from the pandemic, IIDA OHKY refines advocacy goals with intention of Ohio legislation in next 5 years. Chapter begins gathering information.

2024

Following momentum gain, IIDA OHKY engaged with former lobbyist and the Consortium for Interior Design. Chapter receives Consortium funding.

2025

Reengaged with former lobbyist and strengthened our relationship with adjacent ASID chapters

FUTURE

This depends on YOU!

INTERIOR DESIGN IN OHIO

LEGISLATOR TITLE, of district #, interior designers have impacted health, safety, and welfare through buildings in your community such as *building example, building example, and building example*. There are approximately # interior design firms within your district and despite their impact on the public, the profession of interior design is not regulated in the State of Ohio.

With 5 CIDA accredited colleges in Ohio with # students studying interior design as of Fall 2025, they are graduating in a state where they do not have the opportunity to fully practice their profession.

Accessibility



Interior designers must ensure accessories are mounted at accessible heights, doors have proper clearance for wheelchair access, and hardware is easy to operate. Grab bars, mirrors, and sinks should be installed to accommodate both wheelchair users and standing individuals. Corridors must remain clear and wide for safe navigation. These design considerations ensure accessibility and safety for all.

Egress



Designers must ensure that egress doors are equipped with panic hardware, allowing easy disengagement of locks during emergencies to prevent chaos and fatalities. Emergency egress paths must meet accessibility guidelines, leading to fire-rated exits and outdoor areas of minimum specified widths. Proper planning of these routes is crucial for safety, as issues with egress contribute to a significant percentage of fire-related fatalities. NCIDQ-certified designers are trained to implement these life-saving solutions effectively.

Life Safety



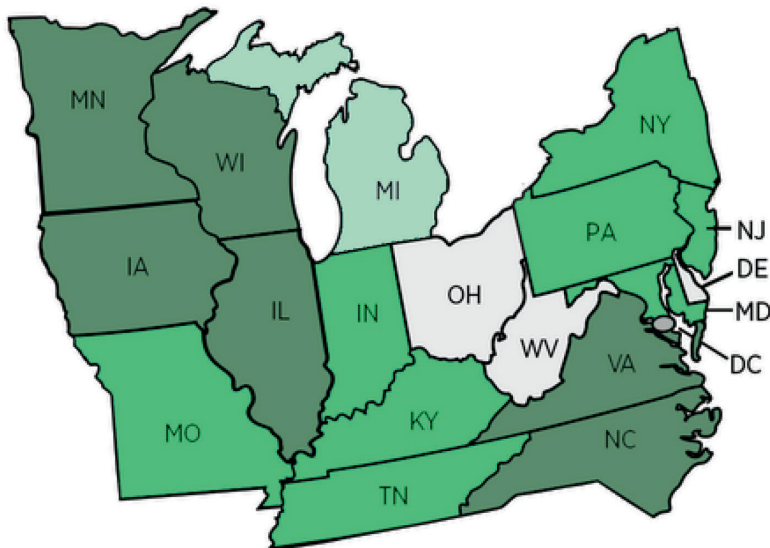
Designers must ensure proper placement of exit signs, fire alarms, and sprinkler heads to meet safety standards. Exit signs should guide occupants to exits efficiently, while fire alarms must cover all areas, including rooms and corridors, to alert in case of a fire. Sprinkler heads need to be placed correctly to ensure full coverage and avoid interference from construction elements. NCIDQ-certified designers are trained to implement these life safety measures to enhance safety during emergencies.

Materials



Designers must select flooring materials with appropriate slip resistance, durability, and cleanability to reduce the risk of slips and falls, a leading cause of injury. They use the coefficient of friction (COF) to choose materials that minimize these risks. Additionally, NCIDQ-certified designers prioritize healthful materials, considering factors like infection control, ease of cleaning, and durability, especially for high-touch surfaces that require frequent disinfection.





- Title Act with Permitting Privileges
- Title Act with No Permitting Privileges
- Actively Pursuing Regulation
- Practice Act with Permitting Privileges
- No Legislation; No Permitting Privileges

Advocacy Efforts

Since the early 2000's, interior designers of Ohio have been making the case for legal recognition for their profession. Most recently in 2020, grassroots efforts were put forth to introduce HB402, which was put on pause during the COVID 19 pandemic. In 2018-2019, HB504 was introduced and passed in committee, but ended when other bills took precedence in the Senate. In 2017 a bill was introduced that would place a tax on interior design services. This led the IIDA Ohio/Kentucky chapter to host their first ever Capitol Day to advocate against this bill, which was eventually defeated.

Ohio is surrounded by states that uphold reasonable regulation for NCIDQ certified interior designers, except for West Virginia and Michigan. However, Michigan is actively pursuing regulation. Over 50% of states across the country legally recognize the profession of interior design.

Advocating for the profession has been something that all interior designers have learned to do. When many people hear the term "interior designer" they probably think of someone who chooses finishes, selects color palettes, and arranges furniture. However, interior designers are so much more. While interior design is a wide spectrum of careers, there are a few key components that distinguish an interior designer from a decorator, and from an architect.

What does an Interior Designer do?

NCIDQ CERTIFIED INTERIOR DESIGNER

Selection, specification, planning, procurement and coordination of:

- Modular systems and movable partitions
- Furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF+E), specifications, bidding, and procurement services
- Interior finishes in compliance with applicable codes and regulations
- Graphics, wayfinding, and signage systems in compliance with applicable codes and regulations

INTERIOR DECORATOR

Selection and coordination of:

- Artwork, furniture, and decorative elements for the purposes of aesthetic and functional improvements to non-code-impacted interior environments
- Textile selection and design
- Color palette and color theory
- Functional space planning.
- Curation of fine art, decor & accessories
- Specification & design of window treatments.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

- Programming, planning, design, and project management of interior environments
- Design of non-structural/non-seismic interior partitions and openings
- Design of non-structural building elements
- Application of design strategies to support health, wellness, environmental sustainability, and human experience
- Development of construction documents
- Bidding, construction administration services, and post-occupancy evaluations

REGISTERED ARCHITECT

- Coordination with civil engineers to place building, structural systems, utilities, roadways, parking surfaces, walking paths, and plantings on site.
- Coordination with landscape architects and designers for building landscaping.
- Design of overall building in compliance with applicable codes and regulations.
- Design of core and shell of a building.
- Stamping drawings for permitting and bid purposes.

IIDA

OHIO
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chapter

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ADVOCATE