



## Designer Profile: Grace Eun

In CIDQ's series about NCIDQ Certificate holders whose personal and professional paths inspire us, Grace Eun, a senior associate at Clive Wilkinson Architects, spoke with us about her career, recent projects and why she decided to earn her NCIDQ Certification.

### Grace Eun

NCIDQ Certificate No.  
23192,  
ASID, IIDA, LEED AP ID+C

Senior Associate Clive  
Wilkinson Architects

### Gaming & Google Designs

Grace helped design the headquarters for Valve Corporation, a video game company in Bellevue, Washington. She appreciated that the client's main goal was always, "creating the right culture of their workplace."

Valve commissioned play areas for employees to bring their children to work. For younger kids, the Clive Wilkinson team brought the client's vision to life by designing a room to look like a scene from one of the company's popular games, Pyroland. A colorful space, complete with an oversized pastel pink unicorn, the kids playroom was just one of many employee perks built into the project.

The seven-floor Valve headquarters included three floors with amenities for staff. They have access to a gym with on-site personal trainers and a juice bar. Employees can dine in a breakfast room, or stop at the espresso bar. They even have a massage suite on premises. Designing these plush facilities, Grace's team felt more than a little jealous (understandably so).

She is also designing the interior of the Google Campus in Sunnyvale, California. Grace says having an innovative client like Google pushes her team to constantly explore new ideas and make improvements. The designers are always being asked, "What's new, what's good, what's innovative, what's right?"

# Designer Profile Continued



## Her Design Philosophy

For Grace, a workplace is always more than a workplace. She knows that an office is where coworkers become friends. It's where communities are built. At Clive Wilkinson Architects, they treat each corporate interior, "Like it's a little village," according to Grace. "We design spaces to connect people in functional ways," she said.

Grace is drawn to workplace design because, "It's one of the areas that you can spend the most time besides your house." As an interior designer, she creates spaces, but she loves that once the project ends, people make the place entirely their own.

## Why NCIDQ Certification Matters

Grace liked that passing the NCIDQ Exam was a concrete professional goal she could accomplish. It was a tangible milestone where she could control the outcome. Unlike getting promoted or being featured in a magazine, earning the NCIDQ Certificate was easy for Grace to work towards and achieve. She would advise colleagues to take the exam because, "It is the first step to be professional." For Grace, this decision is a "no brainer."

As an active certificate holder, she also has the opportunity to volunteer for CIDQ and connect with fellow designers. Grace is excited to be part of CIDQ's "Definition of Interior Design" task force, to help write an in-depth description of what interior design means, so that a broader audience of people can understand what it takes to work in this profession.

Valve Corporation

