
EXAMINATION

In 1974, the NCIDQ was founded with the goal of protecting the public by identifying interior design practitioners competent to practice by administering a minimum competency examination for interior designers. It is the major credentialing agency for the interior design profession in the United States and Canada. The NCIDQ offers a comprehensive examination that states use for licensure and professional certification of interior designers.

The NCIDQ requires that candidates who sit for their examination meet an education requirement of at least two years in a formal interior design program of study and that they have at least four years of full-time work experience in the field of interior design practice. The NCIDQ examination measures minimum competency in the practice of interior design. It is the only interior design examination developed and administered in the United States and Canada by an agency that is independent of other interior design organizations. Since this examination is used by regulatory boards as a criteria for registration, and since regulation is based on protection of health, safety, and welfare, it is vital that this examination not be influenced by organizations within the profession, whose primary agendas focus on practice and market share for members, not safety and welfare issues for the public. Without outside voices, the examination might become biased. The NCIDQ continually changes and updates its examination and its procedure for administering the examination.

REGULATORY BOARDS

Another goal of the NCIDQ has been to establish a council of regulatory boards of interior design. This council is known as the *Council of Delegates* and, today, there are 16 regulatory boards represented on the council. Whenever state legislatures pass legislation that regulates a profession, there must be a state regulatory board to oversee the profession. In some states where interior design regulations are in effect, there are independent regulatory boards to oversee interior designers; in other states, the regulatory board

may be comprised of many design disciplines, such as architects, engineers, and interior designers. Regardless of the structure, the duties and responsibilities of regulatory boards are much the same.

According to state statute, boards register, license, or certify interior designers, and they maintain rosters of those persons who are registered, licensed, or certified for the purpose of identifying them. Regulatory boards have the power to discipline those registrants, licensees, or certified professionals who do not protect the health and safety of the public or who fail to adhere to the performance standards required of their profession. Regulatory boards may set and adopt Rules of Conduct for practitioners. Most regulatory boards are composed of practitioners of the represented profession or professions and one or more public members. The regulatory board is the venue through which the public can register complaints that a registrant, licensee, or certified professional has harmed someone's health and safety. The members of a state regulatory board are responsible for upholding the statutes governing the profession for which the board is formed.

REGULATION IN LIGHT OF THE WAY DESIGN PROFESSIONALS PRACTICE

In 1904, Elsie de Wolfe

In 1904, Elsie de Wolfe began a career in what we now refer to as interior design in America. Nearly a century later, it is doubtful Ms. de Wolfe would recognize the profession that she created. It was not until after World War II that the face of the building landscape began to change dramatically in the United States. The changes occurred with the onset of curtain-wall construction, suspended ceilings, and central building systems, which allowed for environmental control, and changes in construction methods. The changes to construction methods led to larger contiguous areas of interior real estate and the introduction of open office planning concepts. These events, along with the formation of large-scale corporations brought on by the postwar boom, all laid the groundwork for the interior design field and its responsibilities.

Today, interior designers are hired to complete tasks as varied as programming new or reused facilities and planning spatial layouts for large and small