

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTS AND  
INTERIOR DESIGNERS  
Conference Call  
January 20, 2010**

A meeting of the Georgia State Board of Architects and Interior Designers was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 via Conference Call.

**The following Board Members were present:**

Anne K. Smith, Board Chairperson  
Camille Puckett, Board Vice-Chairperson  
Niles Bolton  
Ivenue Love-Stanley  
David Maschke  
Laurie McRae  
Andrew Pace

**Others present were:**

Tanja Battle, Executive Director  
Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist  
Janet Wray, Board Attorney

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

Ms. Puckett stated that she recently met with Representative Sean Jerguson who had concerns with the proposed language that the Board voted on at its December 18, 2009 meeting as he felt the verbage needed to be adjusted and redefined. Discussion was held.

A motion was made by Camille Puckett, seconded by Laurie McRae, to support the language presented as further clarification of what was previously approved in December. Chairperson Smith called for any discussion. Mr. Bolton, Mr. Maschke and Mr. Pace expressed their concerns regarding the changes proposed. Ms. Puckett discussed the changes with the Board line by line.

Chairperson Smith stated that she would like for the Board to support the proposed changes as a group as this will show that the Board is working together as a team.

The above motion was amended by Camille Puckett, seconded by Laurie McRae, to accept the proposed revisions to O.C.G.A. § 43-4 relating to Architects and Interior Designers as discussed and agreed upon during the conference call. Niles Bolton, Ivenue Love-Stanley, David Maschke, Andrew Pace and Anne Smith were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Those revisions include:

**43-4-1. Definitions.**

(4) "Building" means any structure consisting of foundation, floors, walls, columns, girders, beams, and roof or a combination of any of these parts, with or without other parts or appurtenances

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*(5) “Building shell” shall mean the architecture of building, including the framework, the perimeter/exterior walls, the building core and columns, and other structural, load-bearing elements of the building.*

*(6) “Building official” shall mean the person appointed by the county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state having responsibility for the issuance of building permits and the administration and enforcement of the Georgia State Minimum Construction Codes, or a state fire marshal where there is not such local official.*

*(7) “Practice of architecture” means the rendering of or offer to render the following services in connection with the design, construction, enlargement, or alteration of a building or group of buildings and the space within and surrounding such buildings, which may have human occupancy or habitation: planning, providing preliminary studies, designs, drawings, specifications and other technical submissions, the architectural administering of construction contracts, and coordinating elements of technical submissions prepared by others including, as appropriate and without limitation, consulting engineers, registered interior designers, and landscape architects. As part of the practice of architecture, a registered architect may perform such engineering work as is incidental to his or her work. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit a licensed engineer from coordinating technical submittals related to the practice of engineering.*

*(8) “Registered architect” means a person who is technically and legally qualified and currently registered with the board to practice architecture in the State of Georgia.*

*(9) “Registered interior designer” means a person who is registered under Article 2 of this chapter as being qualified by education, experience, and examination to use the title “registered interior designer” in the State of Georgia and as further defined in Code Section 43-4-30. Nothing in this paragraph or in this article shall be construed as prohibiting or restricting the practice or activities of an interior decorator or individual offering interior decorating services, including, but not limited to, selection of surface materials, window treatments, wall coverings, paints, floor coverings, and lighting fixtures.*

*(10) “Interior design” means designs, consultations, studies, planning, drawings, specifications, and the administration of interior construction documents relating to nonstructural interior construction of a building rendered by a registered interior designer. Interior design includes but is not limited to space planning, finishes, furnishings, and the design for fabrication of nonstructural interior construction within interior spaces of buildings. Registered interior designers shall collaborate with other licensed professionals for work that is excluded by this definition. Interior design specifically excludes the design of, or responsibility for the building shell, mechanical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, electrical or vertical transportation systems. Interior design also specifically excludes construction which affects building life safety systems pertaining to fire safety protection such as fire-rated vertical shafts in multi-story structures, fire-rated protection of structural elements, smoke evacuation and compartmentalization, emergency sprinkler systems, emergency alarm systems and modification of existing building construction so as to alter the number of persons for which the egress systems of the building is designed. Interior design is not meant to exclude the specification of fixtures and their location within interior spaces.*

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(11) “Interior construction documents” – The detailed drawings and specification that define the work to be constructed. This may include partition plans, power and communication plans, reflected ceiling plans, material and finishes plans, and furniture layout plans, as well as elevations, sections and details, along with the drawings and specifications of associated consultants. A Georgia registered interior designer may also submit to the responsible building official, a notarized and signed statement on letterhead from a person in a position of authority within the interior design firm certifying that the plans and specifications as submitted are in full compliance with the current building codes and regulations in effect.

(12) “Registration” means the certificate of registration issued by the board.

(13) “Responsible control” means the amount of control over and detailed knowledge of the content of technical submissions during their preparation as is ordinarily exercised by registered architects applying the required professional standard of care, as defined by rules and regulations adopted by the board.

(14) “Technical submissions” means designs, drawings, specifications, studies, and other technical reports prepared in the course of practicing architecture.

(15) “Nonstructural interior construction” means elements which are something other than a load-bearing wall, load-bearing column, or other load-bearing elements of a building or structure which is essential to the structural integrity of the building. It does not extend further than from the floor of an interior area of a structure to the underside of the deck or structure above that same floor.

**43-4-14. Practice of architecture; qualifications and registration; exempt structures and persons.**

*(b) The following structures or services do not require the seal of a registered architect:*

*(1) One and two-family residences and domestic outbuildings regardless of cost;*

*(2) Any building classified as an agricultural occupancy upon any farm for the use of any farmer; any state owned farmer’s market;*

*(3) Any building which is a single story building, not exceeding 5,000 square feet in area, except new or existing assembly occupancies, educational occupancies, health care occupancies, correctional or detention facilities, hotels, dormitories or lodging facilities, multifamily housing or apartment complexes, and care facilities;*

*(4) Preengineered metal buildings that are one story in height, except new or existing assembly occupancies, educational occupancies, health care occupancies, correctional or detention facilities, hotels, dormitories or lodging facilities, multifamily housing or apartment complexes, care facilities, and facilities classified as high hazard; provided, however, that the services of a duly registered architect shall be required for the design of any business or mercantile occupancies that exceed 5,000 square feet in area that are incidental to the operation in such building; and*

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(5) *“Interior Design” services ~~Nonload bearing interior construction~~ in existing or planned ~~office~~ structures which were designed by a registered architect, where drawings and specifications are prepared by a Georgia registered interior designer who also submits to the responsible building official a notarized and signed statement on letterhead from a person in a position of authority within the interior design firm certifying that the plans and specifications as submitted are in full compliance with the current building codes and regulations in effect.*

**43-4-30. “Registered interior designer” defined.**

*As used in this article, the term “registered interior designer” means a person registered under this article as being qualified by education, experience, and examination to use the title “registered interior designer.” In general, an interior designer performs services including preparation of documents relative to ~~nonload bearing interior construction~~ nonstructural interior elements, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment.*

Ms. Puckett emailed the final draft of the language to everyone during the call. Chairperson Smith thanked everyone for working together on this issue.

With no other business for the Board to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:**

**Brandi Howell, Board Support Specialist**

**Minutes Edited/Reviewed by:**

**Tanja D. Battle, Executive Director**