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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 27 P5:04

SENATE  
S. No. 2169

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment into law of Republic Act Number 8534, otherwise known as the "The Philippine Interior Design Act of 1998" was a welcome development in the practice of interior design in the Philippines. RA No. 8534 recognized the vital role of the interior design profession in the promotion of national interest and regarded the same as a full-pledged profession vital to the building and construction industry. However, the law was unsuccessful to institute policies and regulatory measures to protect the interests of the Filipino professionals.

And ten years after the law's passage, a lot of developments both in the local and international arenas have happened. Some of these developments pose serious problems and may have undermined the practice of interior design in the country and placed the professional Interior Designers in the Philippines at the losing end vis-à-vis the foreign practitioners and even Filipinos who posed as interior designers without the appropriate licenses and certifications.

The country's adoption of the General Agreement on Trade in Professional Services (GATPS) has had a tremendous effect in the practice of the interior design profession. For one, the widespread influx of large foreign firms and foreign designers and consultants in the design and construction arena, has reduced the local designers competitive edge.

This bill seeks to replace RA 8534 and to regulate and modernize the practice of interior design in the Philippines to become at par with the international standards and at the same time, provide safety nets for the practice of the profession against foreign practitioners and those engaged in illegal practice.

Thus, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

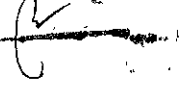


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PHILIPPINE INTERIOR DESIGN ACT OF 2010

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I

TITLE, POLICY, OBJECTIVES, TERMS AND SCOPE OF PRACTICE

**SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Interior Design Act of 2010”.

**SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.** – The State recognizes the important role of the interior design profession in nation-building. Towards this end, the State shall promote the sustained development of professional interior designers, whose technical competencies have been determined by honest and credible licensure examinations and whose standards of professional service and practice are internationally recognized and considered globally competitive, brought about by regulatory measures and human resource programs and activities that foster their professional growth and advancement.

**SEC. 3. Objectives.** – This Act provides for and shall govern:

- (a) The examination, registration and licensure of professional interior designers;
- (b) The supervision, control and regulation of the practice of interior design;
- (c) The development of the professional competence of interior designers through continuing professional education; and
- (d) The integration of the interior design profession.

**SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

- (a) *Interior design* refers to the science and art of planning, specifying, selecting and organizing the surface finishes and materials including furniture, furnishings and

1 fixtures and other interior design elements for the purpose of the interior space  
2 allocations to suit, enhance and meet the intended function, movement and character  
3 for which the interior of the building is designed.

4 (b) *Professional interior designer* refers to a natural person who holds a valid  
5 certificate of registration and a valid professional identification card issued by the Board  
6 and the Commission pursuant to this Act.

7  
8 **SEC. 5. *Scope of the Professional Practice of Interior Design.*** - The practice  
9 of interior design is the act of planning, designing, specifying, supervising and providing  
10 general administration and responsible direction to the functional, orderly and aesthetic  
11 arrangement and enhancement of interior spaces. It shall include, but not be limited to,  
12 the following activities:

13 (a) Consultation, advice, direction, evaluation, budgetary estimates and appraisals;

14 (b) Schematic interior design development, design development, execution of  
15 professional contract documents and programming of construction phases;

16 (c) Preparation of interior design plans, design drawings, interior construction  
17 details, and technical specifications;

18 (d) Interior construction administration, supervision coordination of alteration,  
19 preservation or restoration of interior spaces; and

20 (e) All other works, projects and activities which require the professional competence  
21 of the interior designer, including teaching of interior design subjects.

22  
23 The Board, subject to approval by the Commission, may revise, exclude from, or  
24 add to, the above-enumerated acts or activities as the need arises to conform to the  
25 latest trend in the practice of interior design.

