

spaces for the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing productivity, and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The professional interior designer:

- *Analyzes clients' needs, goals, and life safety requirements*
- *Integrates findings with knowledge of interior design*
- *Formulates preliminary design concepts that are aesthetic, appropriate, functional, and in accordance with codes and standards*
- *Develops and presents final design recommendations through appropriate presentation media*
- *Prepares working drawings and specifications for non-load-bearing interior construction, reflected ceiling plans, lighting, interior detailing, materials, finishes, space planning, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment in compliance with universal accessibility guidelines and all applicable codes*
- *Collaborates with professional services of other licensed practitioners in the technical areas of mechanical, electrical, and load-bearing design as required for regulatory approval*
- *Prepares and administers bids and contract documents as the client's agent*
- *Reviews and evaluates design solutions during implementation and upon completion*

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## FIDER

FIDER is a specialized accrediting agency, accrediting interior design programs at colleges and universities in North America. Its mission is to “lead the interior design profession to excellence by setting standards and accrediting academic programs.” FIDER has established standards for postsecondary interior design education, evaluates college and university interior design programs based on the standards, and publishes a list of accredited programs.

Recognized internationally by design professionals, FIDER is acknowledged as an information source for excellence in interior design education. As a specialized accreditor, FIDER is a member of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and recognized as a reliable authority on interior design education by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). CHEA is an association whose mission is to review processes used by accrediting agencies, assuring good practices in accreditation.

Accreditation is a process unique to the United States and Canada, which replaces government regulation of education as found in most other countries. It is a process of self-evaluation and peer review that promotes achievement of high academic standards, making education more responsive to student and societal needs. Standards developed by interior design practitioners and educators with concern for continued growth and development of the profession are central to effective accreditation. Graduates of FIDER-accredited programs receive an education that is recognized by the interior design profession as meeting requirements for entry into the profession. In the future this factor may affect the right to practice in states with licensing or registration acts.

Though graduation from a FIDER-accredited program is not required to practice interior design, students can be confident that these programs voluntarily placed themselves before the scrutiny of the profession. Accredited programs have invested time, energy, and money to ensure that their graduates receive an education that meets the standards of the profession, which will serve them immediately after graduation and into the future.

## History

FIDER was established in 1970 as a specialized accreditor of postsecondary education programs in interior design. The founding organizations were the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC), the American Institute of Interior Designers (AID), and the National Society of Interior Designers (NSID). The AID and NSID merged in 1975 to form the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). The intent of the founders was to promote excellence by developing standards for interior design education, acknowledging the increasing demands of an emerging profession.