



ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Fall is here and it is time to hit the road (it feels great to be able to say that)!

In August and September, I attended the in-person annual meetings of our fellow credentialing and ICOR organizations, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB).

[See where else CIDQ has been](#)

NCIDQ



Total number of
Active NCIDQ
Certificate Holders



Number of Approved
Applications
(Fall 2022)



Number of Exam
Registrations
(Fall 2022)

My Design Journey is a collaborative video series, created by ASID, IIDA, CIDQ, IDC, and IDEC, featuring underrepresented members of the design community sharing their personal experiences, challenges, and triumphs in pursuing their professional path as an interior designer.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Introduction to My Design Journey

This video, presented by leaders of each of the participating organizations, introduces this DEI initiative.

The **CIDQ Annual Meeting 2022** takes place November 11-12 in Los Angeles, CA. During the meeting, state and provincial regulatory board staff, their Delegates, and



representatives from interior design professional organizations will come together to discuss CIDQ, the NCIDQ Exam, and issues related to interior design regulation. Attendees will be able to learn key strategic initiatives for CIDQ, exchange ideas and tools, and collaborate with their peers.

We're excited to re/connect in LA!

[Discover what's being planned.](#)

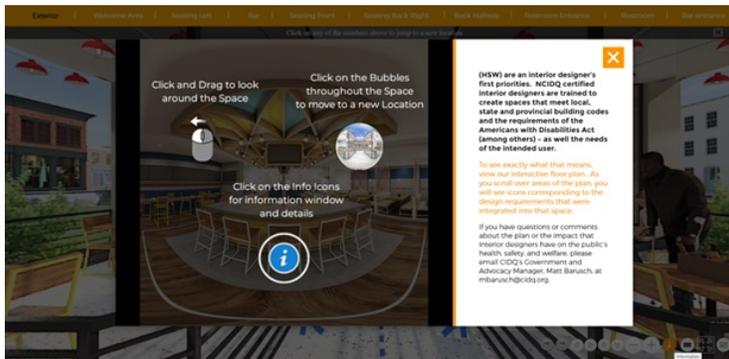
CIDQ 2022 TREGRE AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. Abimbola Asojo

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is pleased to recognize Dr. Asojo as the **2022 Louis S. Tregre Award** winner. Dr. Asojo is a Professor of Interior Design and Associate Dean for Research, Creative Scholarship, and Engagement at the College of Design at University of Minnesota.



[Meet Dr. Asojo](#)



NEW! Interactive 3D Tool

CIDQ created an [interactive floorplan](#) of a restaurant to give viewers a better understanding of the specific areas of public health, safety, and welfare that NCIDQ Certified interior designers impact regularly.

[Experience the Tool](#)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Albert Hui, NCIDQ

NCIDQ Certificate No. 15304

Albert Hui, design director at Interior Resources Associates, Inc is a proud CIDQ volunteer. Albert shares why it's important to give back to the industry.



[Get to Know Albert](#)

It's been an active year for CIDQ, and your support has enabled us to continue making impactful improvements that benefit you and the industry at large.

Don't forget! Renewal payments are due annually in April or **October**, depending on a certificate holder's expiration date. We thank you for your support and ask that you renew your certificate today (it's just \$75) so we can continue building a stronger profession.

[Renew now!](#)

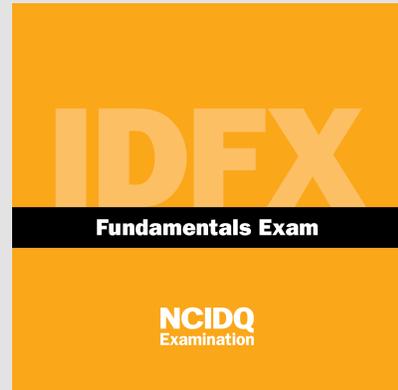
re new

NCIDQ Examination

ATTN: EDUCATORS

For your students, the path to reaching their professional potential begins with the **IDFX**. Encourage them to start their interior design careers on the right foot. Help your students save with a discount voucher and practice questions and set them up for NCIDQ Certification!

[Request an IDFX discount voucher for your students](#)





Thom Banks
CIDQ Chief
Executive Officer

CEO's Message **On the Road Again!**

Fall is here and it is time to hit the road (it feels great to be able to say that)!

In August and September, I attended the in-person annual meetings of our fellow credentialing and ICOR organizations, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB). It's a great opportunity to hear from our colleagues and, as we share many jurisdictional boards, spend time with member board executives and staff. Additionally, I travelled along with CIDQ's Government Affairs and Advocacy Manager Matt Barusch, to meet with representatives of ASID and IIDA, and we also attended the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) Regulatory Law Seminar.

Other headquarters team members have also been out connecting with CIDQ's stakeholders and representing the organization. In late September, Director of Engagement Kimberly Woods took part in the ASID New Jersey Design Expo and Trade Show presenting information on the NCIDQ Exam and the value of NCIDQ Certification to students and professionals.

Exam Director Cornelia Springer attended the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Educational Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. While there, she co-presented on a topic critical to CIDQ's operations, *"Maximizing Subject Matter Expert (SME) Engagement: How to Recruit, Manage, and Retain Your Experts."* The NCIDQ Exam would not exist without our volunteer SMEs who help develop our exam. We're grateful for their contributions and proud to be able to discuss with other organizations the awesome work they do.

