



# IDEC NEWCOMER'S GUIDE

IDEC ANNUAL CONFERENCE | ATLANTA, GA | MARCH 24 - 27, 2010

## WELCOME TO IDEC!

We are very pleased to offer you this *IDEC Newcomer's Guide*, where you will find quick tips and answers to the most frequently asked questions. Whether you are a new educator, brave student, or curious visitor we hope you will make the most of your time at IDEC.

The annual conference provides many excellent opportunities to network with others of like interests. Don't be shy! Introduce yourself to that presenter and exchange business cards. Business cards? Did you forget something? Make sure to read "Quick Tips" for other ways to get ahead.

Throughout the conference, the IDEC registration desk can offer additional information about any event on the schedule. Enjoy your conference!

### Lindsay Clark

Chair, Emerging Faculty Network

### Jill Pable

President

Hi, my name is...

One of the great things about being an IDEC member, and attending the conferences, is that you get to know faculty from all over the world who share your passions. It's a time to make connections with fellow researchers and educators, while learning about new teaching methods and research endeavors.

If it's your first time at an IDEC event, or if you'd like to get to know some of the newer faces, attend the *New(er) Faculty Meetup*.

This informal breakfast meetup provides an opportunity to make connections with other new, or simply newer, faculty who are still learning the ins and outs of academic life. Come to exchange ideas, or just names; this is a great way to get familiar with a few IDEC faces. Bring your business cards and your breakfast! *Thurs 7:30-8:30am, Vinings II*

For graduate students, the IDEC Fellows (honored, long-standing members of IDEC) will offer a warm welcome to future faculty at the *Graduate Student Breakfast with IDEC Fellows*.

We invite graduate students who are interested in becoming interior design faculty to join IDEC Fellows for informal conversation. Bring your questions and your coffee! If this is your first time at IDEC, this is an excellent opportunity to get to know some of our long-standing members. *Thurs 7:30-8:30am, Vinings I*

## Quick Tips

Make the most of your 2010 conference visit.

### Scout Rule #1

Always be prepared. Survival gear includes your notebook and favorite pen, cold conference room sweater, sunglasses, business cards, and a little cash.

### Get Involved

Not a network member? Don't be shy! Pull up a chair and learn more about a topic of interest. Networks are how members can make small contributions that lead to big things for IDEC.

### Table for One? NOT.

Ask a new friend to join you for dinner tonight. Meal time is a great time to build community.

### Open Ears, Open Mind

Regional meetings and Town Hall are great opportunities to learn about some of the issues facing interior design faculty, and the future profession of our students.

### House of Cards

Uh oh. Don't mix up that search committee chair with the author of that CAD book you love. Jot down a little note on the back of every business card *right away*.

 2010

Did you know that as of 2008 over **50% of IDEC members have been with our organization for less than five years?** This means that we are growing and thriving, and many of us don't know each other sufficiently well. So come join us - you'll be among friends you just haven't had the chance to meet yet!

## Q&A President Jill Pable

When preparing for an IDEC conference, who better to ask than the President? This year we sit down with Jill Pable for a little insight into the workings of the conference.

### Q: WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO KNOW WHAT TO ATTEND, AND TO FIND THE RIGHT PLACE?

The on-site conference brochure (in your goody bag you receive at the IDEC registration desk) is your key to what is going on where and when. Also here are key descriptions of presentations you can choose from. It's pandemonium during the day, so take a quiet moment beforehand to highlight those activities most intriguing to you.

### Q: WHAT TEACHING RESOURCES CAN IDEC OFFER ME?

One of IDEC's primary missions is to promote teaching excellence. There are many ways we do this you may want to be aware of:

1. Every new IDEC member receives the book *Interior Design: Strategies for Teaching and Learning* by Katherine Ankerson and Jill Pable. This is given to you at the IDEC registration desk with your goody bag. It's full of strategies for good teaching.

2. The conference brochure identifies a track of presentations specifically helpful to teaching—don't miss them if this is a top priority for you.

3. An assortment of workshops on teaching will be offered on Wednesday before the conference. Several are specifically tailored for the needs of the new teacher, or someone thinking of becoming a teacher from practice or graduate school.

4. Examples of student project excellence abound at the IDEC conference. Check out the *Student Competition* entries and the *Make a Difference Project* entries on display. Want to talk with their instructors? They're here—just look for their name tags!

### Q: SHOULD I BE THERE FOR THE WHOLE CONFERENCE?

While it may be tempting to try to save money by arriving late, you miss any number of worthwhile gatherings if you do. Are you a new educator? Three brand-new workshops on interior design teaching will occur Wednesday prior to the official conference beginning this year. Additionally, there is a whole day-and-a-half symposium on interior design history as well as workshops on lighting and program accreditation with CIDA (Council for Interior Design Accreditation) on Tuesday and Wednesday before the conference. This 'fringe festival' is an increasingly vital and vibrant part of the conference.

Starting Wednesday night, the opening reception kicks off the main conference and is a great place to start to get to know IDEC members, and for them to meet you.

The last day of the conference, likewise, presents a temptation to skip out early and get back to work. However, Saturday is our day to celebrate and feast at the luncheon banquet—always a lively event.

