

FOLLOW YOUR PASSION

Scott MacMeekin, NCIDQ No. 23669, CIDQ President

One of the greatest opportunities we have is to find something we are passionate about, and we are all lucky if we are able to stoke this passion in our personal or professional lives. I have always been passionate about the advancement of our profession, and there is no greater element to our practice than NCIDQ Certification.

[Learn about recent events marking change in our industry](#)



DATA-DRIVEN DIALOGUE BETWEEN PROFESSIONS

We closed out 2021 with an important announcement. Last month, CIDQ and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) released a joint report exploring the similarities and differences between the essential knowledge, skills, and tasks required for competency in each profession.

[Learn more about the collaboration](#)

AIA REVISED INTERIOR DESIGN OPPOSITION POSITION STATEMENT

At their December 10th board meeting, the Board of Directors at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) voted to revise a long-standing organizational position statement of opposition to reasonable regulation of interior design in US jurisdictions. The new position eliminates “outright” opposition to interior design licensure, and due to the change, AIA state components are no longer compelled by AIA National to oppose interior design regulation proposals in their jurisdiction.

[Understand the Impact](#)



NCIDQ EXAM UPDATES

With the release of the official fall 2021 score results, CIDQ announced the addition of **434** new NCIDQ certificate holders! **REMEMBER** to proudly use the NCIDQ appellation that you worked so hard to achieve!

NCIDQ Examination

by the Council for
Interior Design Qualification

MEET CIDQ'S NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



CIDQ welcomes three new appointments to its 2022 Board of Directors:

Jason Kasper, President Elect

Gretel Lott, Director

Siavash Madani, Director

Our board is full of dynamic leaders who represent and move forward the mission of CIDQ. [Meet our new members](#) and get to know the full board.



MEMBER BOARD SPOTLIGHT

The responsibility of the **North Carolina Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers** is to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the people of North Carolina and to ensure that those individuals licensed to practice architecture, and registered interior designers in this state are duly qualified.

[Meet the Member Board](#)

CIDQ ANNUAL MEETING 2021 RECAP

On Nov. 11 and 12, more than 100 state and provincial regulatory board staff, their delegates, interior design professional and educational organization representatives, credentialing organization representatives, CIDQ board, invited guests, and staff met virtually for the **CIDQ ANNUAL MEETING 2021**.



The meeting featured three compelling presentations – the first was a note-worthy panel discussion on the new law in North Carolina.

Anne Porter, NCIDQ, MN CID, Interior Design Leader and Stacey Demmer, AIA, WELL AP, LEED BD+C, Principal - Commercial Studio Leader, both from LHB, Inc., presented thought-provoking case studies which support pandemic-driven wellness issues addressed through interior design.

And last but not least, Dale Atkinson, Founding Partner of The Atkinson Firm, provided a broad overview of the current state of occupational regulation in the United States and Canada.

We're looking forward to an even more impactful event this year!

SAVE THE DATE!

CIDQ Annual Meeting 2022
November 11 & 12
Los Angeles, CA





**Scott
MacMeekin**
CIDQ President
NCIDQ Certificate
No. 23669

President's Message

One of the greatest opportunities we have is to find something we are passionate about, and we are all lucky if we are able to stoke this passion in our personal or professional lives. I have always been passionate about the advancement of our profession, and there is no greater element to our practice than NCIDQ Certification. My journey with CIDQ started with the completion of the NCIDQ Exam 15 years ago, and through 10 years of service I am now honored to step into the role of President of the Board of Directors.

Alongside many other passionate volunteers, I am delighted at the trajectory of our organization and just what the future holds for the exam, for our member boards, and for all certificate holders. There are many individuals that have worked diligently to serve CIDQ, but I would like to especially thank Immediate Past President Caren Martin, Director Jessie Shappell, and Past President Aandra Currie Shearer for their leadership and significant contributions. I would also like to welcome our newest board members, Directors Gretel Lott and Siavash Madani, and returning to the Board as President Elect, Jason Kasper.

