

Interior Designer Claims Rebutted

- IDs say: *"NC Restricts IDs from obtaining building permits"*
The Fact: NC requires **qualified** design professional to submit for building permits.
- IDs say: *"IDs must pay excessive fees to an architect"*
The Fact: Categorically false and completely unsubstantiated. If unlicensed individuals choose to work in a regulated building environment, they must have a **qualified** design professional verify and assume responsibility for permitted plans.
- IDs say: *"Having to use architects to approve ID plans costs ID firms an additional 12%."*
The Fact: No basis of verification for this number.
- IDs say: *"Architect owned design firms will always be less in fee because design plan approval is free for them."*
The Fact: Plan approval is never "free." The business costs associated with an architecture firm vs. an interior design firm would contradict this statement. The assumed liability associated with a professional license ensures that a licensed design professional assumes the high cost of liability insurance, something interior designers do not have in their overhead now.
- IDs say: *"The law restricts IDs from partnering with an architect to form a business partnership."*
The Fact: Not true. The NC Professional Corporations Code allows for 33% non-license ownership in a professional corporation. The Architects Practice Act is not the appropriate place to address professional corporation ownership issues.
- IDs say: *"Creates voluntary registration for IDs"*
The Fact: All licensing and registration is voluntary.
- IDs say: *"The bill does not restrict any individual from referencing themselves an interior designer or interior decorator."*
The Fact: If the State is carving out a scope of practice for interior designers, this will create complete confusion on the part of the consuming public and regulators.
- IDs say: *"The bill does not restrict any individual or business from practicing interior design."*
The Fact: Then what is the NEED for the bill?
- IDs say: *"Interior Designers focus on how an occupant and the space around them inside a building is going to interact and function together."*
The Fact: **Interior architecture** includes all of this plus the very important relationship of how the interiors' relate to all the other building systems.
YOU CANNOT DIVORCE INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE FROM THE REST OF THE BUILDING!
- IDs say: *"Interior designers impact health safety & welfare."*
The Fact: Yes they do, but their education, training and testing is incomplete to address all the building systems that must work together to insure complete building occupant safety.
- IDs say: *"The NCIDQ exam formalizes a structure and path to ensure an interior designer has adequate amount of education and experience in order to uphold health, safety and welfare."*
The Fact: The NCIDQ and its education/experience requirements does not come close to the necessary training and testing required to meet the minimum life-safety benchmark for stamping and sealing authority. See chart below that highlights the standards for interior architecture.

Interior Designer Claims Rebutted

QUALIFICATIONS & COMPETENCY

	<u>Certified Interior Designers</u>	<u>Licensed Architects</u>
<i>Education Requirement:</i>	Minimum 2 Year Associates Degree	Minimum 5 Year Accredited Degree
<i>Examination Requirement:</i>	2 tests 300 questions 7 hours total	6 tests 605 questions 21 hours total
<i>Testing for Code Related Issues:</i>	Less than 15%	At least 22%
<i>Continuing Education:</i>	0-6 undefined hours a year	12 HSW hours a year
<i>Education in Health Safety Welfare:</i>	None Required	Must graduate from accredited university that offers students ability to design sites, facilities and systems that are responsive to relevant codes and regulations, and that include the principles of life safety and accessibility standards.
<i>Internship Requirement:</i>	3520 Hours	3740 Hours