

American Institute of Building Design

The California Focus

California Society Researching Title Act

The California Society has developed a task force that is pursuing legislation in our state that would develop a Title Act for Residential Building Designers.

The society is currently researching industry interest and collecting the funds needed to pursue this idea. As our state President Jennifer Davis stated, "We believe it is time to create legitimacy for our Residential Building Design industry. It is time to have this industry recognized as a viable choice rather than operating in a vacuum of what we are not."

The task force will provide a presentation on the issue and the plan for implementation at the Annual conference in Murphys.

Pages 4 and 5 of this issue have more details on the project.

AIBD California Annual Conference

The California Society's 46th Annual Conference will be held March 30— April 1, 2006 in Murphys, California.

The main conference will be held at the Historic Murphys Hotel. This hotel is in the very heart of Murphys. The Hotel is centrally located in Calaveras County and California's historic goldrush country. All meetings and events will be held here unless otherwise noted.

Saturday will be packed full of great information including a presentation from our Legislative Task Force on the potential Title Act. We will also have great seminars on Saturday from Bellacor on their Customized Lighting program and learn about new Insights and Solutions from Whirlpool and KitchenAid.

You can find more information about the schedule and the registration form in this newsletter.

Hope to see you there.

Inside this issue:

Conference Info.	2
Conference registration form	3
Title Act Background Information	4
National Association Update	6
Calendar of Events	6



California Focus

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AIBD, CALIFORNIA SOCIETY 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday March 30, 2006

11:00 am - 4:00 pm AIBD, CS Board Meeting
All members are encouraged to attend.

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Conference Registration
Hospitality Mixer at Murphys Historic Inn
Appetizers and drinks will be served.
Sponsored by Hardy Frame

Friday March 31, 2006

8:00 am - 9:00 am Conference Registration in the Hotel Lobby
9:00 am - 10:15 am Walking Tour, downtown Murphys Historic District
10:30 am - 4:00 pm Architectural Bus Tour
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Heavy Appetizers and Wine Tasting
at Ironstone Vineyards.

Saturday April 1, 2006

7:00 am - 8:30 am Breakfast & Conference Registration in meeting room
Sponsored by Crown Heritage

8:15 am - 9:15 am Presentation by Crown Heritage
9:15 am - 10:45 am Customized Lighting by **BellacorPro.com**
11:00 am - 12:30 pm Insights and Solutions from **Whirlpool & KitchenAid**
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Roundtable discussion,
Registered Residential Designer Legislation
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Designer Awards Luncheon & Awards Presentations
Sponsored by Simpson Strong Tie

HOTEL INFORMATION MURPHYS HISTORIC HOTEL

Sleeping rooms range from \$79 - \$95 per night. Make your reservations by calling (800) 532-7684 and be sure to tell them you are with AIBD.

The Hotel is located at 457 Main St., Murphys California.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____
 Spouse/Guest Name _____

# of People	Event	Price	Total
	Member, All Events Thursday—Saturday	\$215	
	Non-Member, All Events	\$225	
	Spouse Events Tour, Receptions, Breakfast, Luncheon	\$115	
	Member, Saturday Only	\$115	
	Non Member, Saturday Only	\$145	
		TOTAL DUE	

Please indicate the events you plan to attend at the conference.

of people Event Choices:

_____ Thursday Night Reception _____ Friday Tour and Lunch _____ Friday Night Reception	_____ Saturday educational seminars _____ Saturday Designer Awards Luncheon
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PAY BY VISA OR MASTERCARD!

Name on Card _____
 Card Number _____
 Signature _____ Exp. Date _____

Or
Send payment & form to: AIBD—California Society
 1731 Howe Ave. #101, Sacramento, CA 95825
 (916) 944-4935 Fax: (916) 944-7935

Background Information on the Title Act

The **American Institute of Building Design, AIBD**, was formed by a group of building designers in California in the 1950's. The purpose of AIBD has been to improve design standards among its members, raise credibility and public awareness of building designers, and to represent the profession of building design. But there is a problem in this representation. The profession of residential building design is not recognized in California law. Building designers are non-entities under the law. AIBD California now has an opportunity to change that, and give our profession a name. We can become recognized by the state of California by enacting legislation called a Title Act.

