



**Paula Lutz**  
CIDQ President  
NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 07311

### President's Message

## Staying Focused on the Future

2018 marked the start of a new four-year strategic planning cycle for CIDQ. The Board remains focused on making certain the organization continues to progress positively toward achieving our ambitious goals. Our number one priority is always to ensure the NCIDQ Exam maintains the highest quality which means making sure our questions (known as “items” in the exam development world) are written following testing industry standards. I’m pleased to report that this year, our volunteer committee members under the guidance of professional test development consultants, generated more than 500 new Multiple Choice questions and four new Practicum case studies, a tremendous feat!

The number of Exam registrations continues to be very strong and CIDQ continues to support educators (our biggest advocates for the NCIDQ Exam) to increase IDFX (Fundamentals section) applications among their students, by offering classroom resources and discounts on the application fee for “bundled” student registrations to those eligible.

CIDQ has worked hard this year to “demystify” the exam, by creating infographics that clearly explain the nine-step exam development process that ensures a fair, valid, and reliable exam, as well as the scoring methods by which exams are graded. We are working on additional tools to simplify the information regarding the process for becoming NCIDQ certified.

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# President's Message

## Continued



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In a few weeks, state and provincial regulatory board staff, their Delegates, and leadership of the interior design professional organizations will convene in Nashville, Tennessee for the CIDQ Annual Conference. This two-day event is a rare opportunity for these groups to share experiences, refine their ideas, and learn from each other. We have a number of thought provoking speakers who will both reinforce the value of interior design but also dig deeply into several aspects of the ongoing debate regarding occupational licensure and portability. We need new and more effective ways of conveying the value and impact of the work professional interior designers do, and CIDQ has an important role to play in that conversation.

I am proud of what we have accomplished this year... and you should be too! But there is always more to be done. Although my term as CIDQ President continues through December, this is my last Q Connection President's Message. I would like to thank everyone who has supported CIDQ this year. Thank you to our dedicated member boards for the work they do on the front lines of interior design regulation. Thank you to my fellow board members for their passionate commitment to our organization. Thank you to our CIDQ staff members for moving our organization forward every day. Thank you, finally, to our volunteers and ambassadors for donating their time and effort to CIDQ's mission to protect public health, safety and welfare. Together, we are doing amazing things.

**Paula Lutz**



**Thom Banks**  
Executive Director

## CH- CH- CHANGES

As summer turns to fall, CIDQ is extremely pleased to announce a few important transitions of our own:

The existing Applicant-Candidate-Certificant “MyNCIDQ” Database, has been redesigned and is set for re-launch in late October. Users will have access to a comprehensive dashboard that will be tailored to where they are in the exam process, such as showing application status for those applying and certificate details for NCIDQ Certificate Holders. The home page will direct users to key MyNCIDQ Account features, application information, important dates, and resources available from CIDQ. As an added feature, users will be able to download receipts for financial transactions such as Exam registration fees and certificate renewals – perfect to provide employers who reimburse exam and renewal fees.

Along with the redesigned database, CIDQ is also launching a new portal exclusively for our member boards, to provide the jurisdictions with direct access to appropriate candidate records. The portal will allow CIDQ’s member boards to view and verify information required for licensure, including education transcripts, work experience and exam results, to help improve and streamline licensure processes. (see page 6 for additional details).



**Thom Banks**  
Executive Director

## CH- CH- CHANGES

### Continued

Starting with the current Exam administration IDFX and IDPX Exam candidates will have the benefit of receiving email access to their preliminary PASS/DID NOT PASS exam results within moments of completing the multiple choice exams. Exam Candidates will additionally be provided with their official and final Score Report, within six to eight weeks following the close of the October NCIDQ Exam window.

In the interest of improving our advocacy efforts on behalf of both the NCIDQ Exam and NCIDQ Certified Interior Designers, two task forces convened to provide recommendations to advocate for the profession and an updated Definition of Interior Design. I look forward to providing updates on these efforts in the next issue of Q Connection in January.

