



NCARB/CIDQ Comparison Report

Background

In December 2021, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) issued a joint report that assesses areas of correlation and distinction between the knowledge, skills, and tasks required for competency in the fields of architecture and interior design. NCARB and CIDQ are the nonprofit credentialing organizations that administer the Architect Registration Examination® (ARE®) and NCIDQ Examinations, respectively. The report's purpose is to enable a better understanding of the two professions' respective roles and responsibilities when it comes to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare, ultimately leading to more effective collaboration and regulation.

Methodology

The effort began when NCARB's FY18 Interior Architecture Work Group was charged with comparing "interior design" and "interior architecture" degree programs, and eventually expanded to include a comparison of NCARB and CIDQ's most recent practice analyses. Each organization appointed subject matter experts (SMEs) who independently compared practice analyses and examination assessment objectives. The SMEs then met to review and explore findings, ultimately identifying areas of definite similarity, some similarity, or no similarity.

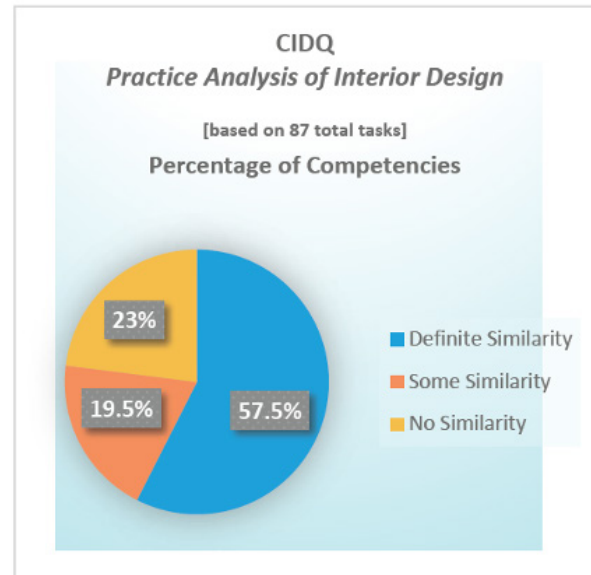
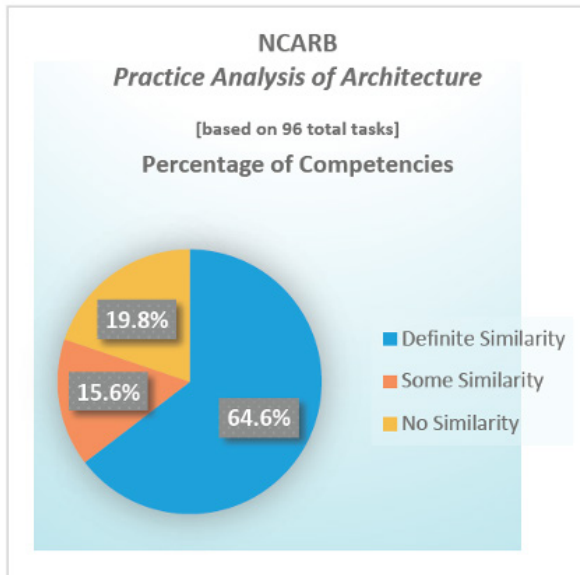
Findings

The report does not advocate that architecture and interior design are interchangeable, should be merged, or should become more connected. However, CIDQ and NCARB SMEs found that:

- The pathways to regulated practice for both architects and interior designers have the same basic requirements: 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.
- Following careful research and discussion, NCARB and CIDQ identified several areas of definite similarity between the professions and their respective examinations, as well as areas where there is some similarity or no similarity. Areas of no similarity are equally as important as areas of some or definite similarity.
- While similar in practice and required knowledge, architecture and interior design 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.

Practice Analysis Comparison

These charts show the proportion of tasks identified in each organization's most recent practice analysis that have definite, some, and no similarity to tasks identified in the other organization's practice analysis. A practice analysis is a scientific study conducted periodically with practitioners of a profession 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.



Comparison of Exam Knowledge Areas

These charts show the proportion of each organization's examination objectives/knowledge areas that have definite, some, and no similarity to the other organization's examination objectives/knowledge areas.

