SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Jason Kasper, NCIDQ No. 17709, CIDQ President

This is the time of year when the air starts to warm and we feel a renewed sense of energy and possibilities. Our thoughts turn to the construction season ahead and the many, many things that we have on our to do lists. Exam season is also upon us. Many of you are in the midst of studying and preparing for the spring NCIDQ Exam...

ENCOURAGE ENGAGEMENT

MOVING FORWARD

Spring is almost here which means CIDQ is busily preparing for the April exam administration. Much of the process remains the same, in terms of finalizing the exam forms and versions, but there are a few “tweaks” going into effect...

LEARN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT AND HELP SHAPE CIDQ’S FUTURE!

CIDQ is committed to protecting the public’s health, safety, and welfare through NCIDQ Certification. We are not able to accomplish this without a strong governing body and the engagement of our volunteers. Being a CIDQ Board Member gives you the opportunity to expand your professional network and be an advocate for the interior design profession.
This year, the Nominating Committee will elect two Directors and a President-Elect. You may nominate yourself or a committed friend or colleague.

Nominating candidates for office is a valuable service to CIDQ and your thoughtful participation in this process is greatly appreciated. **REVIEW THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS** and submit an application no later than **May 12, 2023**. Questions? Contact Kayla Karpp.

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**ADVOCACY UPDATE**

The 2023 legislative session has been off to a very busy start. This year, there are quite a few pieces of legislation dealing with interior design currently pending in state legislatures. These bills address several issues pertaining to regulation of interior design: including creating or expanding regulation, extending ‘sunset’ repeal dates, changes to existing regulatory frameworks, and deregulation of occupations...

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**LEARN WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE U.S.**

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**CIDQ Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

CIDQ believes that the practice of interior design, a discipline that places people’s health, safety, and welfare at its very core, is elevated when a broad array of voices, perspectives, and sensibilities are fully represented. We are committed to reducing barriers and increasing access to career opportunities to further the advancement of historically underrepresented minorities and underserved communities within the field.

As a key part of advancing this mission, we are pleased to announce and offer the CIDQ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Scholarship.

The CIDQ DEI Scholarship will provide individuals from underrepresented groups (racial and ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and/or disabilities) in the interior design community with access and opportunities to advance their careers; and will provide the community with increased access to a diverse pool of talented professionals. Deadline to apply for this fall: **May 31, 2023**.

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**LEARN MORE & ENCOURAGE SOMEONE YOU KNOW TO APPLY**

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**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

**Julianne J. Peters, NCIDQ, IIDA**  
**NCIDQ Certificate No. 37281**

Julianne J. Peters, Firm Associate at Hellyer Lewis Smith Architecture, is a proud CIDQ volunteer. Julianne speaks to why it's important to give back to the profession, and why NCIDQ Certification matters.

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**GET TO KNOW JULIANNE**

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**CIDQ WELCOMES KAYLA KARPP!**
Kayla Karpp recently joined the HQ team as the Governance, Engagement, and Meeting Manager. In this role, Kayla will lead outreach to prospective NCIDQ Exam candidates; will oversee the Council’s governance and Board administrative workflow; and will manage the logistics of CIDQ meetings.

Kayla has a background in governance, as she was a program administrator for the Florida Boards of Physical Therapy and Respiratory Care previously. Her responsibilities included helping the public understand the laws and rules that relate to the respective professions she served. CIDQ is thrilled to have Kayla on our team and we look forward to the impact she’ll make.

Candidates for the Tregre Award must have demonstrated grassroots-level volunteer work that exceeds typical volunteer service to CIDQ and includes work that represents contributions in more than one area of service; as well as an extensive background working towards the advancement of the interior design profession. Candidates may be nominated by another person or be self-nominated. Send completed nomination forms to Kayla Karpp by May 12, 2023.

NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER

Louis S. Tregre

Apply for the IDFX Only

Students in their final year of a Bachelor's or Master's ID program and recent graduates should apply for the IDFX Only exam, prior to completing the required work experience. Applications for this fall are accepted thru July 31, 2023. Apply now for early review.

Share with your friends, classmates and colleagues!

APPLY NOW

NeoCon
June 12-14, 2023
This is the time of year when the air starts to warm and we feel a renewed sense of energy and possibilities. Our thoughts turn to the construction season ahead and the many, many things that we have on our to-do lists. Exam season is also upon us. Many of you are in the midst of studying and preparing for the spring NCIDQ Exam either in part or all three sections. There is no better time than now to demonstrate your professional competence and become NCIDQ Certified. Successful completion of the examination is a gateway to career advancement and recognition within your workplace and design community. I can remember back more than twenty years ago now when I was preparing to sit for the exams and truth be told, feeling quite overwhelmed. I was on one hand feeling prepared by the experience I had collected in practice to date but still somewhat stressed at the thought of being tested. I focused my studies based upon the recommended reading and texts, with particular attention to areas I felt I need a little extra boost. It all worked out just fine in the end.