Matt Barusch was part of a panel discussion for Maryland Coalition for Interior Designers (MDCID) State of the Industry event alongside State Senator Mary Washington, where they discussed the current state of interior design registration in Maryland and their upcoming legislative sunset. Matt also attended the MDCID Annual B'MORE Design Expo and provided attendees with information about the NCIDQ Exam.

Zoom presentations have their place and can be highly effective and convenient but there is no substitute for being able to, literally, "meet people where they are." If you have an upcoming event where we can help spread the word about the importance of the NCIDQ Exam, we would love to discuss having an CIDQ HQ team representative present. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our Engagement Director Kimberly Woods at kwoods@cidq.org.



Dr. Abimbola
Asojo
NCIDQ Certificate
No. 21989

2022 Louis S. Tregre Award Winner Dr. Abimbola Asojo

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is pleased to recognize Dr. Abimbola Asojo as the 2022 Louis S. Tregre Award winner. Dr. Asojo is Professor of Interior Design and Associate Dean for Research, Creative Scholarship, and Engagement at the College of Design at University of Minnesota.

Dr. Abimbola Asojo has done extensive work on a global scale, bringing awareness of interior design to audiences that previously would not have been educated on the profession. An NCIDQ Certificate holder since 2006, Abi has been an active NCIDQ Ambassador for several years, giving presentations to students at the University and in Nigeria.

Tina Patel, Assistant Professor of Interior Design at Kent State University, nominated Abi for this award and stated, “Dr. Asojo epitomizes what the Tregre Award was created to honor by making a substantial contribution to the development of interior design on a global scale, encouraging cultural competency in interior design students, and having a track record of developing pathways for underserved K–12 students. She has selflessly devoted herself to the cause of interior design by leading K–12 afterschool and summer programs to help young children learn about interior design. Student participants in the afterschool and summer programs have reported increased knowledge of design and enrolled in design schools, internship programs in firms, and higher education programs. She has collaborated with peers and colleagues from outside of the U.S. in ways that advance interior design in the world. Additionally, she continues to offer annual NCIDQ sessions for the University of Minnesota, interior design students, and Obafemi Awolowo University Interior Design program in Nigeria, delivering a lecture about the relevance of the NCIDQ Exam to the students, faculty, and Interior Design Association of Nigeria practitioners.”

This year’s Tregre Award winner had this to say about the acknowledgement, “I am very honored to receive the 2022 Louis S. Tregre Award for my work furthering the goals of CIDQ, the NCIDQ Examination, and advancing the profession of interior design both locally and globally. Thank you for this recognition!”

Created in 1991 to honor the memory of Louis S. Tregre, the founding director of CIDQ, the award salutes volunteers who have worked diligently and consistently at the grassroots level to further the goals of CIDQ, the NCIDQ Examination, and to advance the profession of interior design.

Volunteer Spotlight



**Albert Hui, NCIDQ, IDC,
ARIDO, BCIN**

NCIDQ Certificate No. 15304

Albert Hui, Design Director at Interior Resources Associates Inc. and proud CIDQ Volunteer.

Q: How did you first get involved with CIDQ and why did you decide to volunteer with CIDQ?

A: I have been involved with committee work, grading the NCIDQ Exams since 2000 and always wanted to give back to the industry.

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

A: I was involved with the FX exam committee in 2018 and with the Building Code task force in 2019. The experiences were just wonderful, getting a taste of different cities' bylaws, and meeting with your peers from across the country. Lots of hard work was put towards this work, and the dedication from everyone involved was just incredible.

Q: When did you become NCIDQ Certified and why?

A: The NCIDQ Certificate, to me, represents the benchmark of being a qualified interior designer. The title gives you recognition in the profession as being regulated by a governing body.

Q: How has having an NCIDQ Certificate benefited you and your career?

A: The title represents that I'm a qualified practitioner that is permitted to work in some commercial projects. As a known fact, one of our designers who has moved back to Japan found a job mainly because she holds a NCIDQ Certificate.

Q: What would you tell a colleague who is considering taking the NCIDQ Exam?

A: I've encouraged everyone in the interior design field to seriously consider taking the exams.

Q: Why does NCIDQ Certification matter?

A: Passing the exam and being NCIDQ Certified enables you to gauge your level of expertise in your field. It also allows the public to be aware that the priorities of your work are not just aesthetically pleasing but deal with health and public safety.

Q: What have you learned thru volunteering with CIDQ/how has it impacted your life?

A: Volunteering with CIDQ has really made me realize there are so many knowledgeable and dedicated professionals putting endless hours into the organization striding for a better future in the profession.

Q: What advice would you give to those considering volunteering their time with CIDQ?

A: There is tremendous amount of work required for volunteering, but the reward is heartfelt and appreciated. Besides meeting all the wonderful people from all across the country, the down time was fun and relaxing.

Q: Any additional comments/thoughts you would like to share — related to exam, certification, profession, today/future challenges, etc.

A: Being NCIDQ Certified is the key to being recognized in the design field. Because of the internet and all the home renovation shows, people think they have better design/decorating knowledge. But health and safety will be more vital in the near future, because people are looking for accountability and liability. The certification will separate the amateurs from the professionals.