## 26 27 **ARTICLE II**

### 28 **THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF INTERIOR DESIGN**

29  
30 **SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Board of Interior Design.*** – There is  
31 hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Interior Design, hereinafter referred  
32 to as the Board, under the administrative control and supervision of the Professional  
33 Regulation Commission (PRC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission, to be  
34 composed of a Chairperson and two (2) members to be appointed by the President of  
35 the Philippines from a list of two (2) recommendees for each position submitted by the  
36 Commission, and from a list of three (3) nominees for each position recommended by  
37 the duly accredited professional organization of interior designers. The new Board shall  
38 be created within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

1  
2           **SEC. 7. Qualifications of the Chairperson and Members.** – The Chairperson  
3 and members of the Board shall, at the time of their appointment, possess the following  
4 qualifications:

- 5           (a) *Must be a citizen and resident of the Philippines;*  
6           (b) *Must be a degree holder of Bachelor of Science in Interior Design (BSID),*  
7                 *Bachelor of Interior Design (BID) or Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), major in*  
8                 *Interior Design, or an equivalent degree conferred by a school, academy,*  
9                 *college or university in the Philippines or abroad that is recognized and/or*  
10                *accredited by the Philippine government;*  
11           (c) *Must be a registered interior designer with a valid certificate of registration*  
12                *and professional identification card and an active practitioner of interior*  
13                *design for not less than ten (10) years prior to appointment;*  
14           (d) *Must not be a member of the faculty of any school, where a regular course*  
15                *in Interior Design is being taught, or have pecuniary interest in, or*  
16                *administrative supervision over any such institution of learning;*  
17           (e) *Must not be connected with a review center or with any group giving review*  
18                *classes or lectures in preparation for the licensure examination;*  
19           (f) *Must be a member in good standing of the duly accredited professional*  
20                *organization of interior designers but not a trustee or officer thereof; and*  
21           (g) *Has never been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, or a civil*  
22                *and/or criminal offense.*

23  
24           **SEC. 8. Term of Office.** – The members of the Board shall hold office for a term  
25 of three (3) years from the date of appointment or until their successors shall have been  
26 appointed and qualified. They may be reappointed for another term of three (3) years  
27 immediately upon the expiration of their term: *Provided, That no member shall hold*  
28 *office for more than six (6) years.*

29           Of the members to be appointed for the first Board under this Act, one (1)  
30 member shall hold office as Chairperson for three (3) years; one (1) member for two (2)  
31 years; and one (1) member for one (1) year. Each member of the Board shall take the  
32 proper oath prior to assumption of duty.

33  
34           **SEC. 9. Compensation of the Board Members.** – The Chairperson and  
35 members of the Board shall receive compensation and allowances comparable to the  
36 compensation and allowances received by existing regulatory boards under the  
37 Commission as provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

1           **SEC. 10. Powers, Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board. –**

2 The Board shall exercise the following specific powers, functions, duties and  
3 responsibilities:

- 4           (a) Adopt, promulgate and administer the rules and regulations necessary for  
5           carrying out the provisions of this Act;
- 6           (b) Supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of the  
7           professional interior designers in the Philippines;
- 8           (c) Administer oaths in connection with the administration of this Act;
- 9           (d) Issue, suspend, revoke or reinstate the certificate of registration or  
10           professional license for the practice of the interior design profession;
- 11           (e) Adopt an official seal of the Board;
- 12           (f) Monitor the conditions affecting the practice of interior design and adopt such  
13           measures as may be deemed proper for the enhancement of the profession  
14           and/or the maintenance of high professional, ethical and technical standards;
- 15           (g) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),  
16           that all other educational instructions offering interior design comply with the  
17           policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED  
18           in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities;
- 19           (h) Prescribe and/or adopt a Code of Ethical and Professional Standards for the  
20           practice of the Interior Design profession;
- 21           (i) Hear and try administrative cases involving violations of this Act, its  
22           implementing rules and regulations (IRR), the Code of Ethics for Professional  
23           Interior Designers and, for this purpose, to issue *subpoena* and *subpoena*  
24           *duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of  
25           documents in connection therewith;
- 26           (j) Prescribe guidelines in the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) program  
27           in coordination with the accredited professional organization of interior  
28           designers;
- 29           (k) Prepare, adopt and issue the syllabi of the subject for examination by  
30           determining and preparing the questions, which shall strictly be within the  
31           scope of the syllabi of the subject of examination; and
- 32           (l) Discharge such other duties and functions as may be deemed necessary for  
33           the enhancement of the interior design profession and the upgrading,  
34           development and growth of interior design education in the Philippines.

