



RYAN WELTERS

Design Assistant at Lucy Interior Design

Q: Brief intro/What type of work do you do/ where do you work?

A: I am a Design Assistant at Lucy Interior Design in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We focus on high end residential design with styles ranging from cabins to modern and lake cottage to mid-century.

Q: When did you decide to take the NCIDQ Exam? How did you decide what order to take them in?

A: I decided to take the exams in 2020. I took the IDFX first in the fall of 2020 and the IDPX and PRAC the following spring within the same month.

Q: Did you fail any exams/retake any? How did you stay motivated through that process?

A: Lucky, I passed all my exams on the first try. I found it helpful to split up the exams so I did not have to overload myself with information.

Q: How long did you study for the exams? What did you use to study?

A: For the first and second round of exams I started studying 2.5 months before the exam. The first month and a half I may have studied 2–3 times per week but the month prior to the exam I studied almost every day for about 3–4 hours each day.

Q: Has the practice of interior design lived up to your expectations that you had as a student? Any surprises or disappointments?

A: In school as a student, we have a lot of control over a project but in the industry, you may not get that kind of responsibility for five+ years.

Q: What advice would you give to current students that you wished you had received?

A: Regarding school projects, try to push past what the professors are asking you and make your project unique for everyone else. Do not be afraid to push the bounds of the design.

Q: Why did you become NCIDQ Certified/why was it important to you?

A: I am not 100% sure where I want to end up in interior design, but now being NCIDQ Certified, I have a little more flexibility and I am keeping myself competitive in the job market.

Q: Have you/are you interested in pursuing any other credentials/certifications or licensure/registration/certification in a jurisdiction? If so, please provide those details.

A: I am hoping to get certifications for sustainability, but I am not sure if I want to go the WELL or LEED route.

Q: Anything else you'd like to share?

A: Regarding taking the exams, make sure to take as many practice exams as you can. The more familiarized you are with the question style the better you will be at understanding the questions that are asked.

For all major exams of this magnitude, do NOT try to cram in NEW information the day before the exam. Cramming new information in will make it harder to recall the information you thought you knew. So not only can you not remember the information you had earlier, you also cannot recall the information you are trying to cram.