

safety, and welfare of the public. Therefore, lawmakers have insisted, in some cases, on practice legislation for their interior design laws. All practice acts require that the professional register with a state regulatory board. In most cases where practice legislation is enacted, professionals are also usually restricted from using a particular title until they have met specific qualifications outlined in the law.

Title acts are less restrictive than practice acts, because practice acts are based on the performance and ability of the registrant. Title acts define what professionals may call themselves. The most important reason for title acts is to enable the public to more readily identify those individuals who are qualified by law to use a certain title. This qualification ensures that the person has met the minimum standards required to provide competent services. These standards may or may not be set by education, experience, and examination. In states with title legislation, it is unlawful to use a title without first having met the qualifications as outlined in the state's laws. Title acts do not necessarily regulate who may partake or act in said profession; rather, they limit what practitioners may call themselves and how professional services are offered to the public. Any person who has not met the requirements for title registration set by the state may not represent or identify himself by title. Title acts require registration with the appropriate state regulatory board.

ADVOCACY

The interior design profession is represented by a number of professional organizations. This discussion will be limited to those that are the most actively involved in the legislative arena: the American Society of Interior Design (ASID) and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). These organizations have played major roles in state-to-state coalitions seeking legislation for interior design. Both organizations have government and regulatory affairs departments that dispense information to their members. Legislative activities in state-to-state and national legislation may affect the associations' membership and the way they practice and pursue legislative agendas.

It is the mission of professional organizations, not only in interior design but also in architecture, engineering, etc., to assure that their members retain the

right to practice and receive their fair share of the marketplace. Even so, both the ASID and the IIDA support legislative regulation of the interior design profession, not solely because of market share, but more importantly, to protect health and safety. Both the ASID and the IIDA have assisted state coalitions in establishing the interior designer's effect on such major concerns.

Along with the professional organizations, other collateral organizations contribute to the efforts of interior designers to shape legislation to regulate the profession. These organizations do not operate in such a direct manner, but certainly their efforts are of no less importance. One such organization is the Foundation for Interior Design Education and Research (FIDER). The FIDER accredits undergraduate programs in interior design, for the sole purpose of ensuring the highest quality of interior design education. A FIDER-accredited degree is not a requirement for registration in all states regulating the practice of interior design; however, it is recognized as the definitive accreditation in many states with regulatory legislation.

Another collateral organization that is not involved in the actual legislative process is the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). The NCIDQ is involved in the examination process. Its membership is comprised of the state and provincial agencies which regulate interior design. In all of the states and jurisdictions with legislation, interior designers must successfully pass the NCIDQ examination if they are to be registered as interior designers by the state. The NCIDQ is also responsible for, and maintains, the Model Language available for states to use when they draft new legislation.

MODEL LANGUAGE FOR LEGISLATION REGULATING THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSION

Model Language for Interior Designers is, as the title indicates, a model that states may or may not choose to follow when they decide to draft legislation regulating the interior design profession. The Model Language is a living document, meaning that it is constantly changing and evolving along with the profession itself. The Model Language is domiciled at the headquarters of the NCIDQ in Washington, D.C., and pertains only to the registration of interior designers. The Model Language is helpful in the effort to create a