35           **SEC. 11. Grounds for Removal or Suspension of Board**

36 **Chairperson/Member. –** The President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of  
37 the Commission, after giving the Chairperson or the member of the Board an

1 opportunity to defend himself/herself in an administrative investigation conducted by the  
2 Commission, may remove or suspend him/her on any of the following grounds:

- 3 (a) Gross neglect, incompetence or dishonesty in the discharge of his/her duty;  
4 (b) Violation of any of the causes/grounds and the prohibited acts provided in this  
5 Act and the offenses in the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt  
6 Practices Act, and other laws; and  
7 (c) Manipulation or rigging of the licensure examination for interior designers results,  
8 disclosure of secret and confidential information on the examination questions  
9 prior to the conduct thereof, or tampering of grades.

10  
11 The Commission, in the conduct of the investigation, shall be guided by Section  
12 7(s) of Republic Act No. 8981, otherwise known as the PRC Modernization Act of 2000,  
13 the rules on administrative investigation and the applicable provisions of the new Rules  
14 of Court.

15  
16 **SEC. 12. Administrative Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its**  
17 **Records, Secretariat and Support Services.** – The Board shall be under the  
18 administrative supervision of the Commission. All records of the Board, including  
19 applications for examination, administrative and other investigative cases conducted by  
20 the Board shall be under the custody of the Commission. The Commission shall  
21 designate the secretary of the Board and shall provide the secretariat and other support  
22 services to implement the provisions of this Act.

23  
24 **SEC. 13. Annual Report.** – The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year,  
25 submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines, through the Commission,  
26 giving a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year and  
27 making recommendations for the adoption of measures that will upgrade and improve  
28 the conditions affecting the practice of interior design.

### 29 **ARTICLE III**

#### 30 **EXAMINATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, AND LICENSURE**

31  
32 **SEC. 14. Passing of Licensure Examination Requirement.** – Except as  
33 otherwise specifically allowed under this Act, applicants for registration for the practice  
34 of interior design shall be required to pass a licensure examination as provided for in  
35 this Act in such places and dates as the Commission may designate in accordance with  
36 the provisions of Section 7(d) of Republic Act No. 8981.

1           **SEC. 15. *Qualifications of Applicants.*** – An applicant for the licensure  
2 examination for interior designers shall satisfactorily prove that he/she possesses the  
3 following qualifications:

- 4           (a) Citizen of the Philippines or a foreign citizen whose country/state has  
5           reciprocity with the Philippines in the practice of interior design;  
6           (b) Of good moral character;  
7           (c) A holder of a bachelor's degree in interior design or its equivalent degree duly  
8           recognized or accredited by the CHED and conferred by a  
9           school/college/university duly authorized by the government or its equivalent  
10          degree obtained by either a Filipino or foreign citizen from an institution of  
11          learning in a foreign country/state: *Provided*, That it is duly recognized and/or  
12          accredited by the CHED; and  
13          (d) Not convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent  
14          jurisdiction.

15  
16           **SEC. 16. *Subjects for Licensure Examination.*** – The examination for interior  
17 design shall basically cover the following subjects:

- 18          (a) Interior Design;  
19          (b) Furniture Design and Construction;  
20          (c) Materials for Decoration and Color Theory;  
21          (d) History of Arts and Interior Design;  
22          (e) Interior Detailing and Construction; and  
23          (f) Professional Practice and Ethics.

24  
25          The said subjects and their syllabi may be amended by the Board so as to  
26 conform to technological changes brought about by continuing trends in the profession,  
27 in coordination with the accredited council of interior design educators.

28  
29           **SEC. 17. *Rating in the Licensure Examination.*** – To be qualified as having  
30 passed the Board examination for interior designers, a candidate must obtain a  
31 weighted general average of seventy percent (70%).

32  
33           **SEC. 18. *Report of Ratings.*** – The Board shall submit to the Commission the  
34 ratings obtained by each candidate within twenty (20) days after the examination unless  
35 extended by the Commission for just cause. Upon the release of the results of the  
36 examination, the Board shall send by mail the rating received by each examinee at his  
37 given address using the mailing envelope submitted during the examination.

1           **SEC. 19. Oath.** – All successful candidates in the examination shall be required to  
2 take an oath of profession before the Board or any government official authorized by the  
3 Commission to administer oaths prior to entering the practice of the interior design  
4 profession.

5  
6           **SEC. 20. Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional**  
7 **Identification Card.** – A certificate of registration shall be issued to applicants who  
8 pass the examination for interior designers subject to payment of registration fees.

