Dear Members,

When I was first trying to think of what has been happening since I last reported to you, it seemed like all has been quiet, with little activity since the legislative session ended in May. I realized that is not entirely true. Already the TAID board is working on ideas and making plans for the 2009 legislative session. We will again introduce the Interior Design Practice Act. With each legislative session we hope to be successful in our efforts. With each session that passes, we learn more about the political ways and understand better how to work with both legislators and with opposing legislative coalitions.

In our preparations for the 2009 session Donna Vining, Pat McLaughlin, and I, along with our lobbyists, attended a Texas Board of Architectural Examiners Legislative Summit Meeting in October. This is a new effort that the TBAE has initiated for the three professions under their regulation (architects, landscape architects, and interior designers) to meet and discuss their issues and legislative goals. The intent is for the professions to cooperate with each other. In our case, we hope to be working with the representatives for the architects to create wording for our practice act that both our professions can accept. Wouldn't that be wonderful to not have their opposition during the next session? It is a lofty goal, but not an impossible one.

The TBAE is still in the midst of defending the Interior Design Title Act against the four decorators who brought a lawsuit against them and the State of Texas. The lawsuit claims that our title act, any interior design title act, is unconstitutional in that it inhibits the freedom of speech. Their thought is that even if a person has not fulfilled the qualifications to be a licensed interior designer they should still be allowed to call themselves an interior designer, if the person performs the same services that a licensed interior design does. The TBAE can not talk about the lawsuit, but rest assured they and the Texas Attorney General believe in our Title Act and are definitely defending it.

When I first became a member of the TAID board seven years ago, I knew nothing about politics. I could not understand many of the conversations in our board meetings, nor did I have a good grasp of the purpose of a Practice Act for the interior design profession. I have learned so much and now actually enjoy having the ability to converse intelligently about interior design legislation and politics in general. I’m mentioning this because TAID needs more designers to be actively involved. You do not have to be a whiz at politics; you just need to have a concern about preserving our profession and elevating it to a more professional level. Please contact me if you are interested in being involved on any level, marilyn@supporttaid.org. We will welcome you with open arms!
At the last TBAE board meeting held in Austin on October 16-17, TAI D President Marilyn Roberts presented an award of appreciation to Chairman Gordon E. Landreth. Chairman Landreth has served as chair of TBAE for the last three years where he dedicated his time and service to represent the three professions regulated by the board equally.

The Gulf Coast Regional Board voted after our last newsletter had already gone to press to postpone our 3rd Art Gala, due to some conflicting events. The good news is they just postponed the event. We are thrilled to announce our new date of February 8th. We appreciate all of the support from our industry partners and we look forward to a great event.

This is the time of year when the politicians start their campaigns. Remember that all state representatives are elected every two years. State Senators have six year staggered terms. I would like to encourage all of you to get involved. Volunteer to stuff envelopes, put signs in yards or whatever is asked. You will be deeply appreciated by the legislators and the experiences will be gratifying for you.

Donna Vining, FASID, IIDA, RID, CAPS
Executive Director
Amanda Kendall, IIDA, RID  
IIDA Representative

I am a licensed Interior Designer in the State of Texas and an active member of TAID and IIDA. I have served as IIDA Dallas City Center Director, Director of Communications and currently sit on the IIDA Texas/ Oklahoma Chapter Board as Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs. As part of my role on the IIDA chapter board I have been given the privilege of serving on the TAID board as well, as the IIDA Representative.

I moved to Dallas in 1996 after graduating from Oklahoma State University. In my 11 years in the design industry I have worked for several architectural/ interior design firms with focus on government, healthcare and hospitality, but primarily commercial interior design. I also worked for 4 years as a sales representative and just within the last 2 years decided to come back to the design side. Most recently I worked for SG Design, Inc. and this November I accepted a position with Gensler in Dallas as a senior interior designer/ project manager. Being involved in several aspects of the interior design industry has taught me a lot about all of the facets of our profession and it has helped grow my passion for interior design legislation.

Working for an architectural/ interior design firm gives me a little different perspective of legislation than those who are sole practitioners. I think many designers who do work for a firm are not aware of what is at stake for our profession if we do not focus on our future. While we all realize the importance of legislation if we work for ourselves, when you work for a firm I think a lot of times we get lost in where we are, not what we are. For me it is not only about recognizing that someday I may want to work for myself but about how hard I have worked to call myself an interior designer. I personally do not want anyone to take that away from me. I think by continuing to support interior design legislation we are also raising the awareness of what we do and this only continues to educate the public that interior designers do truly protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Aside from being a volunteer for TAID and IIDA, I have a wonderful husband, Jason, who is a tremendous support of my volunteer time. I am also a huge sports fan and can be seen on Saturdays decked in orange cheering for my OSU Cowboys.