And finally, in an important outreach partnership, as part of ICOR, the Inter-organizational Council on Regulation, CIDQ along with the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB), the National Council of Architectural Regulatory Boards (NCARB), and the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES), has released a statement affirming each organization's commitment to advocate for sound, reasonable regulation in the public interest. The statement can be reviewed [here](#).

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "THOM". The letters are stylized and connected.

**Thom Banks**

# NCIDQ EXAM

## Exam Available in French this April

NEW for the April 2019 test administration, all three sections (IDFX, IDPX and Practicum) of the NCIDQ Exam will be offered in French, in order to better serve our French-Canadian candidates.

## Preliminary Results Now Issued Upon Completion of Multiple-Choice Exams

**Preliminary Score Reporting for IDFX + IDPX Exams**

**First Name Middle Name Last**  
Name  
Francis  
Building  
Francis Institute Centre  
10, 11th Street  
Montreal  
fr.canada@percimetric.com

**Passed Your Score**  
678

Test Date: Sep 06, 2018  
Confirmation Number: 00000000012345

**(Examination Name)**  
Congratulations! A preliminary analysis of your test results shows you successfully achieved the passing standard for the IDFX Examination. After the test administration a review of all scores has been performed. Notification of the passing of your examination results report, within your account MyNCIDQ account, will be sent to you within approximately 6 weeks after the close of the current exam window.  
Your score is reported and tested against the passing standard is (Exam)Score. A diagnostic analysis of your performance in each content area is shown below.

Programming and Site Analysis	Progress
Human Behavior and the Designed Environment	Progress
Building Systems and Construction	Progress
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment, and Lighting	Progress
Construction Drawings and Specifications	Progress
Technical Drawing Conventions	Progress
Design Communication	Progress

**First Name Middle Name Last**  
Name  
Francis  
Building  
Francis Institute Centre  
10, 11th Street  
Montreal  
fr.canada@percimetric.com

**Did Not Pass Your Score**  
274

Test Date: Sep 06, 2018  
Confirmation Number: 00000000012345

**(Examination Name)**  
Unfortunately, a preliminary analysis of your test results shows you did not achieve the passing standard for the IDPX Examination. After the test administration a review of all scores has been performed. Notification of the passing of your examination results report, within your account MyNCIDQ account, will be sent to you within approximately 6 weeks after the close of the current exam window.  
Your score is reported and tested against the passing standard is (Exam)Score. A diagnostic analysis of your performance in each content area is shown below.

Programming and Site Analysis	Progress
Human Behavior and the Designed Environment	Progress
Building Systems and Construction	Progress
Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment, and Lighting	Progress
Construction Drawings and Specifications	Progress
Technical Drawing Conventions	Progress
Design Communication	Progress

Starting October 2018, IDFX and IDPX Exam Candidates will be provided access to their preliminary PASS / DID NOT PASS exam results via email within moments of completing the multiple choice exams. IDFX and IDPX Exam Candidates will additionally be provided with their Official Score Report, within six to eight weeks following the close of the October NCIDQ Exam window.

Due to the nature of the Practicum Exam, preliminary scoring is not available. Practicum Exam Candidates will receive their Practicum Exam Score Report six to eight weeks following the close of the October NCIDQ Exam window.



# NCIDQ EXAM Continued

## DATABASE TRANSITION

### Improved Access to Account Information for Candidates, Certificate Holders & Member Boards

In October, CIDQ will be transitioning to an updated and improved database. The system will now offer exam candidates and certificate holders better access to important information, such as application options, key dates, links to CIDQ's forms, and easy to navigate steps to apply for the exam, update their demographic information, and view NCIDQ Certificate details.

