

Interior Design: Credentials and Certification as an
Alternative to Legislation

by

Catherine Pliess

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Graduate Supervisory Committee:

Diane Bender, Chair
Michael Kroelinger
Katherine Crewe

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ABSTRACT

There is a conflict in the profession of interior design over regulation through legislation. For some organizations and individuals, regulation via legislation is the next perceived step in the professionalization process which has been evolving for over 40 years and is needed to protect the health, safety and welfare (HSW) of the public. For other organizations and individuals, legislation is deemed unnecessary and an affront to the free trade market and serves only to create anti-competitive barriers resulting in the formation of a “design cartel” (Campo-Flores, 2011; Carpenter, 2007).

Research exists on the professionalization of interior design and on the reasons stated for and against legislation (ASID, 2010, Anderson, Honey, Dudek, 2007, Martin, 2008). However, there is little research on understanding how the actual stake-holders view legislation. For the purpose of this research, the stake-holders are the professional interior designers themselves.

The purpose of this study was to examine the current status of relevant issues to the subject of regulation in interior design and to pose the question if there is an option to legislation. If so, could third party certification be an acceptable alternative?

An on-line survey was developed and posted on interior design networking sites on LinkedIn. The results of the survey suggest that interior designers are completely divided on the issue of legislation but favorably view certification. The survey has also revealed the lack of understanding of the legislative process in interior design and confusion in the role that interior design

organizations play. The study has also revealed that interior designers identify the distorted view the public has of this industry as a problem. Interior designers surveyed in this study see a need to separate commercial and residential interior design. Overall, this study has concluded that interior designers would actually prefer a certification process to legislation.

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Scope of the study

The scope of this study will be limited to participants who have identified themselves as being professional interior designers. The study will identify demographics of the responding interior designers and their opinions on legislation and certification in the profession of interior design. This study will not be looking at the opinions of the general public. For this study the stake-holders will be defined as professional interior designers.

Purpose of the study

Presently, 27 states have some form of interior design legislation in place or pending (ASID, 2011; IIDA, 2011). Several states which have legislation also have pending lawsuits challenging what is currently in place. There is no national standard or unified form of legislation. There is no single accepted nomenclature. The public is often confused by this conflict as the definition of interior design and interior decoration is not clearly identified. There are many issues which also cloud the view from both sides.

As this study will show, although there has been much research on the progression of the interior design profession, there is little research on what the actual stake-holders really desire. The interior design profession has over 112,000 designers who practice in the industry in one form or another and the economic impact is over \$50 billion (CIDA, 2007). The question of legislation is

important because of the magnitude of the industry and the amount of the designers currently in practice.

The purpose of this study is to reveal current professional perspectives on the issue of regulation through legislation in the context of existing research on the evolution of the profession of interior design. Regulating the profession of interior design is essentially occupational licensing. Although occupational licensing has worked in some professions such as, electrical workers, plumbing, and nursing there seem to be many inconsistent issues surrounding the perceived need for legislation in interior design (Gellhorn, 1976; Kliener, 2000; Kleiner & Krueger, 2008; Carpenter, 2007). Because self certification has worked for several other occupations such as those in the areas of computers, health and management it could be a valid alternative for the profession of interior design (Carter, 2005). The intention of this study is to begin a dialogue among interior designers that may lead to an alternative to the strategy of legislation which could present a more widely accepted and publically recognized credential. This alternative could be more easily understood by the public and may help unify and strengthen the profession.

Research Questions

This study was designed to answer the following research questions:

1. Would members of the interior design profession accept a voluntary third party certification as an alternative to occupational licensing?
2. How do interior designers feel about this issue?

3. Does holding recognized interior design credentials predict how interior designers feel about legislation?

Definition of Terms

To begin to answer these questions, a selection of terms is defined here for clarity. Although there are many sources to consult for a formal definition of interior design, including the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) and the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ), they are captive to their own means for writing a definition that would best serve their own causes. For a contrast in definitions, the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS, 2011) uses the following definitions along with their classification number for the professions listed. These are the descriptions currently embraced by the government and are not suspect to their own concept of the terms. The United States (U. S.) Census Bureau has developed this classification jointly with Canada, and Mexico to provide new comparability in statistics about business activity across North America. The NAICS uses the following definitions on its website:

1. 541410: Interior Design Services

This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in planning, designing, and administering projects in interior spaces to meet the physical and aesthetic needs of people using them, taking into consideration building

codes, health and safety regulations, traffic patterns and floor planning, mechanical and electrical needs, and interior fittings and furniture. Interior designers and interior design consultants work in areas, such as hospitality design, health care design, institutional design, commercial and corporate design, and residential design. This industry also includes interior decorating consultants engaged exclusively in providing aesthetic services associated with interior spaces (NAICS, 2011, <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch?code=541410>).

2. 541310: Architectural Services

This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in planning and designing residential, institutional, leisure, commercial, and industrial buildings and structures by applying knowledge of design, construction procedures, zoning regulations, building codes, and building materials (NAICS, 2011, <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch>).

It is remarkable to notice the difference in length of the descriptions, and also to note that the last sentence in the description of interior design leaves a space for decorating consultants. This illustrates the fact that the government does not see a need to classify decorating as its own service, rather as a branch of interior design. The NAICS also does not have a separate description for interior architects, suggesting that this term is not recognized.

Other terms which will be used in this study include:

1. *Title act*: Sets standards for the use of a certain title but does not prevent anyone from practicing interior design. This requires registration or certification on the part of the professional.
2. *Practice act*: Requires that professionals obtain a state license to offer interior design services.
3. *Self-certification*: Currently in California only, this regulates the title of "certified interior designer". There is no state-run or state accountable board.
4. *Certification credentials*: An external, independent, non-governmental organization or group involved in creating and developing rules and compliance methods and measures for a particular industry. Affiliation credentials are then assigned to members who have fulfilled the certification requirement.
5. *Permitting statute*: Currently in Colorado only, there is no title and no state-run board. This is really an amendment to an architectural statute which added a clause for interior designers who have met the education, experience and examination requirements to submit plans (ASID, 2011).
6. *Legislation*: The exercise of the power and function of making rules that have the force of authority by virtue of their state or jurisdiction
7. *Occupational licensing*: Licensing is a process by which an agency of government grants permission to an individual to engage in a given occupation upon finding that the applicant has attained the minimal degree of competency required to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public (Guy, 1989).

Relevance of the study

The profession of interior design focuses on improving the human condition, whether that is by helping a family make better use of their residential space, researching material selection which will have a positive effect on persons with special needs, or applying building codes to the planning of commercial space. The profession has the ability to make a meaningful positive impact on the human condition. As Lucinda Havenhand (2004) so eloquently suggests, the

direction the profession could take is to “focus on the intimate movements, needs, and emotional concerns of the users of interior space, as individuals and in connection with others” (p. 40).

From a business perspective, interior design is a vast industry. *Interior Design* magazine reports that spending on furniture, fixtures and finishes by the top 100 design firms in 2008 topped \$58.4 billion (ASID, 2010). There is not a general consensus as to how many interior design practitioners there actually are, as there are conflicting data. ASID states that interior designers held about 73,000 jobs in 2008 (ASID, 2010). NAICS claims there was 72,000 jobs in 2006 (NAICS, 2006) and Dun & Bradstreet estimates that there are approximately 112,965 jobs (CIDA, 2006). NAICS also states that twenty-six percent of these interior designers were self-employed and 13 percent worked in specialized design services. The rest of the interior designers provided design services in architectural and landscape architectural services, furniture and home-furnishing stores, building material and supplies dealers, and residential building construction companies. In 2009, there were 41,264 businesses in the U.S. that offered some type of interior design business (ASID, 2010). Many interior designers also performed freelance work in addition to holding a salaried job in interior design or another occupation. The NAICS completes studies on employment statistics every five years. The last was completed in 2007, with a new study to be released in 2012 (NAICS, 2011).

The title “interior designer” does not differentiate a designer who may hold a Masters degree from someone with less formal training. This is a likely source of confusion in the public’s perception of the field. To show a difference in

education level and to ensure minimum competences, certification and legislation is requested by many in the industry. The National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) has set a clear definition (NCIDQ, 2011) and the two day exam that they administer has become the benchmark of an educated and experienced professional with acceptable minimum competencies. It is not surprising that many in the industry are pushing for some form of legislation for interior design. However, both the public and the profession need to understand what is involved in occupational licensing and how this will affect them. The profession can benefit by having a better understanding of what its own members prefer in regards to certification and legislation.

Chapter 2

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The evolution of the profession

Traditionally, architects were responsible for the structure and interior of commercial and residential spaces in the 17th century. They hired artists, craftspeople, and wood-workers to fabricate interior furnishings and decorative elements; everything was made or commissioned for clients, who were usually very wealthy and powerful (Binggeli, 2007). Mass production in the twentieth century brought products and furnishings created and available for the everyday consumer. Post World War II saw the growth of advertising for residential interior products, these advertisements often focused on women as the keeper and tastemaker of the home. The interior planning associated with this lifestyle was clearly the role of women (Simmons, 2010). This was the first time that services were being provided to financially average people, which expanded the client base beyond the upper socio-economic class. More people were able to afford products and they wanted and needed help applying and arranging them for their home. Interior decoration was viewed as an acceptable career for women because they were currently maintaining the home on a regular basis.

Soon, formalized training was offered. As the profession evolved and professional associations formed, interior designers and interior decorators became two distinct professions (Guerin & Martin, 2004; Martin, 2008). Interior design became known for providing services primarily to commercial interiors and for its space planning activities. According to Binggeli (2007),

“Practitioners of the new profession of interior design relied more on their design education and less on matters of taste. As businesses realized the value of good interior design for productivity and profit, interior designers became an important force in the field of commercial design” (p. 8).

By the 1970s, interior design was recognized as a specialization for architects and as a profession of its own (Binggeli, 2007; Guerin & Martin, 2004). Architects were designing large office buildings but leaving the tenant spaces to be designed by the occupants. This created a need for a design professional able to meet these needs (Whitney, 2008).

A balance in understanding the importance of both professions could serve many issues. The complex phenomenon in today’s society would benefit from joint efforts in such issues as aging in place, universal design, sustainability, and increased security methods to better meet the needs of end users. The shift in thinking is to have all the design fields work together and focus on problem solving. Interior designers can play a critical role in improving the condition of these problems through research, implementation and shared design methods.

Some have questioned whether interior design is a genuine profession. Guerin and Martin (2004) completed a study using Abbott’s Theory of Professionalization, a measure that seeks to determine if a field is indeed a profession. The measure of a profession, according to Abbott, includes six internal actions to establish professionalization. They include establishment of a professional organization, change of a name’s practice, establishment of a code of conduct and ethics, engagement in legislative activities, establishment of

educational requirements, and establishment of examination requirements (Abbott, 1988).

Guerin and Martin (2004) applied the theory to architecture, interior design, and interior decoration and found that architecture had completed all requirements and in fact, was a profession. Although interior design is a much younger profession, Guerin and Martin (2004) assert that interior design has accomplished these actions. Legislation is also the next perceived step in the quest for professional status of this profession by many industry insiders (Anderson, Honey, & Dudek, 2007; Chaney, 2007). Yet, interior designers are still trying to receive legal recognition nationally. By contrast, interior decoration has only completed two internal actions in Abbott's theory, has no examination, has no enforced code of conduct, and has not taken any steps toward legal recognition. This demonstrates that there are similarities between the route of professionalization of interior design and architecture. It also highlights the considerable gap between the professional legitimacy of interior design and interior decoration.

However, there are other views within the profession which do not feel that interior design has met the definition of a profession. Some feel that professions should provide self-regulation with focus on ethical practice and to provide a public good (Anderson, Dudek & Honey, 2007; Havenhand, 2004). Other designers feel that the essence of interior design is to embody the joy and beauty of interior design for the sake of esthetics (Hill & Matthews, 2007). While both views make compelling arguments, this manifests conflicting opinions and division within the profession.

Interior design as a profession is still relatively new, but it is a profession, as per Abbott's Theory of Professionalization. It should be noted that interior decoration has not gone through these steps and this is largely where the division begins. Many interior designers do offer decoration as part of their service, but interior decorators do not offer the design services which require greater technical skill such as evidence based design solutions, space planning, millwork design or lighting design consultation.

Interior Design vs. Interior Decoration

The profession of interior design is in the process of trying to separate itself from the title of interior decoration (Martin, 2004). This will not be a simple task because the profession of interior design has its roots in decoration. According to Piotrowski (2004), interior design has evolved from decoration and was once more aesthetically driven. Yet, there are differences between interior design and decoration. Piotrowski further asserts that the primary difference between an interior designer and an interior decorator is that an interior designer is trained by education to perform many other services than just decoration, but an interior designer may perform some decorative services.

Some have suggested renaming interior design to interior architecture to compensate for this lack of distinction from interior decoration (White, 2009). To some, this will elevate the profession and give a more accurate depiction of the services and tasks performed by an interior designer and to help to show the public it is not the same as decoration. This has been the topic of discussion at several Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) conferences (White, 2009;

unknown, 2008). The American Institute of Architects (AIA) does not support this overlapping of title usage. In *The Gaps Between Interior Design and Architecture*, Henry Hildebrandt (2004) points out that “Architecture, interior architecture and interior design are now subsets together with graphic, industrial, landscape design, and so on—of an activity focused to solving problems for individuals and their collective societies to house, enhance, and prepare for a better future” (Hildenbrandt, 2004). He further explains that interior architecture is itself not separate from the overall architecture of the building and that interior design is grounded more in added assemblies. The interior architecture can be part of the overall concept and, in some cases, part of the structure of the building. In that instance, the interior brings the exterior architectural design inside and they are no longer separate concepts. It is the viewpoint of Hildebrandt (2004), that architecture is an expression of the culture and technology of the time in which a structure is designed and built. An interior designer may add ornamentation which could be perceived as interior architecture, but that would be an incorrect use of the term.

Whitney (2008) pointed out that at the start of the 20th century, architects were busy focusing on building structures but left the interiors to be developed by the tenants. This created a need for a new breed of designer. This task required a more highly trained profession than decoration. This field expanded rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s. The recession in the 1970s found architects reclaiming this area of design. Whitney further remarks that it was out of this reclaiming of the interiors by the architects which caused the building officials to require drawings to be stamped by engineers and architects, thus

curtailing a professional practice which interior designers had been doing since 1950 (p. 230-232).

Interior design and architecture could focus on sharing research and improving user conditions in general. Ed Mazria (2008) of architecture 2030 identifies "an awakening of the profession" of architecture and suggests a critical role for interior designers to work with architects to reduce consumption of energy and materials.

With a focus on what could be the goal of interior design, to improve a condition for the end user, the question of title bears little significance. While both professions use similar methodologies and share a common core of knowledge, they are separate professions and the inter-changing of these titles could only further confuse the public as to what is the profession of interior design. Where there can be reciprocity between the professions of interior design and architecture, there is often animosity.