Building designers are able to plan, prepare drawings, and submit documents for structures under the "exemption" in the architects' code, (sec. 5537 of the CA Business and Professions Code). Under this law, **as building designers, we are defined not by what we do, but by what we cannot do, and not by who we are, but by who we are not.**

As you well know, the work of preparing a complete set of plans has dramatically increased in recent years. Structural and planning codes are continually made more stringent. Many professional building designers now work closely with structural engineers and other licensed professionals. Even so, building designers sometimes have to fight to retain their right to plan, prepare, and submit plans to building departments. Submitting your own plans may become even more difficult in the near future. The International Residential Code (IRC) may be adopted by the state of California as early as 2008, replacing the Uniform Building Code. Consider the following excerpt from the 2003 IRC:

R106.1 Submittal documents.

...The construction documents shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed. (2003 IRC, pg. 4)

This ambiguous language leaves open the possibility that unless your plans carry a stamp recognized by state law, local building officials may reject them at their discretion.

Building designers are not only absent in the California Business and Professions Codes, they seem to have to defend and justify their profession to the media and to the general public. How many times have you been asked this question: "*What's the difference between you and an architect?*" Take a look in the home design sections of newspapers and magazines. It seems most of the articles about home design are written about the work of, or are written by, architects and interior designers. The general public and the media still do not seem to know building designers exist.

Right now a group of individuals from AIBD California is exploring legislation that would recognize building designers in the California Business and Professions Code. This legislation is known as a title act. The proposed AIBD statute would be modeled after the successfully enacted Interior Designers Statute, signed into California Law in 2002.

A title act is a state recognition of a business type or profession, governing and regulating the use of the title of the business or profession. It would spell out who may refer to themselves as a "Certified Building Designer", and makes it illegal for anyone to advertise themselves as such when they are not. Part of the proposed legislation will define and clarify the types of projects a Certified Building Designer can do, and will include guidelines and allowances for how Certified Building Designers may collaborate with supervising engineers and architects. A title act is not a licensing requirement, as would be required in a full "practice act", or as is required of architects and engineers.

A building designers' organization such as AIBD would have the ability to self-certify its members who meet an established minimum eligibility level. Self-certification means that the organization, rather than a state appointed board, oversees issuance of the certification. As proposed, this eligibility would be met by passing the examination for Certified Professional Building Designer (CPBD), as offered through the National Council of Building Designer Certification (NCBDC). The requirements for taking the examination include a minimum of six years of building design education and/or professional practice. No more than three of the required six years may be educational.

With a title act, we will finally have a voice in the legislative process. When we are recognized as a legitimate profession, we can actively participate in the passage of laws regulating the building industry, especially on issues affecting building designers.

Giving a title and a name to what we do as building designers lends legitimacy, credibility, and recognition to the profession. A certified building designers' stamp would be a benchmark instantly recognizable to building departments. The stamp of a certified building designer indicates a level of education, experience, and expertise that anyone in the general public would recognize.

With the ability to become certified and better represented, many building designers now operating on their own would have an incentive to affiliate with a building designer organization, such as AIBD.

We on the task force see this title act as creating a new mission for AIBD California. This new mission is: to give building designers an identity in the eyes of the law, to increase building designers' credibility in the eyes of the public, and to secure into the future the right of certified building designers to submit their plans. AIBD started in California as a way to represent the interests of building designers, but the current level of representation is insufficient. In spite of the well-intentioned goals of the original organization, unless change is made, AIBD California may continue to see its membership base disappear. Unless change is made in how we define ourselves, our organization and our profession may be in real trouble. A certified building AIBD California is at a crossroads. A title act will increase the strength of our organization, enhance public recognition and credibility of our profession, and secure our right into the future to practice building design. With a title act, all of today's building designers will enjoy these benefits within a short time, and we can leave this as a legacy for generations of building designers yet to come.

