

**Ken Lawson**, Secretary

**Rick Scott**, Governor

March 10, 2014

Open Letter to all Florida Interior Design and Architecture Program Administrators and Educators.

Re: Use of term "interior architecture"

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design is aware of a variety of programs which are now conferring degrees in Interior Architecture. The growth in number of such programs seems to indicate a possible trend which is of growing concern to the board and as a result, the issue has now been discussed at the board's last two meetings, most recently on January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> in Jacksonville, Florida. Following discussion at that meeting, the Board officially voiced its concern about the use of the term "interior architecture" and directed me to prepare and send this letter to Florida colleges and universities with architecture or interior design programs to advise of the board's position and concerns.

"Interior architecture" is not legally recognized as a profession in Florida, and a national exam does not exist for this profession. In the context of the design and construction of buildings intended for human occupancy, "architect", "architecture" and other words to that effect are reserved for use by duly licensed architects and/or only to describe persons that are duly licensed by this state as architects. Such reservation is provided in order to avoid confusing or misleading the public.

While some of these programs are accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) and, as such, meet the educational requirement for licensure as an Interior Designer, they do not meet the education requirement for architects. In Florida, only degrees in architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) fulfill that requirement. As a result, graduates of such Interior Architecture programs are not qualified for licensure as architects in Florida.

Given the above, the board is concerned over the potential to confuse, mislead or misrepresent the qualifications of such graduates. It is of further concern that graduates, current students and potential students of such programs may not clearly understand the benefits or limitations of such degrees, particularly with respect to prospects for professional licensure.

We appreciate your continued diligence in making clear statements to students concerning all of the above and ensure that all participants in these programs are clear as to what they can expect concerning licensure and that they are similarly clear as to the legal limitations of their use of these legally protected terms.

If you have any questions regarding the applicable laws, rules or the Board's concerns, or simply wish to engage in further conversation, please contact Juanita Chastain, Board Executive Director at (850) 717-1982. We look forward to your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely and for the Board,



Miguel A. (Mike) Rodriguez, FAIA  
Chair, State of Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design

Cc: Council for Interior Design Qualifications  
Council for Interior Design Accreditation  
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards  
National Architectural Accrediting Board