



# MILESTONE MOMENTS

with David Stone, NCIDQ No. 8043

Connecting our past to our future 1974–2024

**50**  
**YEARS**  
**STRONG**

**Q: How long have you been involved with CIDQ?**

A: I was coming off being the IIDA New England Chapter president in 2001 and looking for more industry volunteerism opportunities, so I reached out to Lisa Whited, a former chapter colleague, for suggestions. Two weeks later, I was spending Valentine's Day weekend in DC with a bunch of then-NCIDQ folk "validating" the upcoming exams. The rest is history, so to speak.

**Q: In CIDQ's 50-year history, from your perspective, what would you say is CIDQ's/NCIDQ's biggest accomplishment?**

A: The Council has become a standard-bearer for the profession, advocating for and elevating what it means to be competent. By continuing to look at how to establish that bar of competency, CIDQ has truly changed the way that interior design is perceived from both within and from outside the design professions, by becoming THE global standard of that "Mark of the Profession."

**Q: What role did NCIDQ play in your career?**

A: As an interior designer who worked primarily in non-regulated jurisdictions, the NCIDQ Exam was the only way to set myself apart from both decorators and non-certified individuals, and to also establish myself within design firms (mostly architectural) as a "competent" professional; one who understands how to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare properly.

**Q: What are the key issues you see CIDQ addressing in the future?**

A: Helping the profession AND INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS remain relevant in our changing design attitudes and needs. By continuing to realize that while CIDQ "members"

are regulatory boards/agencies, its future rests in the untapped power of its certificate holders.

**Q: What do you think the next 50 years will look like for the profession?**

A: I hope that more locations — U.S., Canadian, and internationally, realize the benefits of recognizing the separate profession of interior design, and why regulating it helps protect the public in all ways, by enacting meaningful practice and/or "stamp and seal" legislation.

**Q: Describe what NCIDQ (or CIDQ) means to you, on a personal level, in 15 words or less.**

A: It IS the mark of the true professional and still the pinnacle achievement of my career.

**Q: What is one of your best memories of CIDQ?**

A: Beyond my first day of being on a CIDQ committee, learning that I was a recipient of the Tregre Award. Still humbling to be in that group of awardees.