***AS BUILDING DESIGNERS,
LET'S DEFINE FOR OURSELVES
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO.***

We invite you to join our efforts to elevate the profession of building design by supporting our goal to enact a title act in the 2007 legislative session.

For further information, please contact:

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It seems amazing that the first quarter of 2006 has almost come and gone. The number of opportunities for the AIBD, as an organization, seems to be multiplying with each occasion I have to report them. I have heard it said, "Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises." It is with pleasure that I share with you the potential enterprises in our future.

I will start by pointing out that everyone should have received, by now, a color copy of the *Design Lines* magazine and a black and white copy of the *Design Lines Quarterly* newsletter. The magazine was distributed to the AIBD members, all of our past 12 month's inquiries and hundreds of leads we purchased from the yellow pages. In addition, hundreds of more issues were passed out by the Sater Group at the International Building Show, and more will be available at the JLC Live Building Show and Traditional Building Shows. At that point, a new issue will be ready for distribution around mid April. You should receive the DL Quarterly, shortly after receiving this newsletter. It will continue to go just to AIBD members and its content will focus on internal type communication topics.

The AIBD is invited by the Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of the NAHB, to be a member on the Architecture and Career Cluster Advisor Committee. In this role we are able to build a broader base for career awareness, exploration and options related to our profession. The 16 Career Clusters are an initiative supported by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTc), which is the professional society of the state and territory agency heads responsible for career technical education. I am excited about a presentation I will be making in June at the Career Cluster Conference. The great enterprise I plan to begin there is to have Residential and/or Building Design listed as a career within our Career Cluster. With that, schools will begin to become aware of the need for curriculum necessary to train our discipline.

The Board of Directors approved a contract to redesign our national web site. The work that has gone into our present one has been deeply appreciated and has presented our organization well. It is time now to improve it for the future. More consumer type information will be available on the new site and a "Members Only" area will be added for our convenience. Within that space we will have the ability to publish directories, renew your membership and update your information on line, track continued education credits and compass club points, post comments and downloads in bulletin boards that are created for specific topics pertinent to our businesses. Please continue to check www.aibd.org to follow its progress.

The AIBD National Convention will be held at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort in Tucson, Arizona July 19-22. You are able to make your hotel reservations right now and registration should be open by the time you receive this. Visit www.aibd.scarrittgroup.com for more information and to register.

The AIBD, with the help of Internal Vice President Dan Sater, will be represented in two issues of one of Hanley Wood's most popular consumer magazines, *House Beautiful Premier Homes*. There will be a full page ad in the April and October issues advertising the professionalism of AIBD professional members and giving readers information on hiring a designer for their project. This is made possible through the cooperative efforts of 35 AIBD Professional Members who paid \$250 to \$300 for a listing in the full page ads. National exposure can be outrageously expensive; however, when we join our efforts and resources, it can be made very reasonable to the masses.

The Traditional Design Challenge will be held the first week in April at the Traditional Building Show at the Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois. It is a live competition that will include the best assembly of traditionally inspired home designers that the AIBD, Institute of Classical Architecture and Restore Media could bring together. Seventeen very talented designers, architects and design/build builders applied for the four available competition positions. Each applicant was required to prepare a portfolio of their work, which was judged by a member of the AIBD, ICA and the editors at Restore Media. Due to the high level of experience and the wonderful examples of traditional and classical design, the building show manager rearranged the exhibit hall floor plan to make way for eight competitors for this one of a kind charrett and challenge.

March 30, 2006	California Society Board of Directors Meeting, Murphys
March 30 to April 1, 2006	AIBD, California Society 46th Annual Conference, Murphys
July 19-22, 2006	National AIBD 56th Annual Convention Loews Ventana Canyon Resort Tucson, AZ

