

formalized as a not-for-profit organization when it was incorporated in 1974. NCIDQ's founders were the American Institute of Interior Designers (AID) and the National Society of Interior Designers (NSID), the two national organizations that were then preparing to merge into what became the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). All national design organizations whose membership was made up in total or in part of interior designers were asked to join.

The NCIDQ was founded as a separate council to certify, through a qualifying examination, those interior design practitioners competent to practice. It also studies and presents plans, programs, and guidelines for the statutory licensing of interior design practitioners. The incorporation charter of the council provides membership for American state or Canadian provincial regulatory agencies. It does not offer membership to individuals. Representatives from state/provincial regulatory agencies and professional societies are appointed to serve as delegates on the NCIDQ council of delegates for two-year terms. The NCIDQ board of directors with professional staff manages the activities and affairs of the council, which has the right and authority to manage its affairs, property, funds, and policies.

Successful completion of the NCIDQ examination is a prerequisite for professional registration in those American states and Canadian provinces that have enacted licensing or certification statutes to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The NCIDQ examination must also be passed by every interior designer applying for professional membership in NCIDQ's constituent member organizations: the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), Interior Designers of Canada (IDC), and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA). The NCIDQ is a member of the International Federation of Interior Architects/Interior Designers (IFI), an organization representing many of the interior design associations around the world.

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### **Certification and Licensure**

Certification is generally defined as a voluntary form of recognition of an individual, granted by a nongovernmental organization or agency. However, minimum competency in any profession is usually a baseline standard accepted by state and provincial governments for purposes of legal recognition. In addition to the development and administration of the professional competency examination, NCIDQ also administers a certification program

for interior designers. Certification is available to those practitioners who meet minimum competency standards for the practice of interior design. This certification includes minimum requirements for education and experience as well as completion of the NCIDQ examination. NCIDQ certification is included among the license eligibility criteria in all American states and Canadian provinces with enacted statutes.

Certification by the NCIDQ gives the interior designer a credential that acknowledges his or her preparation to practice interior design professionally, through education, experience and examination. NCIDQ certification serves as qualification for professional membership within interior design organizations and for nonaffiliates represents a voluntary individual accomplishment. Certified designers receive a certificate that identifies them as qualified practitioners, ensures recognition of expertise, and assists development and self-improvement through the individual's understanding of a body of knowledge to practice interior design competently.

### **Record Maintenance**

As part of the NCIDQ's ongoing effort to provide administrative support to facilitate legal recognition for interior design practitioners, the council's board of directors approved a record management requirement effective in 1990. Individuals pay an annual fee for record maintenance that enables NCIDQ to:

1. Maintain an accurate mailing list of certificate holders for ongoing notifications pertaining to the NCIDQ's certification program
2. Update state and provincial regulatory agencies with current certification data for residents within a given jurisdiction
3. Confirm NCIDQ certification status for initial licensing purposes in states and provinces
4. Act as a clearinghouse for purposes of licensing reciprocity

### **IDEP Program**

The career path of a professional interior designer involves formal education, entry-level work experience, and passing the qualifying examination. Entry-level work experience is required of candidates for the NCIDQ examination,