9           The certificate of registration as professional interior designer shall bear the  
10 signatures of the Chairperson of the Commission and Board members, stamped with  
11 the official seal, indicating that the person named therein is entitled to practice the  
12 profession with all the privileges appurtenant thereto. This certificate shall remain in full  
13 force and effect until withdrawn, suspended or revoked, in accordance with this Act.

14           A certificate of registration bearing the registration number, date of issuance and  
15 expiry date, duly signed by the Chairperson of the Board, shall likewise be issued to  
16 every registrant who has paid the required fees. This license will serve as evidence that  
17 the licensee can lawfully practice his/her profession.

18           A professional identification card, whether new or for renewal, shall be released  
19 by the PRC upon compliance with the requirements for the application or renewal of  
20 identification card and upon presentation of the updated receipt of payment of annual  
21 membership dues of the accredited professional organization and proof of completion of  
22 the CPE requirements.

23           Once registered, the interior designer may use “IDr.” As his official appendage  
24 title.

25  
26           **SEC. 21. Refusal to Register.** – The Board shall not register any successful  
27 applicant for registration with or without licensure examination who has been:

- 28           (a) Convicted of an offense involving moral turpitude by a court of competent  
29 jurisdiction;
- 30           (b) Found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct by the Board;
- 31           (c) Summarily adjudged guilty for violation of the General Instructions to Examinees  
32 by the Board; and
- 33           (d) Declared of unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction.

34  
35           In refusing such registration, the Board shall give the applicant a written  
36 statement setting forth the reasons therefore and shall file a copy thereof in its records.

37



1           **SEC. 22. Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration and**  
2 **Cancellation of Temporary/Special Permit.** – The Board shall have the power, upon

3 notice and hearing, to revoke or suspend the certificate of registration of a registered  
4 and licensed interior designer or to cancel a temporary/special permit granted to foreign  
5 interior designer, for violation of any of the grounds or causes in Section 22 of this Act,  
6 except (c) thereof and any of the following grounds:

- 7       (a) Violation of a provision of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics, the Code of Good  
8       Governance, the Code of Technical Standards for the practice of interior design,  
9       policy, and measure of the Board and/or the Commission;
- 10       (b) Perpetration or use of fraud in obtaining his/her certificate of registration,  
11       professional identification card or temporary/special permit;
- 12       (c) Gross incompetence, negligence or ignorance resulting to death, injury or  
13       damage;
- 14       (d) Refusal to join or to remain a member in good standing of the Accredited  
15       Professional Organization (APO);
- 16       (e) Neglect or failure to pay the annual registration fees for five (5) consecutive  
17       years;
- 18       (f) Aiding or abetting the illegal practice of a non-registered and licensed person by  
19       allowing him/her to use his/her certificate of registration and/or professional  
20       identification card or his/her temporary/special permit;
- 21       (g) Illegally practicing the profession during his/her suspension from the practice  
22       thereof;
- 23       (h) Addicted to a drug or alcohol abuse, impairing his/her ability to practice his/her  
24       profession or declared with unsound mind by a court of competent jurisdiction;  
25       and
- 26       (i) Noncompliance with the CPE requirement, unless he/she is exempted therefrom,  
27       for the renewal of his/her professional identification card.
- 28

29       The Board shall periodically evaluate the aforementioned grounds and revise or  
30       exclude or add new ones as the need arises, subject to approval of the Commission.

31       Any person, firm or association may file charge/s in accordance with the provision  
32       of this section against any registrant, or the Board may investigate violation of any of the  
33       abovementioned causes. Affidavit-complaint shall be filed together with the affidavits of  
34       witnesses and other documentary evidence with the Board through the Legal and  
35       Investigation Office. The *motu proprio* move to conduct an investigation shall be  
36       embodied in a formal charge to be signed by at least majority of the members of the  
37       Board. The rules on administrative investigation issued by the Commission shall govern

1 the hearing or investigation subject to applicable provisions of this Act, Republic Act No.  
2 8981 and the Rules of the Court.