Over the last few years having been involved on the CIDQ Board and seeing behind the curtain of the creation and implementation of the exams, I continue to be impressed by all of those involved in striving to create a comprehensive and evolving/ever-relevant series of questions and exam content. The intent is always to continue to uphold a high level of demonstrated knowledge and competence surrounding the protection of health, safety, and welfare of all whom we design for in our day-to-day practice. Educator, practitioner and industry member involvement ensures we have a varied and broad perspective of representation in the development and scrutinizing of the content — including American, Canadian, and international perspectives.

For those of you reading this who have been through the NCIDQ Exam writing process, you will understand and likely remember the journey fondly and with pride.

For those of you on the fence deciding if now will be the time to write, I welcome you to reach out to any of us at CIDQ should you have any questions or concerns — we are here to help. Our design community is strong and we can lean on each other to help one another in the advancement of our own credentials, which benefits us all.

Remember, successful completion of the exams is just the beginning. Continued engagement involved through local and national initiatives is
President’s Message Continued

It’s easier than you think — and the rewards far outweigh the time commitment. Encouraging those around you in the industry to be involved, educating clients and the general public through our actions and advocacy is working. The word is not only getting out, it is resonating loudly! Interior design impacts young and old from every walk of life each and every day, and is driven by a passionate and committed corps of well educated, experienced and tested professionals.

I consider myself very fortunate to be part of this community.
CEO’s Message

Spring is almost here which means CIDQ is busily preparing for the April exam administration. Much of the process remains the same, in terms of finalizing the exam forms and versions, but there are a few “tweaks” going into effect as well.

Eighteen standalone items (questions) are being incorporated into the Practicum exam and will not be associated with any of the three case studies. The total number of Practicum questions will remain the same (114 with 9 of those being pre-test items). However, the number of questions associated with each case study will be 32 instead of 38.

Our analysis of candidate feedback and performance data indicates that candidates were frequently spending close to the entire 4 hours allotted for the Practicum exam and feeling rushed to complete it. We did a slight restructuring identifying questions that could be revised to live outside the case studies and accompanying resource materials as standalone questions. We believe this will simplify things for candidates and give them a little more “breathing room” in terms of managing their time. The NCIDQ Exam is not intended to be a test of speed but rather a demonstration of knowledge and we feel this modification is a good solution for all.

It’s also renewal season (one of two, April and October), so if you’re a certificate holder with an April renewal date, please act today to keep your certificate active if you haven’t already. Your renewal is so important to the work of CIDQ and allows us to do many things we wouldn’t otherwise be able to do. Things like:

- Participate in collaborative task force work with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), and the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) that identifies overlaps in practice disciplines which will provide our regulatory board members with guidance AND underscore the full scope of work that NCIDQ qualified interior designers can perform.

- Create a 3-D tool/interactive floorplan that visually communicates the public health, safety, welfare impact of interior designers’ decisions within a space.

- Advance legislation that enhances public protection by enabling interior designers to practice to the full extent of their capabilities as demonstrated by education, experience, and examination.

Thanks for your support and best of luck to all our spring exam candidates!
The 2023 legislative session has been off to a very busy start. This year, there are quite a few pieces of legislation dealing with interior design currently pending in state legislatures. These bills address several issues pertaining to regulation of interior design: including creating or expanding regulation, extending ‘sunset’ repeal dates, changes to existing regulatory frameworks, and deregulation of occupations including interior design. However, despite some of the efforts towards deregulation and the continued opposition to reasonable regulation of interior design from allied professions, there is reason to be optimistic about the future. Several states are considering legislation implementing new regulatory frameworks for certified interior designers. Legislation creating or expanding reasonable regulation of interior design has been introduced in Massachusetts, Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma, Alaska and California.

A California bill expands the state’s existing title act to include a commercial designation for certified interior designers. This bill is a positive step for California designers, although the language of the bill would allow the California Council for Interior Design Certification (CCIDC), which administers the state certification exam, to designate any exam they choose as eligibility requirements for the commercial designation.

In Alaska and Nebraska, pending interior design bills are vociferously opposed by state architecture communities, as well as the states’ regulatory boards overseeing the architecture profession. This opposition is notable as it stands in contrast to other states where legislation was considered, such as Oklahoma and North Carolina, where regulatory boards worked with interior design communities and supported legislation which protects the public and provides independent practice rights for certified interior designers.

