

FINAL STRETCH

Caren Martin, NCIDQ No. 2216, CIDQ President

As we enter the final stretch of 2020, it is exciting to see so much being accomplished by CIDQ’s volunteers and staff. Though this year has been nothing like any of us envisioned, CIDQ has been nimble and innovative in our approach to meet the needs of CIDQ’s stakeholders.



[Discover what's ahead](#)



MOVING FORWARD

Thom Banks, Chief Executive Officer

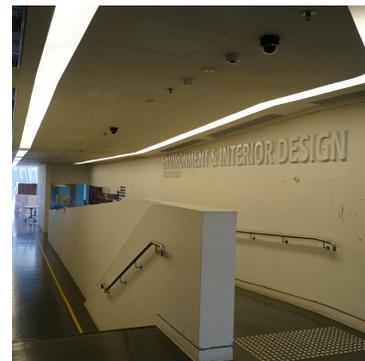
CIDQ remains focused on moving forward, despite the uncertainty we all navigate. Although unable to conduct this year’s spring exam administration due to COVID, we are busily preparing for the fall testing administration opening October 1st.

[Learn what HQ has been working on](#)

ATTENTION 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 and set them up for success!

[Uncover the available resources](#)



GOING VIRTUAL!

The CIDQ Annual Conference will take place on **Thursday, November 12th, 2020**, where we will present the meeting program in a shorter, virtual format.

During the conference, state and provincial regulatory board staff, their Delegates, and representatives from interior design professional organizations will come together virtually to discuss CIDQ, the NCIDQ Exam, and issues related to the interior design

profession as a whole. Attendees will be able to learn key strategic initiatives for CIDQ, exchange ideas and tools, and collaborate with their peers.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Mia Kile, ASID, AAHID, IALD, IDEC, IIDA
NCIDQ Certificate No. 21289**

Mia Kile, NCIDQ, an Associate Professor within the Division of Interior Design at the University of Oklahoma, shares her experience volunteering with CIDQ and the importance of paying it forward.

[Meet Mia](#)



CIDQ 2020 Tregre Award Recipient David Hanson

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is pleased to present the 2020 Louis S. Tregre Award to David Hanson, in acknowledgment of his years of outstanding volunteer service and contribution to the interior design profession.

[Get to Know David Hanson](#)

NCIDQ EXAM 2020 SPOTLIGHT



Total number of
NCIDQ Certificate
Holders



Number of Approved
Applications
Fall 2020



Number of Exam
Registrations
Fall 2020



CIDQ is co-sponsoring this AARP dialogue series of online events from September 2020 to February 2021, featuring built environment leaders from the U.S. and across the globe.

AARP kicks off the first dialogue in the Equity by Design series. Learn from built environment experts about what it takes to enable by design & drive informed demand.

Dr. Bill Thomas will moderate conversations with these experts, who will share diverse perspectives on what it will take to create enabling and equitable housing and multigenerational communities.

[Learn more and register now](#)





Caren Martin
CIDQ President
NCIDQ Certificate
No. 2216

President's Message

As we enter the final stretch of 2020, it is exciting to see so much being accomplished by CIDQ's volunteers and staff. Though this year has been nothing like any of us envisioned, CIDQ has been nimble and innovative in our approach to meet the needs of CIDQ's stakeholders.

We are currently preparing for our first virtual annual conference, to be held on Thursday, November 12th. I am thrilled to have my colleague and former Dean of the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, Thomas Fisher, as our keynote speaker. As a consummate speaker, author, and advocate for design, it is sure to be an engaging presentation.

As this year has brought numerous challenges to each of us, a new opportunity has emerged. I have spoken to many individuals this year who have told me that with reduced workload or (sadly) unemployment, and reduced time and ability to socialize, they are using this time to study for the NCIDQ Examination. As one individual said, "I no longer have much of an excuse about finding the time to study!" Please encourage your colleagues, staff, and students to take the NCIDQ Examination in spring 2021, and best of luck to our over 5,000 candidates taking the exam this fall! When the pandemic ends, NCIDQ Certified interior designers will be armed with expanded credentials to practice, grow their business, and be role models for their students.