In the process of obtaining a credential in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a call to understand the collaboration of design and construction involves identifying the project members. The professionals include architect, engineer, landscape architect, contractor, facility manager, commissioning authority, owner and end user. Nowhere in that equation is the profession of interior design mentioned (Cottrell, 2010).

Public Perception

Interior design could seek its own individuality. In 2004, the NCIDQ (2011) released an official definition that sought to identify the uniqueness of the profession:

“Interior design is a multi-faceted profession in which creative and technical solutions are applied within a structure to achieve a built interior environment. These solutions are functional, enhance the quality of life and culture of the occupants, and are aesthetically attractive. Designs are created in response to and coordinated with the building shell, and acknowledge the physical location and social context of the project. Designs must adhere to code and regulatory requirements, and encourage the principles of environmental sustainability. The interior design process follows a systematic and coordinated methodology, including research, analysis and integration of knowledge into the creative process, whereby the needs and resources of the client are satisfied to produce an interior space that fulfills the project goals. Interior design includes a scope of services performed by a professional design practitioner, qualified by means of education, experience, and examination, to protect and enhance the life, health, safety and welfare of the public” (NCIDQ, 2011, <http://www.ncidq.org/AboutUs/AboutInteriorDesign/DefinitionofInteriorDesign.aspx>).

Although this is an all-encompassing definition, it is not likely that the public will easily understand it. The public perception is there is no difference between an interior designer and an interior decorator. This dismisses the regard to any possible public safety at stake, or the education required to practice interior design on a professional level. Television shows such as those on the Home and Garden Network (HGTV) do nothing to help educate the public about the differences between the two professions (Ginthner, Guerin, & Martin, 2000; Birdsong & Lawlor, 2001; Waxman & Clemons, 2007).

HGTV has done much for the advertising of residential interior decorating and for promoting products, but has not presented interior design honestly to the public (Waxman & Clemons, 2007). People are often referred to on shows as interior designers when they are actually interior decorators, or even hair dressers with "a flair". On one show on HGTV, contestants with little or no formal education compete for the title of Top Designer, and when the loser is to be kicked off the show that week, they say "good bye, decorator". Credentials are very rarely referenced. Attitudes like this could contribute to making interior decorator an almost negative term. This also does not help the public to understand credentials help by professional interior designers. Other programs on HGTV, Do-It-Yourself (DIY) and The Learning Channel (TLC) are focused on presenting a simple design problem, and then solving it start to finish in thirty minutes for \$1,000.00. This could have the effect of disconnecting the public from the design process and present design as being purely a matter of taste. It has also suggested to homeowners that they can and should be able to complete complex residential projects themselves. This may lead the public to believe that

interior design is not really work, and therefore not really a profession.

Commercial work is not represented on these channels, causing the generally residential perception of interior design.

Gender based issues

Because the public may perceive interior design as being primarily in the residential realm, it is logically categorized as women's work because 80% of all interior designers are female (ASID, 2010). The female dominated field of interior design is often seen as inferior and subservient to the male dominated field of architecture (Turpin, 2007). Media does often portray women shopping for furniture and home items, leading the public to believe this is somehow something that most women enjoy. From a feminist perspective, the history of interior design should acknowledge the women in design and architecture who have helped to shape the industry to where it is today. In fact, recognizing more women who have shaped this field will help to eradicate the perception of the industry being more related to decoration than its present day position (Turpin, 2007).

By failing to see the field of interior design which is dominated by women as equal to architecture, which is a male dominated field, the gender based discrimination in design may be perpetuated. Gender influences may also be generational as well, as the field of architecture has a growing female population (Ahrentzen & Anthony, 1993). Clearly, interior design and interior decoration have both given a voice to women in business. This commonality may be worth embracing.

Creating a unified voice

It is possible that it would be a great benefit to the industry if its two prominent professional organizations, ASID and IIDA, would merge (Chaney, 2007; IDEC, 2009). This is important because the profession of interior design could be much improved with a unification of various design organizations. In a letter to the members of IDEC, the then President, Jill Pable, discussed this issue and publically informed both boards of ASID and IIDA of the IDEC educator perspective. A survey of its members found that 85% of the respondents felt this was an important issue and 81.8% supported the merging of the two organizations (IDEC, 2009). Ultimately they have shared goals and could focus on issues that could benefit the public. It is feasible that, if there were an alternative to legislation, more interior designers and other organizations would be willing to combine efforts for important research and HSW issues. The existence of interior design as a profession is relatively short and it is possible self certification should be the next step rather than legislation. Self certification coupled with a strong public relations campaign could better inform the public to understand the difference between the levels of knowledge held by interior designers versus interior decorators (Chaney, 2007).

Why Legislation?

The driving issue behind the movement for interior design legislation, from the perspective of the supporting professional organizations, is the need to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, the need to distinguish

interior design from interior decoration, and it is the last step in the process of professionalization (Guerin & Martin, 2004).

As the profession of interior design has progressed, the technical challenges required to protect the public and to design the interior built environment have progressed as well. The profession is more technical than the public may perceive it to be. An interior designer needs to have knowledge of several industries and to combine them to create not only a habitable space, but also one that reflects the culture of the users while adhering to local and federal codes (CIDA, 2011). Design research is also an area of study which has grown out of this profession. Issues such as aging in place, universal design and sustainability are relatively new social conditions which interior design is also addressing (CIDA, 2006; CIDA, 2011).

The accepted path to professionalism in interior design can be thought of as the three E's of education, experience and examination (ASID, 2011; NCIDQ, 2011). The exam portion is accomplished through third party certification, the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). To be eligible to take the exam, an individual must have a combination of either two years of education and four years of experience or four years of education and two years of experience (NCIDQ, 2011). The experience must be completed under the supervision of a NCIDQ certificate holder. This exam is a key to legislation, as the passing of this exam is one of the conditions for individual approval of registration in all the states which currently have legislation with the exception of California (ASID, 2011; IIDA, 2011).

Current Legislative Position

Currently, there are several types of proposed and enacted legislation in the profession of interior design. This is mostly in the form of both a title act and a practice act. In some states which previously had title acts, they later became practice acts (see Table 1). There is also one state with a permitting statute and one state with self-certification. As shown in Figure 1, there is no consistency among the 50 states (IIDA, 2011,). The pursuit for or against legislation is motivated by many different reasons and by multiple organizations. There has also been press coverage which has tried to present the goal of legislation as a frivolous one (Neily, 2008, Carpenter, 2007).

Table 1: *ID laws matrix*

	State	Type of Law	Year Passed	Regulated Title
1.	Alabama	Title	Title Law: 1982 Practice: 2001	"Interior Designer"/"Registered Interior Designer"
2.	Arkansas	Title	1993, amended 1997	"Registered Interior Designer"
3.	California	Self-Certification	1990, amended 1991	"Certified Interior Designer"
4.	Colorado	Permitting Statute	2001	
5.	Connecticut	Title	1983, amended 1987	"Interior Designer"
6.	Florida	Title / Practice	Title Law: 1988, amended 1989 Practice: 1994	"Interior Designer"
7.	Georgia	Title	Title Law: 1992, amended 1994	"Registered Interior Designer"
8.	Illinois	Title	Title Law: 1990, amended 1994, 2008	"Registered Interior Designer"
9.	Indiana	Title	Title Law: 2009	"Registered Interior Designer"
10	Iowa	Title	Title Law: 2005	"Registered Interior Designer"
11	Kentucky	Title	Title Law: 2002	"Certified Interior Designer"
12	Louisiana	Title / Practice	Title Law: 1984, amended 1990, 1995, 1997 Practice: 1999	"Registered Interior Designer" and "Interior Designer"
13	Maine	Title	Title Law: 1993	"Certified Interior Designer"
14	Maryland	Title	Title Law: 1991, amended 1997, 2002	"Certified Interior Designer"

15	Minnesota	Title	Title Law: 1993, amended 1995	"Certified Interior Designer"
16	Missouri	Title	Title Law: 1998	"Registered Interior Designer"
17	Nevada	Title / Practice	1995	"Registered Interior Designer"
18	New Jersey	Title	Title Law: 2002	"Certified Interior Designer"
19	New Mexico	Title	Title Law: 1989	"Licensed Interior Designer" and "Licensed Designer"
20	New York	Title	Title Law: 1990	"Certified Interior Designer"
21	Oklahoma	Title	Title Law: 2006; amended 2009	"Registered Interior Designer"
22	Puerto Rico	Title / Practice	Title Law: 1973, amended 1976	"Interior Designer"
23	Tennessee	Title	Title Law: 1991, amended, 1995, 1997	"Registered Interior Designer"
24	Texas	Title	Title Law: 1991; amended 2009	"Registered Interior Designer"
25	Virginia	Title	Title Law: 1990, amended 1994	"Certified Interior Designer"
26	Washington, DC	Title / Practice	1986	"Interior Designer"
27	Wisconsin	Title	Title Law: 1996	"Wisconsin Registered Interior Designer"

Table 2: *ID List of titles (IIDA, 2011)*



United States Interior Design Laws - Protected Titles

Alabama*	"Interior Designer"/"Registered Interior Designer"	Missouri	"Registered Interior Designer"
Arkansas	"Registered Interior Designer"	Minnesota	"Certified Interior Designer"
California	"Certified Interior Designer"	Nevada*	"Registered Interior Designer"
Connecticut**	"Interior Designer"	New Jersey	"Certified Interior Designer"
Florida*	"Interior Designer"	New Mexico	"Licensed Interior Designer" and "Licensed Designer"
Georgia	"Registered Interior Designer"	New York	"Certified Interior Designer"
Illinois	"Registered Interior Designer"	Oklahoma	"Registered Interior Designer"
Indiana	"Registered Interior Designer"	Puerto Rico*	"Interior Designer"
Iowa	"Registered Interior Designer"	Tennessee	"Registered Interior Designer"
Kentucky	"Certified Interior Designer"	Texas	"Registered Interior Designer"
Louisiana*	"Registered Interior Designer" and "Interior Designer"	Virginia	"Certified Interior Designer"
Maine	"Certified Interior Designer"	Washington, DC*	"Interior Designer"
Maryland	"Certified Interior Designer"	Wisconsin	"Wisconsin Registered Interior Designer"

* Indicates a state which has had a Practice Act

** The Connecticut General Assembly is currently reviewing a bill to change the title to "Registered Interior Designer"

At the time of this research, 27 states have some form of legislation in place or pending. Several states which have legislation also have pending lawsuits challenging the legislation. There is no standard or unified form of legislation planned nationwide. There is no agreement on the protected title terminology even with states that have similar legislations. As shown in Table 2, the most common title terms are "Certified Interior Designer", "Registered Interior Designer", and "Licensed Interior Designer" (IIDA, 2011).

There are many organizations that strongly oppose legislation for interior design, including the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA), the International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA) and the American Institute for Architects (AIA). There are also several organizations such as the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) and the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) who strongly support legislation. Individual states also have some form of coalition also favoring and lobbying for legislation. The Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) is an organization that accredits interior design educational programs; they are also in favor of legislation.

Favoring Organizations

There are many organizations that favor legislation. The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) is one of the leading players with over 36,000 members, including 18,000 practicing members. It is currently the largest interior design organization in the United States. The mission of ASID (2011) is to

“inspire and enrich its members by promoting the value of interior design, while providing indispensable knowledge and experiences that build relationships” (<http://www.asid.org/about/>). Established in 1975, it was formed with the combination of the American Institute of Interior Designers (AID) and the National Society of Interior Designers (NSID) (American Society of Interior Designers, 2011; Martin, 2008). The organization includes professional members, allied members, student members and industry partners. To reach professional member status, a designer must have a combination of education and experience in the field, and he or she must pass the NCIDQ exam. Professional status also requires continuing education by its members. A portion of membership fees goes to the legislative effort. ASID recently opened a new category of membership called, associate level, which requires a minimum of an associate’s degree in any discipline and six years of documented related work experience in the interior design industry. This has removed the requirement of any formal interior design education (ASID, 2011).

IIDA is the second largest design organization with over 13,000 members from around the world. The mission of IIDA (2011) is “to enhance the quality of life through excellence in interior design and to advance interior design through knowledge, value and community” (IIDA, 2011). Professional status in this organization also requires passing of the NCIDQ exam, but this organization will also accept passing of the National Council of Architectural Registration Board (NCARB) examination (IIDA, 2011; Martin, 2008).

NCIDQ was formed in 1972 and administered the first exam in 1974. Its mission is to identify to the public those interior designers who have met what

they have determined are the minimum standards for professional practice by those passing their exam. It should be noted that while the exam was first administered in 1974, the first legislation for interior design was not until 1986 in Washington, DC (Whitney, 2008). The credential existed for twelve years before the process of legislation was approved. NCIDQ continually updates the exam to reflect expanding professional knowledge and design development techniques. NCIDQ seeks the recognition of its exam as a universal standard by which to measure the competency of interior designers to practice as professionals (NCIDQ, 2011).

After identifying the favoring organizations, it is clear that these organizations are in agreement and in favor of the same principles. To be a professional member of ASID or IIDA, one must pass the NCIDQ exam. Membership is also granted to those who have not passed the exam. However, their status as a member is allied, not professional. In August 2011, ASID came out with a new level of membership called the associate level. This level of membership now requires no formal interior design education, only an associate's degree in any discipline with 10 years of experience within the industry. It is possible this new level of membership could cause confusion within the profession, since for many years the direction has been to embrace the three E's of education, experience and exam. It is not clear how this experience will be measured (ASID, 2011). In most of the states with legislation, the NCIDQ exam is the requirement for legislation (Martin, 2008).

Licensing and certification

Occupational licensing has been around since the birth of our nation (Kleiner, 2000). It is defined as "a process where entry into an occupation requires the permission of the government, and the state requires some demonstration of a minimum degree of competency" (Kleiner, 2000, p. 191). This was a means to ensure quality among the crafts, to benefit the apprenticeship process and to improve quality for those receiving the services. The downside to this phenomenon is that licensing can restrict the supply of labor, drive up the prices to the public and make it difficult for some to meet the standards of entry into the profession (Gellhorn, 1976; Kleiner, 2000; Slaughter, 1986). Licensed occupations have grown considerably over the years. In the 1950s, only about four and a half percent of the labor force had licensing at the state level. In 2000, almost 20 percent of the work force has workers in licensed occupations. With licensing, it is illegal to perform those tasks which have been regulated by a government agency. It is suggested that the existence of licensing may minimize consumer uncertainty over the quality of services received or purchased (Kleiner, 2006).

In contrast, certification in an occupation permits anyone to perform the associated tasks, but by the administration of an exam to test competencies, an individual may become certified. The public may then choose whether to hire a certified worker or not (Kleiner, 2000).

A recent example of a successful certification process is the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credential system. Developed in 2000, there are now over 162,000 credential holders internationally according to the

United States Green Building Council (USGBC) (USGBC, 2011). LEED is a voluntary design credential dealing with sustainable building, design and construction principles. It is awarded by an independent, third party organization, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).

