

Interior Design Educators Council Position Statement  
in  
Support of Formalized, Accredited Interior Design Education

As the profession of interior design has come under recent attacks due to legislative action in many jurisdictions in Canada and the United States, interior design education has not been spared. The importance of a quality education that prepares students to become interior design practitioners in an increasingly complex world cannot be underestimated. Therefore, the Board of Directors of the Interior Design Educators Council, Inc., (IDEC) deemed it appropriate and timely to take a formal stand in support of the role of formalized, accredited education for interior design as a profession and to ensure the development of capable interior design practitioners now and in the future. The IDEC Board of Directors has approved the following statement:

Interior design education is the foundation and first phase of the interior design practitioner's career cycle. Formalized, accredited interior design education provides future interior design practitioners the basis for solving complex problems that address the creation of supportive, healthy, safe interior environments for people while maintaining the health of the Earth. Formalized, accredited interior design education transmits to future interior design practitioners the full breadth of the interior design profession's body of knowledge, which they will continue to learn in greater depth, apply, grow, and refine throughout their professional careers. Furthermore, formalized, accredited interior design education instills in students the role of ethics and a code of conduct in business and their personal lives; the environmental effects of design decisions on the natural environment; an understanding of research that enables them to engage in evidence-based design; and an appreciation for lifelong learning and the value of continuing education. These overarching facets of learning are addressed as future interior design practitioners are educated about all critical knowledge areas related to human environment needs; interior construction, codes, and regulations; design; products and materials; professional practice; and communication.

With a foundation in formal, accredited education, those claiming to be "interior designers" (by that name or another related title, i.e., certified interior designer, registered interior designer, licensed interior designer) who create interior spaces of any type will have the knowledge base upon which to ground their approach to and resolution of complex design problems. Ultimately, if interior designers do not have a formal, accredited education, inhabitants of interior environments will be placed at risk—physically, psychologically, socially, and/or environmentally. Formalized, accredited education is the basis of professional interior design practice and is essential to interior designers' abilities to protect people's lives, health, safety, and welfare. It is the basis of the interior design profession and is the initial teacher of the profession's body of knowledge.

Approved by the IDEC Board of Directors, July 2010