Importantly, many of CIDQ's accomplishments have been due to the exemplary contributions of CIDQ's volunteers. The "perks" of being together for face-to-face collaboration on essential work have vanished. At times, distance has made volunteers' work a bit more challenging. Impassioned conversations that emerge in meetings and continue into problem-solving mealtimes are not possible. The creation of life-long friendships with colleagues forged through storytelling and the ability to learn from both words and unspoken body language have been somewhat circumvented too, for now. So, it is with tremendous appreciation that I want to thank our volunteers for their ever-steady, impressive contributions even without the "perks" noted above. A special shout out to our Ambassadors, exam committees, the IDEP Task Force, and the CIDQ/NCARB Blueprint Review Task Force — thank you!



Thom Banks
CIDQ Chief
Executive Officer

CEO's Message

As we enter the last quarter of the year, CIDQ remains focused on moving forward, despite the uncertainty we all navigate. Although unable to conduct this year's spring exam administration due to COVID, we are busily preparing for the fall testing administration opening October 1st. With more than 90% of the global testing centers open for operations, we are hoping for a smooth testing experience for NCIDQ candidates and will be monitoring test center status daily. Due to the spring postponement, we are scheduled to administer more than 5,000 exams, about 80% of our typical annual volume, in this one administration! In order to accommodate that testing volume and provide a safe testing experience for candidates in alignment with appropriate guidelines (e.g., social distancing, mask wearing, and enhanced cleaning protocols), we have extended the testing window by almost a full month (through November 24, 2020).

During this period of quarantine and remote working, CIDQ staff have used the time to focus on the exam and prepare for the future. The rollout of updated exam content (reflecting the 2019 Practice Analysis) originally scheduled for October 2020 will occur with the spring 2021 administration. The new exam blueprints have been posted to our [website](#), side by side with the current ones, for candidate reference.

Also beginning with the spring 2021 administration, CIDQ will be replacing the "Q codes" used for the Practicum exam with specific sections of the International Building Code (IBC). A task force comprised of both U.S. and Canadian certificate holders thoroughly reviewed and cross-referenced these codes with those from the National Building Code of Canada (2015). They determined that significant overlap existed between the IBC and Canadian code standards for the content areas being assessed. For purposes of continued evolution and enhanced public understanding of the rigor of the NCIDQ Exam, one set of recognized codes needed to be identified and CIDQ has standardized on the IBC. These codes will be provided as a resource within the Practicum Case Study. A complete list of the code references for the Practicum exam appears [here](#).

Lastly, effective November 24th, 2020, CIDQ will no longer offer Practice Quizzes for sale. As an organization dedicated to measuring the competency of interior design practitioners to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, CIDQ believes that the development and sale of these materials are tasks best left to others. CIDQ will continue to provide, at no charge,

CEO's Message Continued

examples of exam content to demonstrate the format and functionality of the NCIDQ Exam.

I know we are all weary of COVID's disruption to our lives and are anxious to return to our routines. I'm not sure we will ever go back to "the way it was" but I am certain that the importance of interior designer's work, and by extension the importance of the NCIDQ's assessment of their competency, has never been greater.

Volunteer Spotlight



Mia Kile
NCIDQ Certificate
No. 21289

Mia Kile, NCIDQ, is an Associate Professor within the Division of Interior Design at the University of Oklahoma. Mia shares her experience volunteering with CIDQ and the importance of paying it forward.

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

A: I first got involved with CIDQ in 2004 as a volunteer evaluating the Practicum exam which were completed by hand. At the time, hand grading required many volunteers in order to review the exams in a somewhat timely manner. I decided to volunteer because I thought it would be a good opportunity to support professional certification.

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

A: I currently serve as an item writer/reviewer for the IDFX section of the exam. This experience involves several designers from around the US and Canada who review new proposed questions for clarity and validity. Additionally, I serve as an NCIDQ Ambassador. Ambassadors in this program share with others (such as students) the path to certification and registration for the NCIDQ Exam. I have presented at ASID and IIDA Student Conferences and numerous classroom and student organizational meetings.

Q: When did you become NCIDQ Certified and why?

