

NCIDQ and SBID announce collaboration agreement.

Bringing the NCIDQ international qualification to Britain will separate interior decorators from interior designers

The Society of British Interior Design (SBID) has over the past two years negotiated an agreement with the National Council of Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) to bring the NCIDQ Exam to Britain and Europe for the first time.

NCIDQ is a qualification to measure the competence and qualification of an interior designer and makes clear the difference between Interior Design and Interior Decoration

Many people use the terms "interior design" and "interior decorating" interchangeably, but these professions differ in critical ways.

Interior design is the art and science of understanding people's behaviour to create functional spaces within a building whilst interior decoration is the furnishing or adorning of a space with fashionable or beautiful things.

In short, interior designers may decorate, but interior decorators do not design.

Interior designers apply creative and technical solutions within a structure that are functional, attractive and beneficial to the occupants' quality of life and culture. Designs respond to and coordinate with the building shell and acknowledge the physical location and social context of the project. Designers' must adhere to building regulations and comply with all third party trades such as plumbing and electrical services when making recommendations for work which entail regulatory requirements and a qualified responsible designer must encourage the principles of environmental sustainability.

The interior design process follows a systematic and coordinated methodology—including research, analysis and integration of knowledge into the creative process—to satisfy the needs and resources of the client.

All NCIDQ Certificate holders have been educated, trained and examined to protect public health, safety and welfare. When you hire an NCIDQ Certificate holder and SBID accredited interior designer you hire a professional with proven knowledge, experience and proficiency in the latest interior design principles and practices.

The British translated exam is still in review after being tested by our selected SBID members. The British test Centre is revising and translating knowledge relevant for competences required in Britain. Vanessa Brady, President of SBID travelled to Washington and later to Chicago to develop the alliance which was finalised here in London in April 2011. “It has been a very specific and articulate journey and finally we have created the universally accepted difference we needed here in Britain, it is a great opportunity for SBID and NCIDQ to separate the decorators from the designers and unite the interior design profession at last, the opportunities for all designers has now improved, prequalification and access to a global network and resource register, it is a great opportunity for our members and our professional suppliers to network and showcase product and skills on an equal footing to the world’s best qualified designers in Europe, USA and Canada”

NCIDQ Certificate holders have completed a minimum of six years of specialised education and experience and passed a rigorous, two-day exam based on NCIDQ's independent, comprehensive analysis of the profession and the daily practice of interior designers in a range of settings.

SBID members have obtained a minimum of four years education and two years’ work experience to become SBID accredited.

The NCIDQ Certificate holders (regardless of where designers physically sit the exam) can now hold the NCIDQ Certificate as a basis for reciprocal credentialing with SBID.

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For more information on Society of British Interior Design:-

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For additional media information or pictures please contact:

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About SBID

The Society of British Interior Design (SBID) was incorporated in April 2009 to provide dynamic representation of the British interior design industry and to promote the highest level of competence in British interior design. Members have access to a network of regional, national and international networking events and educational tools to help bring protection to skilled, trained professionals and to the consumer.

SBID is the UK representative of the European Council of Interior Architects (ECIA) - the highest level of measured knowledge and best practice for interior design throughout Europe. The Society is the industry bearer for professional British interior design and its accreditation by the ECIA has opened new markets for its members.

SBID is committed to supporting improved education in interior design and promotes graduate qualifications as the British career standard.

SBID is leading the campaign to establish a professional development programme for British interior design professionals. It represents and lobbies Government in the commercial and residential property sector, as well as representing the views, best practice and achievements of the sector to the media, trade associations and education establishments.

About NCIDQ

The NCIDQ certificate is a design practice credential. Established in 1974 and with 24,000 certificate holders in USA Canada and South America NCIDQ exists to promote the competences of interior designers to practice as a professional.