

NCIDQ Examination

NCIDQ Exam Reference Materials

Most of the content of the NCIDQ Exam comes from a common body of knowledge that is generic to the practice of interior design. Having well-rounded professional practice is your best preparation for the exam. However, you are encouraged to supplement your education and experience by reviewing interior design resources, particularly those that focus on areas where you are less skilled or experienced.

The materials listed here can help supplement your understanding. This list does not represent the entire body of information you can use as study material. It is a representative list of references used in the CIDQ exam development process. While the list may include more than one reference that covers a content area, one such reference may be enough. Other resources that are not on the list may adequately cover the content area as well.

Standard Forms and Documents

Also – make sure you familiarize yourself with **project forms, contractual agreements, and construction documents** as they are used throughout the practice of interior design and will be cited on some sections of the exam. These forms are individually or jointly copyrighted and provided by the [American Institute of Architects \(AIA\)](#), the [American Society of Interior Designers \(ASID\)](#), and the **International Interior Design Association (IIDA)**.

Examples include:

- Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Designer
- General Conditions to the Contract for Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment
- Forms for change orders, addenda/um, and bonding of bids, performance, and materials

Building Codes and Standards

As of the April 2026 exam administration the NCIDQ exam sections will be based on the following building codes and standards:

- [International Building Code \(IBC\) \(2021\)](#)
- [International Residential Code \(2021\)](#)
- [International Plumbing Code \(2021\)](#)
- [ICC A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities \(2017\)](#)

Books

CIDQ uses a wide variety of books as references when developing multiple-choice exam questions. This list is not exhaustive but represents books that are frequently used by our exam writers.

- Allison, Diana. *Estimating and Costing for Interior Designers, second edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2021.
- Ambrose, James and Tripeny, Patrick. *Simplified Engineering for Architects and Builders, twelfth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2016.
- Augustin, Sally and Coleman, Cindy. *The Designer's Guide to Doing Research*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2012.
- Binggeli, Corky. *Building Systems for Interior Designers, third edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2016.
- Binggeli, Corky and Greichen, Patricia. *Interior Graphic Standards, second edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2012.
- Binggeli, Corky. *Materials for Interior Environments, second edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2014.
- Botti-Salitsky, Rose Mary. *Programming and Research: Skills and Techniques for Interior Designers, second edition*. Bloomsbury, 2017.
- Brooker, Graeme & Weinthal, Lois. *The Handbook of Interior Architecture and Design*. Bloomsbury, 2019.
- Ching, Francis D.K. *Architectural Graphics, sixth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2015.
- Cline, Lydia Sloan. *Architectural Drafting for Interior Designers, second edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2021.
- Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), *Project Delivery: Practice Guide*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2011.
- Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), *Construction Specifications: Practice Guide*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2011.
- do Val, P.J. *Construction Detailing for Interior Design*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2019.
- Godsey, Lisa. *Interior Design Materials and Specifications, fourth edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2021.
- Gordon, Gary. *Interior Lighting for Designers, fifth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2015.
- Harmon, Sharon and Kennon, Katherine E. *The Codes Guidebook for Interiors, seventh edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2018.
- International Code Council. International Building Code (IBC), 2018
- Karlen, Mark; Benya, James R.; and Spangler, Christina. *Lighting Design Basics, third edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2017.
- Karlen, Mark and Fleming, Rob. *Space Planning Basics, fourth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2016.
- Kilmer, W. Otie and Kilmer, Rosemary. *Construction Drawings and Details for Interiors, fourth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2021.
- Knackstedt, Mary V. *The Interior Design Business Handbook: A Complete Guide to Profitability, fifth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2013.
- Koe, Frank Theodore. *Fabric for the Designed Interior, second edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2017.
- Kopec, Dak. *Environmental Psychology for Design, fourth edition*. Fairchild Books. 2024.

- Lechner, Norbert. *Heating, Cooling, Lighting: Sustainable Design Methods for Architects, fourth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2015.
- Mitton, Maureen. *Interior Design Visual Presentation: A Guide to Graphics, Models, and Presentation Techniques, fifth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2018.
- Mitton, Maureen and Nystuen, Courtney. *Residential Interior Design: A Guide to Planning Spaces, third edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2016.
- Nussbaumer, Linda L. *Human Factors in the Built Environment, second edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books. 2018.
- Piotrowski, Christine M. and Rogers, Elizabeth A. *Designing Commercial Interiors, fourth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2025.
- Piotrowski, Christine M. *Professional Practice for Interior Designers, sixth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2020.
- Reed, Ron. *Color + Design: Transforming Interior Space, third edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2021.
- Rhoads, Marcela Abadi. *Applying the ADA: Designing for the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act – Standards for Accessible Design in Multiple Building Types*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2013.
- Slotkis, Susan J. *Foundations of Interior Design, third edition*. Fairchild Books, 2017.
- Steinfeld, Edward and Maisel, Jordana L. *Universal Design: Creating Inclusive Environments*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2012.
- Tucker, Lisa M. *Designing Sustainable Residential and Commercial Interiors: Applying Concepts and Practices, first edition*. Fairchild Books. 2014.
- Tucker, Lisa M. *International Building Codes and Guidelines for Interior Design*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2018.
- Tucker, Lisa M. *Sustainable Building Systems and Construction for Designers, third edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2021.
- Wakita, Osamu A. and Linde, Richard M. *The Professional Practice of Architectural Working Drawings, fifth edition*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2017.
- Winchip, Susan M. *Fundamentals of Lighting, third edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books. 2017.
- Winchip, Susan M. *Professional Practice for Interior Designers in the Global Marketplace, second edition*. Bloomsbury/Fairchild Books, 2025.