



Frequently Asked Questions Interior Design Licensure Position

AIA Board Approves the Revised AIA Position on ID Licensure

- Today, Friday, December 10, 2021, the AIA National Board voted [*overwhelmingly/unanimously*] to update AIA's current policy position on interior designer licensure. The revised stance addresses practice and title in the built environment by eliminating AIA's outright opposition to interior design licensure.
 - ***What does this updated position statement do?***
 - This updated position statement brings more focus to the role of the architect and provides AIA state components with latitude to discuss the issues and craft a solution that best fits its members when they encounter this issue at their respective statehouse since each state is different.
 - This revised position also allows AIA more flexibility to negotiate and review possible remedies with legislators, regulators, and partner groups. AIA members will be encouraged to work with interior designers (and others in the design collaboration team) to engage with policymakers on what level of regulation is best for their specific profession.
 - ***Why did AIA decide to change its position statement on interior design licensure?***
 - The AIA regularly reviews its Directory of Public Policies and Position Statements to ensure that they are current and relevant. AIA's leadership, many AIA component executives, and members believe it is past time to refresh AIA's position on interior design licensure. As result, this issue was made a priority by the AIA National Board in 2020 and an AIA National Interior Design (ID) Task Force was created to internally review AIA's stance.
 - ***Is protecting architectural licensure no longer a priority for AIA?***
 - It is important to AIA and its members for AIA to continue to protect the specific licensure status and scope for architects, while allowing other professions to choose what is best for their members (short of infringement upon an architect's scope of work).
 - If interior designers wish to negotiate licensure with regulators and policymakers, AIA hopes to be additive, as design team collaborators. If the professional scope of interior designers does not infringe upon that of architects, AIA state components will be able to decide their own levels of activity on the matter, based upon member interest.
 - If interior designers wish to do work within the scope of work of architects, AIA invites them to join other AIA members on the path

to architecture licensure through educational, experience, and testing opportunities.

- **Who is on the AIA National Interior Design Task Force and how did they formulate the updated position statement language?**

AIA Interior Design Licensure Task Force

- **Bill Bates, FAIA**

Adjunct Professor, Carnegie Mellon, PA

Served as President of AIA National in 2019 after being elected to the Board of Directors in 2011. Bill served as AIA's 2018 President-Elect and was also chair of the AIA Board Community Committee from 2015-2016. He has a long history of international development experience in corporate real estate and construction and was most recently the Vice President of Real Estate for Eat'n Park Hospitality Group, Inc. prior to becoming a part time adjunct faculty member in Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture. Bill is a registered architect with a professional degree from the University of Notre Dame and has also studied post graduate construction management at Pennsylvania State University and Harvard University's Graduate School of Design.

- **Guy Geier, FAIA, FIIDA**

Managing Partner, FXCollaborative, New York

As Managing Director of FXCollaborative, Guy leads their strategic direction and operations, fostering a continual dialogue between their team and the client, patron, and public. He also leads their Corporate and Interior Design practices with a focus on developing environments that reflect the client's mission and current program, as well as anticipated future needs. Guy is an architect with over 40 years of experience who remains deeply involved with the design of numerous projects for corporate and institutional clients. He received both his Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Master of Architecture from the University of Virginia and is licensed to practice architecture in 12 states and the District of Columbia. He was president of AIANY in 2018.

- **Tim Hawk, FAIA**

President, WSA Studios, Ohio

Tim is the President of WSA Studios in Columbus, Ohio. It is an AIA Gold Medal firm which seeks to create innovative spaces through design collaboration. The firm's work features urban interventions, significant interior environments, and iconic built form. Tim attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio earning both his Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Master of Architecture. He has taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago, The Ohio State University, and is currently an adjunct professor of architecture at Columbus State. He has been an active AIA leader on the local and national level. Tim currently serves as an At-large-Director on the AIA National Board, the 2020 AIA National Government Affairs Committee Chair, and the Chair of the AIA National Advisory Group on Interior Architecture from 2006-2009. He was President of AIA Columbus from 2009-2010 and the AIA Columbus Honor Awards Committee Chair from 2002-2005.

- **Lisa Kennedy, FAIA**

Executive Director, AIA Wisconsin

Before becoming the Executive Director of AIA Wisconsin in September of 2020, Lisa most recently served as Vice President of Design and Construction for over 20 years for Manna, Inc., a national restaurant

company. Prior to that, she managed her own private architectural practice for over a decade and held leadership positions at Kohler Company and HGA Architects and Engineers. She received her Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies and Master of Architecture degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is licensed as an architect in 17 states and is a registered interior designer in Wisconsin. Lisa served as a member of the national Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects from 2001-2003 and chaired the national convention for the AIA in 2004. She is a past president of AIA Wisconsin and has held numerous leadership positions across the AIA as well as for civic organizations with her Milwaukee community.

- ***Sarah Wahlgren Wingo, AIA
Owner + Principal Designer, Wyn Design Company, LLC
Washington, DC***

Sarah is the owner and the principal designer for her own firm, Wyn Design Company, LLC. Prior to that, she was a Project Architect focusing on interiors with GrizForm Design Architects. Sarah earned her Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Interior Architecture from Auburn University. After graduation she moved to Washington, DC to serve as the 2016-2017 National President of the American Institute of Architecture Students. She is a scholar of the 2019 Class of the AIA Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program, serves on the leadership team for the AIA DC Emerging Architects Committee, and serves on many other local and national committees—most notably as Co-Chair of the Center for Civic Leadership.

- Between the months of May-August of this year, the Task Force held extensive virtual listening sessions with AIA internal stakeholders. They met with members and representatives from: 44 state components, the AIA Center for Practice, the AIA Small Firm Exchange, and the AIA Interior Architecture Knowledge Community to discuss the merits of changing AIA's position on interior design licensure.
- The Task Force also analyzed the current AIA Public Policy and Position Statements holistically; compared the NCARB ARE with the NCIDQ Practicum, Fundamentals, and Professional Exam; and reviewed NCARB Model Laws and Regulations before making their initial recommendation to the AIA Board.
- Between October-November 2021, the Task Force sought additional feedback on the initial recommendation to the Board and continued to refine and update their original recommendation. The review of AIA's position was based upon virtual meetings with members and representatives from 37 state components, the AIA National Government Advocacy Committee, and the AIA Interior Architecture Knowledge Community. During that time, the Task Force also solicited and received written feedback from AIA members and other AIA internal stakeholders culminating in the

updated revised position statement language submitted to the AIA Board in advance of its December meeting.

- ***What will AIA National do to help state components implement this new position statement?***
 - AIA National staff will be providing state components with updated materials and strategic campaign planning training to support their continued efforts to ensure that the scope and practice of architecture remains with qualified licensed architects. AIA will be doing outreach to components and will work directly with them to navigate this new licensure terrain.
- ***What next steps will the AIA be taking to support this new position statement?***
 - At the beginning of 2022, AIA National plans initiate a dialogue in conjunction with the National Council of Architecture Registration Boards (NCARB) to pursue mutual acknowledgment and agreement regarding the regulation of architecture and interior design with the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), and the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ).