Dear TAIM Members,

The Election Season is in full swing. Candidates have announced. Fundraisers have been held. The countdown to November 2nd, 2010 has begun.

The lists of the 2010 Candidates for Election to the Texas Senate and House of Representatives are available on the legislative news tab at www.supportTAID.org. If an incumbent has a challenger, you can see who is running. TAIM endorsed Governor Rick Perry at the Press Conference announcement of his candidacy at SMU in Dallas on December 2, 2009. With only three short days notice, Dan Lee, Pat and Frank McLoughlin, Steve Patterson, Abby Bradley, Julie and Don Reynolds gathered with about 100 supporters from many Metroplex groups including TEXPAC (the Texas Medical Association physicians PAC), the Firefighters, and many other groups.

Many incumbents and candidates have had small privately hosted fundraisers in supporters’ homes. In this challenging economy, how do we support our candidates when the coin purse is slimmer? Almost every day, I learn about another highly skilled, educated, talented registered interior designer with multiple appellations for which they have studied, leaving the industry because of lack of work. The need to support a looming mortgage and car payment, presents a dose of reality to which the newscasts seem oblivious.

What can we do as individuals?

Volunteer to work in the Legislators' campaign offices of the incumbents or challengers so that they actually get to know you. ***Note, I am not recommending one political party over another; I am recommending ways to be proactive for our Industry.*** Being in their offices naturally leads to sharing information about the state of the economy in Texas and in your "world." The power of one well-spoken, informed person may change the way that candidate looks at interior design. You have the power to overcome the public’s perception of what registered interior designers do. Television has focused almost exclusively on décor as entertainment. Registered Interior Designers decorative choices really do make their clients safer in their businesses, homes, restaurants, movie theaters, hotels, schools, hospitals and on and on.

Three Hours a week working in a Legislators’ Campaign Office can fulfill your Marketing goals for your business plan. You have the skills to influence the legislator to arrange his/her office to allow for a wheelchair visitor to move and turn around freely in the space… as well as to get out safely in emergency by being sure that the legislators staff has not inadvertently put furniture in the Path of Egress. If you offer to help, please be sure to educate the staff and the legislator as to why you are doing something, i.e., This chair is in the Path of Egress. This is a fact: The legislators’ offices are crowded and less than functional. Legislators’ campaigns may actually be run from their living rooms and dining tables. No one knows better than a Registered Interior Designer how to "fix" the problems and demonstrate their skills at the same time. Talk about safe egress, ergonomics and reach ranges. When we visited the State Capitol, we could find only one legislator’s office to compliment about the way the furniture was arranged for accessibility.

You have the power to correct misperceptions about our industry. Make the phone call. Volunteer to work for a candidate. You will have the opportunity to share your knowledge. It is the face time while stuffing or addressing envelopes that enables you to share the reality of the economic turmoil that has devastated the built environment industry. But remember, this isn’t only about making a living; it is about protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. Every decision a registered interior designer makes affects everyone.

And, the best part, you are widening your circle of contacts and sharing what you do, educating them as to the differences between real world product specifications based on knowledge of safety and healthy choices and HGTV. All while you are building your referral system. Yes, all the Internet contact groups are supposed to do that, but isn’t it more comfortable to be recommended or hired by someone who knows you?

We are the influencers.

We are among the first to hear the news from our clients that they are changing their homes or businesses. Armed with our experience and knowledge, we can share a myriad of ways to have our clients’ homes work for them, save them money and not produce anxiety over their "castles" future operating costs. You can influence your clients to use LED lighting, 20 SEER air conditioners, newest Low-E 366 type of insulated glass windows, insulation upgrades, solar wind power, geothermal, lighting controls, etc. What if their energy savings paid for you consultation fees? Valuable Interior Design services are what we offer.

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Registered Interior Designers have taken the necessary steps to prove that they have the Education, Experience and Examination. NCIDQ has launched Q Search to help the public find out who has passed the Exam.

Many of you have never understood why you should make your certificate “Active” and while there are many reasons, this is just one more benefit.

Have you passed the NCIDQ exam? Do you have a certificate? Are you an active certificate holder?

If you answered Yes, then if you choose, you can be on the NCIDQ Q Search.

What is Q Search? QSearch is a free, voluntary listing of interior designers who have earned the NCIDQ Certificate and kept their Certificate status active. Use this online tool to search for Certificate holders who have chosen to allow public access to their professional data.

Many, many thanks to the great TAID Fundraiser put on by the IIDA Houston City Center and special THANKS to Shelby Holman for running a fun event.

Yours truly was voted “Best Performance”. Great Fun!

Donna Vining, FASID, IIDA, RID, CAPS
Spotlight on our Board Members

Steve Patterson, RID, TAID
VP Industry

Steve Patterson recently joined the Wilson Office Interiors team with a focus in interior design, marketing and sales of commercial flooring, furniture, architectural walls and raised flooring.

With 30 years of industry knowledge, Steve has hands on experience in sales, installation, business development, sales management, marketing, project management, consulting and general interior design.