In Iowa, a bill expanding the state’s existing title act to allow NCIDQ Certificate holders to practice independently and stamp and seal their own interior construction plans for permitting is unopposed and has passed the Senate. The bill now awaits consideration in the House, and features language crafted in conjunction with the architecture community. Some will recall that this language, specifically that concerning scope of practice, was also adopted into bills that were signed into law last year in Wisconsin and Illinois. In Oklahoma, legislation was filed that changes the title in the state to “Licensed Interior Designer” and makes various updates to the scope of practice. This bill is also unopposed and was the product of collaborations between the interior design and architecture communities in the state, which was facilitated by the Oklahoma Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, and Registered Commercial Interior Designers. It passed the House on March 6 by unanimous vote.
Advocacy Update Continued

There have also been a couple of efforts at the state level to deregulate interior design. As part of Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin’s effort to reduce regulation by 25%, the Virginia General Assembly introduced a bill that would have deregulated several professions that affect health, safety, and welfare of the public, including landscape architecture and interior design. Fortunately, that bill was defeated in committee after a groundswell of opposition, although it is expected to be reintroduced in some form in the 2024 legislative session. In New Mexico, during the interim last year the Legislative Finance Committee voted to sunset the Board of Interior Design, citing its small number of registrants and subsequent unsustainability. This recommendation prompted interior designers in the state to mobilize and introduce legislation that would allow the Interior Design Act to remain law without a board. That language was amended into a larger bill dealing with occupational regulation, and now awaits consideration on the House floor.

Adding to this trend are several governors who have signed executive orders requiring review and reform of their occupational regulation policies. In Nevada, Governor Joe Lombardo has signed two executive orders to freeze any new regulations from being implemented and requires a review of all existing licensing requirements. In Arkansas, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed an executive order that requires Governor-approval of all proposed rules and requires the repeal of two rules for every rule passed. In Iowa, Governor Kim Reynolds signed an executive order that put a moratorium on administrative rulemaking and instituting a comprehensive review of all administrative rules. These executive orders could potentially have an impact on interior design regulation in these states.

The debate surrounding occupational regulation and the importance of reasonable regulation continues to be polarizing and a central concern of legislators and governors across the country. However, there is still reason for optimism. Legislators are increasingly understanding the health, safety, and welfare impact of the interior design profession, and supporting reasonable regulation as a result. And despite the continued opposition of the architecture community to independent practice rights for certified interior designers, some collaboration between the disciplines in states such as Iowa has led to real progress on this issue.

For more information regarding interior design legislation, interior design advocacy and how you can get involved at the state level, contact Matt Barusch.
Julianne J. Peters, Firm Associate at Hellyer Lewis Smith Architecture & proud CIDQ Volunteer.

Q: How did you first get involved with CIDQ and why did you decide to volunteer?
A: After passing my exams, I knew I wanted to help other test takers. I spent years talking to NCIDQ Certificate holders about what they’re studying and wanted to be able to share everything I had learned and used. I also enjoyed hearing from CIDQ and other NCIDQ Ambassadors and wanted to be a resource to others just like them.

Q: Tell us a little about your most recent CIDQ-specific volunteering experiences.
A: I’ve been speaking with groups of university students, design firm employees, and networking associations about the exam and my own experience. Most of this has been local to Philadelphia where I live and work, but some of the speaking engagements have been virtual.

Q: When did you become NCIDQ Certified and why?
A: I obtained my NCIDQ Certification in October 2021, in order to further my career as an interior designer. I took all three exams at once, thinking I would pass a section or two but overall would get valuable experience that would help me pass the exam in the long run. I worked very hard in the months leading up to the exam by studying with my IIDA PA NJ DE Chapter Virtual Study Series cohort. I ended up passing all three exams on the first try!

Q: How has having an NCIDQ Certificate benefited you and your career?
A: After earning my NCIDQ Certification, I was promoted from Interior Designer to Firm Associate. I was also able to be president of my regional IIDA chapter which is the top leadership position at that level. I’ve also been able to volunteer as an NCIDQ Ambassador which has connected me with universities, design firms, professional organizations, and prospective test takers across the United States.

Q: What would you tell a colleague who is considering taking the NCIDQ Exam?
A: It is so important to create a support group made up of other test takers, certified mentors, colleagues, supervisors, friends, family, partners, etc. Identify your cheerleaders, your fellow comrades, and behind-the-scenes support. The diversity of support you have around you will help keep you motivated in your studying and will give you a safe place to share your results.

Q: Why does NCIDQ Certification matter?
A: NCIDQ Certification shows employers and colleagues that you are dedicated to your career, it shows clients and collaborators that you are qualified, and it shows folks outside of our profession how important our profession is to the health, safety, and welfare of the public!

Q: What advice would you give to those considering volunteering their time with CIDQ?
A: Just do it! Being an NCIDQ Ambassador is a small-time commitment that is very flexible compared to other long term volunteer commitments. You can choose to speak virtually or in person about the exam to different groups, mentor and sponsor test takers, or both!

Q: Tell us a fun fact about yourself.
A: I have an American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) Level 1 Certification. I am an avid skier and took this course to learn avalanche hazard management skills for skiing in backcountry terrain.