



MILESTONE MOMENTS

with Lisa Whited, NCIDQ No. 7490

Connecting our past to our future 1974–2024

50
YEARS
STRONG

Q: How did you first get involved with CIDQ?

A: In 1992, Maine created its first professional coalition of interior designers — the Maine Interior Design Association (MIDA) — with a focus to pass legislation to certify interior designers. I was elected as the first president of MIDA, and with the small founding group of MIDA members and a fantastic lobbyist, we were successful in the first legislative session to pass certification for interior designers. That work allowed me to get engaged with NCIDQ as a member of the Council of Delegates, representing Maine, and serving on the Maine Board of Licensure for Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. Over the years I had the honor of volunteering in numerous CIDQ positions including as a master juror, serving on, or chairing committees, serving as an ambassador for students, and in various board positions including as President in 2000.

Q: Tell us a little about your most recent volunteering experiences.

A: In the early 2000's I worked to create a 3D "Health, Safety and Welfare" website (alongside a professional web designer) to illustrate to the public and legislators how the work of an interior designer impacts the public's wellbeing and safety within a typical office.

CIDQ wanted to update that effort, so beginning in 2021, I was invited to work with three other NCIDQ volunteers to create a new interactive 3D tool that illustrates how our work impacts the health, safety, and welfare of people in a restaurant.

Q: When did you become NCIDQ Certified, and why?

A: I took and passed the exam in April 1989. When

I was in school studying interior design in the early 1980s, one of my professors shared that she was preparing to take the exam and that is when I first learned of NCIDQ. As soon as I heard that there was a credential and process to be certified, I made it a goal to take the exam. Passing the test remains one of my proudest professional achievements in my career. I think the only thing that topped it was receiving the Louis S. Tregre Award in 2017!

Q: Why does NCIDQ Certification matter?

A: Having the certificate represents knowledge and expertise in a field that — especially because at the time I was entering the field in the 1980s — it was not well defined. When I am consulting on projects now and I meet the designer on the project, if he/she/they have NCIDQ after their name I know that I am working with a professional who takes their profession seriously. It is simply the mark of a professional interior designer.

Q: What have you learned thru volunteering with CIDQ?

A: So much! Legislation, advocacy, the ins and outs of psychometrics, the importance of clear volunteer roles and responsibilities, how to use my voice for change, dealing with conflict from groups who oppose change you are advocating for, strategic planning, tactical planning — I mean, seriously, I gained a "degree" in volunteer leadership through my work with CIDQ! Plus, friends — like friends for the rest of my life — all because of NCIDQ/CIDQ.