Because the NCIDQ exam is recognized as a determining factor of professional status, a self certification process using this exam as the basis could alleviate the perceived need for legislation. It is obvious that across the nation there is no unity in the matter of legislation from state to state (ASID, 2011; IIDA, 2011). There is a perceived lack of alternatives to legislation by many design organizations. Other professions have successfully adhered to a self certification system, such as accountants, teachers and cosmetologists (Kleiner, 2006). Perhaps self-certification coupled with an aggressive public relations campaign to promote the implication to the public would be a viable alternative.

Opposing Organizations

Several organizations currently oppose the movement for interior design legislation. The International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA) is one such organization. Their mission statement defines them as "the only all-industry association whose members provide services and products to the furnishings and design industry. IFDA is the driving force, through its programs and services, to enhance the professionalism and stature of the industry worldwide" (IFDA, 2008). This organization does not require any educational level from its members, nor does it engage in policies or information which in any way promotes the health, safety, or welfare of the public. They call themselves the

“voice of the total furnishings and design industry”, yet they have no requirement for design competency, as the membership was originally organized as a trade organization (IFDA, 2011, <http://www.ifda.com/node/2>).

There is much conflicting information currently being distributed by other organizations including the Institute for Justice (IJ), the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) (Carpenter, 2006). NKBA is an organization which also opposes legislation for interior design. This organization was formed in 1963 as a membership of kitchen dealerships. In 1968, they began self certifying members who passed their own exam which is limited to questions pertaining to kitchen and bath design. Their mission is to “enhance member success and excellence, promote professionalism and ethical business practices and provide leadership and direction for the kitchen and bath industry worldwide” (NKBA, 2011, <http://www.nkba.org/About/About/Overview.aspx>). They do not stress the health, safety or welfare of the public. Their official position is in opposition to legislation mostly because they do not feel it will benefit the HSW of the public and also because this legislative process was not initiated by the public, rather by organizations as previously listed (NKBA, 2008).

These organizations claim that the professional organizations seeking legislation are doing so to monopolize the profession and “to create a cartel”. This will supposedly provide greater economic benefits to the “insiders”, will shut out new entrants into the field, and will give a competitive edge to those not qualified to obtain this legislation (Carpenter, 2006).

Many sources discussed in this chapter suggest that there is conflict surrounding the quest for legislation in the profession of interior design. Within the professional organizations there is much disagreement in this issue. Perhaps the best place to further examine this subject is the members and practitioners themselves. While the organizations make their positions known, there is little opportunity to know the desires of the stakeholders, in this case, the practitioners.

Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this study relied on two strategies. Strategy one consisted of a literature review of relevant material on professional certification and current interior design legislation information. Strategy two consisted of development and distribution of an online survey to be used as the research instrument. Respondents were identified as being either a practicing interior designer, an industry related professional, or an academic professor or instructor of interior design. Questions were asked to establish the respondent's level of education, membership in industry related organizations, and any current industry certifications.

The purpose of this study was to collect information about the current interior designer's perspective of legislation and certification within the profession. Survey methodology was considered as the ideal method to collect information about interior designers located in different geographical locations. An online questionnaire was developed by the researcher to collect data (see Appendix A) and the responses were also collected electronically online.

The research instrument used was an eleven question survey created by the researcher. Survey software known as Survey Monkey was used to build and administer the online questionnaire. It is dependable in terms of server maintenance and its availability to the respondents at any given time. Several types of questions were used including forced choice, multiple choice, Likert scales and open-ended questions.

A pilot test was conducted with a purposive sample of industry experts. The survey instrument was reviewed by a nine member panel of interior design educators and practitioners prior to distributing the instrument for full data collection. Based on their feedback, no changes were made to the original survey questions. However, an open-ended question was added to allow respondents the opportunity to offer any other comments or insight on this topic. To access the survey, a link was posted along with the letter of consent.

On two questions, a five point Likert scale was established for rating the favorability and importance of items, with five being "very favorable" or "very important" and one being "very unfavorable" or "totally not important". Open ended responses were allowed on seven questions, with the last question, number eleven, designed as a means of "venting" (Rea & Parker, 2005). The open ended responses were coded by grouping responses into categories. The survey instrument and letter of consent were posted on 18 groups related to the interior design industry on the web based networking group, LinkedIn. LinkedIn is the world's largest online professional network. Groups on LinkedIn allow the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and opportunities while networking with a broader group of professionals (LinkedIn, 2011). The groups selected by the researcher had some connection to interior design. The groups selected are listed in Table 3. This table also lists a description of the group and the amount of members in the networking group as listed by the respective group on their LinkedIn profile. It should be noted that the quantity of members in the individual networking group does not necessarily match the number of actual members of the organization it may represent. For example, one can be a

member of ASID, but not be a member of the ASID networking group on LinkedIn and vice-versa. The groups were chosen because of the potential number of relevant users. The survey and the accompanying letter of consent were also sent out in a web blast sent out by ASID. IIDA was also asked to send the blast to its members, but declined to participate. The questionnaire was available for 17 days and 130 respondents self-selected to participate in this study. All 130 responses were valid, as respondents were not required to answer every question. Collected data was transferred into a statistics software package known as Excel, a product of Microsoft Office.

Table 3: *Selected LinkedIn groups*

	Group Name	Description	# of members
1.	A CAD Community Connection	A networking community for Computer-Aided Drafting and Design Professionals to connect and share knowledge and resources.	7,826
2.	Architecture and Interiors	This is a group for those of us who design the built environment, and allied professionals.	13,118
3.	American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)	The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) is a community of more than 36,000 interior designer professionals, industry partners and students committed to interior design. Through education, advocacy, community building and outreach, the Society strives to advance the interior design profession and demonstrate the power of design to positively change people's lives. This group is open to anyone interested in ASID.	10,058
4.	Association of Design Education	Everyone is looking for education. This group is looking for input regarding different training programs for Staging, Color, Redesign, Feng Shui, etc. You do not need to be and ADE member to participate...As a member of the ADE, I am seeking to help it grow and spread the good word about the work they do and the services they provide to their members. If you have any questions about this group, please contact Christine Spitale.	336
5.	Design Education	We Invite you to join in the conversations with colleagues around the world to ask questions and share ideas! Many of our members are industry leaders with a great diversity in global locations and industries. Get involved in the discussions and let's make this a venue where new things happen in our profession.	2,148
6.	Designers Society of America	DSA is open to residential interior designers, space planners, kitchen and bath designers, re-designers and the trade companies that serve them. We provide a community for those already in the field, offering networking opportunities, consultations and mini Websites for displaying your work and contact information. In addition, DSA offers a mentorship program for new designers and as well as students studying the art at universities, colleges and technical schools.	982

7.	Environmental Design Research Association	The Environmental Design Research Association advances and disseminates behavior and design research toward improving understanding of the relationships between people and their environments.	418
8.	Forum for Design & Marketing Professionals	A great place to keep up to date with the latest design news in Product Design, Marketing Design, and Interior Design. The latest innovations, inventions, guidelines, techniques, be the first to know about it!	412
9.	Hospitality	This group is dedicated to experienced professionals specialized in interior design, graphic design, home textiles, furnishing and hospitality services with the goal to create a network and expand business opportunities.	1,952
10.	Hospitality & Gaming Design Professionals	A great place to keep up to date with the latest design news in Product Design, Marketing Design, and Interior Design. The latest innovations, inventions, guidelines, techniques, be the first to know about it!	1,690
11.	Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC)	IDEC's mission is the advancement of interior design education and scholarship.	384
12.	Interior Design Society (IDS)	The Interior Design Society (IDS) is an independent national organization more than 4,000 members strong. One of the country's largest design organizations dedicated to serving the residential interior design industry, the Interior Design Society offers members community, education and business support. The IDS National headquarters is located in High Point, NC, the world's home furnishings capital. It welcomes all residential design professionals including those who work in furniture retail.	1,005
13.	International Interior Design Association (IIDA)	The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) works to enhance quality of life through excellence in interior design & to advance interior design through knowledge, value & community. IIDA is a professional networking & educational association of 13,000 Members in 31 Chapters around the world.	13,484
14.	Interior Architecture	This group is for Interior design professionals and related.	6,265
15.	Interior Architecture & Design	There are several allied design professions that contribute to our sense of well-being and Interior Design is one of them. An Architect or an Interior Designer can create interior architectural details. Interior architecture is the emphasis on custom built details and the focus of fabricated details created for an interior space. These architectural details can contribute to the overall sense of space, and likewise positively affect the people experiencing it.	3,353
16.	Interior Design	We Invite you to join in the conversations with colleagues around the world to ask questions and share ideas! Many of our members are industry leaders with a great diversity in global locations and industries. Get involved in the discussions and let's make this a venue where new things happen in our profession.	11,231
17.	The Hospitality Network	NEWH, The Network of the Hospitality Industry, is the premier networking resource for the hospitality industry, providing scholarships, education, leadership development, recognition of excellence, and business development opportunities.	1,633
18.	National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) Certificate Holding Interior Designers	**This group is also welcoming to design students and designers with a desire to pass the exam in the near future. To verify who officially has a certificate # please check their specific profile page and look for the listed NCIDQ number.** This social networking appreciation group is not affiliated with the national NCIDQ HQ office in Washington DC.	2,965
		Total	79,260

Chapter 4

RESULTS

This chapter documents the data collected via the survey instrument and presents it in the format of graphs and descriptions. The results of the entire survey can be found in Appendix D. Chapter five interprets this information and chapter six draws conclusion from these data.

Participant Demographics

Responses were collected from 130 participants. In question one, respondents were asked to identify their primary role in the interior design industry from the list given. Respondents could only select one option on this question. The majority of the participants identified themselves as practicing interior designers, 10 (7.8%) were industry related, six (4.7%) were interior design academics and 11 (8.6%) selected "other" (See Figure 2). Two respondents skipped this question.

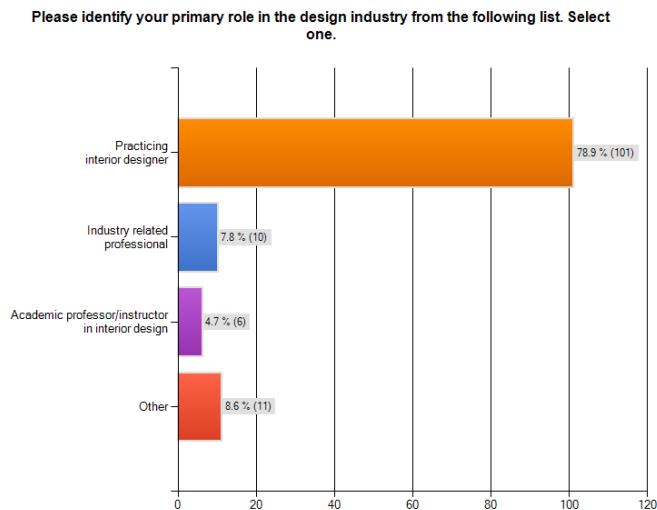


Figure 2: Respondent identity (n=128)

Table 4: *Open responses to question #1*

Question #1. Please identify your primary role in the design industry from the following list. Select one. Open responses: n=15	
1.	Kitchen and Bath Designer
2.	Practice in Int. Design with Real Property & Facility Mgmt. experience.
3.	Home Staging, Interior Redesign, Professional Organizer
4.	Student
5.	Design/Build Kitchen & Bath firm.
6.	Retired commercial and healthcare designer AND industry representative
7.	Oh, right, I can't check off interior designer although that's what I went to school for. I'm only a "designer." So that could mean anything--a graphic designer, a web designer, a textile designer, a pretend designer, or decorator--which I'm not.
8.	Senior interior design student
9.	Green Building Consultant in Commercial Interiors
10.	Feng Shui -
11.	Exterior Designer
12.	Recent graduate of an professional Interior Architecture program
13.	licensed designer-now stay at home mom- maintaining certifications
14.	Lighting Consultant
15.	Architect

Respondents also had the option of adding a comment; this was for the purpose of allowing clarification or an explanation if they selected “other”. Eleven respondents selected “other”. However, there were 15 open responses from 15 different participants. Of these responses, 11 are self- identified as designers who use different titles, three are consultants in a related industry, one is an exterior designer and one is an architect. Please note that all open responses with grammatical and spelling errors were left as the respondent originally submitted them.

In question two, respondents were asked to select the highest level of education they had completed. The majority (78, 61.9%) have a bachelor’s degree, 23 (18.3%) have a master’s degree, 18 (14.3%) have an associate’s degree, seven (5.6%) selected “other” and no respondents held a doctorate degree. The open responses to this question are listed in Table 5. Four respondents skipped this question.

Table 5: *Open responses to question #2*

Question #2. What is your highest level of education? Select one. Open responses: n=14	
1.	3yr design diploma, University Mgmt cert, & RPA cert.
2.	Graduating September 2011
3.	2 Bachelors: BFA Interior Design; BArch Architecture
4.	Specialization in the fields of Universal design and Sustainability
5.	bachelor in business, associate in interior design
6.	More hours than an associate
7.	Plus many CEU and other seminars
8.	500 hours in feng shui, plus
9.	Currently working on Masters Degree
10.	BS in Interior Design & currentlty in school for MFA in Interior Design (part-time)
11.	4 year college course in lae 70's - now accredited
12.	some college
13.	Interior Designing and Display - 3 yrs Diploma
14.	Finishing Masters this semester

In question three, respondents were asked to identify which of their degrees held were specific to interior design. The majority (71, 58.7%) held a bachelor’s degree, 26 (21.5%) held an associate’s degree, 21 (17.4%) selected “other”, and 17 (14%) held a master’s degree in interior design. Of the 121 respondents to this question, 26 responded to the open questions and nine omitted a response. The open responses are listed in Table 6. Among the 26 open responses entered

for the category of “other”, three hold a diploma in interior design, three hold certifications in interior design, eight responded none, one stated architecture and one stated interior architecture. It is interesting to note the respondent with the degree in interior architecture does not identify with holding a degree in interior design.

Table 6: *Open responses to question #3*

Question #3. Which of your degrees is in interior design? Select all that apply. Open responses: n=26	
1.	3yr Int.Design diploma, RPA Real Prop. Admin.
2.	Certifications in Home Staging, Interior Redesign, Professional Organizer
3.	Bachelors in Organizational Communication, also studied one year in interior design
4.	None, My degree is in architecture
5.	Psychology and Art Major with an MBA
6.	None
7.	Direct experience..family owned business..on the job!
8.	diploma, art college
9.	Architecture
10.	all interior design
11.	Certificate and Bachelor Minor in Interior Architecture
12.	undergrad - BBA, grad - MBA, I had enough undergrad hours in ID to sit for and pass the NCIDQ, now licensed and working in FL
13.	Certificate
14.	none
15.	Bachelor of Science in Horticulture
16.	MFA pending
17.	Interior Architecture
18.	none
19.	I do not have a degree in interior design.
20.	see above
21.	BFA
22.	none
23.	Business
24.	three-year residential planning diploma
25.	None
26.	3 yrs Diploma

Question four asked respondents to identify if they held any certification from the list provided. The certifications listed by this study were all certifications which are directly related to the interior design industry (see Figure 3).

