



Council for Interior Design Qualification

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New Official Definition of Interior Design

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) has just released its newly updated [*Definition of Interior Design*](#). Originally developed in 2004, the prior definition has become widely recognized and cited as the definitive, comprehensive definition for the practice of interior design by government agencies, jurisdictional statute, regulatory boards, professional organizations, institutes of higher learning, academic publishers, and others.

The definition was updated for 2019, under the oversight of a task force of eight subject matter experts from the U.S. and Canada representing a broad range of professional experience across practice and education. This task force held a series of meetings, both by phone and in person over a 4 month period, to review and update the definition to accurately reflect current practice and the evolution of the profession over the last 15 years. It encompasses the scope of work in current practice, along with a glossary of terms. The definition was then carefully reviewed and vetted by regulatory board representatives from across the United States and Canada prior to being approved by CIDQ's Board of Directors in January 2019.

Sometimes confused with the occupation of interior decorating, the profession of interior design requires specialized education, knowledge, qualification, and training and extends far beyond aesthetic concerns to matters of public health, safety, and welfare. Professional interior designers can be distinguished by their successful fulfillment of several criteria including Education (majority have a Bachelor's or Master's degree in interior design and/or architecture), Experience (minimum two years practice in the field), and Examination (NCIDQ Examination and Certification which includes verifying competent application of building systems, codes, and construction standards).

Executive Director Thom Banks stated, "The Definition of Interior Design is one of CIDQ's most broadly utilized tools that reflects the true depth and breadth of today's interior design practitioner knowledge, skills, and ability. Along with our Practice Analysis, the Definition serves to ensure the NCIDQ Examination and accompanying Certification continues to be the standard to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public."

Caren Martin, CIDQ president-elect and Definition Task Force chair, explained, "Our task force members carefully examined the scope of work of interior design practice, both past and present, in arriving at this updated definition. Given the widespread dissemination and adoption of the 2004 version, we owed it to the public and the profession to make sure CIDQ's definition aligned with current practice."

About CIDQ: The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is the premiere certifying organization for interior design professionals. CIDQ develops and administers the three-part NCIDQ Examination,



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which tests interior designers' knowledge of core competencies required for professional practice in the industry. The exam is based on CIDQ's independent, comprehensive analysis of the profession and the daily practice of interior design in a range of settings. CIDQ regularly updates the exam's content to ensure it reflects the most current skills required to design spaces which protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. NCIDQ Certification is required for licensure/certification/registration in nearly all regulated jurisdictions throughout the United States and Canada and is globally recognized as the profession's best indicator of proficiency and competency.

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