A: I became NCIDQ Certified in April 2001 in part to advance as a professional. In order to be a Registered Interior Designer in the state which I practice, one must have passed the NCIDQ.

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

A: The certification allowed me to become a Registered Interior Designer (RID) in Texas where I am an interior design consultant. The certification allowed me to join organizations

such as ASID and IIDA as a professional member. Furthermore, having the certification establishes credibility expected of interior design educators.

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

A: As an Associate Professor, I am an advocate for the NCIDQ Exam. I stress the three E's (Education, Experience, and Examination) to students. With the current format of the exam, this process can happen earlier for students. In some cases, students can take the IDFX in their senior year. For a fellow colleague or former student, I would emphasize the tremendous investment they have spent gaining the needed skills and education in order to practice. Why not take your career to the next level through the passage of the NCIDQ Examination?

Q: Why does NCIDQ Certification matter?

A: In the challenging times we presently face, having professionals who are responsible for designing our interior environments which consider our health, safety, and welfare is of utmost importance. The global pandemic we are currently experiencing has brought to light the importance of our built environments. I strongly believe a professional who has proven their value through NCIDQ Certification can shape our future for the better.

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

A: Serving as a volunteer with CIDQ allows me to give back to the profession that has given me so much. "What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."- Aristotle

Volunteer Spotlight

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

A: Service to our profession through volunteering is a way to pay it forward. The ever-evolving profession of interior design was built by volunteers who had a vision. It is the responsibility of current interior designers to continue this trajectory so that the profession advances in unison with the allied professions.

Q: What do you see as the future of the interior design profession post-COVID-19?

A: I believe the future for the interior design profession post-COVID-19 is enormous given the impact of indoor environmental quality. The pandemic opened our eyes to inadequacies within the built environment for all. As designers, we should take this as an opportunity to address the many challenges through evidence-based design. Formerly accepted design practices may need to be re-evaluated to suit the changing needs in response to our current climate. For instance, how does the residential setting support the needs of persons who are working (or attending school) from home? How does the recommended social distancing guidelines drive space planning for the future? There are so many opportunities for the profession to really contribute to the betterment of society at large. This is a really important time to be in the interior design profession.

Q: Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

A: While I am an interior designer, I enjoy spending most of my time outdoors. It is the connection to nature that rejuvenates my soul.

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

A: For those who are just starting their journey in interior design, have an open mind and seek every opportunity to positively impact our environments through thoughtful design considerations. For mid and late career professionals, I ask that you pay it forward by mentoring those who are just entering the profession and to volunteer whenever you have the chance. In order to move the profession forward, we need vested contributors represented from all facets.



David Hanson
NCIDQ Certificate
No. 10654

CIDQ 2020 Tregre Award Recipient David Hanson

David Hanson is a commercial interior designer and owner of DH Designs, an award winning commercial interior design consulting firm in Vancouver, BC, specializing in corporate, retail and hospitality environments. David has been actively volunteering with CIDQ for nearly 25 years. He began in 1995 jurying exams, and throughout the years has served on various committees including exam validation, finance, IDEP, exam multiple choice development, nominations, and the committee for which he is receiving an award this year — the Tregre Award selection committee. David also served on CIDQ’s Board of Directors, as a Director in 2004–2005, and then as President in 2016.

Carol Jones nominated David for the Tregre Award and states, “David never steps down from a challenge or a worthy cause and is extremely giving of his personal time and energy. He is careful, thoughtful, and deliberate in his approach to volunteerism and problem solving. He is a great mentor to young designers and leads them into and through the profession with wisdom, kindness and humour.”

CIDQ CEO Thom Banks shared, “I had the privilege of working closely with David during his tenure as CIDQ’s 2016 President. I have immense respect for his dedication, humility, and long-standing commitment to advancing the practice of interior design. I am thrilled that he is being recognized with this honor as he is hugely deserving of it.”

Created to honor the memory of Louis S. Tregre, CIDQ’s founding director, Tregre Award recipients exemplify Louis’ commitment to the practice of interior design. Hanson’s many years of dedicated work on behalf of the interior design profession make him a most deserving award winner. CONGRATULATIONS DAVID!