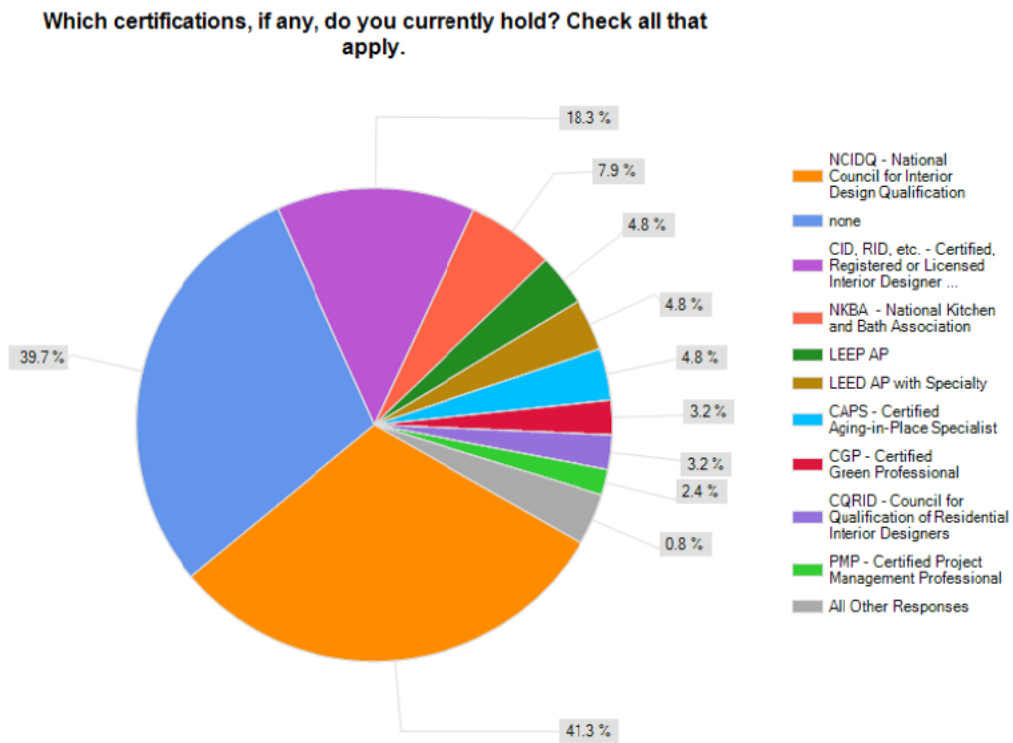


Figure 3. Certifications held by respondents (n=126)

Respondents could select more than one certification because it is possible that they could hold more than one certification in the industry. The largest number of respondents, 52 (41.3%), held a NCIDQ certificate, 50 (39.7%) held no certification and the 23 (18.3%) were certified, registered or licensed by their state. Fourteen respondents (11.9%) held a LEED accreditation, 10 (7.9%) held

a certification from the NKBA, and four respondents (3.2%) held a Council for Qualification of Residential Interior Designers (CQRID) certificate. Four respondents skipped this question.

Question six asked respondents which organizations they belonged to. Of the respondents, 67 (67%) were members of ASID, 22 (22%) were members of IIDA, 16 (16%) were members of the Interior Design Society (IDS), 16 (16%) were members of NKBA, 15 (15%) were members of the USGBC, 10 (10%) were members of IDEC, nine (9%) were members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), and the remainder of the population either had less than 5% representation (see Figure 4). It is remarkable to note that of the 130 respondents, 30 respondents skipped this question.

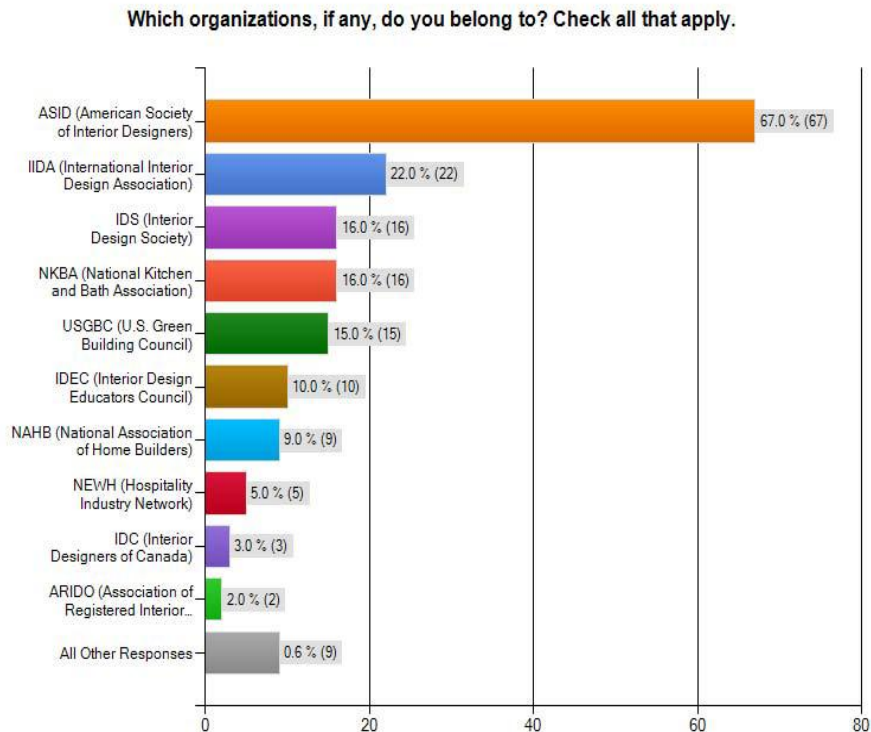


Figure 4. Organization member chart (n=100)

Research question data

In response to question five (What is your overall view of credentials?), a five-point Likert Scale was used for rating the favorability of credentials with five being "very favorable" and one being "very unfavorable". The majority of respondents (53, 41.1%) had a very favorable view, 43 (33.3%) had a favorable view, 10 (7.8%) had no opinion, 15 (11.6%) had a somewhat favorable view and eight (6.2%) had a very unfavorable rating. The mean response was 3.915 with a standard deviation of 1.23. One respondent skipped this question, for a sub sample of n=129.

Respondents were asked to share any viewpoints they held on certification credentials. There were 57 comments on this question. See Appendix E for a table of all open responses.

In response to question seven (How important is regulation by legislation in interior design to you?), 54 (42.5%) thought it was very important, 29 (22.8%) thought it was somewhat important, 7 (5.5%) had no opinion, 19 (15%) thought it was unimportant and 18 (14.2%) thought it was totally unimportant. The mean response was 3.65 with a standard deviation of 1.499. Three respondents skipped this question, for a sub sample of n=127. The option of adding a comment was not given on this question.

Question eight asked respondents to identify what they thought the most important reason for legislation and/or regulation in the profession of interior design was. Respondents could select more than one reason listed. Sixty-nine (57.5%) of the respondents felt that the most important reason for legislation or regulation in interior design is to define the difference between interior design

and interior decoration. Equally, 69 respondents (57.5%) felt the most important reason was to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Other important reasons were public recognition (40%), the ability to stamp drawings (36.7%) and professional prestige (20.8%). Twenty-one (17.5%) selected other reasons not listed and 10 respondents skipped this question (n=120).

Of the respondents, 70 (57.9%) would support a self-certification title with national recognition for the interior design profession, using the successful passing of the NCIDQ as the requirement for the title, while 51 (42.1%) would not support this proposal. Ten respondents skipped this question (n=120).

Regarding education, 63 (50.4%) believed that a minimum of a bachelor's degree should be a requirement to take the NCIDQ exam, while 62 (49.6%) did not feel a bachelor's degree should be the minimum requirement. Five respondents skipped this question (n=125).

Understanding the demographics of the respondents will be valuable in analyzing the results. The responses to closed-ended questions will be analyzed using descriptive statistics in the form of percentages and standard deviation. Open-ended responses will be content analyzed. Overall there were 211 open responses.

Chapter 5
DISCUSSION

Discussion of findings

The data and results collected will be discussed in this chapter. Overall, the findings suggest that interior designers are divided on the issue of regulation via legislation for the profession. However, they are in agreement with a favorable view of certification credentials.

Four questions (5, 8, 9 and 11) allowed respondents the opportunity to share their comments. There were a total of 211 comments from these four questions. All of the open-ended responses are listed in tables by question and can be found in Appendix E. Following an objective analysis of the comments, common themes and concerns were identified. These common phrases were categorized into like responses and the frequencies were tallied. From this analysis, fifteen thematic categories were developed. The list of categories developed from the comments can be found in Table 7.

Table 7: *Open Ended Responses by Category (n=211)*

Categories for Open Ended Questions						
	Category	Question #5	Question #8	Question #9	Question #11	Totals by Category
A	Supports the Three E's (Education, Experience, Exam)	3	0	1	3	7
B	Continuing education units	1	1	0	1	3
C	Credentialing is all about the money	5	5	0	3	13

D	Credentials = competency	2	1	0	0	3
E	Education and experience = competency	1	0	1	4	6
F	Education more important than certification	1	0	0	3	4
G	Experience more important than education	7	0	3	2	12
H	Positive opinion of NCIDQ	1	0	4	0	5
I	Negative opinion of NCIDQ	1	0	5	2	8
J	Does not want government involvement	1	5	5	4	15
K	Need to improve public perception and understanding of the profession	11	5	5	6	27
L	Separate commercial and residential design	7	0	5	6	18
M	Separate designers from decorators	1	2	2	0	5
N	Stamp and seal documents	2	6	2	0	10
O	Other	13	12	20	30	75
	(n) totals	57	37	53	64	211

Categorized implications

The largest group of responses is identified as “O - Other”. This category includes all the responses which either did not apply to this study or were inapplicable. An example of a comment deemed inapplicable is “thank you for your research-good luck” or “self aggrandizing snobs”; these types of comments could not be categorized. There were seventy-five such comments.

The second largest response category with twenty-seven comments was “K – Need to improve public perception and understanding of the profession”. It was obvious that many of the respondents felt that the public does not fully

understand the profession. This is a concern of many of the interior designers who responded. Some felt that the influence of HGTV was a contributing factor. Respondents also felt that both the profession and the public would benefit from a greater awareness and understanding of the profession.

It is interesting to note that while many respondents identified the public as often not understanding the profession of interior design, this survey has revealed that many designers themselves are confused about who they are. The comments mirror the results of the survey data. This study confirms previous research (Anderson, Honey & Dudek, 2007, Campo-Flores, 2011, Hill & Matthews, 2007). While the majority of respondents identified themselves as being a practicing interior designer, there was a notable difference in the educational level and the level which should be required to enter the profession. The question regarding the educational level required to take the NCIDQ was divided almost equally.

The third most common comment category was "L – Separate commercial and residential design". There were eighteen comments and the majority of these referred to the perceived knowledge base difference of residential and commercial interior design. Some respondents felt that the NCIDQ exam was too technical and was more oriented towards testing knowledge only applicable to commercial design. Some comments focused on using the CQRID for residential designers and NCIDQ for commercial designers as a means to test both areas separately. Others cited the fact they only wanted to do residential work so they saw no need for testing of any type. Some felt that since they only practiced residential design, they also saw no need for licensing.

Yet some of those same respondents supported licensing for commercial design.

The fourth largest category of comments was "J – Does not want government involvement". Fifteen responses referred to their desire to keep the government out of interior design entirely. Some felt there are few things in which the government becomes involved that improve; others cited the preference of less government restrictions in general.

The fifth most common opinion category was "C – Credentialing is all about the money". Comments revealed the concern that credentials and testing was too expensive and only served the organizations that sponsored them. There were 13 comments that shared this distress. Of note was that residential designers felt that the cost of "getting letters after one's name" was a waste of their money and that CEU's were also too expensive and time consuming to be of value to them.

The next category with the most common comments was "G – Experience more important than education". There were 12 comments which revealed that respondents considered professional work experience on the same level as higher education.

With ten comments, "N - Stamp and seal documents" was the next most popular category. This category, however, was divided into "for" and "against". Some interior designers felt that the need for them to stamp drawings in order to compete in the market was their concern. Other comments in this category revealed that respondents felt that interior design educational programs did not offer structural knowledge of buildings and therefore should not be allowed to

stamp drawings. Some respondents suggested that if an interior designer wants to stamp drawings, then they should obtain an architecture degree.

The remainder of the comments rendered in the open ended responses was of a rich variety and often held emotional concerns regarding the industry of interior design. Again, all comments may be found in Appendix E.

Research questions

1. The first research question was: Would members of the interior design profession accept a voluntary third party certification as an alternative to occupational licensing? The results of the survey suggest that interior designers would accept certification as an alternative to legislation. Question #5 asked respondents what their overall view of certification credentials were. Forty-one point one percent (53) had a very favorable view and 33.3% (43) had a somewhat favorable view. This indicates that 74.4% of all respondents had a positive view of certification credentials. Question #9 asked if respondents would support a self certification title with national recognition for the profession of interior design. The majority responded that they would support this proposal.

2. The second research question was: How do interior designers perceive this issue? The 211 open responses collected in the survey point to a high level of opinion on this issue. Many responses have an emotional tone. Several responses were more than a paragraph long, indicating that the respondent felt strongly enough about the issue to take the time to share their viewpoint. Question #9 specifically, asked respondents if they would support self certification with NCIDQ as the requirement for a nationally recognized

credential. Fifty-three open responses were collected to this question. The responses were very diverse. The overwhelming theme among the open responses is that there is confusion within the industry regarding the interior design organizations and NCIDQ and the role each organization plays. Some respondents incorrectly used terminology such as "licensed ASID Designer", there is no such title. One respondent claimed she studied interior design at "an NCIDQ accredited college"; NCIDQ does not endorse educational programs. This indicates the confusion that somehow ASID controls licensing. Another theme is overall frustration with the lack of a unified profession. Many of the open responses voiced concern over the disparity in education versus experience in the field of interior design. Some respondents indicated they prefer not to have any government involvement.

Question #11 was added to the survey for purpose of allowing respondents an opportunity to vent any other opinions related to this topic. There were 64 responses to this question. The responses indicate a very wide range of opinions related to legislation, certification and education. A theme that really stood out was a preference to separate residential and commercial interior design.

3. The third question was: Does holding recognized interior design credentials predict how interior designers perceive legislation? Survey question #5 asked respondents their overall view of credentials. The majority of respondents indicated they had a favorable view of credentials. Survey question #4 asked respondent which certificates, if any they held. Of the 126 respondents who answered this question, it was found that there were 120 combined

certificates, with 39.7% (50) respondents indicating they held no certificate. Respondents were allowed to select more than one of the nationally recognized certificates identified. This also indicates a positive view of certificates in general, as the majority held at least one certificate and several held multiple certificates. When a cross tabulation of the survey is ran looking only at respondents who currently hold an NCIDQ certificate, it was found that 72% (36) of NCIDQ certificate holders view legislation as very important and 16% (8) view it as somewhat important. This indicates that the majority of credential holding interior designers will favor support of credentials.