3  
4 **SEC. 23. Reissuance of Revoked Certificate of Registration, Replacement**  
5 **of Lost or Damaged Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification Card or**  
6 **Temporary/Special Permit.** – The Board may, upon petition, reinstate or reissue a  
7 revoked certificate of registration after two (2) years from the effectivity of the period for  
8 revocation, which is the date of surrender of the said certificate and/or the professional  
9 identification card if still valid to the Board and/or the Commission. The Board may not  
10 require the holder thereof to take another licensure examination. The petitioner shall  
11 prove to the Board that he/she has valid reason/s to practice his/her profession. For the  
12 grant of his/her petition, the Board shall issue a Board Resolution subject to approval by  
13 the Commission.

14 A duplicate copy of lost certificate of registration, professional identification card  
15 or temporary/special permit may be reissued in accordance with rules thereon and upon  
16 payment of the prescribed fee therefor.

17  
18 **SEC. 24. Nonpayment of the Annual Registration Fees.** – The Board shall  
19 suspend a registered interior designer from the practice of his/her profession for  
20 nonpayment of the annual registration fees for five (5) consecutive years from his/her  
21 last or previous year of payment. The resumption of his/her practice shall take place  
22 only upon payment of the delinquent fees plus surcharges and interest and in  
23 accordance with the rules of the Commission. The running of the five (5)-year period  
24 may be interrupted upon written notice about the discontinuance of his/her practice and  
25 surrender of his/her certificate of registration to the Board and/or the Commission.

26  
27 **SEC. 25. Vested Rights.** – All practicing interior designers who are registered at  
28 the time of the passage of this Act shall automatically be registered and issued  
29 certificates of registration.

#### 30 **ARTICLE IV**

#### 31 **PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN**

32 **SEC. 26. Lawful Practitioners of Interior Design.** – The following persons shall  
33 be authorized to practice the interior design profession:

34 (a) Natural persons who are:

- 35 (1) Duly registered and licensed as interior designers and holders of valid  
36 certificates of registration and valid professional identification cards issued  
37 by the Board and the Commission pursuant to this Act; and

1 (2) Holders of valid temporary/special permits issued by the Board and the  
2 Commission to foreign licensed interior designers pursuant to this Act.

3 (b) Juridical persons:

4 (1) Single proprietorship whose owner is a registered interior designer;

5 (2) Partnership duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission  
6 (SEC) as professional partnership pursuant to the Civil Code and  
7 composed of all partners who are all duly registered interior designers;  
8 and

9 (3) Corporation whose key chief executive officers (CEOs) and majority of the  
10 Board of Directors are all registered and licensed interior designers may  
11 be duly registered with the SEC as engaged in the practice of interior  
12 design.

13  
14 Juridical persons shall also be registered with the Board and the Commission in  
15 accordance with the rules and regulations thereon.

16  
17 **SEC. 27. Seal, Issuance, and Use of Seal.** – A duly registered interior designer  
18 shall sign and affix the seal duly approved and provided by the Board of Interior Design  
19 on all plans, specifications and contract documents prepared by, or under his/her direct  
20 supervision during the validity of his/her certificate of registration.

21 Officers or employees of the government, chartered cities, provinces,  
22 municipalities now or hereafter charged with the enforcement of the laws, ordinances or  
23 regulations relating to the construction or alteration of the interiors of buildings shall  
24 accept only those interior plans, specifications and contract documents which have  
25 been prepared, signed and sealed by a duly licensed interior designer and submitted in  
26 full accord with the provisions of this Act, plans and specifications of which have not  
27 been so prepared, signed and sealed by a duly licensed interior designer.

28 Violation of the foregoing shall be ground for administrative and/or criminal  
29 action.

30  
31 **SEC. 28. Intellectual Property Rights.** – Drawings and specifications and other  
32 contract documents duly signed, stamped or sealed, as instruments of service, and all  
33 the works included therein, are the intellectual property of the interior designer. Any  
34 person is prohibited from engaging in any activity prejudicial to the intellectual property  
35 rights of the interior designer, including the reproduction of the contract work or  
36 substantial portion thereof, and making any alteration, distortion, mutilation, or other  
37 modification of, or any derogatory action in relation to, the contract work and the works  
38 therein, prejudicial to and without the written consent of the interior designer.