**The database will also offer Member Boards a direct portal to access information pertinent to providing licensure to certificate holder's seeking to register in their states or provinces.**

The improved MyNCIDQ experience will provide clarity on essential items, including exam fees, exam history, and study resources available through CIDQ. **In order to bring about this update, users will be unable to access their MyNCIDQ Account from October 22 - October 29, 2018.**

#### Important things to know:

- This transition will have no effect on exams scheduled for this October.
- This transition will carryover all information that CIDQ currently has electronically on file. This may include demographic information, educational transcripts, work verification forms, and exam results.
- Full functionality and access to MyNCIDQ Account will be available on October 30, 2018.
- ***Active NCIDQ Certificate Holders Expiring this October*** – should plan to process renewals prior to the conversion. CIDQ will be unable to process any changes or transactions during the transition period.

#### **On or after October 30, 2018, MyNCIDQ account holders must:**

- GO to **[certmetrics.com/cidq](https://certmetrics.com/cidq)**
- LOGIN (use email address or NCIDQ Exam Control Number)
- CLICK “Forgot your password or login ID?” link to RESET password

In this CIDQ series about NCIDQ Certificate holders whose personal and professional paths inspire us, John Cialone, partner and vice president at Tom Stringer Design Partners, spoke with us about his career, passions and thoughts on the NCIDQ Exam.



## Designer Profile

What inspires John Cialone about interior design has changed over the years. Starting out his career, he relished larger-than-life projects, with big homes and bigger budgets. Now, twenty years later, he appreciates the small victories. After a project ends, clients will express their gratitude for their improved quality of life. He hears comments like, “I’m sleeping better. I really like being home. I’m more energized when I go to work. My family relationship is better. There’s more family time around the dinner table.”

Cialone loves hearing these success stories. “I literally get chills or get choked up because I realize what I’m doing by providing good design, selecting good things, whether it be furnishings or materials, making the right choices for my clients, for their project, for the environment, for sustainability, affects their lives in a really powerful way,” he said.

### Favorite Projects

Tom Stringer Design Partners works with some high-profile clients, including CEOs of companies like General Electric. “We tend to get to work with people who have really risen to the top of their respective fields,” Cialone said. One such client was Chef Grant Achatz, owner of the Michelin rated Chicago restaurant Alinea. An award-winning chef, Achatz was featured on the Netflix show “Chef’s Table,” part of which was filmed in the Tom Stringer Design office.

Alinea is known for its surprising foods and creative presentation, including an edible balloon that tastes like green apple. As part of the interior design team for the restaurant, John felt challenged to “be super creative to match the level of energy and creativity they put into the food.”

Throughout the original design of the restaurant, the firm tried to match the menu, with “ultra-contemporary, super modern, aggressive” design. But when John’s team had the chance to renovate the restaurant ten years later, they took a different approach. They wanted diners to be challenged by the meal, but to feel comforted by the interior. “The renovation of the interior space really played more into the architecture of the building and the history of fine dining and was a little bit easier to understand. And it was more of a contrast to the food,” Cialone said.



Avon, Colorado home John helped renovate.



Avon, Colorado home John helped renovate.

## Designer Profile Continued

John had the opportunity to work on a more intimate project, when his friends wanted to renovate their Avon, Colorado home. He stayed in the house a number of times over the years, so he knew exactly how the owners wanted their home to look and feel.

During this project, John and his team renovated the kitchen, upgrading its cabinets, appliances, and surfaces. They also added new windows, increasing natural light flowing into the home. With the updated design, the house works as well for two people as it does for 20. “We created really intimate spaces that also were adjoined by larger, more entertaining spaces. Instead of using the house only as a ski house, now they can use it in a more year-round fashion because it’s lighter, brighter, more livable, more functional,” Cialone said.

### Why NCIDQ Certification Matters

Earning the NCIDQ Certificate was a significant milestone in Cialone's career. He’s proud of having this certification, this “hallmark of professionalism,” on his list of impressive credentials. An active member of ASID for many years, Cialone could now become a full professional member of the organization thanks to the NCIDQ Certification. This month Cialone will become the president of ASID’s Illinois Chapter.