The open responses were a clear indicator of many obstacles to a unified interior design profession. This is consistent with the research. This study has shown that it is probable that the diverse educational background of interior designers, lack of a nationally accepted path to professionalism and the divided organizations are factors which prevent interior design from being understood by the public, the industry and the actual interior designers.

Chapter 6

CONCLUSION

This study identifies previous research that demonstrates several areas of conflict within the profession of interior design. This study has shown that many conflicts exist within the profession and the related professions. The open-ended responses confirm this conflict (see Appendix E). It is possible that these conflicts are a detriment to the advancement of the profession. This chapter will conclude the research and present the study limitations.

Limitations of study

There were several limitations to this study. One limitation is that there is no way of knowing if the respondents who replied to the survey from the post on the LinkedIn sites were in fact professional interior designers. The networking groups are open to any member of LinkedIn, and formal membership to the organization is not always a requirement to participate in the online networking. There is also no way to know if the respondent clearly understood the legislative terminology.

Another limitation may have been the nature of the sample. The 130 respondents to the online survey self-selected to participate. This introduces self-selection bias into the study. The respondents had a purposeful intent to participating and may not be truly reflective and representative of the greater population of interior designers. The limitation of generalizability also exists,

there is no absolute guarantee that the results obtained in this study will occur in every situation outside the study

An additional problem with the sample was the fact that administration at IIDA did not send the request for study participation to their members. However, the sample ratio of IIDA and ASID membership is similar the overall membership numbers. It is notable that while ASID is mentioned frequently in the open ended responses, IIDA is not mentioned in any of the responses. It is obvious that ASID strikes a very emotional nerve with many interior designers.

Future research opportunities

There are numerous opportunities for future research related to the current study. In a future study, the sample size could be manipulated to have equal amount of respondents from both ASID and IIDA utilizing members with parallel demographics. A comparison could be made using similar research questions as in this study.

The largest thematic category of the open ended questions dealt with the perceived need to improve public perception and understanding of the profession of interior design. It is unclear if the public thinks of interior designers when they consider commercial spaces. It is possible that the public is more apt to connect those spaces with the work of architects. A survey of how the public view commercial versus residential interior design would be enlightening. If the public sees little differentiation between these two categories of designers, this may have an impact on the regulation and certification requirements mandated by legislation. It is likely that the public is unaware of the credentials required for

interior designers in states with legislation. The public could also be surveyed for their understanding and view of design credentials.

Another area rich for research is to identify what architects feelings are regarding this issue. A similar study could be completed using architects as the sample group and overlapping concerns could be identified. Is the time right for a profession of interior architecture which could fall under the same process and organization of the AIA? What do architects want from interior designers, are they satisfied with the content of the NCIDQ? A study could be conducted with both architects and interior designers, surveying similar questions and comparisons could be made.

Conclusion

Interior design is a varied and complex profession with many influencing factors. The profession itself is relatively new and has come very far in a short time (Whitney, 2008). The professional organizations would be well served to clearly define the body of knowledge to its own members and to the public. In the quest to separate interior design from interior decoration and interior design from architecture, it appears that interior design is left in a professional perception limbo. From the analysis of the open-ended responses, it is evident that divisions exist in many aspects of interior design. This confirms literature reviewed with conflicting views on legislation and the path to professionalism (Anderson, Honey & Dudek, 2007). To date, interior design has sought the similar path to professionalism as architecture (Guerin & Martin, 2004, Martin, 2008). Is this really the best option for interior design?

Concerning titling, the title of "interior designer" will never be exclusive. The title of "interior architect" while it may be more representative of the duties performed, also has legal implications which prevent interior designers from using. Many respondents remarked that they felt there was disparity in the fact that architects can legally call themselves interior designers, yet the AIA is not in favor of allowing interior designers to be licensed (AIA, 2011, Hildenbrandt, 2004).

The fact that designers are so divided on legislation yet in such agreement on certification shows that certification is a possible solution to be explored. Creating one title to be used in all fifty states that the public could easily understand and identify could improve public recognition issues (Chaney, 2007). It is possible that the function of legislation as it stands does more to inform the public of qualifications than it does to protect the public (Kleiner, 2007). On the other hand this also serves to restrict competition because a title act is much more prevalent than a practice act and where there have been practice acts; many have been converted to title acts (IIDA, 2011).

The reason often used by advocates for regulation via legislation of interior design is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, yet a very small number of respondents in this study selected the ability to stamp drawings as a reason they support legislation (Guerin & Martin, 2004, Martin, 2008). How many licensed interior designers actually stamp drawings, or do they use the titles assigned in the state to communicate their level of knowledge in the profession and to set them apart from decorators?

Since interior design is a female dominated profession it is possible that members feel the need to justify the profession by constant comparison to architecture (ASID, 2010, Hill & Matthews, 2007). This may be due to gender insecurity and be a result of a generational condition, meaning this may be age related. Also as the field of architecture has more women entering the profession this conflict may dissipate.

The emotive nature of many of the open responses shows the frustration that exists within the profession. Professional unity is lacking within interior design as evidenced in this study and also with the sheer number of interior design organizations which exist. Some respondents identified ASID as being the organization responsible for the legislative process, but this is untrue. Many interior designers do not understand the legislative process or outcomes, as communicated to this study via the open-ended responses. For example, in the state of Florida, anyone can call themselves an interior designer and anyone can take on residential clients regardless of their education, knowledge or credentials. It's the commercial interior design industry which is regulated. Yet some residential interior designers in Florida communicate that their livelihood is threatened by legislation when the law does not apply to them. This shows lack of understanding within the design community. Therefore, the study findings are consistent with past research (Anderson, Honey & Dudek, 2007, Campo-Flores, 2011, Chaney, 2007, Havenhand, 2004, Waxman & Clemons, 2007).

The architecture community via the AIA has been one of the largest organizations fighting the legislative process for interior design, yet architects are allowed to be members of interior design organizations (AIA, 2011, IIDA, 2011).

Architects are also permitted to take the NCIDQ exam; this may also be confusing to the industry and to the public.

The divisions in this industry and conflicts within contribute to making this a fractured industry. If interior design continues to look at its self under the lens of architecture, it may always feel inferior. The industry of interior design may do better to write its own definition of the profession with various levels of certification and requiring continuing education at all level. This then could be communicated to the public and various associated professions to achieve a better method of defining the profession.

The research findings from this study confirm the previous research in this area. Several open responses made references to the comparison of interior design to architecture and the perceived need to separate residential and commercial interior design. Perhaps it is time to consider a new place for the professional commercial interior designer, that place could be one more closely aligned with the field of architecture. An understandable credential with set standards along with a strong public relations policy to better educate the public would do well to shift these misperceptions. This model has worked for other professions and may be an option for interior design (Kleiner, 2006, Chaney, 2007).

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APPENDIX A
IRB EXEMPTION

To: Diane Bender
CDN

From: *Mark* Mark Roosa, Chair *MR*
Soc Beh IRB

Date: 04/06/2011

Committee Action: Exemption Granted

IRB Action Date: 04/06/2011

IRB Protocol #: 1103006172

Study Title: Certification, Credentials and Regulation in the Profession of Interior Design

The above-referenced protocol is considered exempt after review by the Institutional Review Board pursuant to Federal regulations, 45 CFR Part 46.101(b)(2) .

This part of the federal regulations requires that the information be recorded by investigators in such a manner that subjects cannot be identified, directly or through identifiers linked to the subjects. It is necessary that the information obtained not be such that if disclosed outside the research, it could reasonably place the subjects at risk of criminal or civil liability, or be damaging to the subjects' financial standing, employability, or reputation.

You should retain a copy of this letter for your records.

APPENDIX B
SURVEY CONSENT

COVER LETTER

Third Party Certification, Credentials and Legislation in the Profession of Interior Design.

A research project on certification and legislation in Interior Design is being conducted by Catherine Pliess, graduate student in Interior Design at the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, Arizona State University. The purpose of this study is to further investigate the perception of certification credentials and legislation in the interior design industry and to see if self-certification is a viable alternative to legislation. The benefit of your participation is the potential expansion in understanding how the interior design community perceives third party certifications and credentials currently offered.

You are being asked to take part in this study by completing the following survey. Your participation will take approximately 10 minutes. Please be aware that you are not required to participate in this research and if you decide to participate, you are free to skip any question, withdraw your consent and discontinue participation at any time without penalty. Your participation is voluntary.

Your responses will be collected anonymously to protect your privacy. If you agree to voluntarily participate in this research project as described, please indicate your agreement by completing the following survey. There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to your participation.

If you have any questions concerning the research study, please contact the research team: Diane Bender, Principle Investigator, diane.bender@asu.edu and/or Catherine Pliess, Co-Investigator, cpliess@cox.net. If you have any questions about your rights as a subject/participant in this research, or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, through the ASU Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, at (480) 965-6788.

Return of the questionnaire will be considered your consent to participate.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/certification_inquiry

Sincerely,

Catherine Pliess

APPENDIX C
CERTIFICATION INQUIRY SURVEY

Certification Inquiry

1.

1. Please identify your primary role in the design industry from the following list. Select one.

- Practicing interior designer
- Industry related professional
- Academic professor/instructor in interior design
- Other

Other (please specify)

2. What is your highest level of education? Select one.

- Associate
- Bachelor
- Masters
- PhD
- Other

Other (please specify)

3. Which of your degrees is in interior design? Select all that apply.

- Associate
- Bachelor
- Masters
- PhD
- Other

Other (please specify)

Certification Inquiry

4. Which certifications, if any, do you currently hold? Check all that apply.

- none
- LEEP AP
- LEED Green Associate
- LEED AP with Specialty
- CAPS - Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist
- CCIDC - California Council for Interior Design Certification
- CFM - Certified Facility Manager
- CGP - Certified Green Professional
- CID, RID, etc. - Certified, Registered or Licensed Interior Designer (title may vary by location)
- CQRID - Council for Qualification of Residential Interior Designers
- EDAC - Evidence-based Design Accreditation and Certification
- HPDP - High-Performance Building Design Professional Certification (ASHRAE)
- NCIDQ - National Council for Interior Design Qualification
- NCQLP - National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting Professions
- NKBA - National Kitchen and Bath Association
- PMP - Certified Project Management Professional

5. What is your overall view of certification credentials?

For the purpose of this study, certification credentials are defined as an external, independent, non-governmental organization or group involved in creating and developing rules and compliance methods and measures for a particular industry. Affiliation credentials are then assigned to members who have fulfilled the certification requirement.

Very favorable Somewhat favorable no opinion Somewhat unfavorable Very Unfavorable

Please select one

Viewpoints and opinions very welcome.....please share!

Certification Inquiry

6. Which organizations, if any, do you belong to? Check all that apply.

- AAHID (American Academy of Health-care Interior Designers)
- ALA (American Lighting Association)
- ARIDO (Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario)
- ASFD (American Society of Furniture Designers)
- ASID (American Society of Interior Designers)
- AUID (Association of University Interior Designers)
- CMG (Color Marketing Group)
- IACC/NA (International Association of Color Consultants North America)
- IALD (International Association of Lighting Designers)
- IDC (Interior Designers of Canada)
- IDEC (Interior Design Educators Council)
- IDS (Interior Design Society)
- IDSA (Industrial Designers Society of America)
- IESNA (Illuminating Engineering Society of North America)
- IFDA (International Furnishings and Design Association)
- IFMA (International Facility Management Association)
- IIDA (International Interior Design Association)
- IRIS (Interior Redesign Industry Specialists)
- IRN (Interior Refiners Network)
- ISP (Institute of Store Planners)
- NAHB (National Association of Home Builders)
- NEWH (Hospitality Industry Network)
- NKBA (National Kitchen and Bath Association)
- USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council)

7. How important is regulation by legislation in Interior Design to you? In this question legislation will refer to both a Practice Act and a Title Act.

Very Important Somewhat Important No opinion Not Important Totally not important

Please select one

Certification Inquiry

8. What do you think is the most important reason for legislation and/or regulation in the profession of interior design? Check all that apply.

- Public recognition
- Professional prestige
- To define the difference between interior design and interior decoration
- The ability to stamp drawings
- Protect health, safety and welfare of public
- Other reason not listed

Other reason not listed

9. Would you support a self certification title with national recognition for the interior design profession, using the successful passing of the NCIDQ exam as the requirement for the title?

- yes
- no

Please share any comments or thoughts on this question.





10. Do you feel a minimum of a bachelor degree specifically in interior design should be a requirement to take the NCIDQ exam?

- yes
- no





11. Do you have any further comments or insight into the topic of certification credentials you would like to share with the researcher?

APPENDIX D
CERTIFICATION SURVEY RESULTS





1. Please identify your primary role in the design industry from the following list. Select one.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Practicing interior designer		78.9%	101
Industry related professional		7.8%	10
Academic professor/instructor in interior design		4.7%	6
Other		8.6%	11
	Other (please specify)		15
answered question			128
skipped question			2

2. What is your highest level of education? Select one.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Associate		14.3%	18
Bachelor		61.9%	78
Masters		18.3%	23
PhD		0.0%	0
Other		5.6%	7
	Other (please specify)		14
answered question			126
skipped question			4

3. Which of your degrees is in interior design? Select all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Associate		21.5%	26
Bachelor		58.7%	71
Masters		14.0%	17
PhD		0.0%	0
Other		17.4%	21
	Other (please specify)		26
answered question			121
skipped question			9

4. Which certifications, if any, do you currently hold? Check all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
none		39.7%	50
LEEP AP		4.8%	6
LEED Green Associate		1.6%	2
LEED AP with Specialty		4.8%	6
CAPS - Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist		4.8%	6
CCIDC - California Council for Interior Design Certification		0.8%	1
CFM - Certified Facility Manager		1.6%	2
CGP - Certified Green Professional		3.2%	4
CID, RID, etc. - Certified, Registered or Licensed Interior Designer (title may vary by location)		18.3%	23
CQRID - Council for Qualification of Residential Interior Designers		3.2%	4
EDAC - Evidence-based Design Accreditation and Certification		0.8%	1
HPDP - High-Performance Building Design Professional Certification (ASHRAE)		0.0%	0
NCIDQ - National Council for Interior Design Qualification		41.3%	52
NCQLP - National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting Professions		0.0%	0
NKBA - National Kitchen and Bath Association		7.9%	10
PMP - Certified Project Management Professional		2.4%	3

answered question	126
skipped question	4












5. What is your overall view of certification credentials? For the purpose of this study, certification credentials are defined an external, independent, non-governmental organization or group involved in creating and developing rules and compliance methods and measures for a particular industry. Affiliation credentials are then assigned to members who have fulfilled the certification requirement.









	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	no opinion	Somewhat unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Rating Average	Response Count
Please select one	41.1% (53)	33.3% (43)	7.8% (10)	11.6% (15)	6.2% (8)	2.09	

Viewpoints and opinions very welcome.....please share!

answered question
skipped question

6. Which organizations, if any, do you belong to? Check all that apply.







		Response Percent	Response Count
AAHID (American Academy of Health-care Interior Designers)		1.0%	1
ALA (American Lighting Association)		1.0%	1
ARIDO (Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario)		2.0%	2
ASFD (American Society of Furniture Designers)		0.0%	0
ASID (American Society of Interior Designers)		67.0%	67
AUID (Association of University Interior Designers)		0.0%	0
CMG (Color Marketing Group)		1.0%	1
IACC/NA (International Association of Color Consultants North America)		0.0%	0
IALD (International Association of Lighting Designers)		1.0%	1
IDC (Interior Designers of Canada)		3.0%	3
IDEC (Interior Design Educators Council)		10.0%	10
IDS (Interior Design Society)		16.0%	16
IDSA (Industrial Designers Society of America)		0.0%	0
IESNA (Illuminating Engineering Society of North America)		0.0%	0
IFDA (International Furnishings and Design Association)		1.0%	1
IFMA (International Facility Management Association)		1.0%	1

IIDA (International Interior Design Association)		22.0%	22
IRIS (Interior Redesign Industry Specialists)		1.0%	1
IRN (Interior Refiners Network)		1.0%	1
ISP (Institute of Store Planners)		1.0%	1
NAHB (National Association of Home Builders)		9.0%	9
NEWH (Hospitality Industry Network)		5.0%	5
NKBA (National Kitchen and Bath Association)		16.0%	16
USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council)		15.0%	15
answered question			100
skipped question			30



7. How important is regulation by legislation in Interior Design to you? In this question legislation will refer to both a Practice Act and a Title Act.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	No opinion	Not Important	Totally not important	Rating Average	Response Count
Please select one	42.5% (54)	22.8% (29)	5.5% (7)	15.0% (19)	14.2% (18)	2.35	127
answered question							127
skipped question							3

8. What do you think is the most important reason for legislation and/or regulation in the profession of interior design? Check all that apply.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Public recognition		40.0%	48
Professional prestige		20.8%	25
To define the difference between interior design and interior decoration		57.5%	69
The ability to stamp drawings		36.7%	44
Protect health, safety and welfare of public		57.5%	69
Other reason not listed		17.5%	21
	Other reason not listed		37
	answered question		120
	skipped question		10

9. Would you support a self certification title with national recognition for the interior design profession, using the successful passing of the NCIDQ exam as the requirement for the title?

		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		57.9%	70
no		42.1%	51
	Please share any comments or thoughts on this question.		53
	answered question		121
	skipped question		9

10. Do you feel a minimum of a bachelor degree specifically in interior design should be a requirement to take the NCIDQ exam?

		Response Percent	Response Count
yes		50.4%	63
no		49.6%	62
answered question			125
skipped question			5

11. Do you have any further comments or insight into the topic of certification credentials you would like to share with the researcher?

	Response Count
	64
answered question	64
skipped question	66

APPENDIX E
OPEN ENDED RESPONSES

Question #5.**What is your overall view of certification credentials?****Open responses: 57**

1.	A combination of experience, practice & education are key. Keeping in tune with the latest regulations & developments & continuing education are important.
2.	Credentialing validates which is good for consumers plus good for the profession. it will be better when the grandfathered folks have retired, as there are many RID that do not have the skills the industry promotes.
3.	Certification shows that the designer is dedicated in the field of design, practices in an ethical manner and keeps the public safe with proper design education and methods.
4.	I believe that it is very important to certify qualified professionals with education, mentorship, examination, with continuing education. The health and welfare of our clients are often at stake. Therefore, just knowing where to arrange accessories, is not enough. We should follow the NCARB model for certification and licensure.
5.	Having a certification doesn't mean you can handle the on the job responsibilities. Experience should play an even greater bench mark for success.
6.	Somehow it should be regulated so that yearly dues do not get out of hand and become too much for some designers to keep up.
7.	Design is a professional art form. Call the techies for compliance.
8.	I studied Interior Design at an accredited University and graduated with honors. Isn't that enough to practice design? I understand wanting to separate levels of skill and education, but I don't think I should have to take a test to be an Interior Designer. I already am one.
9.	Very important for commercial interior designers. Would be good for residential, but believe should be different exam and that residential designers & kitchen designers shouldn't have to be licensed to practice.
10.	I have always thought the certification process was unfair to designers such as my self, I had been out of design school for close to ten years when it was decided that designers should become certified. I have always thought this was a way to weed out certain designers also not only had I been out of school for over ten years I had a clientele. I did not have the time to go back to school to become certified. Bottom line I think certification is unfair, if you're a working designer and have been published such as I had you should have been exempt from the certification process. I don't have a problem with the being certified in other areas but just to work in the design field has always been a problem for me and some other African American designers.
11.	With more and more specialization within the profession, I would think it would be difficult to come to an agreement as to some broad qualification by any one national entity that ALL disciplines of the profession would agree to as the one and only certification organization. (Just look at your list below!) Additionally, just like the NCIDQ, I feel that if you have an independent certifying entity, there will not be any reissuing requirements to maintain that certification. In other words, when you get your NCIDQ certificate, you are certified for life, with no monitoring or reevaluation in place as accountability measures to make sure that one is still practicing within the realm of their expertise, or that one has any continuing education to keep current in their field.
12.	I am an independent residential Interior designer. I worked for a design firm for 12 years & since then have worked for myself for the past 12 years. I have taken the NCIDQ twice & did not pass. I value continuing ed & take as many classes as I can. I do not value the NCIDQ as the portion of the test I failed I do not perform on a daily basis anyway. (this was back when the NCIDQ was a 6 part test) I.e. 3D perspectives, hand drawn. We use computers. I have owned my own interior design business & currently

	own my own remodeling firm. My clients are well taken care of in health, safety & welfare. I am also an extremely active member within NARI.
13.	Certification credentials all hinge on the rigorousness of the requirements: both in obtaining them and then maintaining them. If they are seen as too easy, or "once you have them you can't lose them" then they diminish their meaning. So not all the credentials out there are seen the same.
14.	The NCIDQ exam was quite challenging, and passing it gave a great sense of personal accomplishment, as well as earning the respect of my peers.
15.	I am a recent graduate, and have been able to build my business without further certifications. However, I am interested in them to further my education and credibility.
16.	Only valuable if market understands them, so requires investment (by whom?) in public education for effectiveness.
17.	A good education along with years of experience in the industry should not be overlooked because some has not taken a test to get letters behind their name.
18.	My credentials opened employment doors for me throughout my career, the more the better!!
19.	It seems these are unnecessary ways for the credentialing organization to earn a great deal of income.
20.	Very unfavorable for designers like me whose main focus is residential furnishing and projects with any major remodeling and permitting is handled by collaborating architects and or contractors.
21.	to maintain the public's health, safety, and welfare it is important to allow only competent professionals to design commercial spaces.
22.	Continuing Education is a plus, but many of the organization are all about the money. Quality of material is not always there in the CEUs. raising the bar is good, but it should be available to all at reasonable fees or free
23.	Credentialing is important for clients to understand a professional's area of expertise to make a decision to hire or not hire that person.
24.	Distinguishes to the public who is qualified and who is not
25.	It depends on the certification.
26.	I think credentials are important because they acknowledge an individual's unique skill set and knowledge. A certification credential becomes the most important to a consumer who needs to understand what services they are getting and if/why/when they need a certified individual. It is important to me that these certifications are awarded/administered by a third party as opposed to a self certification. In my opinion the third party certification holds more weight than a self certification. Regarding professional memberships, I tend to think of these individuals as someone who is involved in the profession beyond their own business. A professional organization and industry as a whole needs members to help it grow and evolve as the market changes.
27.	There are many very educated and talented people in this industry. But at times I feel there are many "educated derelicts" as well with letters after their names. This is true in any profession.
28.	There are way too many certifications in every field - who needs all those letters. I am into simplifying.
29.	Certification doesn't always mean a person is 'qualified', but it is certainly a step in the right direction in keeping standards and expectations of the profession at a high level. The biggest challenge is in educating the public/end consumer as to what the ID profession actually entails. The State of Florida is struggling to get our legislature to understand that we did not spend the time and money on our education and careers to be considered 'pillow fluffers'.
30.	Some clients are specifically asking for designers who are licensed/registered. Also all of the past employers I have had pay higher salaries for licensed Interior Designers (or who

	have passed the NCIDQ). Licensing is an important part of being viewed as a professional on par with an architect or engineer, but in our own separate specialty. Here in FL it is also necessary to be licensed to sign and seal interior construction documents for permit.
31.	most customers have no idea what they mean.
32.	They should be required as the first step in sitting for licensing exam...such as the NCIDQ are now.
33.	I am not sure if self certification will be acceptable by the Building officials who have JUST barely begun accepting Interior Designers drawings per the Building code in our State.
34.	I have been practicing as an interior designer for 15 years. I have never had a problem attracting clients and my business has done extremely well even through the recession. Obviously I'm providing a service that has value to people! I find the politics around regulation to be a little bit silly.
35.	I think certifications are favorable when you are talking about commercial areas where public safety is an issue.
36.	I feel for commercial ID there should be code competency requirements regarding IBC, life safety, lighting energy & handicapped ADA code knowledge.
37.	Worked on Credentials for Arborists in the late 90's through the International Society of Arboriculture & now the have Certification Rights as a 'Certified Arborist' (Tree pruning, maintaining, removal, etc.)
38.	Certification credentials provide the public with third-party verification of competence. This idea is counter-balanced by the idea that not all certification programs are well-run and that the public cannot possibly be aware of what they all mean.
39.	The certification must be relevant to the specific design practice. Such as, the NCIDQ is too heavy on the commercial side, and therefore not relevant to residential interior design.
40.	Certification is fine but requiring certification of an interior designer with a degree to practice interior design is ridiculous.
41.	I believe certification by the industry (not the government) is an effective way to inform consumers about professional skill and dedication to a particular industry. Informed consumers can make decisions regarding what type and level of education and skill is needed for their needs. The government is a poor steward of personal information and an inefficient method of informing consumers.
42.	Registration ensures proof of minimum competency. Those have not taken these steps "may not know what they don't know".
43.	Anyone can produce a bogus certification program.
44.	I think the business of trained Interior Designers needs protection from those that are unqualified and really "decorators" but equally some associations seem to be getting too big - in business for business and become too expensive to run - they end up not protecting the independant Interior Designers who work on their own and often do not make a lot of money and there are lots of us!
45.	As interior designers we are always fighting an uphill battle "educating" people about what we do. (Take Florida and our fight to educate our legislature in hopes to fend off deregulation.) If we had certification requirements that we can show bullet points it may help to show our understanding. - However, as I've been unemployed and couldn't find it in my budget to purchase study guides to LEED and/or the cost for the test. It would be helpful if the certification was reasonably priced.
46.	it's the problem of both state and associations dictating ceu requirements- plus member fees. not all seminars are worth the expense, but playing the game just to keep certified is a timely, expensive, and frustrating and often a waste of time!who is really profiting from this-usually not the designer who has to leave the office and clients behind to aquire enough hours!
47.	ASID is an insidious bombastic trumped up lobbyist driven organization hell bent on

	<p>making themselves the ONLY authority in interior design (i.e. Kitchen and Bath Design). Most of them could not design a Kitchen if they had to. If they had there way I would have to pay them a "ROYALTY" for the opportunity to work. What a freaking' joke. All they do is run rough shod over the Kitchen and Bath Industry. They cause Kitchen and Bath Designers to expend time and resources fighting for our right to practice our profession. Make no mistake this is a war and they are specifically attacking the Kitchen and Bath Industry. Who else is in there crosshairs? Who are they truing to shut down? Thank God for the National Kitchen and Bath Dealers Association, the only organization big enough to fight this pontificating and pedantic pariah. ASID mind your freaking business!</p>
48.	I am more favorable to a state practice act for nonresidential designers.
49.	My belief is that education and involvement in Design organizations to further learning is necessary to be fair to our clients. It gives our profession credibility, but requiring everyone to have the same credentials does not work with the variety of different areas designers work in day to day. I specialize in flooring and tile design. I had always planned to take the NCIDQ, but now do not feel it would make a difference in my career.
50.	How does this apply to tghose who are already licensed interior designers. Is the new plan offered to those with no interior design education?
51.	I live in Texas where anyone can call oneself an Interior Designer. Public does not always know the difference between registered interior designer and non registred one - this can be confusing.
52.	CQRID covered ADA compliances, interior architecture, spatial considerations, reflected ceiling plan/electrical, finishes list and client programming as well as history of furniture and architecture.
53.	I founded my firm in 1978 with a degree in Chinese Political Science and Philosophy ... and a tremendous amount of manufacturers training in working with systems furniture ... information not readily available in any academic institutions at that time. I have recently redirected my firm from Commercial Interiors to Residential and am now looking for additional association training to increase my knowledge base ... and sure appreciate the existence of these training opportunities!
54.	I think certifications credentials are very important to ensure proper practices and an ethical approach to ones job.
55.	California's certification is all inclusive, does not discriminate against residential interior designers. It is a model for the rest of the country.
56.	I am 100% in favor of the NCIDQ and intend to sit for the test as soon as I've earned enough hours. I've worked in kitchen/bath design and feel that the CKD is more about membership fees than knowledge. I'm planning to take the LEED AP this year, but believe many if not most LEED APs in the industry use it as a marketing gimmick with no intention toward sustainability (I know I've worked with many such designers and architects).
57.	Self certification and self regulation is the foundation of a strong and effective professional domain

Question #8.**What do you think is the most important reason for legislation and/or regulation in the profession of interior design?****Open responses: 37**

1.	Awareness by the general public that interior design is indeed a profession and with proper education & experience we can impact and improve the design in spaces for the public in residences and in the industry.
2.	comment-since I am not registered (only because I worked for a Fortune 500 company and didn't need it, I am university trained & NCIDQ certified) and I am now working part-time as a consulting designer, I can do all of the above except stamp drawings. The public in my locale hires on personal relationships, which does include credentials but not necessarily licensing. If I were licensed I would be able to offer more services.
3.	Shows dedication in the field of design. Keeps education of designers up to date by requiring CEU courses that apply to design related subjects.
4.	I do not feel that interior designers should have the ability to stamp drawings. Currently there are no programs that have enough of the critical education components to teach all the things needed for this responsibility. Interior Designers, should continue to operate under the Architect of Record's license and stamp. The only thing that Interior Designers could possibly stamp were interior finish drawings and specifications to show that they are responsible for compliance with all applicable codes.
5.	Not necessary as no one has ever been damaged by the work effects of an interior designer. Those who want to stamp drawings should become architects or engineers.
6.	Not necessary
7.	Believe ASID has wasted money trying to get legislation to license residential designers & fighting w/NKBA over licensing. Real enemies are AIA who want to keep us from being able to sign drawings.
8.	Most people I know who worked in the field are designers not decorators, I have been involved in demolition / reconstruction projects that have taken up to four years. I have supervised a staff of general and sub contractors I don't think this is something a decorator would get involved in.
9.	If we do not have some sort of regulation/licensing in place soon, I believe that the PROFESSION of Interior Design will be overtaken by others who are working strongly toward regulating what we can and can not do. The dismantling of the design departments in Architectural firms (and some schools) is already taking place and is evidence of things to come. Couple that with no regulation (read: accountability and education), there will be an unleashing of decorators who truly are not qualified to produce the work that a professional designer is capable of and trained to do. This puts the health, safety, and welfare of the general public in jeopardy (and in some instances in the hands of a friend who has a "flair" for color!)
10.	I think this is a self recognition act. I think it's important to distinguish our professionalism, but don't need the title act to do so, which would restrict me doing business.
11.	Nonsense created by egomaniacal designers to keep other people from challenging them on their home turf. All practice acts are obviously unconstitutional and should be banned. If interior designers want to practice interior architecture, they should go to architecture school.
12.	This question is unclear as to whether the selected reason SHOULD BE important, or the reason why legislation is ACTUALLY being promoted.
13.	Income producer for governing agency.
14.	I'd love to say health, safety, welfare, but for me personally it is the ability to stamp

	drawings. Second is protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
15.	To be able to fully practice under the current building codes what we have been trained to do as interior designers.
16.	It supports the growth of independent interior design firms (independent from architecture firms).
17.	It should be for the health and safety for our clients. But I never have thought that all of this hoopla has been for THAT cause. It has become another place for political gain and much money spent for nothing to do with the regulation of this profession.
18.	Public recognition is still growing. If a person is not into health, safety and welfare of the public they do not belong in the profession.
19.	Not the most important, but also important: The license almost always equates to "Professional" level status within a company's job structure, meaning a chance for advancement to a higher pay grade, more on par with other licensed professionals within the firm (architects or engineers)
20.	I am totally against legislation/regulation
21.	Are you kidding, there is only one reason that matters.
22.	I believe it is a movement driven almost exclusively by people who want to decrease competition in the field because they are afraid they cannot compete successfully with interior designers who have built practices based on talent, experience and charisma instead of formal education in design.
23.	Legislation is NOT needed!
24.	Any Leg. &/or Reg. amounts to the same ambiguous licensing that a barber or hair stylist must acquire. There will be the same percentage of "Bad Eggs" with or without Leg. / Regs. / Licenses. Just as a barber who can't satisfy a client will inevitably go out of business - a phony Int. Des'r will also go out of business. How many car repair scams have you heard about ? Too Many ! More to the point - how many phony Int. Des'rs have you heard about? There might be some Int Des'rs whose work you detest - but their client might not agree with you.
25.	We do not need any legislation or regulation by the government for the interior design industry.
26.	Instill public confidence in the profession and provide third-party verification of who is qualified to practice it.
27.	It is important to define standards, so the general public understands who they are hiring. It is NOT necessary however, to "Protect health, safety and welfare of public". Those safety nets are already in place by utilizing Architects, licensed and insured engineers, electricians, plumbers, etc., in addition to the jobs having the proper permits.
28.	I think one group is pushing regulation and their certification over others to claim some sort of superiority. I have the credentials to be a member of that group but would not want to join.
29.	I believe the motivation to require legislation as a means to regulate interior design in the form of title or practice acts is an attempt to limit competition in the market place. Talented and successful interior designers welcome competition and applaud the success of other interior designers. The consumer benefits by a free market in the field of interior design just as they do in any other arena - by enjoying fair market rates and a multitude of options.
30.	Like architects, lawyers and chartered accountants, interior designer is a professional in terms of delivery through defined standards, knowledge based, creative and render consultancy services that helps clients/end user's life more sophisticated
31.	All of the above are important but do we really need the government? maybe we do, I just don't know. I agree we need regulation, I just do not understand well enough what is needed to provide it. And business all too often just becomes business and forgets what it's original intent was so the business has to support itself rather than those originally intended - a lot like universities these days!

32.	education
33.	Self aggrandizing snobs.
34.	I see it as a vehicle to respond to RFP's for public work--opening a new venue for income.
35.	Protect the Public from the Clueless
36.	To be able to approach ones job with the right knowledge and give your customers a professional solution for their requirement.
37.	Protecting the health, safety and welfare is the reason why interior designers should be able to stamp their own documentation.

Question #9.**Would you support a self certification title with national recognition for the interior design profession, using the successful passing of the NCIDQ exam as the requirement for the title?****Open responses: 53**

1.	The only test appropriate to all the specialties would be a Building codes test.
2.	possibly. right now the public doesn't understand the difference btwn decorating and designing, although they expect both. a self certification process will not quickly make a difference. I don't think residential clients hire on the basis designers are a professional member of ASID which has the same requirements (after grandfathering).
3.	NCIDQ is a biased and incomplete test of the skills of an interior designer.
4.	This question is not defined specifically enough for me to be able to answer effectively.
5.	Not sure that I understand the question.
6.	Call the techies
7.	licensure needs to include experience in practice and I think that self certification is asking for trouble. Many "decorators" and "kitchen designers" believe that they are as well qualified as those who are certified.....and, if given the chance to self-certify, they would deem themselves as good as all the rest. people like to take shortcuts so i believe there needs to be a governing body to oversee certified professionals. Oversight means a fully organized program to me, and therefore, is very important.
8.	Support distinction between residential and commercial testing and could have different type of certification
9.	Possibly. I see that the future of the profession is going towards specialization, and thus a "certification" in a certain area would distinguish that designer as having the knowledge to practice in that area of expertise. HOWEVER, what is the difference in a certification and the passing of the NCIDQ? That qualification, in and of itself , sets an educated and experienced designer apart from those who might not be up to par. What we need is legislation that holds designers accountable for their designs and impact on the health, safety and welfare of the public.
10.	For those of us that have already been in the business for 20+years it's difficult to go back to take the test.
11.	with a lot of stipulations !!!
12.	This is a great idea. It could travel with you when you relocate for work, family obligations, etc. Also it would get rid of that obnoxious, unfair practice called grandfathering.
13.	until and unless NCIDQ has separate categories of testing (commercial, residential, health care, etc.) I'm not interested in taking it. useless to learn information you never use. plus the requirements to sit are too strict. this is a second career for me and there is no way i would ever meet the requirements to take the test or, i wouldn't meet them until i'm about ready to retire
14.	Consumers should be able to have a reasonable level of competency defined for them.
15.	Not taking the test does not eliminate time earned skill and knowledge of the industry and should not be the standard for which designates whether someone is or is not an Interior Designer. However, I do believe there should

	be standards of education and experience which separates Designers from Decorators.
16.	i would like to see improvements in the exam and possibly stricter guidelines for certification
17.	If one takes the test, how is it possible to be self-certifying?
18.	At that point it is up to the client to do their research on the designers experience & history to determine whether he or she is a good fit for the project.
19.	NCIDQ is just a start. More in depth knowledge is required.
20.	Voluntary certification does not protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
21.	I am not sure. Would that national recognition guarantee educated interior designers the right to practice under current law?
22.	I say no now, for similar reason listed above, but to make a final decision I would need to more fully understand what the self certification entailed.
23.	The NCIDQ is not the beginning of the end. Let me qualify that. Not even an architect knows all. As a designer you need to know "a little about a lot". Keeping up with the constant change, new materials and new ways of doing things are what keeps me in this profession. Not passing the NCIDQ. The term self certification without the NCIDQ is what I support.
24.	licensing state by state sure hasn't worked, this may be the only way to go, except it still doesn't get me the right to stamp and seal my own cd's
25.	The public has no idea about certification and that alone does not impede an individual who decides that she holds her self out to the general public as an interior designer without the benefit of education or experience.
26.	I would support that, but only if it were still in conjunction with state licensure and the ability to sign & seal drawings in my state.
27.	I don't know enough about this option to answer the question.
28.	I think the NCIDQ does not lend itself to all aspects of interior design. If you do not write contracts, order drapery yardage or draft for a living, this exam does not apply to you at all. I work in aviation design and 90% of what is covered in the exam does not apply to what I do, nor that of yacht designers, set designers, furniture designers, etc.
29.	I support self certification only for brain surgeons and airline pilots.
30.	I would support this if there was no State Legislation where I work.
31.	Some of the greatest residential interior designers we look up to in history had no certifications, period. Good ideas can come from anyone.
32.	I'm not sure self certification would carry the weight and confidence necessary to be considered peer with other licensed professionals in the design community.
33.	How much \$?
34.	For me the most difficult part of certification, currently, is the work experience under a registered Designer or architect. Prior to pursuing my Interior design degree, I was a finance professional with a CPA certification. There was not an experience criteria for taking and passing the exam but the Continuing Professional Education requirements are rigorous and closely monitored. I would be in favor of a more difficult and comprehensive exam and a more robust CPE requirement in place of the sliding scale experience requirement currently in place.
35.	Top easy to cheat.
36.	I don't understand the difference between self certification and NCIDQ certification, in this case.

37.	Not if the NCIDQ was the only exam used as a measure of professionalism. The CQRID does a better job of measuring the knowledge of a residential interior designer, just as the NKBA exams measures the qualifications of kitchen and bath designers.
38.	What makes the NCIDQ the standard, ASID?
39.	I would support self certification with national regulation if more than one exam was available and if certification exams are offered by more than one entity. There is no reason for ASID to hold a monopoly on certification through the exclusive use of the NCIDQ exam. Residential designers and commercial designers need different skill sets and knowledge regarding space usage and design. It seems useful to have separate certification exams for residential and commercial certification and allow individual designers to determine which exam or exams best suit their design practice.
40.	If the requirement for this certification is only the passing of the NCIDQ exam, then the designer can be already 'NCIDQ Certified'. No further certification is necessary.
41.	Just because you take and pass a 2000.00 test doesn't mean you can design your way out of a box!
42.	One has to remember there are many of us in this business who have been here a long time, I have been doing this 30 years - how does this effect us? I'm all for continuing education and constant learning but there are limits as to how much time and money I want to spend on this.
43.	No, because I believe that a practice act in all of the 50 states would be the most effective method to ensure competent professionals are practicing interior design. The term interior design should be restricted to only those who have successfully passed the NCIDQ. Like the term "architect" is restricted, so should the term "interior designer" be restricted. This will enhance our professional standing.
44.	In Florida, we are fighting to keep our Practice Act as our Title Act was taken away last year. Any National recognition for the interior design profession could help to lend instant credibility/professionalism that we registered interior designers feel we are still fighting after all this time.
45.	I've passed the test , have the education and work experience -but who does this benefit but a self serving interest to boast credentials? \ Isn't the real issue assuring the health, safety and well being of people using the space being designed! What happens when one judge or a new govenor decides your 20 years of investment in education. work experience and ceu efforts are no longer necessary to practice interior design? which is where we are now in Florida !
46.	Who do they think they are? WHO? Acting like you are Engineers or Achritects.
47.	We are as important for the health and safety of the public as are the architects. And really need to be treated as professionals . . . rather than a group that isn't important enough to be approved for legislation.
48.	The practice should be legislated like Nursing, Landscape Architecture, etc. This field can create potentially unsafe conditions for people.
49.	NCIDQ is a flawed test and is completely skewed. NCIDQ is not applicable for a residential interior designer. Would consider CQRID for residential interior design as the more appropriate compliance.
50.	I don't know if there is separation for residential and commercial sections of the NCIDQ ... if there is ... and if there was a 'grandfather' provision for existing successful design firms ... then I would support this provision.
51.	All other members of the project team are licensed. So should interior designers.

52.	As long as the title in question is something beyond "Interior Designer". I know far too many talented individuals who've struggled to get into and stay in this field due to the current economy. Most are working, barely, out of their own homes. If they have the education to be interior designers they should be able to call themselves as such. Engineers who don't have licenses still call themselves engineers, they just can't use the "PE" after their names.
53.	Passage of, and annual dues paid, does allow one to display NCIDQ as a credential. You should better define "national recognition"

Question #11.**Do you have any further comments or insight into the topic of certification credentials you would like to share?****Open responses: 64**

1.	You list 24 nationally known groups that offer a programs that teach and give a title showing the public that that person has the knowledge for their jobs needs.
2.	Many of us come with a natural talent for design. I think certifications are important in order to teach some basics for measuring, drawing, correctly identifying design styles, color. Certification courses should also offer resources/tools for designers to use in doing business - like creating websites; how & where to get fabric/paint/floor/tile/countertop/backsplash samples, memberships to design associations; retailers/wholesalers offering discounts to designers. All the tools needed to get and keep your business going, get it off the ground.
3.	I think that there needs to be a National self certification test that can be implemented and encourages designers to take the test for their Professional status without the government having to be involved spending god knows how many \$ to regulate and oversee designers. I have yet to see government do a good job across the country in any kind of occupation, as all states are different. Self certification can be a one stop method for the required knowledge, education and experience one needs to complete a certifying test. CEU's can be required to keep the designer up on new issues in the design field and the changes in laws and ADA requirements. People that have been in the industry for years and have not had a college education should also be able to get certified by the same method as those that have gone to a 2 year program that is accredited along with work experience. IWhy would any organization want to make it so hard or cost so much and exclude incredibly talented people who are excellent at what they do. Good design!Self certification is the way to proceed in the design industry. Those that care will follow through. Those that don't, won't. A campaign to educate the public on CID's is as important as architects having AIA after their names or CPA after an accountants name but it doesn't need to be government regulated by any means.
4.	I believe that a minimum of an associates degree in either architecture or interior design, with certain years of supervised mentorship should be required. The lower the degree the longer the mentorship. The higher the degree, the lower the number of years required to be mentored. I have been a member of the AIA for nearly 18 years, and subscribe to their thoughts and practices on Interior Design. It must be very clear in the legislation of whether or not the term, Interior Designer is a title act or a practice act, and what requirements define each of those. I would like to see a national standard, again like NCARB, where by passing the National Exam, you may apply to the state board of architects for a license in that state through reciprocity with your NCIDQ certificate, but that the term be consistent from state to state,