### Q: HOW CAN I MAKE MY CONFERENCE TRIP MORE SUSTAINABLE?

We can all make small commitments that move IDEC toward a more sustainable future. We're pleased that this year's hotel has made a pledge to sustainability that we'll be able to see while there in various ways. Here's how you can help too:

**Reduce.** Rather than print the proceedings to bring along, some people read the proceedings in advance (available at the IDEC website) and others bring a digital copy.

**Reuse.** Return your name tag to the registration desk before you leave the conference. The tag holder will be reused rather than discarded.

**Recycle.** Where facilities exist, set a good example. Often we get so wrapped up in the fast pace of conference events that we forget this small but important habit. Bring your own water bottle and avoid using and reusing the hotel's glassware during presentation sessions, for example.



### Q: WHAT HAPPENS AT THE OPENING RECEPTION?

The reception is a get-together of all conference attendees on the night before presentations begin. This is a chance to get to know a few faces of IDEC members. Some choose to follow up the reception with dinner; if you are traveling alone you can ask to tag along with a group that is food-bound.

### Q: WHAT IS A NETWORK?

Networks are groups of people with similar interests who work via discussion groups, and one face-to-face meeting annually, as independent cells within IDEC. Network topics range from 2&3 year programs, lighting and social responsibility to graduate education and program chairs. This is a great place to meet people who share your passion! Networks take on small tasks that can make a big difference for IDEC. Pull up a chair and join us at one or more of these informal sessions!

**Q: SHOULD I GO TO THE REGIONAL MEETING?**

Regional Meetings are a time to discuss local (regional) business. Get to know some of your neighbors! Issues raised at Town Hall are frequently born at the Regional Meetings. This event is open to everyone. If you are not sure to which region you belong, ask at the IDEC registration desk or view the map: [www.idec.org/who/regional.php](http://www.idec.org/who/regional.php)

**Q: SHOULD I GO TO THE TOWN HALL MEETING?**

Absolutely. Town Hall is much like the Regional Meeting in that individuals have a chance to voice concerns and bring community issues to the attention of the IDEC body of members. You will find that IDEC is very much a passionate and vibrant community with much to say and discuss!

**Q: SHOULD I GO ON A TOUR?**

The IDEC tours are a lot of fun and can lead to making new acquaintances. The tours focus on local architecture and interiors; this year it's to the sustainable community of Serenbe, the beautiful Queen Ann-style Ivy Hall/Peter's Mansion, and the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. These optional tours require registration in advance and a small fee. If you did not sign up at the time of registration, but would like to participate, check with the IDEC registration desk to determine if there is any remaining space.

**Q: I AM A STUDENT. WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?**

You are welcome to attend all open IDEC events. Some special events require additional fees, paid in advance. If you are unsure about something you see on the schedule, ask for more information at the registration desk.

IDEC also has an Emerging Faculty Network, currently chaired by Lindsay Clark. If you see Lindsay feel free to introduce yourself and ask any questions you have about the conference or its events.

**Q: I AM A PRESENTER. WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?**

IDEC members are generally a friendly and receptive audience. We especially appreciate presentations that have implications for our teaching, research and service that contributes to the interior design academy and practice. Handouts and references are great resources, but in the interest of sustainability you may want to offer these electronically. You can do this with a signup sheet or by providing a URL with further information. If you are interested soliciting feedback, please make time in your presentation slot and try not to run over. Your timeliness is appreciated by others. Bring business cards to distribute to your interested audience members. You will also want to know that your session may be anonymously reviewed for an award bestowed at the closing banquet!

**Q: I AM JOB HUNTING. WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?**

Have copies of your vita on hand, as well as business cards. Check the IDEC registration desk table for open position announcements. If you see the chair of a program you'd like to join, be sure to introduce yourself. It's also a good idea to check out the IDEC online job listings: [www.idec.org/careercenter](http://www.idec.org/careercenter) Many jobs are posted in October for applications due around January, then interviews in spring to start a teaching position in August.

Remember that all IDEC members are, in a sense, your lifelong co-workers. The golden rule of a good colleague is: work hard and be nice to people. Ours is a small pond with big ideas—but growing every day!

Be sure to also attend the *New(er) Faculty Meetup* or the *Graduate Student Gathering with the IDEC Fellows*, both on Thursday at 7:30am for tips and networking on job seeking.

**Q: WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CLOSING BANQUET?**

The closing banquet is a chance to reflect on all the great presentations and meetings from the event, and to recognize some outstanding contributors for their hard work. We welcome you to join us for good food and conversation!

THE INTERIOR DESIGN EDUCATORS COUNCIL IS DEDICATED TO

The advancement of Interior Design Education

The advancement of Interior Design Research

Fostering the exchange of information within the Interior Design Profession and related design disciplines.

The improvement of educational standards, and,

The development of the Body of Knowledge relative to the quality of life and human performance in the interior environment.

**Q: WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO COME AWAY WITH FROM THE IDEC CONFERENCE?**

If you're like many of us, you'll leave with a sense of replenishment and regeneration from so many great ideas and people all in one place. Let's face it—the academic life is hard work and it's easy to feel 'used up' once in a while. IDEC is the one place that everyone gathers to talk about teaching, research and service—and the comfort of shared experience is a valuable benefit to us all! You may also leave with the sense of having moved the cause of interior design and education forward through your contribution to meetings, presentations and other gatherings. This, too, is why IDEC exists and is stronger for our mutual support and engagement.

*Thanks for joining us this year; we're looking forward to meeting you!*