While sharing gratitude, I'd also like to recognize the CIDQ staff who have been hard at work focusing on improving the candidate experience, and recently released a digital [NCIDQ Candidate Handbook](#). This comprehensive resource serves as a one-stop-shop of information for the NCIDQ Exam and provides candidates with everything they will need to know and understand while on their NCIDQ journey. The other piece of exciting news is that CIDQ will offer [remote proctoring](#) for the IDFX and IDPX exams this spring administration and moving forward. Candidates will have the option of sitting for the NCIDQ Exam in the convenience of their own homes or offices.

Launching into 2022, I am encouraged by many recent events that have marked change in our industry. The recent legislation in North Carolina is a major accomplishment and will set a foundational direction for many other jurisdictions. I would like to welcome the North Carolina Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers as our newest member board and congratulate all those who made this possible. The recent release of the Joint Report of Architecture and Interior Design by NCARB and CIDQ, as well as the AIA Board approval of the revised AIA position on interior design licensure mark years of work and signify great things to come.

I hope you all continue to follow your passion for our profession, build upon all that we have worked hard for, and that this year brings you much success.



Thom Banks
CIDQ Chief
Executive Officer

CEO's Message

CIDQ and NCARB release joint comparison report of Architecture and Interior Design

Greetings! I hope your 2022 is off to a strong start.

We closed out 2021 with an important announcement. Last month, CIDQ and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) released a [joint report](#) exploring the similarities and differences between the essential knowledge, skills, and tasks required for competency in each profession. CIDQ and NCARB also collaborated on an explainer [video](#) summarizing the report's findings.

As the regulation of interior design continues to evolve in the United States, a growing number of licensing boards jointly regulate both architecture and interior design. As frequent collaborators in the built environment, architects and interior designers sometimes encounter parallels in their professions' skills and expertise. This correlation can lead to confusion and uncertainty on the part of the public surrounding practitioners' roles and responsibilities.

Together, CIDQ and NCARB sought to help address this confusion among the public, foster more informed and data-driven dialogue between the professions, and assist licensing boards as they establish rules and requirements in their role to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare.

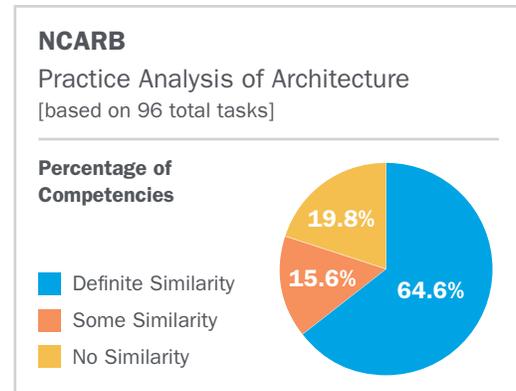
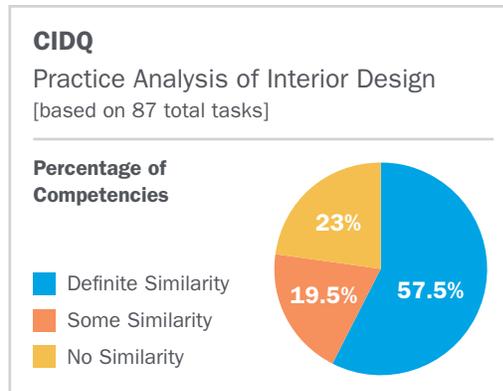
To do so, CIDQ and NCARB compared the essential tasks required to competently practice their professions identified by recent practice analyses* as well as the objectives assessed by CIDQ and NCARB's required examinations. In doing so, CIDQ and NCARB categorized their findings into buckets of "definite similarity", "some similarity", or instances in which there was no similarity at all between the professions.

Following careful research and discussion, CIDQ and NCARB found that 77% to 80% of the tasks on their respective Practice Analyses reflected "definite" or "some" similarity to each other depending upon which organizational "lens" was applied. In comparing exam objectives, it was found that 83% of the objectives showed "definite" or "some" similarity. See charts next page.

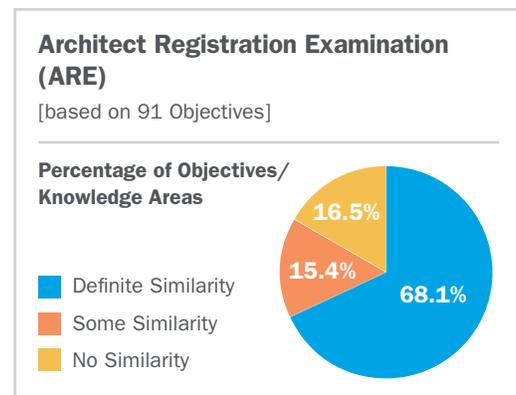
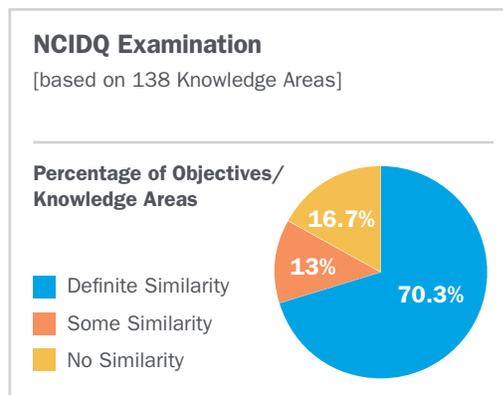
* A practice analysis is a scientific study conducted periodically with practitioners of a profession in order to define the knowledge and skills they must possess and the tasks they must be able to perform at the time of licensure or credentialing. They are conducted on behalf of a wide variety of professions and play an important role in licensure and certification programs all over the world.

CEO's Message Continued

Practice Analysis Comparison:



Comparison of Exam Objectives (Knowledge Areas):



Key Report Findings

“The professions of architecture and interior design, while similar in practice and required knowledge, are unique and distinct disciplines that both have an important role in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public within the built environment.”

“CIDQ and NCARB maintain similar paths in support of regulated practice, including specialized education, relevant professional experience, and examination of essential knowledge and skills. In addition, NCARB and CIDQ follow a similar well-established process to determine the requirements for experience and examination.”

“In many instances, the two professions use similar or the same terminology, which may have different meanings or application in respective practice.”

CEO's Message Continued

CIDQ believes this report and its findings are a tool and an important step in promoting a long overdue, data-based conversation about the current realities of practice for architects and NCIDQ Certified interior designers. The architectural community is also feeling compelled to evaluate long-standing positions in recognition of the professional advancements of qualified interior designers (see *Matt Barusch's article on AIA Policy changes in this edition*). CIDQ plans to continue to be a leader in advancing these critical conversations in the year ahead.

Best wishes for a healthy and productive 2022!



Matt Barusch
CIDQ Government
Affairs and Advocacy
Manager

AIA Revises Interior Design Opposition Position Statement

At their December 10th board meeting, the Board of Directors at the American Institute of Architects (AIA) voted to revise a long-standing organizational position statement of opposition to reasonable regulation of interior design in U.S. jurisdictions. The new position eliminates “outright” opposition to interior design licensure, and due to the change, AIA state components are no longer compelled by AIA National to oppose interior design regulation proposals in their jurisdiction. [According to AIA](#), the revision is intended to allow AIA state components to “be more flexible and to negotiate and discuss options and remedies with legislators, regulators, and partner groups that best suit their respective state since each state is different.”