More than a new professional title, the NCIDQ Certification gave John added confidence. Primarily a residential designer, he could now confidently show clients and colleagues that as a certified designer he is qualified to practice in all areas of the industry, be it homes or offices, stores or sanctuaries.

As a partner in his firm, he encourages all employees to take the NCIDQ Exam. Tom Stringer Design Partners will pay for employee NCIDQ application fees, study materials, and trainings. The company also hosts study sessions in the office, and gives designers time off to sit for the test.

*“We believe it’s the road to a professional career in interior design,” Cialone said of the NCIDQ Certificate.*



## CIDQ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 9-10, 2018

Hutton Hotel | Nashville Tennessee

### Keynote Speaker

#### Tara Isa Koslov

Chief of Staff to Federal Trade Commission Chairman Simmons

Tara Isa Koslov was recently appointed the Chief of Staff to Chairman Simmons of the Federal Trade Commission. Previously, she served as Acting Director of the FTC's Office of Policy Planning (OPP), appointed by Chairwoman Ramirez on June 30, 2016. She has also served as OPP's Deputy Director. As Acting Director of OPP, she oversaw attorneys who developed and implemented long-range policy initiatives such as public workshops, studies, and reports. She also managed the FTC's competition advocacy efforts, promoting competition principles for the benefit of consumers.

Koslov joined the Commission from private practice in February 1997 as a staff attorney in the Commission's Bureau of Competition. She later served as an attorney advisor to three Commissioners. A 2013 recipient of the Commission's Award for Excellence in Supervision, Koslov received a J.D. from Harvard Law School (1994) and an A.B. in Classics from Brown University (1991). Koslov is a native of Brooklyn, NY

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State and provincial regulatory board staff, their delegates, and representatives from interior design professional organizations will come together next month to discuss CIDQ, the NCIDQ Exam, and issues related to the interior design profession as a whole. Attendees will be able to learn key strategic initiatives for CIDQ, exchange ideas and tools, and collaborate and network with their peers. In addition to a business meeting, guests will hear from keynote speakers, panel discussions with industry professionals, and participate in roundtable discussions.

Event Registration remains open through October 31, 2018 via [Eventbrite](#). Early bird pricing ends October 19, 2018; standard registration ends October 31, 2018. Additional conference information, including hotel arrangements, can be found at [cidq.org/cidq-annual-conference](http://cidq.org/cidq-annual-conference).

#### Keynote Speaker

Tara Isa Koslov  
Chief of Staff to Federal  
Trade Commission Chairman  
Simmons

*Keynote Speaker  
appearance made  
possible through  
the support of the  
ASID Foundation*





**Katherine Setser**  
NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 9154

## CIDQ 2018 Tregre Award Recipient Katherine Setser

The Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDQ) is pleased to present the 2018 Louis S. Tregre Award to Katherine Setser, in acknowledgment of her years of outstanding volunteer service and contribution to the interior design profession.

With over 25 years' experience as a CIDQ volunteer, Setser has served in many capacities to advance the mission of CIDQ and the profession. Setser has been an exam proctor, juror, ambassador, member of exam and legislative committees and task forces, and currently applies her experience as a design educator as the CIDQ liaison to the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). Thanks to her volunteer experiences with CIDQ, working to further the exam and the profession, she has built lifelong relationships with fellow interior designers. "Not only has my work with CIDQ helped me build an incredible professional network, but it has also introduced me to some of my nearest and dearest friends" Setser said.

It is especially meaningful to Setser that the Tregre Award will be presented to her at the CIDQ Annual Conference this November in Nashville, the city where her interior design career and fascination with regulatory and legislative issues began. "It's quite fulfilling for me to come full circle and celebrate this award there," she said. In Tennessee, Setser spearheaded a number of legislative initiatives over the years as a board director, president, and Executive Director of the Tennessee Interior Design Coalition, including co-authoring a practice act initiative for interior design regulation.