I have really enjoyed being a part of the interior design legislation process. It has been great to see just over my 4 years of involvement how much interior design legislation has grown around the country. Being from Oklahoma, I was proud to see their Interior Design Title Act go into effect this July. Knowing now how the process works and that Texas has had a Title Act since 1991, just makes me realize how thankful we should be to those volunteers before us who have gotten us thus far.
TBAE “Architect Required Flowchart” Notes:
(For the latest information and complete details, see Tex. Occ. Code Ann. Ch. 1051 and the Rules and Regulations of the Board at www.tbae.state.tx.us.)

Clarification of certain types of privately owned buildings
RULE 1211 PRIVATELY OWNED BUILDINGS (excerpt from Rule 1.211) For the purposes of Section 1051.606 of the Texas Occupations Code:

“multifamily dwelling” means a building containing more than two separate units intended to be used for human habitation where the units are not separated by open space but instead are separated only by walls or partitions.

“commercial building” means an enclosed structure primarily used for the purchase, sale, or exchange of commodities or services.

“warehouse that has limited public access” means a building primarily used for the storage of equipment, merchandise, or commodities where:

(1) only employees, delivery persons, and other specifically authorized people are routinely expected to enter the building; and
(2) persons who enter the building are expected to occupy the building only on a limited basis.

Clarification of terms regarding publicly owned buildings
Public Entity—A state, a city, a county, a city and county, a district, a department or agency of state or local government which has official or quasi-official status, an agency established by state or local government though not a department thereof but subject to some governmental control, or any other political subdivision or public corporation.

RULE 1212 PUBLICLY OWNED BUILDINGS (excerpt from Rule 1.212 regarding intended uses)
education: the use of a building at any time for instructional purposes;
assembly: the use of a building for the gathering together of persons for purposes such as civic, social, or religious functions or for recreation, food or drink consumption, or awaiting transportation; or
office occupancy: the use of a building for business, professional, or service transactions or activities.

Alteations: Determining if “substantial structural or “substantial” exitway change.
RULE 1213 EXEMPTION FOR ALTERATIONS TO EXISTING BUILDINGS
(a) For purposes of Section 1051.606 of the Texas Occupations Code, a structural change is “substantial” if the engineering plans and specifications for the structural change must be prepared by a licensed engineer pursuant to Chapter 1001 of the Texas Occupations Code.
(b) For purposes of Section 1051.606 of the Texas Occupations Code, an exitway change is “substantial” if the change will affect a path of egress intended to be used by more than fifty (50) persons.

Clarification of requirements regarding institutional residential facilities
RULE 1214 INSTITUTIONAL RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (excerpt from Rule 1.214)
(b) For purposes of this section, “institutional residential facility” means a building intended for occupancy on a 24 hour basis by persons who are receiving custodial care from the proprietor or operator of the building.

Architect required for construction observation on projects requiring an architect for plans and specs
RULE 1217 CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION
If, pursuant to Section 1.211, Section 1.212, or Section 1.214, an Architect must prepare or supervise and control the preparation of the architectural plans and specifications for a new building or the alteration of or an addition to an existing building, construction observation for the project shall also be conducted by an Architect or by a person working under the Supervision and Control of an Architect. For purposes of this Subchapter, “construction observation” means the administration of the portion of the construction contract described and documented in the architectural plans and specifications, including the following:

(1) reviewing each shop drawing, sample, and other submittal by a contractor or consultant;
(2) preparing or reviewing each change to an architectural plan or specification;
(3) visiting the construction site at intervals appropriate to the stage of construction;
   (A) become generally familiar with and keep the client generally informed about the progress and quality of the portion of the construction completed;
   (B) make a reasonable effort to identify defects and deficiencies in the construction;
   (C) determine generally whether the construction is being performed in a manner indicating that the project, when fully completed, will be in accordance with the architectural plans and specifications; and
(4) in addition to any responsibilities under Section 1.218, notifying the client in writing of any substantial deviation from the architectural plans and specifications that may prevent the building from being occupied or utilized for its intended use.
**Architect Required: When to Engage an Architect for Design and Construction Observation**

**NOTE:** An unlicensed person who wishes to offer or perform design services pursuant to any of the exemptions must not use any form of the word “architect” in connection with the offer or performance of design services.

- **START**
  - *Public Building?*
    - Yes: Institutional residential facility?
      - Yes: Engage Registered Architect
      - No: Exempt From Architectural Act
    - No: To be used for education, assembly, or office occupancy?
      - Yes: New Building?
        - Yes: Engage Registered Architect
        - No: Construction costs exceed $100,000?
          - Yes: Engage Registered Architect
          - No: Exempt From Architectural Act
      - No: Alteration or addition to existing building?
        - Yes: Construction costs exceed $50,000?
          - Yes: Engage Registered Architect
          - No: Alteration or addition requirements removal, relocation, or addition of walls or partitions or alteration or addition of an exit?
            - Yes: Exempt From Architectural Act
            - No: Engage Registered Architect
      - No: Exempt From Architectural Act

- **More than 16 units in any one building?**
  - No: More than 2 stories?
    - Yes: Multi-family (apartments or condominiums)?
      - Yes: Engage Registered Architect
      - No: Commercial building?***
        - Yes: More than 2 stories?
          - Yes: Engage Registered Architect
          - No: Over 20,000 square feet?
            - Yes: Engage Registered Architect
            - No: Exempt From Architectural Act
        - No: Exempt From Architectural Act
  - Yes: **Engage Registered Architect**

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* "Public Building" means any building that is owned by a State agency, a political subdivision of the State, or any other public entity in Texas.

