

# DRAFT

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### BETWEEN

### THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BC AND THE INTERIOR DESIGNERS INSTITUTE OF BC

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Interior Designers Institute of BC, hereinafter referred to as IDIBC, and the Architectural Institute of BC, hereinafter referred to as AIBC.

#### A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this MOU is to develop a framework for on-going discussions between the IDIBC and AIBC regarding the possible incorporation of their memberships into a single self-governed and self-regulated entity established under the provincial legislation currently known as the Architects Act.

The MOU will also provide a basis for cooperative efforts in communicating with, and soliciting feedback from the AIBC and IDIBC membership, the public, government and other industry stakeholders on this proposed merger.

As part of this process the AIBC and IDIBC will seek to:

- A. ensure public protection, health, safety and welfare, and safeguard the interest of society, architecture, the environment, sustainability and culture.
- B. establish mutually acceptable scopes of service and standards for practice, including expertise, autonomy, commitment and accountability,
- C. set standards in recognizing qualifications,
- D. prevent the practice of interior design in addition to architecture by unqualified persons.
- E. establish a system of governance to properly monitor performance, facilitate implementation, (including the audit of) qualification standards and systems of continuing professional education and resolve disagreements.

- F. represent the interests of interior designers and architects in the interaction with municipal, provincial and federal authorities and regulators.
- G. restrict the use of the term “interior design”, “interior designer” and/or “interior architect” to those persons who are qualified and registered under the Act.
- H. create an appendix which would provide the specifics of agreement.

## **B. BACKGROUND**

Members of the AIBC currently enjoy both rights to title (architect) and exclusive rights to practice as granted under the Architect’s Act. Members of the IDIBC currently enjoy rights to title (registered interior designer) as granted by their founding legislation. Members of both organizations are significant contributors to the design of the built form industry and environment in the province of British Columbia.

In 2004 a Joint Task Force of AIBC and IDIBC members began meeting to discuss possible incorporation of both memberships into a single self-governing and self-regulating entity. An attempt was made to identify shared principles, as well as potential benefits of a merger to members of the public, architects, interior designers and other industry stakeholder groups.

## **C. SHARED PRINCIPLES:**

### Principles of Professionalism

Members of the AIBC and the IDIBC are dedicated to high standards of professionalism, integrity and competence, and bring unique skills and aptitudes essential to the sustainable development of the built environment and the welfare of their societies and cultures. Principles of professionalism are established in legislation, as well as in codes of ethics and regulations defining professional conduct.

### Expertise

Architects and Registered Interior Designers possess a systematic body of knowledge, skills and theory developed through education, training, and experience. The process of education, training and examination is structured to assure the public that, when an architect or interior designer is engaged to perform professional services that architect or registered interior designer has met acceptable standards enabling competent performance of those services. Furthermore, members of AIBC and IDIBC are charged to maintain and

advance their knowledge, to respect the body of architectural and interior design accomplishment and to contribute to its growth.

Professional Education – as certified by national representative organizations, the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) against the Canadian Education Standard and the Interior Designers of Canada and FIDER.

Experience - a minimum number of hours of specified experience in all aspects of architectural or interior design practice completed under the personal supervision and direction of a licensed/registered architect or registered interior designer.

Examination – Architect Registration Examination (ARE) as produced by the National Committee of Architectural Certification Boards (NCARB) for Architects and the NCIDQ for Interior Designers.

### Autonomy

Architects and interior designers provide objective expert advice to the client and/or users. Architects and interior designers are charged to uphold the ideal that learned and uncompromised professional judgment should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art and science of architecture. Architects and interior designers are also charged to embrace the spirit and letter of the laws governing their professional affairs and to consider thoughtfully the social, urban and environmental impact of their professional activities.

### Commitment

Architects and interior designers bring a high level of selfless dedication to the professional services done on behalf of their clients and society. Members of the profession are charged to serve their clients and the public in a competent and professional manner and to exercise unprejudiced and unbiased judgment on their behalf.

### Accountability

Architects and interior designers are aware of their responsibility for the independent and, if necessary, critical advice provided to their clients and for the effects of their work on society and the environment. Architects and interior designers undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by education, training and/or experience in the specific area of professional service involved.

## **D. FRAMEWORK TIMETABLE**

The parties agree to meet on a monthly basis until submission to government.

**E. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:**

**PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITY** - This instrument in no way restricts the AIBC or the IDIBC from pursuing similar discussions with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals but agree to so notify in the event that they do.

**COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION** – This MOU takes effect upon the approval by the governing councils of the AIBC and the IDIBC and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party with a 30 day written notice.

**PRINCIPAL CONTACTS** – The principal contacts for this instrument are:

AIBC Contact:

IDIBC Contact:

**NON-FUNDING OBLIGATIONS** – Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the AIBC or the IDIBC to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds or services will require separate agreements.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY** – This MOU is not intended to, and does not create any binding rights, benefits or trust responsibility for the AIBC or the IDIBC.

**THE PARTIES BELOW HAVE EXECUTED THIS INSTRUMENT**

**Architectural Institute of British Columbia**

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\_\_\_\_\_DATE

**Interior Designers Institute of British Columbia**

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\_\_\_\_\_DATE