



MILESTONE MOMENTS

with Sooz Klinkhamer

50 YEARS STRONG

Connecting our past to our future 1974–2024

Q: How long have you been involved with CIDQ?

A: I gained my NCIDQ certification in 1989. I guess that means I've been 'with' CIDQ for 35 of its 50 years!!

Q: How did you first get involved with CIDQ?

A: My volunteer involvement began in 1992–93 being Interior Designers of Canada liaison to NCIDQ.

1993–95: I was team leader of NCIDQ Exam Development for the Scenario section.

1995–99: Liaison from IDEC to NCIDQ

1996–2000: NCIDQ Director of Exam & Jury

1999: I received a Certificate of Appreciation from NCIDQ

2002: I received the Louis S. Tregre Award

2009 forward: I participated in the 'Broadly Experienced ID Task Force' and the 'Peer Review Task Force'

2014: I received a Certificate of Appreciation from NCIDQ

Q: What role did NCIDQ play in your career?

A: NCIDQ played a critical role in my work as Chair of the Interior Design Program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. After being in design practice for nearly two decades, I joined Kwantlen as a faculty member (and stayed for 25 years!). It was in 1991 that I initiated the development of a four-year bachelor's degree to replace the 2-year diploma program. It is clear that my involvement in NCIDQ assisted in this work: understanding the intended learning outcomes and employability skills required by an interior designer were embedded within the curriculum and resulted in a CIDA-accredited bachelor's degree, the third one in Canada at that time (which KPU offers still and is widely & highly regarded).



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

A: I feel strongly that interior design was an early adopter of the thinking of "international standards" allowing the transportability of credentials not only between states and provinces but between countries. This has been a critically important contribution to the profession and has opportunities to progress further and establish worldwide access for professionals within interior design. Portability of credentials should remain a primary focus for CIDQ as the world 'shrinks' and people continue to relocate and collaborate internationally.

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

A: An organization's focus/purpose must remain constant and vigilant and attract volunteers capable of pursuing that purpose. Of course, these people become friends — sharing a common focus, dedication to volunteering, and intent on 'making a difference' in the profession they have chosen.

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

A: One of the greatest personal benefits of volunteering for me is the people that I met through NCIDQ and became friends with, for decades. Sadly, we have lost several of these amazing individuals over the past few years: Jerry Neilson, Jan Bast, Michele Guest, and John Klai II (whose celebration of life I will be attending early in March in Las Vegas). I still communicate with numerous others: Victoria Horobin amongst them. So, I would have to say that some of my best memories of CIDQ are, in fact, the people the organization attracted to do the work of NCIDQ.