** If a project involves only the alteration of an existing building and the alteration does not involve a substantial structural or exitway change to the building, the project is exempt from the architectural act.

*** "Commercial building" means an enclosed structure primarily used for the purchase, sale, or exchange of commodities or services.

Additional copies of this flowchart may be downloaded from our website at: [www.tbae.state.tx.us/LawsEnforcement/BuildingOfficials.shtml](http://www.tbae.state.tx.us/LawsEnforcement/BuildingOfficials.shtml).
To verify the registration status of an architect, landscape architect, or interior designer, please visit: [www.tbae.state.tx.us/PublicInfo/FindProfessional.shtml](http://www.tbae.state.tx.us/PublicInfo/FindProfessional.shtml).
Continuing Education

TAID’s First Correspondence Course

Earn .3 CEPH today in your own home

Rules and Regulations for Interior Designers in Texas

Course #7463

The materials necessary will be sent to you within two weeks. You will take the class online via your computer. When finished, mail or fax in your answers and we will send you a certificate within two weeks of receipt of your completed questionnaire.

TAID will have more correspondence CEPH courses in the fall.

Send your name, address, and check for $65.00 to

TAID
11418 Hylander Drive
Houston, TX 77070
www.supporttaid.org

Remember...

When you complete your classes with TAID, we track them for you; Your money stays in Texas; and Your money goes to support your profession, not individuals.

FUTURE CEU DATES

DALLAS

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All classes will be held at the World Trade Center, Room 9065

Check our website for more details.

www.supporttaid.org

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Dallas CEU’s continue to stand out as excellent education at an affordable rate. TAID is very grateful to all of the excellent CEU providers to donate their time and talents to make this an outstanding educational opportunity.

TAID will continue to strive for the best in educational opportunities. One hour will also be on sustainable or energy efficient design standards which is going to become another mandate from TBAE for renewals after September 1, 2008.

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO ATTEND FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT
Question:

Why are licensure fees so high for the state of Texas, compared with other states? From out-of-state colleagues, I know that the fees for Texas are double those of some states.

Answer:

This is a common question, and the answer is simple. The answer lies in the way that the state of Texas uses its taxing authority. In Texas, interior designers are exempt from charging sales tax on design services, as with a few other services. Interior designers are also exempt from some requirements for competitive bidding when dealing with public institutions.

The catch, however, is that all licensed interior designers are charged $200 per year—a mandatory general purpose tax that goes directly to the general revenue fund. That $200 is a part of the full TBAE registration fee, which until September 1 was $310 for in-state professionals.

As a partial salve to Texas design professionals, TBAE recently reduced the annual registration fees by $5 for in-state active status renewal fees (now totaling $305, which includes the $200 mandatory fee for general revenue) and halved several other fees like emeritus and inactive registrations.
HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR DESIGN STAMP?
Especially for the Interior Design profession, exclusively from Texas Association for Interior Design.

**NEW Design mandated by the State**
**EFFECTIVE January 1, 2006**

*The Interior Design Rules & Regulations Handbook requires that the information on this stamp be provided to clients.*

**TBAE Stamp**
- Stamp # 101 Rubber Stamp $25.00
- 102 Self-Inking $35.00

*The Texas Board of Architectural Examiners*
333 Guadalupe, Suite 2-350  PO Box 12337
Austin, TX 78701-3942  Austin, TX 78711-2337
Telephone (512) 305-9000

has jurisdiction over complaints regarding the professional practices of persons registered as interior designers in Texas.

**Interior Designer Seal**
- Stamp # 201 Rubber Stamp $28.00
- 202 Self-Inking $38.50
- 203 Embosser $42.00

***Non-TAID members add $5.00 to the above figures***

Name to be on Seal ____________________________
TBAE certificate number ________________________

**Drawing Stamp**
- Stamp # 301 Rubber Stamp $20.00
- 302 Self-Inking $35.00

**ORDER FORM**

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Sub Total ____________________________
Tax x 8.25 ____________________________

***Non-TAID member $5.00
Shipping & Handling $6.00 $6.00

TOTAL ____________________________

Make all checks payable to TAI D, and send check and this order form to:
**TAID, 11418 Hylander Drive**  
**Houston, Texas 77070**
For additional information, call **281-257-3523**

Not a member of TAI D?
Simply fill out the short form below and remit $75.00 for annual dues to participate in this important organization representing Texas interior designers.

Name ____________________________
Business Name ____________________

Address/Phone & Fax # ________________
Business Address, if different ________