



MILESTONE MOMENTS

with Buie Harwood, NCIDQ No. 13256

Connecting our past to our future 1974–2024

50
YEARS
STRONG

Q: How long have you been involved with CIDQ?

A: In 1971, I passed the American Institute of Interior Designers (AID) Examination. At the time, there were not that many people in the United States who had passed the AID examination and who had worked in the profession for more than 5 years. I was asked to serve on the NCIDQ Board based on my qualifications, and likely because I had an MFA degree and was teaching, and many other Board members were practitioners. I received the National Council for Interior Design Qualification Certification #013256 in 1996, based on all my work in coordinating and implementing the examination.

In 1994, I took the Council for the Qualification of Residential Interior Designers Examination so that I could compare it to the NCIDQ Exam and write about it.

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

A: I am probably biased, but the overall biggest accomplishment in the early years was developing and implementing the NCIDQ Examination, which I coordinated as NCIDQ Vice President in the late 1980s. Then it was getting the interior design and architecture professions to recognize its importance to both professions.

Q: What is CIDQ's most important contribution to the profession?

A: It set a standard of excellence for the interior design profession that eventually supported the licensing of interior designers in the United States and Canada, so interior designers would be recognized as qualified to practice on various types of design projects with architects.

Developing and implementing the NCIDQ Examination, coordinating licensing efforts for interior designers, and establishing and setting recognized standards for the interior design profession.

Q: What role did NCIDQ play in your career?

A: It had a huge impact on my professional career in the late 1980s because I became "the voice" of NCIDQ and traveled the United States and Canada explaining the concept and the implementation of the examination. I got to meet and participate in national and international meetings discussing interior design, professional standards, and appropriate qualifications for those practicing interior design. And, as an educator, I wrote about all of it as a way to get the word out about the importance of what I was working on and its impact on the profession of interior design throughout the world. Many countries viewed NCIDQ as the authority on interior design examinations, mainly because of all the rigor and care we took in doing the best job possible.

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

A: The key issues are maintaining the high quality of the examination, putting well-qualified people on the CIDQ Board, and continuing efforts to expand the examination to a worldwide audience. If CIDQ could go worldwide, it could have a huge impact on the quality of life for thousands of people. Think big and let it happen!

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

A: NCIDQ allowed me to share ideas with a wide

diversity of people.

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

A: I have several best memories: Working with Will Ching when he was President and I was Vice President; working with Executive Director Loren Swick when I was NCIDQ President; and the 15th anniversary celebration that we had in 1989 in Houston, Texas when I was NCIDQ President.