# CIDQ 2018 Tregre Award Recipient Katherine Setser

## Continued



### **Katherine Setser**

NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 9154

A professor in the Department of Interior Design and Architecture at Miami University, Setser has focused much of her career on forensic design research, studying projects in failure and interior-design related cases of harm with two goals in mind: recognizing the health, safety, and welfare impact of interior design and preventing similar problems in the future.

Previous Tregre Award winner David Stone nominated Setser for the honor, due to her commitment to advancing and earning recognition for the interior design profession. “From the moment that I met her, she was advocating for interior design,” Stone said. He admires her ability to calmly and passionately persuade others about the importance of interior design. “I am incredibly humbled to be in the company of someone like her,” he said.

CIDQ Executive Director Thom Banks stated, “Katherine epitomizes what the Tregre Award was established to recognize. She has selflessly devoted herself to the cause of interior design and the advancement of the NCIDQ Exam.”

Created to honor the memory of Louis S. Tregre, CIDQ’s founding director, Tregre Award recipients exemplify Louis’ commitment to the practice of interior design. Setser’s many years of dedicated work on behalf of the interior design profession make her a most deserving award winner.



## Megan Ebert

NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 28183, IIDA

Specialty: Commercial  
Interiors with a focus on  
corporate and building  
amenity projects

Principal, Kendall/Heaton  
Associates Houston, Texas

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Why did you decide to become an interior designer?

There were several things that influenced my decision to become an Interior Designer. As a child, I played with Lincoln Logs and Legos, but looking back on it I was focused on where the kitchen was in relation to the living room!

Then, my family did a major renovation on our 1890's home, raising the house off its foundation and pouring a basement, as well as adding bedrooms and a bathroom to the upstairs.

In high school, I attended a University Open House at Kansas State University and toured the Interior Architecture department, and I loved it! They showcased work of interior environments and product design, which I found both interesting and challenging.

### What brings you the most joy or satisfaction from being an interior designer?

I enjoy educating clients about the design process and transforming their spaces to support their business practices. We have the responsibility of affecting the environment people work and live in, often more hours of the day than they are home. When I heard a client say their office was the nicest they'd ever worked in, it reinforced the impact Interior Designers have on the lives of others.

### Do you have a favorite professional project or accomplishment?

I am proud to have been named a Principal at my firm last year and am directing the Interiors Studio.



**Megan Ebert**

NCIDQ Certificate  
No. 28183

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Continued

### **Why did you decide to become NCIDQ Certified, and how has achieving it benefited you personally or professionally?**

My NCIDQ Certification has given me security knowing that wherever I practice and however jurisdictional laws change, I have credentials to support my professional experience. By becoming NCIDQ Certified, I continue to grow my knowledge base, which makes me a better designer and resource for my clients.

### **Why did you decide to volunteer with CIDQ, and what has been your role to date?**

After volunteering for many years with IIDA at the Chapter level, I wanted to continue volunteering in the industry. CIDQ provided that opportunity with the Multiple Choice Item Writing Committee, and then the Multiple Choice Item Review Committee. I have met wonderful people with various professional experiences that share the same passion for Interior Design education and development.

### **What advice would you give to someone thinking about taking the NCIDQ Exam?**

My advice to anyone considering taking the NCIDQ Exam would be to schedule it. Our profession is deadline driven, and once you have set an exam date you will work toward that goal. Also, I would encourage candidates to take the exam as soon as they are eligible. The earlier the better, and before professional and personal obligations vie for your time.

## Outreach, Meetings, & Events

### ASID Leadership Conference Presentation (July 19-21)

CIDQ presented on the NCIDQ Exam at ASID's Leadership Experience event. The event took place in Washington, DC in July and included educational tracks for designers seeking to improve themselves, their employees, and their firms.



Amy Coombs, Board Member, Thom Banks, Executive Director, Kari Frontera, Past President at ASID's Celebration Gala



"Pop-Up" NCIDQ Presentation

### FARB Governing Body Board Meeting (July 26)

As its newest governing member, CIDQ participated in the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) board meeting outside of Chicago in July. The meeting is held in conjunction with the FARB Annual Regulatory Policy Summit.



