

## 10 False Statements on Licensing

### Factual Corrections Provided

1. Fire Prevention - Most fires occur in interior spaces and if not caught immediately can spread rapidly within the first 45 seconds producing deadly noxious gasses. Interior designers are trained to utilize products that have been treated and tested to comply with the strictest California fire codes.

Pure conjecture. Most fires start as a result of faulty wiring or as a result of external conditions. The spread of fire is retarded by the design of mechanical, electrical, fire suppression and structural building assemblies and further defined by the use occupancy and the level of hazard of a given space. Fire spread is also addressed in the design of the architectural building envelope, allowable building materials and means of egress. The International Building Code (IBC) under the auspices of the International Code Council (ICC) requires that these all be met in design prior to the issuance of a building permit and final certificate of occupancy regardless of the discipline of the professional seeking to complete work. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) also guides design and construction of buildings and interior spaces. **The consumer is currently protected.**

2. Slip & Fall Safety - Most of the cases of slip and fall are due to inappropriate flooring materials. With over a million reports of slip and fall incidents each year, it is imperative that correct flooring materials are specified for public environments. Proper flooring for egress, static build up and coefficients of friction ratings are just a few serious considerations designers look at when determining the most appropriate flooring material for building use and occupancy.

The IBC, "Section 804.5 Interior Floor Finishes" makes no requirement on the Coefficient of Friction for floor materials as the majority of documented slip and fall cases are due to human error, improperly medicated elderly, insurance fraud, weather, other obstructions or poorly maintained wet and topically hazardous surface conditions. **The consumer is currently protected.**

3. Eliminating VOC's - Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) are hydrocarbon solvents used in paints, stains, glues and other products. They are released in the air during the application of products like carpet glues, paint and other material finish coatings and adhesives. After time these off-gas fumes can cause working individuals to develop flu-like symptoms. Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) is one of the leading causes for lost productivity and workdays. Interior designers help eliminate VOC's by specifying products that are non-toxic and safe for people with allergies and asthma.

Sick Building Syndrome is typically caused by the inappropriate or under-engineered fresh air exchange in an interior space. Without the proper ratio of fresh air to interior used air, Carbon Dioxide (a byproduct of human breath), off gassing of manufactured products (even those claiming to be Green or low VOC) and air born human bacteria/viruses cannot properly be removed to the outside. Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems are designed in compliance with the International Mechanical Code (IMC).

**The consumer is currently protected.**

4. Promoting Correct Ergonomics- Ergonomics is the study of the relation between human physiology and the physical environment. Ergonomics uses the information developed by anthropometrics to study exactly how humans interact with physical objects like chairs, control panels, keyboards, desks, etc. Musculoskeletal disorders are caused from improper or non-existent ergonomical design. Interior Designers are aware of these studies and therefore specify ergonomic furniture and accessories.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and similar conditions are caused by repetitive actions and inappropriate physical support of the body during any indoor or outdoor activity and came to public attention through the meat packing industry. The furniture manufacturing industry and other industrial designers have taken the lead in engineering and providing consumers and design professionals with a far-reaching breadth of ergonomic products to select from. These well designed products range from household appliances for arthritic individuals or those with limited mobility to automobile knobs/latches to office furniture to fit workers of a variety of shapes, sizes and weights for maximum productivity. **The consumer is currently protected.**

5. Universal Accessible Design - The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) is a federal law that requires all commercial and public accommodations be accessible to people with disabilities. Interior designers are responsible for designing interior spaces that conform to ADA requirements making all public spaces universally accessible.

All public spaces as defined by the ADA must currently meet its requirements in design prior to receiving a building permit regardless of the professional discipline of the individual designing the site, building, or interior space. **The consumer is currently protected.**

6. Energy Efficiency - An example is lighting. In commercial buildings, lighting accounts for a large part of the total energy consumed. Interior designer's can help minimize energy use by maximizing the usage of daylight within a space layout, selecting high-efficiency lamps, using efficient luminaries, providing task lighting to reduce general lighting costs, and selecting high-reflectance ceiling, wall, and floor surfaces to

*reduce the total number of fixtures required to illuminate the space.*

Natural day lighting in a building interior is let into the space by the building walls and windows. This fenestration and exterior shell configuration is a structural component of a building. The majority of a building's energy consumption and relative efficiency is engineered in the HVAC systems, Low E glazing in the windows to reduce ultraviolet light and unwanted passive solar gain which places an energy load on the HVAC system, and reflective roof assembly materials. In commercial office projects, it is good for the architects, electrical engineers or interior designers to select efficient lamps, luminaires, and light reflective finishes, if the use and program of the space warrant it. However, in certain, health care, hospitality, performance space, museum, IT and residential spaces, a much lower Foot-Candle Level (brightness) or minimizing of natural light is desired. **The consumer is currently protected.**

*7. Preserving the Environment - Interior design is an integral part of the environmental context.*

*Designers harmonize the way the built environment is constructed working in correlation with the natural environment. Many interior designers are LEED certified and specify products that are environmentally safe utilizing recycled goods and clean manufacturing.*

Interior design is only one part of the environmental picture. Many landscape architects, architects, engineers, interior designers, manufacturers and developers seek LEED (environmental) certification given by the U S Green Building Council (USGBC an independent private association) although it is not mandated by any state or province by law. The greatest environmental impact a building has on the environment is in the site selection and building systems engineering. The decision to pursue sustainable design and construction is consumer or client driven. **The consumer is currently protected.**

*8. Life Cycle Costing - Life Cycle Costs are defined as the expected life of materials, furniture and finishes utilized in interior environment. Interior designers must consider the client's project expectations for replacements costs, maintenance, and context/style longevity for every specialized design market in order to make the best recommendations for long-term use.*

Furniture and equipment typically are fully depreciated between three to five years regardless of original cost, design, maintenance or recommendation. Residential furniture is replaced based on a homeowner's personal desire. Commercial furniture manufacturers typically engineer products for the best long term wear and generally "Ugly Out" before they wear out and are replaced when financially prudent. Cheap furniture and equipment, as in all things breaks quickly. **The consumer is currently protected.**

*9. Psychology of Color - Color carries with it many symbolic and associative meanings that designers can utilize. Cool colors (blue, green, and violet) are considered to be restful and quiet while warm colors (red, yellow, and orange) are seen as more active and stimulating. Color plays key roles in the marketing success, ambiance, and social well being of interior environments. One example is using the color pink in detaining facilities because the color temporarily neutralizes anger and aggression.*

Color should not be legislated and isn't currently. Note that pink also can cause depression. **The consumer is currently protected.**

*10. Specialized Focus - Knowledge of interior design practice is becoming popular as more individuals either in educational studies or in search of interior professionals are realizing the dynamics of interior design and the specialized services professional interior designers offer that directly affect public health, safety and welfare. Every person entering an interior environment is "captive" to that space and deserves to be confident that the spaces they occupy are designed with maximum emphasis placed on personal safety, protected health, enhanced functionality and productivity, while increasing individual welfare. The building envelope creates "Captive Space". That space, all spaces, must currently meet certain stringent architectural building shell, building finish materials and equipment, engineering, ADA and life safety/ fire egress code requirements in order to allow its lawful, public use and occupancy regardless if an interior designer is on the project team. If a building permit is lawfully secured, if progress building inspections are lawfully completed by each engineering discipline, if the construction drawings are not substantially altered in the field, and if a final inspection earns a Certification of Occupancy, then all captive occupants of the space may feel confident in their personal safety. Should something unfortunate happen to cause injury or death, consumers currently have local, state and federal legal systems at their full disposal. **The consumer is currently protected.***