	and not have different abilities or requirements for the licensed individual.
5.	The requirements to be able to take the NCIDQ exam should be dropped.
6.	The greatest interior designers to date have been creative geniuses and I am unaware of too many if any who have a degree in Interior Design. And, if any do it was just by chance that it helped them in their career. Without common sense no individual can be deemed qualified at any profession and it is a true shame that an art form such as Interior Design is being turned into a bean counters paradise.
7.	We are blowing too much smoke. Clarity is needed to allow expression of an art form.
8.	yes, however, this does not mean they can forego the experience requirement once it is passed. it should work exactly the same way that NCARB works for architects before registration/licensure/certification.
9.	Formal education, while important to learn basics, should not be required, as there are other avenues designers can use to learn their craft, including apprenticeship, on line learning, individual product education, and on the job training in software products specific to a particular business. What makes sense is something similar to a General Contractor's test, where you can go to a study session to learn what needs to be covered, can review and study on your own, and take the test for 'certification.' Any additional burden of coursework or years of schooling would be costly, not necessarily create the best designers, and limit the growth and prosperity for our profession.
10.	All of the build environment should be together on a Board to work for the HSW of the public.
11.	Since I do mainly residential and have certification credentials, I am get very little benefit from the certification for what I have to do and pay. Mostly for me it is a title. That is why I am "lukewarm" on these credentials as they only apply to commercial work. Not sure it is worth the fight for residential designers.
12.	It is a question of professionalism. Clients are getting insufficient and erroneous information from "pop culture" sources like HGTV. There needs to be recognition of experience and education.
13.	I feel a minimum of an Associates Degree should be a requirement to take the above exam NCIDQ.
14.	The ONLY reason that I feel that a BA in ID should not be the minimum is because I strongly feel that the educational path the public is going to follow in the future is much different that what we see now. If the economy continues in the direction it is going, some students will not be able to afford to acquire the BA, instead, opting to take only the core courses that are in the discipline of Interior Design (forgoing , say PE and/or foreign languages, etc.) Therefore, not completing the requirements for a BA. Additionally, internet schools are springing up that offer ID programs. Although I do not believe that this method is conducive to the study of ID, I feel that in the future, they may develop an alternative method based on the web to teach these courses.
15.	I live in Ohio. I previously practiced in the state of Florida & was a licensed ASID Designer there. For a residential designer, licensing makes no sense what-so-ever. I can understand some kind of

	overseeing board to address commercial designers, because this field is so technical, & I understand the necessity of a governing board, but I think this should be regulated by a board from within, not the state or federal government. I am of the opinion that our government is way too big now & that we need to eliminate a lot of what it is responsible for now.
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17.	Master degree in interior design with a bachelor degree in interior design should equal passing of NCIDQ.
18.	Credentials? Yes. Certification? Yes. State licensing? HELL NO!!!
19.	My personal experience is that I returned to school after being out of college for many years to pursue a degree in ID. My associates degree, combined with my own skills and experience, has given me everything I need to be successful. I feel the NCIDQ is often unfairly used to hamper the development of the Interior Design Industry and the access of it to all clients. Thanks for the survey!
20.	I am also a licensed architect; I have observed first-hand the ineffectiveness of state legislation regarding professional licensure. Interior designers are the only ones who are convinced that they should be regulated to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare, and a large percentage of them are actively against licensure. Let's face it, ID licensure is primarily to allow larger interior design firms to compete for larger commercial and institutional projects as the prime professional, and is a means to get a larger slice of the economic pie.
21.	I believe those "new" students who are working towards and achieving a degree in Interior Design should be directed towards certification. For those who have been in the industry for a long time, who have paid their dues, and who are actively working within the industry, should not be penalized by new laws and regulations if they started practicing before all of these new regulations began. Furthermore all of these certifications are extremely expensive, often requiring travel and additional expenses, and require a great deal of time to accomplish them, often taking away from an individual's job or work.
22.	I do not believe our profession has successfully created a professional image of our profession and distinguished the differences between interior design and interior decoration. The public is not aware.
23.	Certifications cost a lot of money, especially with CEU requirements. What a waste of money for hard-working designers feeding their family's, supporting their wardrobe and business needs, it's just one more hurdle to jump for what reason? either people want to work with you or they don't.
24.	I believe everyone should have a bachelors degree; for no other reason but to have more exposure to the ever-changing world around us.
25.	I have great respect for the the title and practice acts. However, ASID

	<p>has abused this issue. It is COMPLETELY unfair that as a designer with an AAS degree (my second career) I cannot call myself an interior designer. This in effect means I had to delete my incorporated company from any website, link, directory that used the heading "interior design" to locate me otherwise I'd risk being sued as they have been doing for years--withh my \$400 annual dues I'd be funding a lawsuit against me! So I pay my dues but cannot market myself as an interior designer. I have lost business as a result. I and those like me who studied interior design at an NCIDQ accredited college should upon graduation be able to call ourselves interior designers. We are also discriminated against by ASID in that we have to be labeled "allied member," again ghettoing us as if we are not real designers. Those designers who take the NCIDQ should by all means be designated as "licensed interior designer." And we who have not should be able to be designated as "interior designer."</p>
26.	More on the job training in all fields should be required
27.	<p>I used to think a bachelor's degree should be required, but as I attempt to transition into the architecture profession, I can empathize with people who have limited choices mid life to start a new career. I believe the primary path should be an accredited bachelor's degree with an alternative path requiring much more experience for those with an associate's degree.</p>
28.	<p>I do not believe that a bachelor degree in interior design should be a requirement for taking the NCIDQ exam. I certainly think it would be easier to pass if you had such experience, however we should not force people to limit their educational options. I also do not believe that the experience time limits for taking the NCIDQ should be a requirement but an option.</p>
29.	<p>I would like to clarify my answer for question number 10... I say no because I think that individuals who obtain an associate degree should be able to take the NCIDQ and be qualified by that organization. When you look at State licensing, I think the minimum should be a bachelors degree for a couple of reasons. By supporting a bachelors degree for state licensing, you raise that bar again. There should always be various levels of practice within in an industry to support its growth and evolution. State licensing should not prevent other "lower" (not meant to be deaming) tiers of interior design from practicing but open the door to another "higher" level of practice, such as an independent interior design firm or to be able to stamp drawings for permit. Requiring a bachelors degree also places a good emphasis on the education you receive and the foundation of any licensed profession is education, followed by experience and exam. The interior design industry has evolved greatly over the past 15 years and there is so much you need to know to practice with a license that eduction is very important in my opion. Requiring a Bachelors degree also supports the schools programs and in turn licensing will provide a career path for students. You can be licensed if you want to go the extra mile and take on the liability, or, you practice the any other various path to a career in interior design.</p>
30.	<p>I entered this field after a previous profession. After education and job experience I applied to be grandfathered into the interior design licensing. I did receive it...however when sharing this with some colleagues my license was rescinded for not enough job time spent in</p>

	<p>the profession. Apparently I spoke to the wrong colleagues about my good fortune in 1993. Since then I have taken the prep for the NCIDQ and have decided that taking the test is not the way I am going at this time in my profession. The cost and time is prohibited. Instead I read and I am active with taking every CEU that relates to my particular design field.</p>
31.	<p>2 plus the requisite number of years of experience should allow a person to sit for the NCIDQ. If they have the aptitude they will pass, if not then they go back to studying and get more experience, and try again. There are a few 2 year programs which teach everything needed to know for the exam, so don't penalize the person who can't afford the time nor the money to go for a full bachelors, esp. if they have done the time in the field.</p>
32.	<p>Especially in Feng Shui, since there are no national guidelines, the certifications (of which I have several) I feel are meaningless.</p>
33.	<p>The HGTV portrayal of the interior design industry has done more to destroy the public perception of the interior design professional more than anything else. When they feature a hair dressers...turned designer without any education in the design industry pickout out discarded furniture from the garbage and painting it in their garage, that does very little to enhance the professionalism of a designer. I don't know any interior designers who sew and install client's window treatments. What a joke!!</p>
34.	<p>I am beginning my own grad studies at FSU this fall, working on an MFA so that I may teach. The Florida legislature is currently trying very hard to de-regulate our profession, which has everyone here very much up-in-arms, as you can imagine. If you would like any further input/opinions/information on the subject for your research, please feel free to contact me directly. I will be in your research shoes, myself, in a very short time! April S. Campbell naplesdznr@mac.com</p>
35.	<p>On #10 above- typically I would say yes. But perhaps there should be an exception made for someone with an Associate's degree and 10+ years of relevant experience.</p>
36.	<p>I think ASID is wasting money, time and volunteer resources fighting the certification battle!!! It is ludicrous that as a member of ASID I must pay an additional membership fee to support something I don't agree with. As a member of NKBA I pay an additional fee to fight legislation. How ridiculous!!</p>
37.	<p>The only concern for me is the "terms" used to define a "Professional" and "Allied Member". It degrades the Interior Design specific graduate if they have not passed the exam. Degreed in the field should be grandfathered into the professional status. All others through work experience or degrees in other fields should only need to take the exam. However, everyone needs to keep up with continuing education.</p>
38.	<p>In NJ they have a certification law but unless you are a residential or contract designer, you can't actually be certified. I've worked in design for 20 years, have a bachelors degree, have taught interior design at 2 colleges, but since I work in aviation, I'm excluded. I don't work with load bearing walls or do lighting design, so therefore I'm not a certified designer???? how is that possible? I don't think the consumer/client cares either way.</p>

39.	Large public spaces like hotels, commercial buildings where hundreds or thousands of people will be within a space needs to have certified designers for safety, bringing this into residential only serves to try and limit competition in a most self serving approach to the industry.
40.	I only think this certification should apply to ID professionals practicing commercial design. I am a class of 79 ASU Colledge of Architecture Graduate and my degree is a BS Interior Architecture & Design. I have been practicing for over 30 years and only design Restaurant, Foodservice, & Hospitality projects. I have been an in house designer for Westin Hotels, partner in a firm and have been a Principal / Owner of my own firm LU S Design Associates for 9+ years. I have designed over 500 Restaurants & over 1,300 Foodservice Facilities in many parts of the country. I have never once been asked if I have any certifications by the clients or investment groups that are funding the projects. Please feel free to contact me. Lu Schildmeyer Principal / Owner LU S Design Associates 253-859-3501 lus@lusdesignassociates.com
41.	There should be an apprentice route available with 7 to 10 years of practice under a certified designer, then you should be able to take the test. Then upon passing, you could then become certified.
42.	See comments for #9. Thank you.
43.	Legislation is NOT needed!
44.	I believe a BA or BFA degree is necessary for a client to insist upon.
45.	I become incensed when an organization, such as ASID touts the NCIDQ as the exclusive exam for a "Professional" in the industry, when 100's of designers were 'grandfathered", have NEVER taken their exam, but are now considered "Professionals" and are "NCIDG certified". How hipocritical. They are more interested in exclusivity than truely measuring qualifications. Which is why I would never belong to ASID.
46.	I think a minimum of a bachelors degree should be required to be an interior designer. Others would be decorators. If they do not perform well they will not prosper or do well in the marketplace. They will be weeded out. Are you ready to shut down HGTV because you would have to.
47.	I feel a formal college degree is not essential and should not be a requirement to take the NCIDQ or other competing certification exam. Having a liberal arts degree in interior design or other related field may have its advantages, but many talented and successful interior designers have no formal training. Self motivated individuals have many ways to pursue the knowledge, training and skills necessary for the practice of interior design. The certification exam should be a comprehensive analysis of the individual's knowledge of industry codes and standards and skill in applying design principles to practical design examples. Establishing years of practice and/or formal education requirements as a prerequisite for taking the exam does make sense to me. I believe the motivation to require legislation as a means to regulate interior design in the form of title or practice acts is an attempt to limit competition in the market place. Talented and successful interior designers welcome competition and applaud the success of other interior designers. The consumer benefits by a free market in the field of interior design just as they do in any other arena - by enjoying fair

	market rates and a multitude of options.
48.	There needs to be a common definition of Interior Design and a common understanding or establishment of what a commercial interior designer does. The curriculum in school programs now is much more aggressive and advanced than what was taught in the past. The profession and representation by professional associations needs to evolve with the education.
49.	any one can become a designer though sheer creativity and knowledge observed-gained., but certification will scan and filter to large extent., and straighten the deliveries that will help clients and the industry to follow set-standard
50.	In Canada the title Interior Designer is now proitected and can legally only be used by someone who is a member of ARIDO, therefore having certain qualification, but anyone can call themselves a designer - for the most part the public has no idea of the difference or for that matter fully understands what a properly trained Interior Designer does. This is what needs to be changed - and perhaps the title Interior Designer needs changing afterall - how many of us also do EXTERIORS!! We are really closer to an architect than most people realize - come up with a new and better title!
51.	You should not be able to sit for the NCIDQ with a mere 2-year certificate from a non accredited interior design school. A 4 year degree (BA or BFA) in interior design from an accredited higher educational institution should be the minimum requirement plus work experience of 7 years.
52.	Not only is the requirement of the NCIDQ important, verifiable work experience is necessary. This is one of the issues raised here in Florida. I've responded that an architect does not graduate an immediately call themselves an Architect, a doctor has to complete a residency, an accountant graduate does not go out and become CFO of a company within a day. We all need some sort of real world training. A just graduated Interior Design student said to me when asked if he'd sit for the NCIDQ today this soon after graduation if he could "no way, I'd fail". We all need just that little bit of time.
53.	thank you for your research-good luck
54.	Infuriating It doesn't take a rocket scientist to pick out draperies. Seriously, without ASID 80,000 people would die/ Or more to the point. "would be KILLED" (Notice the difference in intention between would die and would be killed?)
55.	We have done a lousy job with marketing our profession. The public needs to know the ways we protect the public, ergo the legislators would also learn.
56.	My decision to not take the NCIDQ in no way comprises my design knowledge or education. The idea that those who take the test are "better" is really an insult to those of us who have practiced for years. It is a personal decision not an indication of my talent. The test is mainly geared toward commercial and does not apply to the majority of designers.
57.	those who were grandfathered in during this legilation and have been in practice for ten years or more should remain with the same status category.
58.	Commercial Interior Design should only be practiced by a designer that

	has passed the NCIDQ. Unsuspecting clients pay a great deal of money to people that have no education or expertise in commercial design.
59.	It would be helpful to have a more unified front that represents all interior design professionals, instead of only relying on state agencies only.
60.	Self-credentialing without government intervention is best for the professional interior designer . From a marketing standpoint, credentials need to be valued to a client. Most clients want portfolios and references, not credentials. Too much money spent on lobbyists and it should be spent on promoting credentialed designers. I quit ASID due to the paid lobbying. It wasn't effective no matter how much they spend.
61.	Based on more than thirty years of hiring, training, and managing interior designers ... I truly believe you can come from nearly any strong educational college experience and move to interior design with 'on the job training' and be as effective and professional as anyone with an undergraduate degree in interior design.
62.	State laws govern to what extent an interior designer can practice. The current Florida deregulation ruling appears to block interior designers from doing any commercial design projects. Self
63.	The word "certification" is not fully commonplace in legal language. State certification, such as California's is confused by NCIDQ's use of the word. Internal industry terminology should work together, not fight one another.
64.	I do NOT think we should continue allowing architects who gain their architectural licenses to check a box saying that they'd also like to be given the NCIDQ credential. It weakens our standing as a complementary but separate profession. Also, I think we should institute a cut-off for allowing in those with only an associates degree in Interior Design or a degree at any level in a related field. The ID bachelors and 2 years (assuming CIDA) should be the dead minimum for sitting for the NCIDQ.