



MILESTONE MOMENTS

with Kari Frontera, NCIDQ No. 17116

Connecting our past to our future 1974–2024

50
YEARS
STRONG

Q: How long have you been involved with CIDQ?

A: I took the exam in 2001 and started volunteering around 2006.

Q: How did you first get involved?

A: Wanting to get further involved in the field, I first started by taking Practicum pretests for NCIDQ. I then did some grading of candidate exams and transitioned to writing some multiple-choice questions and eventually joined the Practicum Writing Committee. After serving as Practicum chair for a few years, I joined the Board of Directors.

Q: In CIDQ's 50-year history, from your perspective, what would you say is CIDQ's/NCIDQ's biggest accomplishment?

A: CIDQ's biggest accomplishment is creating a certification that interior designers can achieve to demonstrate their competence in the field.

Q: What is CIDQ's most important contribution to the profession?

A: CIDQ's most important contribution is the Practice Analysis and providing a continually defensible exam for the profession.

Q: What role did NCIDQ play in your career?

A: CIDQ provided me with great opportunities to advance my knowledge of the profession, develop my leadership skills, and work with some amazing professionals across the United States and Canada.

Q: What are the key issues you see CIDQ addressing in the future?

A: Key issues that CIDQ will address will include keeping up the minimum standards for the profession in a rapidly evolving environment.

Designers have an important role in developing spaces that will promote the safety and well-being of all inhabitants and incorporate new regulations and standards into their designs.

Q: What do you think the next 50 years will look like for the profession?

A: The profession will continue to advance with technological advances and the need to provide spaces that promote sustainable and healthy environments in which we all live, work, and play.

Q: Describe what NCIDQ (or CIDQ) means to you, on a personal level, in 15 words or less.

A: CIDQ represents opportunity. From holding the appellation and becoming licensed to leadership development and network growth. It has been a common trend of my career from advancing in a large firm to being a catalyst for me starting my own.

Q: What is one of your best memories of CIDQ?

A: Working with the amazing volunteers and CIDQ staff. Between committee meetings and board meetings, as mentally and physically tiring as they could be, I always left feeling professionally energized and with a deeper appreciation for interior design.