1  
2       **SEC. 29. Foreign Reciprocity.** – No foreign interior designer shall be issued a  
3 certificate of registration to practice the interior design profession or be entitled to any of  
4 the rights and privileges under this Act unless the country of which he/she is a subject  
5 or citizen specifically permits Filipino interior designers to practice within its territorial  
6 limits on the same basis as the subjects or citizens of such foreign state or country.  
7

8       **SEC. 30. Practice Through Temporary/Special Permit.** – (a) Foreigners  
9 intending to work in the Philippines to perform professional services as interior  
10 designers or consultants whether employed through official foreign-funded or foreign-  
11 assisted projects initiated by the government, or engaged by private Filipino, foreign  
12 contractors or firms shall first secure a temporary/special permit from the PRC through  
13 the Board of Interior Design specifically authorizing him/her to practice on the special  
14 project or commission named therein: *Provided, further, That:*

15       (1) He/She is legally and professionally qualified and registered to practice  
16 interior design in his/her own country;

17       (2) His/Her expertise is unique and useful to the Philippines, resulting in the  
18 transfer of information and technology. The establishment of international  
19 standards in design, and of sharing of other specialized skills; and

20       (3) Duly licensed foreign nationals shall be required to work with a Filipino  
21 counterpart who has been in continuous practice of interior design for at  
22 least ten (10) years. Professional fees and services, and expenses of  
23 documentation pertaining to the project shall be shared by both foreign and  
24 Filipino interior designers, including liabilities and taxes due to the Philippine  
25 government, if any, according to their participation in, or professional  
26 services rendered to the project.

27 (b) A foreign interior designer shall be required to work in every case with a duly  
28 licensed Filipino counterpart whose competence and integrity have been  
29 established by the Board of Interior Design on the basis of uniform standards  
30 contained in their IRR.

31 (c) Foreign and Filipino firms working jointly on a special project shall divide the  
32 professional fees and other charges collected from said project equitably.  
33 Similarly, all documentation expenses, taxes and other liabilities incurred on the  
34 shared project shall also be borne equally by both foreign and Filipino firms.

35 (d) Foreigners working jointly with Filipino firms shall sign contracts, designs and  
36 other credits together with his/her Filipino counterpart. Both foreign and Filipino  
37 firms shall at all times be acknowledged in international tri-media on proprietarial

1 and intellectual property rights. All residual earnings shall also be equitably  
2 shared between foreign and local firms.

3 (e) Foreign design firms or individuals practicing in the Philippines before the  
4 *promulgation of this Act* are required to comply with the requirements established  
5 by the Board of Interior Design in its IRR within the timetable it stipulates therein.

6 (f) Any violation of these requirements or other illegal practices undertaken by either  
7 foreign design firms or their Filipino counterparts shall be punishable by law or  
8 under the IRR of the Board of Interior Design.

9  
10 **SEC. 31. *Indication of Numbers: Certificate of Registration, Professional Tax***  
11 ***Receipt and APO Membership.*** – The interior designer shall be required to indicate  
12 his/her certificate of registration number and date of issuance, the expiry of his/her  
13 current professional identification card, the professional tax receipt number and date,  
14 and his/her APO membership number and date with official receipt number and date of  
15 membership payment (annual/lifetime) on the documents he/she signs, uses or issues  
16 in connection with the practice of his/her interior design profession.

17  
18 **SEC. 32. *Roster of Interior Designers.*** – The Board shall prepare and maintain  
19 a roster of the names, residence and/or office address of all registered interior  
20 designers which shall be updated annually in cooperation with the APO, indicating  
21 therein the status of the certificate of registration, professional identification card and  
22 APO membership, whether valid, delinquent, suspended or revoked or inactive due to  
23 death or other reasons. The said roster shall be conspicuously posted within the  
24 premises of the Commission and the information therefrom made available to the public  
25 upon inquiry or request.

26  
27 **SEC. 33. *Integration of the Interior Designers.*** – The interior designers shall  
28 be integrated into one (1) national organization of interior designers that is duly  
29 registered with the SEC. The Board of Interior Design, subject to approval by the  
30 Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and only integrated and  
31 accredited professional organization of interior designers. All interior designers whose  
32 names appear in the Registry Book of Interior Designers shall *ipso facto* or  
33 automatically become members thereof and shall receive therefrom all the benefits and  
34 privileges upon payment of APO membership fees and dues.