Being a good problem solver has allowed him to serve as a professional consultant in the Government, Healthcare, Higher Education, Retail and Religious Building markets. He is also a specialist in custom manufacturing and design collaboration.

Steve attended The University of North Texas in Denton. He has received his Registration as an Interior Designer in the State of Florida and Texas.

Previously, Steve worked with Spectra Contract Flooring, Bentley Prince Street and Shaw Contract Commercial Flooring. Experienced in all areas of design: space planning, construction documents, finish selections, furnishings, graphic coordination, specifications, code requirements and review in both new construction and existing.

Steve has a strong passion for Sustainability and has provided CEU’s on this subject for the last several years. He really enjoys providing education topics for the interior design industry.

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Visit our website @ www.wilsonoi.com
Increasing concerns on hospital-acquired Infections

Evidence-based designs may be the best deterrent to rising healthcare crisis

By Dan Lee

The growing body of evidence-based design knowledge is enabling health care designers to create better healing environments with proven improvements in patient outcomes.

Infection control ranks extremely high as a priority concern for healthcare providers. Today, we find our nation fighting the spread of flu epidemics such as H1N1, and we spend billions annually treating two million patient cases of reported nosocomial bacterial and fungal hospital-acquired infections. As much as we want to control and eradicate disease, we expect we will always be vulnerable.

As evidence-based medicine is the application of best practices from scientific documentation for the best patient outcomes, evidence-based design is the process of basing design decisions about the built environment on credible research to achieve the best possible outcomes. The way we design healthcare facilities can have a profound impact on human behavior including the care and outcome of patients’ health.

For more than two decades, architects and designers have tested and learned the important role design plays in healthcare facilities. In 2000, the Center for Health Design Research created the Pebble Project program. For the last nine years we have learned through scientific protocol how to better design for healthcare. In 2006, one of their research projects was referenced in “The Impact of Design on Infections in Healthcare Facilities” by Anjali Joseph, Ph.D. This white paper included research information about the placement of hand washing sinks in hospital settings to improve frequency of use and duration of use. By simply placing the sink on the path to the patient bed and in a position where the caregiver could face the patient, its usage was greatly increased, and hospital-acquired infection decreased.

Evidence-based healthcare designs are used to create environments that are therapeutic, supportive of family involvement, efficient for staff performance, and restorative for workers under stress. An evidence-based practitioner makes decisions based on the best information available from research and project evaluations. The result is a higher-quality healthcare experience for patients, families, healthcare professionals and staff members.

The body of design evidence has dramatically grown, and it is believed that the ripples of the Pebble Project will soon become a large wave. The US government is already requiring architects to be capable of implementing evidence-based design into their medical facilities. In 2009, the first evidence-based design examination was prepared by the Evidence-based Design Accreditation and Certification Board (EDAC). Dan Lee, AAHID, AIA, ASID, IIDA, was among the first 100 healthcare design leaders to be certified to practice evidence-based design in the United States.
TAID was honored to host the celebration of NCIDQ's 35th Anniversary
Meet Knox

This year, my grandson, Knox, was born with Down Syndrome. I watched my daughter and son-in-law face this unexpected change in their life with a strong sense that I wanted to help. I observed that adjustments to everyday life in the home would need to be made for them to support and help with Knox’s developmental challenges.

I had an awakening, so to speak, and this book is the result. The purpose of the book is to address all of the disabilities facing so many people and to involve designers from across our state. I am only the editor of this book but want it to be a shared project.

From Alzheimer’s Disease to Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson’s, Autism, ADHD, Down Syndrome, Neuromuscular problems, sight limitations, etc., almost all families are at one time are faced with tough problems in order for loved ones to remain at home and avoid an institution. This is becoming more and more a reality.

My interior design career, as well as the careers of many of my colleagues, has focused on providing design solutions for special need situations. Knowing that a design can help or it can hinder has given me the chance to design with a purpose. I will offer classes on guidelines for those that wish to participate in this project and help provide support to get this book finished and to the public.

The name of the book is "Meet Knox". Each Case Study in the book will be "Meet Mia", "Meet Artie", etc. Each study will have the photo of the person, like I sent of Knox, with a small bio getting to know the person and then their daily challenges supplied by the therapists, caregivers, family, and the person with the disability when feasible. The room solution will answer the challenges and will credit the designer and the therapists or whoever supplied the information for the EBD.

Here was the initial sketch of the study I had done for Knox. This design was based on talks with his physical and occupational therapists, physicians, parents etc. and answers his daily needs of strength problems, textures, self awareness, etc. I have made the room much neater and more meaningful now than this initial sketch indicates-actually much better, but this gives an idea.

Wonderful solutions to problems are being created as manufacturers have addressed issues with innovation and designers and health care providers have provided valuable research into special needs. I think it is time to share our knowledge and help our communities, neighbors, families, and clients. Please contact me if you want to participate and I will set up classes to help with the process.

Diane Alexander  ASID, LEED® A.P.
diane@dianealexanderdesigns.com
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Not a member of TAID?
Simply fill out the short form below and remit $75.00 for annual dues to participate in this important organization representing Texas interior designers.

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