



















# DEBUNKED! CORRECTING THE TOP NINE MYTHS

About LB 250 & AM 43, The Interior Design Voluntary Registration Act

- 
- 1)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** *NCIDQ-Certified Interior Designers do not have the education, experience, and testing to provide the independent health, safety, and welfare services granted in LB 250 & AM 43.*
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** **NCIDQ-Certified Interior Designers (CIDs) undergo formal education, thousands of hours of supervised experience, and a nationally-recognized, eleven-hour certification exam to prepare for protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public in practice. CIDs are eminently qualified to design the *non-loadbearing, non-seismic, and non-structural* interior design element scope of work outlined in LB 250 & AM 43.**
- 
- 2)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** *The practice of interior design only consists of space planning and the selection of furniture, accessories, fixtures, and (non-building) equipment. The scope of work outlined in LB 250 & AM 43 would allow interior designers to illegally practice within the scope of other design professionals.*
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** **The above is an antiquated definition of interior design practice, better suited to define interior decoration. The scope of work outlined in AM 43 was carefully crafted based on interior design education, training, and examination in collaboration with the Nebraska Board of Engineers & Architects.**
- 
- 3)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** *The requirements surrounding interior design registration are different than those of architects and engineers, therefore, interior designers should not be able to independently stamp documents for permit.*
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** **Interior designers do not seek to be architects nor engineers. These other valued design professionals work within the *exterior, structural, seismic, and loadbearing domains of construction*. Naturally, the exam, education, and experience requirements for all three professions are different. The scope of work outlined in AM 43 is limited to non-structural, non-seismic, and non-loadbearing interior design elements for which certified interior designers have an abundance of skill and competence to independently design.**
- 
- 4)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** *The scope of work outlined in AM 43 is confusing and overly broad. It risks having interior designers practice outside their competencies.*
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** **The scope of work outlined in AM 43 is extremely detailed and is based on the core interior design competencies cited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation and Council for Interior Design Qualification (national interior design examination body). The scope is limited to non-structural, non-seismic, and non-loadbearing interior design elements for which certified interior designers have an abundance of skill and competence to independently design. To prevent interior designers from misinterpreting their scope or practicing outside of their competency, AM 43 also includes a list of specific activities and areas that **DO NOT** constitute interior design work. This scope was created in collaboration with the Nebraska Board of Engineers & Architects.**
- 
- 5)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** *The interior design profession did not seek out architect or engineer input on LB 250 & AM 43.*
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** **The interior design profession worked in collaboration with the Nebraska Board of Engineers & Architects to craft the mutually-agreeable language found in AM 43.**

- 6)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** Interior designers don't need sign and seal permitting privileges. Their work does not require permits and most interior design firms are large, multinational firms where architects and engineers do the sealing.
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** Interior designers are educated, trained in, and work under the auspices of the Building Code. Interior designers also are trained and work in conformance with state and federal regulations and laws, like the Americans with Disabilities Act. Designing interior design elements that comply with these rules require a building permit. 82.4% of interior design firms are small businesses of four or fewer employees. These firms need the ability to efficiently and independently obtain building permits to work on an interior design project from concept, through drafting, permitting, construction, and completion. Currently, many small business interior designers must seek out another design professional with sign and seal authority, work under the responsible control of that design professional, allow that design professional to seal and submit those plans for permit, and, many times, pay that professional a potentially substantial fee for those services. This is an unnecessary, outdated, bureaucratic system that is currently harming interior design small businesses and consumers across Nebraska.
- 
- 7)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** Allowing interior designers to be “coordinating professionals” will allow them to be architects, engineers, general contractors, and/or construction managers.
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** AM 43 allows interior designers to serve as the logistical coordinator and point of contact among other design professionals and tradespeople on a design project, “as appropriate.” It does not allow interior designers to draft or stamp an architect’s or engineer’s plans. It does not allow an interior designer to be an architect, engineer, general contractor, nor construction manager.
- Interior designers undergo extensive education, training, and testing on the subjects of: programming; design communication; project, process, and roles coordination; and building systems and construction coordination, among other topics. Interior designers have long coordinated and overseen work by architects, engineers, tradespeople, contractors, and other professionals on their projects. This is no different than an architect, who is not trained as a professional structural engineer, plumber, or electrician serving as coordinating professional for projects requiring structural engineering, plumbing, and electrical work.
- 
- 8)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** The concepts in this bill are dangerous and are not implemented in any other state or jurisdiction.
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** Interior designers are already allowed to stamp/sign and seal their construction documents in 13 other US states and jurisdictions.
- 
- 9)  **FALSE STATEMENT:** LB 250 & AM 43 will create a bureaucratic, anticompetitive, mandatory occupational license.
-  **TRUE STATEMENT:** LB 250 & AM 43 –
- **DO NOT** create a mandatory license. Instead, designers may choose to be voluntarily registered with the State to achieve “sign and seal” authority within the scope of interior design practice.
  - **DO NOT** restrict any individual from referring to themselves as an interior designer or interior decorator.
  - **DO NOT** require any individual practicing interior design or decorating to become a “Registered Interior Designer.”
  - **DO NOT** affect any other design professional’s (architect, engineer, decorator, etc.) ability to practice his or her profession.

**82% OF INTERIOR DESIGN FIRMS ARE SMALL BUSINESSES. 75% OF PRACTITIONERS ARE WOMEN.**

**SUPPORT WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.**

**SUPPORT LB 250 & AM 43!**