FARB Governing Board 2018

## Outreach, Meetings, & Events Continued

### UNC-GREENSBORO class presentation (August 29)

Amanda Gale, assistant professor with the Interior Architecture Department from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, brought a group of her students to CIDQ headquarters in August, to learn more about the NCIDQ Exam and their opportunity to take the IDFX during their final year.



CIDQ's Kimberly Woods leads Exam presentation for students.

### Interior Designers of Canada Inaugural Design Symposium (September 16 – 19)

CIDQ representatives attended IDC's Design Symposium in September. This first ever event included over 30 CEUs for designers, panels, speakers and an awards gala.

### IDC's Newest Fellows

CIDQ President Paula Lutz (far left) and Executive Director Thom Banks (far right) celebrate the recent induction of new IDC Fellows (left to right) David Hanson (CIDQ past president), Ada Bonini (CIDQ committee and task force volunteer), and Aandra Currie-Shearer (CIDQ board member).



Brainstorming at the IDC reception sponsored by Knoll

# Outreach Meetings, & Events Continued

## IDC/IIDA Leaders Breakfast

The Leaders Breakfast is an annual international event series that celebrates design’s importance in the global marketplace by honoring the people who are both the legacy and future of design. This year’s honoree is Victoria Horobin (CIDQ past president) Principal, KBH Interior Design, Inc. Toronto.



CIDQ President Paula Lutz and Executive Director Thom Banks were on hand to celebrate with Vickie Horobin

## IIDA Advocacy Symposium (September 21 – 22)

CIDQ representatives attended the fourth annual IIDA Advocacy Symposium at IIDA’s headquarters in Chicago September 21 – 22. The event focused on how interior designers can achieve advocacy success. Keynote speakers included a Minnesota state representative and lobbyists.



CIDQ President-Elect Jim Klawiter and Executive Director Thom Banks presented the latest news and updates regarding the NCIDQ Exam during the IIDA Legislative Symposium in Chicago

## CLARB conference (Sept. 26-28)

CIDQ representatives attended the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards (CLARB) Annual Conference. Similar to CIDQ, CLARB works to protect the public’s health, safety and welfare by establishing and promoting professional licensure standards by preparing, administering and scoring the Landscape Architect Registration Examination (L.A.R.E.). CLARB members are the licensure boards across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.



Photo credit: KBH Interior Design Inc.

## Call for Inspiring Interior Design Photos from NCIDQ Certificate Holders

CIDQ needs your help to shape the way the world sees interior design. Because interior design is not well understood, we want to spread awareness and understanding about what interior designers really do and what they accomplish. By showcasing powerful photos of high-quality work created by certified designers, we can alter perceptions about the importance of interior design in our communities.

Show off your work and send us your professionally captured project photos. Please make sure you own the photographic rights or possess the appropriate licensing permissions to grant usage for this purpose. By contributing photos of your projects to CIDQ, you are helping educate the public about the impact of professional certified interior designers. CIDQ may use your images on our website, social media, or other communication pieces. We would like to see a diverse array of images, from all sorts of projects. You can send us works in progress or finalized designs. We want to present an all-encompassing picture of what interior designers accomplish. Photos from all of these specialties will be considered:

- Workplace
- Hospitality
- Aging In Place
- Residential
- Healthcare
- Corporate
- Nonprofit
- Government
- Education
- Retail
- Finished Spaces
- Works in Progress

Email your photos to [mleederer@cidq.org](mailto:mleederer@cidq.org) with the subject line “Project Photo,” along with a brief description of the project. If your photo is selected, we will ask you to sign a photo release form granting CIDQ permission to use the image on our website, social media, or other outreach materials. CIDQ will provide photo credit including project name, designer’s name and/or design firm, when publishing the image.