



## ALINE TRINDADE

Senior Interior Designer at TRIA Design

Aline Trindade is an NCIDQ Certified Interior Designer, a professional practitioner and member of IIDA and ASID, and also a licensed architect in Brazil under CAU/BR. She has nearly 20 years of experience globally, specializing in commercial, high-end hospitality, retail, and luxury residential projects. She received her bachelor's degree in architecture in 2002 and a master's degree in product design in 2004. Aline has a diverse global experience, having developed multiple award-winning projects around the world, with project experience in New York, Boston, Paris, and Latin America — including São Paulo, Panamá City, and Mexico City. Aline has a keen eye for detail, new trends, art, and innovative solutions to help her clients to build inspiring unique spaces based on their needs and goals. Aline has worked in medium-to-large size interior design firms in New York, São Paulo, and Boston.

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

A: I work at TRIA Design, an interior design company based in Boston, MA. I design high-end environments for the life science industry, bringing a unique and hospitality approach to commercial and corporate spaces.

**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 NCIDQ Exam in the fall of 2020 and I took all at once and one week a part. My first exam was Fundamentals, second Professional and Practicum last.

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

A: No, I didn't fail. I just tried to be positive, focused on my studies and stay confident I would pass. My mantra was: I am an interior design professional; I have 18 years of experience! I will succeed, I know my work and industry very well.

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

A: I studied for 10 months, using my spare time and weekends to focus and organize myself. I attended local workshops to learn more about the Practicum exam and get familiar. I used NCIDQ Reference Manual from PPI and qpractice.com. Qpractice.com offers a range of tools and group classes, including unlimited tests and quizzes that are very helpful to get

you familiarized with the exams and get you prepared beforehand.

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

A: I think the interior design schools should prepare the students to face the real interior design world. It is important to designate a semester of studies focusing on the code and regulations that drive the commercial and corporate interior design world.

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

A: Try to find a mentor to help you get prepared to initiate in your career as an interior designer, also identify the industry and market sector that you are passionate about.

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

A: I've noticed when you reach a certain level in your career, NCIDQ Certification is a plus, especially if you work for a large firm and have to design corporate, hotels, commercials, and any spaces that will have a large occupancy. It is definitely a differentiator, and most of the time clients tend to select designers that hold the certification.

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

A: There are several benefits, including discounts

to apply for LEED and WELL certification and fees. Also allows you to apply for professional memberships, opening doors to professional resources, tools and workshops, like discounts for clients when purchasing furniture, materials and fabrics.

**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: Yes, I am getting prepared for WELL.

**Q: What could the industry do to overcome obstacles from diverse individuals being represented and having equal opportunity?**

A: To me, equity means that the same access to opportunities is available for all, no matter one's background, and inclusion means creating an environment of respect and dignity, where everyone feels welcome and comfortable sharing ideas and different points of view. An inclusive design industry would mean that everyone has equal access to a design education and employment opportunities, no matter their race, color or creed. When an industry offers equal access, we will see diversity in the leadership ranks. Representation matters.

**Q: What are common misconceptions people have? How can we combat these misconceptions and communicate more effectively?**

A: I will give you my point of view as a Latina immigrant and part of the BIPOC community. Perhaps the common misconception is that you may be less capable to perform and deliver a great project or solution because you are an immigrant professional. The way to combat this is to show and support minorities in design, showcase their work. Have a board or session of CIDQ-designated for the BIPOC community, revisit the application process, specifically for foreigners or minorities in the industry. Perhaps offering tools to help with application fees and scholarship would be a great incentive to minorities to pursue the carrier and the NCIDQ Exam.

**Q: Anything else you'd like to share?**

A: I am still learning the fundamentals of EDI here in United States and I feel we have a long journey and a lot of work ahead of us to see changes in our industry. Being part of the IIDA EDI committee has been very helpful in understanding the disparities in our industry. Before Boston, I came from New York City, so I was always part of diverse design teams, I want to see the same across the country, especially in New England.