California Building Design Limitations for Professionals

Architects
May design any building of any type except:
- Structural portions of a hospital
  - California Health and Safety Code Section 129805
  - Business and Professions Code Sections 5500.1 and 6737

Civil Engineers
May design any building of any type except
- Hospitals
- Schools
  - Health and Safety Code Section 129805
  - Education Code Section 17302
  - Business and Professions Code Sections 5537.5 and 6735

Structural Engineers
May design any building of any type
- No limitations
  - Business and Professions Code Sections 5537.1 and 6736

Un-Licensed Persons (Owner/Builder, draftsperson, designer etc.)
May design the following
- Single family dwelling of wood frame construction not more than two stories and a basement in height.
- Multiple dwelling containing not more than four dwellings of wood frame construction not more than two stories and a basement in height. No more than four dwelling units per lot.
- Garages or other structures appurtenant to single-family dwellings of wood-frame construction not more than two stories and a basement in height.
- Agricultural and ranch buildings of wood-frame construction, unless the Building Official deems that an undue risk to the public health and safety or welfare is involved.
- Non-structural or non seismic storefronts, interior alterations or additions, fixtures, cabinet work, furniture or other appliances or equipment, including non-structural or non-seismic work necessary to provide for their installation.

May not design:
- Any component that changes or affects the safety of any building, including but not limited to, exiting, assembly occupancies and structural or seismic components.

NOTE: The Building Official may require plans, computations and specification to be prepared and designed by an architect or engineer licensed by the State to practice as such, even if not required by State law. Business and Professions code Sections 5537, 5538 and 6737.1

For questions, please contact the City of Colton Building Division at (909) 370-5079