In addition to the new position statement, AIA has created an [FAQ document](#) about the Board’s decision. To help our member boards understand the true impact of AIA’s new approach to interior design regulation, CIDQ has reviewed and analyzed the language and its nuances. The newly approved AIA position statement is as follows:

“In the public interest, the AIA holds that architects licensed through rigorous examination possess the necessary education, training, and experience to lead the design process and protect the health, safety, and welfare in the built environment. While other regulated or licensed professionals may participate or be responsible for specialized and focused components, architects are uniquely qualified to take responsible control for the coordinated integration of building systems through a comprehensive understanding of design, construction, and the coordination of project teams from project inception to completion.”

The previous iteration of AIA’s position statement spoke specifically to organizational opposition to interior design regulation. On paper, this new language does appear to be newly inclusive of other design professionals taking part in the design process. However, what is missing is recognition of the similarities and distinctions in the skills and competencies needed for practice in the architecture and interior design professions, understanding

AIA Revises, Continued

that there are occasions when the scope and skills of the professions may naturally intersect, and acknowledgement of interior design's significant impact on protecting the public health, safety, and welfare in the built environment. The lack of these features in the revised policy suggests that securing AIA support or even neutrality for reasonable regulation, at either the national or state component level, may continue to be an uphill battle.

As we know, there are definite similarities and differences between the competencies of architects and interior designers (see *CEO's Message on CIDQ's joint comparison report with NCARB elsewhere in this edition of Q Connection*). Acknowledgment to that effect remains absent from the new AIA position on interior design regulation. Instead, the position statement misinterprets these similarities or overlap as encroachment, evidenced by the FAQ statement: "If interior designers wish to do work within the scope of work of architects, AIA invites them to join other AIA members on the path to architecture licensure through educational, experience, and testing opportunities." Additionally, the position statement language also clarifies that a continued point of AIA opposition to interior design regulation will remain in the ability of certified interior designers to function as coordinating professionals of a design project. Derived from the initial misunderstanding of interior design's role in the design process, this language precludes certified interior designers from coordinating project teams, which is a core component of NCIDQ Certificate holders' competencies and an essential element of their ability to practice to the fullest extent of their capabilities.

In conclusion, while this policy fails to recognize the true role of interior design in the design process and public protection, CIDQ commends AIA for taking this important first step toward a more informed and long overdue dialogue between the interior design and architecture communities. There is still much work to be done, and CIDQ looks forward to participating in and helping to inform those discussions.

Meet the Member Board:

NCBARID – the North Carolina Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers



Objective

The responsibility of the North Carolina Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers is to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the people of North Carolina and to ensure that those individuals licensed to practice architecture, and registered interior designers in this state are duly qualified.

Accomplishment

During the 2021 legislative session, the North Carolina Legislature enacted legislation regulating interior design. As a result, over the last few months the Board has made the transition to become the Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers. The Board staff has been hard at work implementing a myriad of changes to their database, forms, administrative procedures, rules, and website, as well as welcoming three new interior designer members onto the Board.

Meet the Member Board Members



Cathe Evans is the Executive Director of the Board. She has been with the Board for almost 27 years. Cathe currently serves on the NCARB BOD as the Member Board Executive Representative.



Emmy Williams is the founder of Interior Solutions, a comprehensive interior design firm based in Winston-Salem.



Elizabeth Pyle has over 20 years of experience in a variety of corporate, healthcare, and residential markets.



Ilesha Patel is an interior designer with Perkins & Will in the Charlotte area.

Emmy, Elizabeth, and Ilesha were all appointed to the board in December 2021.

Challenges

The imminent challenge facing the Board is educating the public, design professionals, code officials and others in the construction industry of the role of a registered interior designer in comparison to that of an architect or engineer or interior decorator. Additionally, the Board must be prepared to accurately respond to all inquiries regarding the new statutory wording and rules that will govern the practice of interior design. This is all new to North Carolina and we want to be sure that we interpret the rules and laws in a fair and reasonable manner.

Licensees as of 12/11/2021

North Carolina began accepting applications for ID registration on December 11, 2021. As of January 5, 2021, we have issued approximately 60 licenses. We are receiving numerous applications daily.