35 A membership in an affiliate organization of Interior Designers shall not be  
36 barred.

37 **ARTICLE V**  
38 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

1           **SEC. 34. Penal Clause.** – The following acts shall be punished by a fine of not  
2 less than Three hundred thousand pesos (Php300,000.00) but not more than One  
3 million pesos (Php1,000,000.00) and revocation of certificate of registration or  
4 imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than three (3) years, or both  
5 fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

6           **(a) Local Practitioner.** –

- 7           (1) Practicing interior design, rendering work and consultations or rendering  
8 equivalent services as interior designer as defined in this Act or using the  
9 title “Interior Designer”, “Interior Design Consultant”, “Interior Design  
10 Stylist”, or “Interior Design” in any signage, calling card, advertisement or  
11 any other mode of publicity without a valid certificate of registration and/or  
12 a valid professional identification card or a valid temporary/special permit;  
13           (2) Attempting to use the seal, certificate of registration and/or professional  
14 identification card of a registered interior designer or temporary/special  
15 permit issued to foreign professional;  
16           (3) Abetting the illegal practice of interior design by an unregistered or  
17 unauthorized person;  
18           (4) Impersonating a registered interior designer or a holder of a  
19 temporary/special permit; and  
20           (5) Violating any provision of this Act or the IRR thereof.

21           **(b) Foreign Practitioner/Firm.** – Foreign interior design firm or individuals who  
22 shall be found to be illegally practicing their profession shall be penalized with a fine of a  
23 minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of gross fees under Five million pesos  
24 (Php5,000,000.00) and a minimum of ten percent (10%) of gross fees above Five  
25 million pesos (Php5,000,000.00) in addition to payment of back taxes to the Philippine  
26 government, imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than three (3)  
27 years, or both fine and imprisonment or permanent ban from further practice in the  
28 Philippines at the discretion of the court.

29  
30           **Section 35. Civil Liability:** – The Interior Designer shall assume full  
31 responsibility for the contract work within six (6) months from the final acceptance by the  
32 Client and shall be held responsible for any damage or destruction of the works except  
33 those occasioned by force majeure. The Interior Designer shall be fully responsible for  
34 the safety, protection, security and convenience of his clients/user, personnel, third  
35 parties, and the public at large, as well as the works, equipment installation and the like  
36 to be affected by his work.

37           The liability period for defects in the projects shall be six (6) months from final  
38 acceptance by the Client. During this period, the Interior Designer shall undertake the

1 repair works, at his own expense, of any damage to the projects on account of the use  
2 of materials of inferior quality within ninety (90) days from the time the client has issued  
3 a notification of the need to undertake repair. In case of failure or refusal to comply with  
4 this mandate, the client shall undertake such repair works and shall be entitled to full  
5 reimbursement of expenses incurred therein upon demand.

6 Any Interior Designer who fails to comply with the preceding paragraph shall suffer  
7 suspension or any appropriate penalty to be determined by the Board.  
8

9 **SEC. 36. Enforcement.** – The Commission shall implement the concerned  
10 provisions of this Act, enforce its IRR as adopted by the Board, conduct investigations  
11 on complaints including violations of the Code of Conduct of the profession and  
12 prosecute when so warranted.  
13

14 **SEC. 37. Appropriations.** The Chairperson of the PRC shall immediately include  
15 in the Commission's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall  
16 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
17

18 **SEC. 38. Transitory Provisions.** – The incumbent Board shall, in an interim  
19 capacity, continue to function by carrying out the provisions of this Act without the need  
20 to issue new appointments for the Chairperson and members thereof until the first  
21 Board created under this Act shall have been constituted or organized pursuant thereto.  
22

23 **SEC. 39. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Board, with the approval  
24 of the Commission, shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations to implement  
25 the provisions of this Act, which shall be effective after fifteen (15) days following its  
26 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a major daily newspaper of general circulation.  
27

28 **SEC. 40. Separability Clause.** – If any clause, provision, paragraph or part hereof  
29 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or  
30 impair any other part hereof, but such judgment shall be merely confined to the clause,  
31 provision, paragraph or part directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment  
32 has been rendered.  
33

34 **SEC. 41. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 8534 is hereby repealed. All  
35 other laws, decrees, executive orders and administrative issuances or parts thereof  
36 which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded  
37 or repealed accordingly.  
38

1           **SEC. 42. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3

4           Approved,