

*To date, interior design has not been adequately acknowledged as a profession that requires a distinct set of core competencies that extend well beyond simple decoration; nor has the broad social and economic impact of the profession been recognized.*

statutory regulatory scheme, but who may otherwise, through dishonest activities, put the welfare of the public in jeopardy. And while ethics are important to any profession, they cannot be legislated. Although regulatory boards may adopt a profession's ethics code, or establish a code of its own, it is the responsibility of the profession to establish and maintain its own standards of ethical conduct.

---

## TEAM ASSEMBLY

---

Interior designers work with a variety of different professionals, from architects and engineers to contractors and art consultants. In the built environment, interior designers most likely deal with the largest amount of differing consultants. For instance, on a large architectural project, an architect's team may consist of the architect, structural, civil, electrical and mechanical engineers, interior designer, and landscape architect. Similarly, depending on the size and complexity of the project, an interior designer's team may be comprised of the interior designer and lighting, acoustical, furniture, art, interior plantscaping, window covering, and furniture consultants. Regardless of the numbers or types of professionals on a project team, the interior designer must possess the ability to communicate with each one on a knowledgeable level and guide the project to conclusion. With the complexity of interior design today, no designer can effectively be a one-person show. Design professionals must rely on the expertise of other professionals, yet all of them must function as integral parts of the team.

Due to the onset of interior design legislation, it has become even more critical that interior designers are aware of how best to assemble a project team. Interior designers are now called upon more and more not only to participate in the design team but also to convene, control, and lead the team. In states with interior design legislation that allows for collaboration with other design professionals, the interior designer may serve as lead professional or professional of record. In some instances, the interior designer may be the lead, with the architect as consultant.