

# Let's Clear the Air on Legislation

I would like to take a moment to discuss a topic that has been on the minds of many of our members lately: interior design legislation.



**THE PHRASE MEANS** different things to different practitioners: protecting our right to practice the profession of interior design to the full scope of our abilities; establishing the state registration of some interior designers to allow them to provide certain services; enacting the definition of our profession into written state law. Regrettably, for some it now connotes *exclusion* and *protectionism*, and that has created discord among us.

We who serve in leadership positions for ASID recognize the need to speak plainly about this complicated issue and confirm the Society's support of ALL its members.

During our meeting in January, the ASID Board of Directors spent considerable time examining the Society's legislative position from many points of view. It was a healthy discussion that helped to clarify our intent and sharpen our purpose. To help clear the air, we want to be sure all our members know where we stand:

**ASID will continue to support legal recognition of the profession, but not if that recognition prevents individuals from offering basic interior design services as they have in the past**, so long as those services do not affect building codes or other statutes.

As a professional organization, ASID exists to support the growth of our members' practice and advance the interior design profession. One way we do this is through advocacy. Recently, some members have

expressed a concern that the ASID legislative strategy may be harmful to their businesses, thus favoring the interests of some members over others.

This could not be further from the truth. Every ASID member's right to practice interior design (just as he or she has always practiced it) is the overarching goal of everything that ASID does, and every legislative action that we support. We want you, as an ASID interior designer, to be able to practice interior design to the fullest extent of your capabilities. (And the same goes for unaffiliated interior designers, as well.)

In fact, it is our further goal to not just maintain but widen your scope of practice, to make your professional practice truly match your skill and knowledge areas. ASID has grown from 24,000 to more than 40,000 members since 1991, and we're proud to be the leader in the interior design profession. With your membership, your input, your hard work, and your commitment, we intend to keep leading and growing.

Please see the letter on page 43 of the magazine, to learn more about the Society's legislative policy. **i**

Bruce J. Brigham, FASID, ISP, IES



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS